CONSETT MAGAZINE

Aug 2023 | Issue 129

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1 year labour **10** year parts
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August 2023 Editorial

In this issue of Consett Magazine, we're highlighting the remarkable achievements and contributions made by our local community. From ensuring electrical safety at home to tackling climate change through tree planting, the people of Consett are making a positive impact on their town and beyond.

Page 4 sheds light on BRITTONS Electrical Services, providing us with crucial electrical safety tips for our homes. Regular inspections, childproofing outlets, and proper usage of extension cords are just a few practices that can prevent accidents and safeguard our families and properties. When in doubt, it's wise to call qualified electricians like BRITTONS Electrical Services to handle complex electrical tasks.

Also on Page 4, we celebrate Greencroft Dog Day Care's triumph, made possible by the generous contribution of Neil Capstick from Executive Compass. The centre offers exceptional services, ensuring a joyful experience for our furry companions and even fostering socialisation opportunities for the elderly and those with disabilities. Neil's support through the Social Value Fund is a testament to the unity and care within our community.

Page 5 shines a spotlight on Building Self-Belief, a Consett-based charity highly commended in the North East Charity Awards for their Outstanding Contribution to Social Change. Their dedicated Consett Youth Panel has been actively involved in various community projects, from improving gardens to championing the Say No to Consett Incinerator campaign. These inspiring young leaders are shaping the future of Consett, and we're proud to stand by them.

Turn to Pages 6 and 7 to discover 'Consett in Focus,' a documentary photography group capturing the town's recreational activities in captivating visuals. We invite you to visit their website and share your activities, connecting with them on social media and inspiring others to explore their passions.

On Page 11, Lorraine Weightman shares her amusing and eye-opening experience with online dating, reminding us that it's never too late for new adventures and laughter.

Finally, on Page 12, PIIM Property Management offers valuable insights for landlords considering a change in their letting agency. With transparent dealings and seven-day availability, PIIM Property stands out as an excellent choice for those seeking reliable letting services.

Consett's commitment to environmental stewardship takes centre stage on Page 14. Pupils from primary and secondary schools are leading the charge against climate change through tree planting. Their passion and dedication have resulted in an astounding 3,224 trees gracing our landscape, contributing to the council's broader climate change programme.

As we navigate through these pages, we are reminded of the strength, compassion, and resilience present in our local community. Together, we are making a difference, enriching lives, and empowering one another. Consett, let's continue to shine as a beacon of positivity and progress.

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club - By George Ledger

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BRITTONS

Electrical Safety Tips at Home

Electrical safety is a crucial aspect of maintaining a safe and secure home environment. Neglecting proper electrical safety practices can lead to serious accidents, fires, and even loss of life. To help you ensure the well-being of your family and property, **BRITTONS Electrical Services** brings you the top 5 tips for maintaining electrical safety at home.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance

Regular inspection and maintenance play a vital role in preventing electrical hazards. Take the time to check for frayed wires, loose connections, or any signs of wear and tear. Pay close attention to electrical outlets, switches, and extension cords. By addressing these issues promptly, you can avoid potential dangers and ensure the longevity of your electrical system.

Childproofing Electrical Outlets

Childproofing your electrical outlets is essential to protect your little ones from accidents. Use outlet covers or safety plugs to prevent children from inserting objects into the sockets. Additionally, manage cords and wires properly, keeping them out of reach or using cord organizers to minimise tripping hazards.

Proper Usage of Extension Cords

Extension cords are practical for providing power in areas where outlets are not easily accessible. However, using them incorrectly can be hazardous. Always choose extension cords that are suitable for your intended purpose and avoid overloading them. Uncoil cords completely to prevent overheating, and never run them under rugs or carpets where they can become damaged.

Knowing When to Call a Professional

While it's important to handle basic electrical safety tasks on your own, some issues require the expertise of a qualified electrician like **BRITTONS Electrical Services.** We specialise in:

Maintenance and repairs, Installation and maintenance of new electrical equipment, Security alarm-system installation and maintenance, Kitchen installations prior to fitting, New fuse boards, Smoke detectors, Periodic testing and certification Landlord Certificates, Domestic Visual Condition Reports, Extra Sockets and Lighting, Fault Finding, Rewires and EV Electric vehicle charging.

If you encounter complex electrical problems, such as frequent power surges, circuit breaker trips, or flickering lights, it's crucial to call a qualified professional like Neil on **07712 898684** or **0191 680 7276**.

Executive Compass Shines Light on Triumph of Dog Day Care Facilities

Neil Capstick, the ingenious founder of Newcastle's renowned Executive Compass, has momentarily shifted his focus from high-stakes bidding to contribute to a local dog day care centre, spreading immense joy among the community and its furry inhabitants.

Recognised for his unwavering affection for canines, Neil Capstick, the visionary behind Executive Compass, juggles a demanding work schedule while caring for his four beloved dogs. To ensure their well-being during his absence, Neil turns to Greencroft Dog Day Care, nestled in the serene precincts of Annfield Plain near Stanley, County Durham.

Greencroft Dog Day Care, owned by David Lowes, stands out with its exceptional services and amenities. From trampoline activities and comfortable lounging areas to playhouses and serene meditation sessions with soothing music, the centre guarantees a content and engaging experience for its four-legged patrons.

This establishment has earned a stellar reputation for its exceptional canine services, catering not only to working individuals but also to the elderly and those with disabilities. Whether providing care during hospital visits, offering respite care, or fostering socialization opportunities, Greencroft Dog Day Care has become an indispensable pillar of the local community.

Recognising the centre's profound social impact, Neil and his business partner Christian made a significant contribution to its growth. Utilizing the funds from Executive Compass's Social Value Fund, they generously awarded a £10,000 grant to establish an on-site store. This addition will not only offer customers the chance to procure essential dog-related merchandise but also contribute to the centre's long-term sustainability and expansion.

Expressing gratitude for the investment received, David stated, "We strive to deliver an unparalleled service for every dog and their owner. This incredible investment will enable us to establish a comprehensive retail experience for dogs and extend our delivery services to reach homebound individuals in the Stanley area."

Neil Capstick of Executive Compass added, "Greencroft Dog Day Care is an exemplary business that not only excels in its core services but also extends additional support to the local community. It's vital to entrust the care of our integral family members to individuals who inspire unwavering trust. David goes above and beyond with his outreach initiatives, and our Social Value Fund will facilitate the expansion of Greencroft Dog Day Care's premises and product offerings, ensuring an even more exceptional experience for the dogs and their owners."

If new owners would like to join in, contact us for a free half-day induction. Let's spread the love for our four-legged pals!

Empowering Consett Youth: Celebrating Their Social Impact

Building Self-Belief, a Consett-based charity, recently achieved a remarkable feat by receiving high commendation at the prestigious North East Charity Awards on July 19th, 2023. Their recognition came in the category of "Outstanding Contribution to Social Change," lauding their transformative work with the Consett Youth Panel.

The Consett Youth Panel, a vibrant group of young individuals, has been actively involved in numerous community initiatives and events. They passionately contributed to projects like community garden improvements in Consett and Stanley, and actively participated in Tow Law's Coronation events.

Recently, they collaborated with renowned local artist Tommy Anderson to create a captivating Youth Banner for Consett, part of the Consett Heritage project. Their efforts extend further, as they engage in local community talks by ex-steelworkers, conduct interviews, and produce insightful podcasts, all aimed at celebrating Consett's heritage while shaping a promising future.

One significant achievement came through Niamh McDonald's inspiring participation in the Nuclear Industry Young Generation Network speaking competition. Her powerful speech highlighted the importance of community engagement in energy matters, emphasizing the success of the Say No to Consett Incinerator campaign. Niamh's outstanding performance secured her the first-place position, winning £300 and a chance to participate in the national final during Nuclear Week in Parliament.





During the awards ceremony, Building Self-Belief had the honour of sitting at the top table alongside sponsors, Millfield House Foundation. The judges were deeply impressed by the young people's genuine commitment to social action, recognising its importance in elevating community profiles and empowering future generations.

The Consett Youth Panel's unwavering dedication to the Say No to Consett Incinerator campaign particularly resonated with the judges. Their active involvement in various activities, such as protests and creative initiatives like rock painting, demonstrated their heartfelt passion for the cause. Additionally, they took on responsibilities at coffee mornings, quiz nights, and even delivered persuasive speeches against the incinerator's planning application. Darcie Rawlings stood out with her compelling articles, showcasing her potential as a promising journalist.

A moment of triumph arrived when, on June 26th, 2023, the Secretary of State refused planning permission for the incinerator in Consett. This resounding victory highlighted the young people's influence in shaping their town's future and solidified their role as true changemakers.

Building Self-Belief extends heartfelt gratitude to their trustees, supporters, the community, local businesses, and funders for their unwavering support. Most importantly, they express their deepest appreciation to the remarkable young people of Consett, whose enthusiasm and spirit promise a brighter future for their town.

Here at the Consett Magazine we proudly congratulate Building Self-Belief and the Consett Youth Panel on their well-deserved recognition and we commend their invaluable contribution to social change. These exceptional young leaders are empowering their community, leaving an indelible mark on Consett's path to progress. With their passion and determination, the future of Consett shines brighter than ever.

‘Consett in Focus’

Derwentside Cycling Club

Pedal Power: Ready for the thrill of a lifetime? Derwentside Cycling Club's 10-mile Time Trial is back! Every Tuesday from April to August, get on your bike and go all out for 25-40 mins.

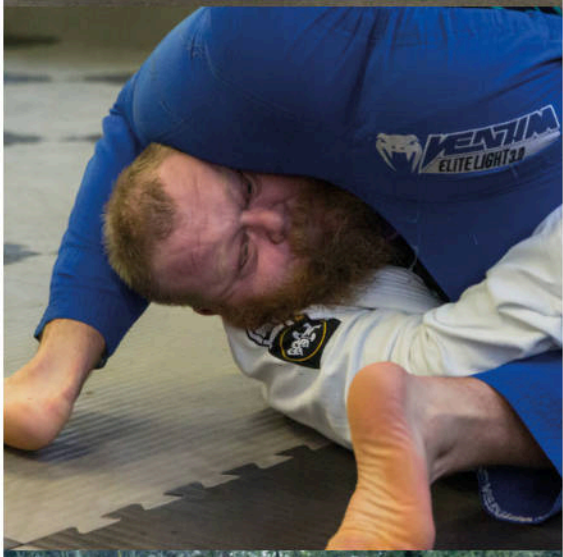
Age is just a number; we've got riders from 4 to over 80! The vibe is friendly and supportive, so no worries if you're new to the game. After the race, let's gather at the Manor House to share tales of triumph and wipeouts!



Dungeon Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Association

Unleash Your Warrior Spirit: The Dungeon Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Association is the place to be! Founded in 2005, this isn't just a sport; it's an art, a discipline, and a whole lot of fun. Kids and adults, you're all welcome to join in the action!

The club even hosts free taster sessions in local schools - no excuses! Get ready to sweat, socialize, and unleash your inner ninja!



Consett Canicross

Woof-tastic Adventures: Consett Canicross is all about getting fit and bonding with your furry companions. Led by the North East's first Sporty Paws Certified Instructor, these social runs are a blast!

But wait, there's more! Exciting race events draw teams from across the UK. We just had the muddy and hilly Allensford Trail Series finale - paw-some! And guess what? We're raising funds for animal charities too - win-win!



The 'Consett in Focus' Documentary Photography Group showcases Consett's recreational activities through captivating visuals. Their website **www.consettinfocus.weebly.com** features diverse pastimes and welcomes residents to share their activities. Connect with them on Facebook **www.facebook.com/ConsettinFocus** or email **consettinfocus@gmail.com.**


Chris Bruce
@Consett in Focus






George Ledger
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Abigail Thomps


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14
Abigail T

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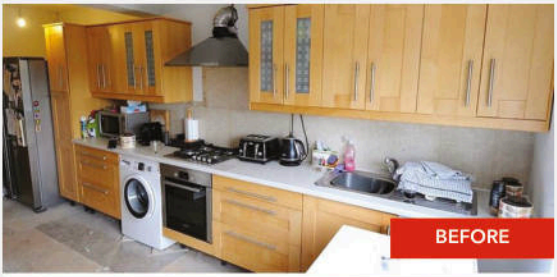

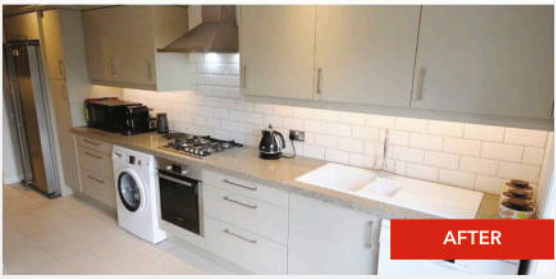

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Individually Guided Retreat £650

Friday 1st – Friday 8th

This retreat is held in silence and will be led by members of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre from Glasgow in collaboration with the Minsteracres Team. Opportunities for reflection, spiritual direction and spiritual accompaniment are available throughout the retreat.
Led by Ignatian Spirituality Centre Glasgow and Minsteracres Teams

Walking Retreat £15

Saturday 9th @ 10am - 5pm

Walk through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres for about seven to ten miles, making time for prayer and reflection, whilst absorbing the beautiful creation all around us. You will need suitable walking boots, warm, weatherproof clothing and a packed lunch.

Quiet Day £30

Thursday 14th @ 10am - 4pm

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in Scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside here at Minsteracres. Lunch and refreshments included.

Led by Minsteracres Teams

The Embodied Contemplative £190

Friday 15th - Sunday 17th

The Embodied Contemplative Retreat will explore finding inner stillness and peace through the practice of both Christian Meditation and gentle Tai Chi movement and breath work. It is suitable for all ages and abilities. Come with a beginner's mind and enjoy learning!
Led by Terry Doyle

Who Was Mary, the Mother of Jesus? Come and See! £190

Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd

We welcome Fr Louis in facilitating our Marian Retreat which explores the life, and Divine Motherhood of Mary. Adopting Franciscan perspectives on Mary, Fr Louis takes us on a journey which introduces us to the many dimensions of Mary as woman, mother and intercessor.

Led by Fr Louis Maggiore

Journeying with the Eyes of the Heart £190

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th

Over many years a secret has gradually been revealed to me that God can be found in various circumstances and situations in life. Sometimes God is found in darkness and suffering but also through beauty and creativity and when we discover joy, in the silence of our hearts. On this retreat, we will explore God's revelation of beauty, through the media of photography, creative writing, Scripture and prayer.

Led by Celine Alexander-Brown

www.minsteracres.org/retreats-2023/



Out of Date

By Lorraine Weightman

I was recently cajoled and persuaded to sign up to an online dating site for older people; as I was reasonably informed by my friends of numerous examples of post 60's, who had all found matches and were living in the happily ever after!

Extremely dubious at first, I tentatively uploaded my photo, then proceeded to look through the following sections and lists of questions. It proved to be quite daunting as I'm totally unfamiliar with this form of communication.

My memories of youthful dating in Consett, consist of all of us girls dancing around our handbags in The Freemasons Arms and Botto's, then when the night was nearly over; being approached and walked home by one of the hopefuls who had skirted the dance floor all night.

Also, meeting people face to face and having a chat is something I'm completely comfortable with, and to be honest, it's what I'm used to. So you can imagine my consternation when on my online profile I came across the 'What you are looking for?' section.

Studying the questions, I found I was being asked to specify weight, height, hair colour, ethnicity, the level of education I found desirable, and any religious preferences. It felt more like picking out a living room carpet than a request for a prospective partner. However I continued, completed the section, then went on to the next part that asked me to describe myself!

Totally perplexed by now, I found this the most disconcerting of all. After deliberating for 30 minutes or more I had written four words:
'I like to write!'

Realising I'd given away no other information about myself, I gave up, and made that do; guessing I'd be looking at an empty screen for a long while afterwards; as I was depicted in the ether as the most uninteresting person in the universe!

To my surprise, the next morning I was inundated with ''likes' and a cascade of messages!

If I'm perfectly honest I wasn't bowled over by the responses or the profile pictures. While I'm not an expert photographer, when taking a selfie, one would tend to smile, rather than scowl, and hold the phone a little higher than the face to achieve a desirable picture. However, for the most part, it seems that the trend on here was to place a mobile phone under the chin and then look straight into the camera, while commanding a death stare!

The result is a totally unflattering double or treble chinned image - try it, to see what I mean!

Anyway, after a couple of 'How are you's' and a few 'I'm fine thank you's' I was beginning to regret my decision to participate, as the conversations could only be likened to watching paint dry!

To be fair, I'm guessing all the prospective suitors in my age bracket were only, like me, trying to be polite by engaging in trivial banter. And to tell the truth with my arthritic knees, I wouldn't want to be travelling over 100 miles away for an impending meet up over a pie and a pint!

No matter, I persevered for a month, and finally after speaking to a few nice and entertaining people, with my subscription nearly ending; I prepared to hang up my dating hat for good!

Needless to say my attempt at a fairy tale ending turned out to be futile and I left the site over £30.00 poorer. However for pure entertainment purposes, it was money well spent!

One of my favourite responses from some wise cracking wit, was

'I don't have a degree, but I've got a CD with the song, "When Will I See You Again" on it'

Perhaps, I'm destined to live happily ever after, by myself - who knows!



Switching Letting Agency:
A Hassle-Free Guide for Landlords

Are you a landlord considering a change in your letting agency? Many landlords stick with the same agency for years, fearing the hassle of switching, even when they're dissatisfied with the service. But don't worry, switching agents can be straightforward and stress-free.

Why Do Landlords Change Agents?

Landlords decide to leave their current letting agents due to various reasons, including:

Lack of Communication:
Poor communication with the agent causes frustration and misunderstandings.

Overpriced Maintenance Charges:
Some agents charge excessive fees for property maintenance, affecting landlords' profits.

Long Void Periods:
Extended gaps between tenancies can be financially draining for landlords.

Common Misconceptions When Switching

Let's debunk some common misconceptions:

1. "I'm Bound by a Contract"

Review your Terms of Business to find out the fixed-term period and notice required for termination. In most cases, you can end the contract by giving 1 or 2 months' written notice after the initial fixed term.

2. "Should I Wait Until the End of the Tenancy?"

No, you can switch during an ongoing tenancy. The new agent can smoothly take over without the need for new advertising, and tenants might welcome the change if the previous service was poor.

3. "Switching Is a Hassle"

Switching is hassle-free. Let your current agent know, and the new agent will handle the transition, including tenant communication and property inspection.

Why Choose PIIM?

At PIIM Property, we stand out from high-street agencies because we prioritize accessibility and communication that suits our clients' busy schedules. Unlike the standard 9-5pm availability, we make ourselves contactable 7 days a week. This means you can reach us via WhatsApp, emails, or texts at a time that works best for you, even if you have a day job or are located abroad. Our commitment to being available and responsive is a significant selling point for our clients, ensuring they receive the attention and support they need.

Additionally, we hold essential qualifications and memberships, including ARLA Propertymark in Residential Lettings and Management, ARLA Propertymark in Residential Inventory Management, and NRLA Accreditation. Our comprehensive insurance coverage, membership in various industry bodies like ICO and PRS, and CMP (Client Money Protection) status further underscore our dedication to providing reliable and trustworthy services.

Make the Switch Today

If you're a landlord seeking a reliable letting agency in Consett, contact PIIM Property. Enjoy excellent service, transparent dealings, and peace of mind. Say hello to a better letting agency experience!

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Google Reviews ★★★★★

Having self managed for 10 years myself, I decided to use PIIM to manage them. Janet has been very thorough and has taken care of all the tricky situations very professionally. I would highly recommend her services and she's a lovely person to deal with in general.
- John Jackson

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In the vast expanse of the digital universe, your website serves as your spacecraft, propelling your business to new heights. To ensure a smooth voyage, it's crucial to enlist the expertise of a reliable and professional website design and management company, like Firefly in Consett.

Just like a skilled pilot, Firefly empowers you with full control over your domain and hosting, allowing for seamless transitions and updates across providers and servers. With Firefly as your co-pilot, you can soar confidently into the unknown, knowing you have the support you need.

Your communications, are mission critical and must remain secure. Firefly guarantees email ownership and security, keeping your digital channels free from interference or uninvited guests.

In the ever-changing cosmos of the internet, Firefly stands as your mission control, providing you with admin access and reliable backups. Like a safety harness, they safeguard you from unforeseen challenges, ensuring you can navigate any turbulence.

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County Durham Children Lead the Way in Tackling Climate Change Through Tree Planting

In a heartening display of environmental stewardship, pupils from primary and secondary schools across County Durham donned their wellies and grabbed their spades to combat climate change.

The planting season witnessed an incredible 3,224 trees being planted by more than 2,600 children and young individuals, championing Durham County Council's Trees for Children project and their climate emergency programme.

The trees, consisting of native species like oak, birch, and willow, were carefully chosen to flourish on the land. Through this project, the children not only had the opportunity to plant trees but also learned about their immense value in providing habitats for wildlife. They honed their skills in identifying different tree species based on the appearance of their seeds and leaves, fostering a deeper connection with the natural world.

Cllr Mark Wilkes, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and climate change, expressed his delight with the project's success, as an astounding 3,224 trees now grace the county's landscape. Over time, this initiative has empowered children from 45 schools to plant a remarkable total of 5,400 trees, contributing to the establishment of new woodlands that span nearly 45 hectares of land.

Undoubtedly, these efforts play a significant role in the council's wider woodland creation programme, which stands as a crucial component of their comprehensive strategy to combat climate change.

The majority of the planting has taken place on public land, and the council is actively collaborating with the North East Community Forest to engage private landowners in securing additional planting sites. This collaborative approach promises a brighter and greener future for County Durham, setting an inspiring example for the wider community to follow. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of the region's young generation, the fight against climate change is gaining momentum, one tree at a time.





Ask the Vet: Grass Seeds.

In the summer months, injuries caused by grass seeds are a common problem seen at veterinary practices, with dogs with hairy ears and feet being most at risk.

Grass seeds tend to be shaped like little arrowheads which means they can attach onto a pet's fur and burrow their way into their body, causing all sorts of problems when they do so.

Grass seeds most commonly burrow into the space between a dogs' toes forming cysts and infections. These are usually very painful and require medical, and sometimes surgical, treatment. Grass seeds can also make their way into your dog's ears causing infections, and they can even cause damage to the ear drum.

They can also make their way through the skin all over the body, so it's always best to look out for any new swellings or wounds and see your vet if you're concerned. It is recommended that you check your pet after walks and remove any vegetation from their coats (and it's a great time to check for ticks too!) to reduce the risk of them developing any problems.

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