

CONSETT MAGAZINE

Sep 2024 | Issue 142

Photo By Kyle Kennedy

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5 Year Warranty*
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F Energy Rating

BOSCH — 8kg Heat Pump Tumble Dryer
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- 11 Programmes Inc: Auto Dry & Quick Dry
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A+ Energy Rating

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BOSCH — 1400 Spin 8kg Washing Machine
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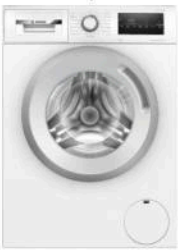

- 20 Programmes Inc: 15 Minutes Quick Wash
- SpeedPerfect, IronAssist
- Add Laundry Feature, Delay Start
- Dimensions: H84.5xW59.8xD59cm

1 year labour **10** year parts
5 Year Warranty*
A Energy Rating

BOSCH — Built In Single Oven
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2 Year Warranty
A Energy Rating

BOSCH — Built In Double Oven Electric Cooker
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1 year labour **10** year parts
2 Year Warranty

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Dear Consett Readers

Welcome to the September issue of Consett Magazine! As summer turns to autumn, our community is bustling with exciting stories and events. This edition is filled with content that reflects the heart and soul of Consett.

On page 4, we highlight the Consett Lions Club's evening of celebration, leadership transition, and continued dedication to community service. On page 5, Joyce Shaw shares her humorous encounters with fame, offering a light-hearted read that's sure to bring a smile.

History enthusiasts will enjoy page 7, where we delve into the mystery of William Stoker and his connection to St John's Cathedral in Limerick. Sharing the page, meet Frankie Reed of Pixelated Ink, who brings animated characters to life through her unique tattoo art in Dipton.

Pages 8 and 9 celebrate community spirit with the Abigail Lodge Summer Fair and Brian Stobbs' charity cycling adventure from Munich to Salzburg. You'll also find a touching story about the Greenways Court Choir, where residents are fulfilling lifelong dreams through music.

Business owners should turn to pages 10 and 11 to learn about the Durham Business Growth Programme, offering vital grants to help local enterprises thrive. Firefly New Media is ready to assist in making the most of these opportunities.

As the festive season approaches, page 12 provides everything you need for your Halloween and Christmas parties, thanks to Jesters Party Accessories and Karnival Costumes.

For nature lovers, page 13 features Lorraine Weightman's charming birdwatching adventures, while pages 14 and 15 highlight local creativity and community efforts, from 'Designed With A Twist' to the inspiring work of Foundation For Good.

On page 16, we discuss the importance of supporting victims in the criminal justice system, and on page 17, don't miss the big sale announcement from Howdens of Consett. Finally, page 19 celebrates the brewing tradition at Consett Ale Works.

Enjoy this issue, and don't forget to send your stories to editor@consettmagaizne.com by September 15th for our October edition. Happy reading!

Best regards, Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy and everyone that makes the magazine possible.

Tell Your Story

or book your ad space:

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

By Kyle Kennedy



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A Night of Celebration and Community Spirit: Consett Lions Club's Eventful Month

This month, Consett Lions Club hosted a memorable evening of celebration, leadership transition, and fundraising. Outgoing President Neal Waby handed over the Chains of Office to new President Ken Toward. We wish Ken all the best as he steps into his new role, continuing the club's legacy of service.

The evening honoured two dedicated volunteers, Ian and Judith Cook, who received Certificates of Appreciation for their longstanding commitment to humanitarianism. Their contributions to the community are deeply valued.

The club's fundraising efforts also got a boost, with a generous £400 donation from their 100 Club initiative, supporting future projects. District Governor Gill Swann was present, engaging in discussions about the club's future plans and membership goals.

Earlier in the month, the club supported the launch of Consett @ Play at Willow Burn Hospice and Gardens, a project capturing the essence of Consett's community through photography.

Looking ahead, the Town Hall Raffle 2024 is in full swing, with tickets available from local groups. The draw will take place on 21st November 2024 at the Steel Club in Consett.

For more information or to get involved, contact Consett Lions Club via Facebook or call 07501017663.



Stephen Finch - Consett AFC Lockdown

Send your pics to editor@consettmagazine.com

My 15 Minutes of Fame

By Joyce Shaw

In the 60s, the artist Andy Warhol predicted that everyone would be famous for 15 minutes…based on the fact that TV and media publicity would be there for everyone. Of course we now see it in intimate family documentaries and suchlike, on TV where dysfunctional families glory in bad behaviour, manners and foul mouthing just to achieve their "fame".

For some however, it can be thrust upon us! When I was travelling with African children in Canada and USA, we were often scheduled to appear on live TV for interviews. As a chaperone, I kept behind the camera, as the storyline was all about the children. However, one TV interviewer, on camera, asked the children who was the eldest and without a flicker of an eyelid, they all pointed to me and shouted Auntie Joyce! (I was 62 at the time!)

Many years before this, I had already appeared on local TV in Savannah USA when I was visiting my friends there. Word got out that I was a breast cancer survivor, and I was asked to give an intimate interview about my cancer treatment in the UK and how I coped with the aftermath etc.

My other claim to fame was being heard on the radio in Leeds, during the 70s when I played my Appalachian Dulcimer. It reminded me of the time when, in the fifties, radio used to feature a guest ventriloquist!!!
Much as I love to listen to the radio there are advantages in seeing the actual event on TV!!

As for being a member of the public, I once complained to Tyne Tees TV that Bob Johnson the weatherman (who is a lovely man) had insulted my home town of Consett when he mentioned that "out in the sticks in Consett, there will be snow forecast"! I was so annoyed by this that I immediately phoned the TV studios and demand to speak to Bob. He did reply and apologised to me but I told him he needed to do a public apology as he had offended the whole town!

Next evening, after the weather report, he sat down with other newscasters and explained what he meant by "the sticks". He went on to say that where he came from, it meant the countryside!

I have also complained to Classic FM (which is my favourite radio programme), pointing out to them that they need to consider the broadcasting time of certain pieces of music which are played in the peak traffic time eg when I was travelling to school, I would often hear Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" where the music speeded up to a fast climax and I had to be aware , as I was driving, that I was using the accelerator pedal !!!

However I have no illusions! With my one woman concerts/ entertainments around the area, I have once been called Joyce Straw and, on another occasion when I was guest speaker, during a thank you speech the host asked me "what is your name?"!

I always say that I can't be" a has been" because I'm more of a "nearly was"!!

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New specialist elderly care facilities now open

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Having completed a construction project in May 2024, residents living in the revitalised Derwent care home can now explore new specialist care facilities - including The Apple Tree Cafe, The Orangery and The Village Shop.

These new spaces create a safe and enjoyable outing experience within the home; further enhancing residents' quality of life alongside the exceptional person-centred care and enriching activities which are provided by the home.

In addition, the building project has also enhanced existing areas of the home with exclusive Mariposa Care 'Wellbeing by Design' interior decor schemes, interactive displays and premium furniture; creating a sleek yet homely living environment.

Situated in a picturesque location overlooking the Derwent Valley, Derwent Care Home offers exceptional residential and specialist dementia care for up to 45 residents; with a selection of first-class ensuite bedrooms available to reserve.

Find out more at mariposacare.com or scan this QR code



The Willam Stoker Mystery

William Stoker was the supervisor on the reconstruction of part of the spire of St John's Cathedral in Limerick Ireland during the summer of 1883. The top twenty feet of the spire (the tallest church spire in Ireland) had collapsed shortly after its construction in September 1882 and funds were raised to complete the work in the summer of 1883.

The contract was awarded to a Newcastle on Tyne company called, T. Massingham. While they would have employed some local labour in the work they would also have brought in their own staff also. The work commenced in May 1883 and progressed well throughout the summer. The deadline of the 15th August had been given for the completion of the work.

On the evening of Saturday 14th July 1883, William Stoker, who was foreman of the works climbed the scaffold to inspect the setting of the concrete on the stones. he had a conversation with a local colleague before missing his footing and falling about 200 feet to his death. His body was removed to Barringtons Hospital and an inquest was held shortly afterwards.

It is here that the mystery begins. There is no record of him in Limerick's graveyards (either Protestant or Catholic). There is no account of a funeral or repatriation of remains to England. The newspaper reports of the time record that he was a man in his late 30's from Consett Durham who had been in Limerick since early spring that year but there is no record of him in census data or anywhere on Ancestry.com.

As the historian of the Cathedral I would dearly love to remember William, the only man who lost his life in the building of our beautiful and iconic Cathedral.





Tattooing with a Twist: Meet Frankie Reed of Pixelated Ink

David Leck - Consett in Focus

Tattooing is one of the oldest arts, dating back to 5000 BCE. But for a fresh take on this ancient craft, look no further than Dipton, where Frankie Reed runs Pixelated Ink.

With five years of experience, Frankie brings vibrant colours and animated characters to life through her tattoos. While she's skilled in all styles, her passion lies in creating tattoos inspired by animated movies, adding a unique flair to each piece.

Certified by the local council, Frankie is known for her calming presence, making her clients feel at ease—many of whom return for more of her creative work. With a few more years of experience, Frankie hopes to pass on her knowledge and teach the art of tattooing to future generations.

In a trade as old as time, Frankie Reed at Pixelated Ink is putting a contemporary spin on tattoo artistry, right in the heart of Dipton.

Abigail Lodge Summer Fair 2024: A Day of Fun and Community

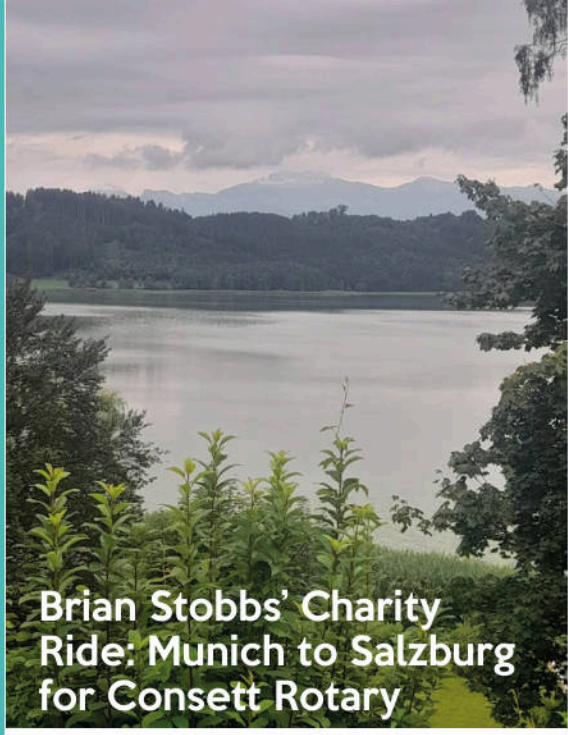
On 20th July 2024, Abigail Lodge in Delves Lane hosted their annual Summer Fair, organised by the Magic Moments Team—Christina Collingwood, Rebecca Crawford, and Rebecca Newton. The event featured a variety of entertainment, including singer Karen King, Mrs Brown, Inspirer la danse School of Dance, and more.



Guests enjoyed stalls, a bouncy castle, face painting, bumper cars, and a petting zoo, with staff and family members volunteering to ensure the day ran smoothly. Residents had a fantastic time, singing, dancing, and interacting with the animals, while also enjoying quality time with their families.



The event was a great success, raising £904 to fund future activities and outings for the residents. The Magic Moments Team expressed their gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the day so special for the residents and the community.



Brian Stobbs' Charity Ride: Munich to Salzburg for Consett Rotary

Brian Stobbs, a long-standing member and past president of the Consett Rotary Club, recently embarked on an impressive cycling journey from Munich to Salzburg, all in the name of charity. At 61 years old, Brian continues to showcase his enduring passion for cycling and his commitment to supporting local causes, raising funds for Consett Rotary charities.

Born and raised in Consett, Brian is no stranger to cycling challenges. Over the years, he has completed numerous rides, including the famous coast-to-coast route. This latest adventure began on July 15th, when Brian set off from Consett, heading to Munich to start his journey. The next day, he cycled 70km in the warm 30°C sunshine from Rossenheim to Traunstein in southeastern Germany. Along the way, Brian and his fellow cyclists enjoyed the stunning lakes and exquisite landscapes that the region has to offer.





On the second day, after covering another 63km, the group paused for a well-deserved break, stopping to refresh themselves and explore a local brewery. The ride continued into Austria, and by the third day, they had crossed the border and were on their way to their final destination, Salzburg.



By Thursday of that week, instead of attending his usual Consett Rotary meeting, Brian found himself celebrating with his riding companions at the Augustiner Brau - Kloster Mullen Beer Garden in Salzburg, the largest beer tavern in Austria. After cycling a total of 185km, Brian returned to Munich on Friday for his flight back to Consett.

Brian's journey was not just a personal achievement but also a meaningful contribution to his community. His dedication to both cycling and charitable work is truly inspiring, and it's clear he enjoyed every minute of this adventure. With another ride already in the planning stages for next year, Brian shows no signs of slowing down in his mission to support local causes through his passion for cycling.



Greenways Court Choir: An Aspiration Fulfilled



At Greenways Court, we believe in helping our residents fulfil their dreams, no matter their age. When John Carlin, one of our residents, mentioned his lifelong wish for singing lessons, we set out to make it happen. Our search led us to Marie, the talented owner of Timeless Theatre Academy, and her assistant Abby, who began visiting our home regularly to teach our residents.

What started as a simple wish quickly grew into something special. With each lesson, the residents' confidence soared, and soon Marie suggested they were ready for a show. Excited by the idea, we welcomed young performers from Marie's Academy to join us. The collaboration was magical, bringing a vibrant energy to the performance.

Residents eagerly chose their songs, and the buzz around the choir grew. Even family members joined in on the excitement, attending lessons and showing their support. The day of the show was deeply emotional, highlighted by John's solo of "You Raise Me Up," followed by the choir and Academy performers, leaving few dry eyes in the room.



Marie's ability to inspire and boost confidence has touched our residents' lives profoundly. We're now preparing for our Christmas Show, eager to see what new heights we can reach.

A huge thank you to Marie, Abby, and the Timeless Theatre Academy for making this journey so extraordinary. Your dedication has brought joy and a renewed sense of purpose to our residents, and we're excited for what's next!

Unlock Your Business's Potential with Durham Business Growth Programme: How Firefly New Media Can Help

Small and medium-sized businesses in Consett now have a significant opportunity to boost their growth and productivity through the new Durham Business Growth Programme. This programme, launched by Durham County Council, offers a range of grants designed to support businesses looking to expand, improve their operations, or reduce their carbon footprint. At Firefly New Media, we're excited to help local businesses access these funds and provide the expertise needed to turn these grants into tangible results.



Revenue Grants: A Gateway to Growth

One of the most accessible and versatile forms of support offered by the Durham Business Growth Programme is the revenue grant. This grant is designed to cover up to 40% of eligible project costs, with available amounts ranging from £1,000 to £10,000. The revenue grants are specifically aimed at helping businesses enhance their operations through expert consultancy and small-scale equipment investments.

For businesses looking to improve their marketing, web presence, and digital engagement, this grant presents an excellent opportunity. Firefly New Media specialises in the very areas that the programme supports, including marketing, social media, video, and animation, as well as web and app development. These services are crucial for businesses aiming to increase their visibility, attract more customers, and ultimately drive growth.

firefly DURHAM BUSINESS growth

Elevate Your Marketing with Expert Support

In today's digital age, a strong marketing strategy is essential for any business that wants to stand out in a crowded marketplace. The revenue grants offered by the Durham Business Growth Programme can be used to engage expert consultants who can help you develop and implement effective marketing strategies. This includes crafting compelling campaigns, optimising your social media presence, and creating engaging multimedia content such as videos and animations.

At Firefly New Media, we understand the power of a well-crafted marketing strategy. We work closely with businesses to identify their unique strengths and market opportunities, creating tailored marketing plans that resonate with target audiences. Our expertise in video production and animation can help your business tell its story in a dynamic and visually appealing way, making a lasting impression on potential customers.

To get started Call us on 01207 438292
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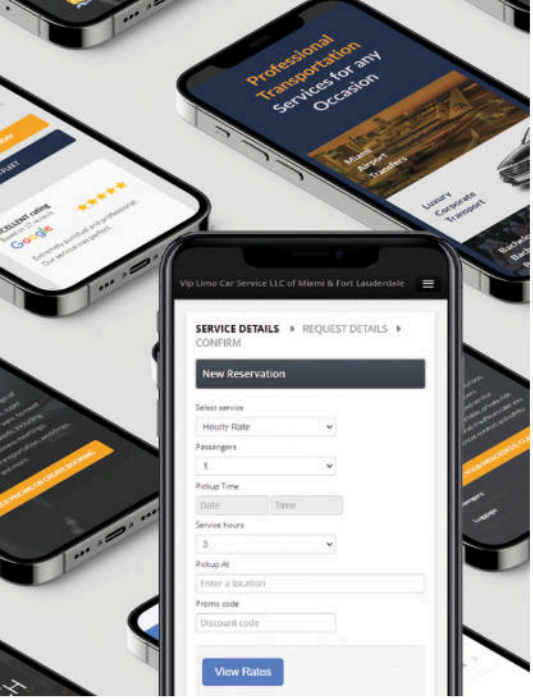

By leveraging the funding available through the programme, businesses can access the expert support needed to elevate their marketing efforts, improve brand awareness, and ultimately drive sales. Whether you're looking to launch a new product, expand into new markets, or simply increase your brand's visibility, Firefly New Media is here to help you every step of the way.

Strengthen Your Online Presence with Web and App Development

In addition to marketing support, the revenue grants can also be used to enhance your business's online presence through web and app development. A well-designed website or mobile app is crucial for engaging with customers, streamlining operations, and staying competitive in today's digital-first world.

Firefly New Media offers comprehensive web and app development services tailored to meet the specific needs of your business. Whether you need a completely new website, a refresh of your existing site, or a custom app to better serve your customers, we have the expertise to bring your vision to life. Our team of developers and designers work closely with you to ensure that the final product not only looks great but also delivers a seamless user experience that drives engagement and conversions.

With the support of the Durham Business Growth Programme's revenue grants, businesses can make critical investments in their digital infrastructure. These investments can lead to improved customer satisfaction, increased efficiency, and ultimately, higher revenues.

How Firefly New Media Can Help You Secure Funding

Navigating the grant application process can be challenging, but that's where we come in. At Firefly New Media, we're not just here to provide the services funded by the grants; we're also here to help you secure the funding in the first place. Our team has extensive experience working with grant programmes and can guide you through the application process, ensuring that your proposal highlights the impact and value of the project you're proposing.

By partnering with Firefly New Media, you gain a trusted ally who is committed to your business's success. We'll help you identify the best use of the grant funds, craft a compelling application, and then deliver the high-quality services that will bring your project to life.

Take the Next Step

If your business is ready to grow, now is the time to take advantage of the Durham Business Growth Programme and the expertise of Firefly New Media. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you secure funding and implement the projects that will drive your business forward. Let's work together to unlock your business's full potential.

Book a meeting with Firefly and we can discuss your growth plans!

Get Ready for the Ultimate Party Season with Jesters Party Accessories & Karnival Costumes

As the days grow shorter and the holiday season approaches, it's time to start planning your perfect parties. Whether you're hosting a spooky Halloween bash or a festive Christmas gathering, local businesses Jesters Party Accessories and Karnival Costumes have everything you need to make your event unforgettable.

Halloween: Spooky Fun Awaits

Halloween is the first big event of the season, and Jesters Party Accessories is your go-to for creating a haunted atmosphere. From eerie lighting to creepy cobwebs, Jesters offers a fantastic selection of decorations that will transform any space. Best of all, their prices are lower than those on Amazon, and they offer fast, free delivery on all orders.

No Halloween party is complete without the perfect costume. Karnival Costumes, an online-only store with over 20 years of experience, has one of the UK's largest collections of Halloween costumes and accessories. Whether you're going for a classic witch look or something truly unique, Karnival Costumes has you covered, with quick delivery to ensure you're ready for the big night.

Christmas: Festive Fun for All

Once Halloween is over, it's time to deck the halls for Christmas. Jesters Party Accessories can help you create a winter wonderland with their extensive range of festive decorations. From sparkling tinsel to elegant tableware, you'll find everything you need to set the perfect holiday scene.

And for dressing up, Karnival Costumes offers a variety of Christmas-themed outfits, including Santa suits, elf costumes, and reindeer gear. With their wide range of options, you'll be sure to find something that adds a touch of festive fun to your celebrations.

Party Planning Made Easy

Planning a successful holiday party is all about having the right essentials. Start early, choose a theme, and make your event stand out with decorations from Jesters and costumes from Karnival. With their unbeatable prices and extensive selections, your party is sure to be a hit.

As the holiday season approaches, make Jesters Party Accessories and Karnival Costumes your first stop for all your party needs. Get ready, Consett – it's time to celebrate!

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Watch the Birdie!

By Lorraine Weightman.

I have become very attached to the birds who visit my garden. From the very noisy sparrows who flit in and out of the tree on mass; to the lumbering wood pigeons, who find it very hard to get off the ground, so plod their way around the lawn looking for something to eat.

I suppose it's my fault there are so many avifauna, as I tend to feed them regularly, and encourage my granddaughters to do the same. As we always leave the crusts on our bread - an instinctive family inherited trait - there is always a little snack available for the birds. From being tiny Eleanor and Matilda could identify different types of our feathered friends, and were especially happy when they spotted a robin.

It's extremely noticeable when I step into the garden with a ham sandwich that the noise level in the tree heightens, as the sparrows anticipate a tasty morsel coming their way. They are also very resourceful, as even though I haven't provided them with a bird bath, after a very hot day recently, they flew out front and I watched them bathing in the tiny puddles that were left over from a intermittent rain shower!

However, I tend to draw the line at crows, who disperse all my little friends with one defiant swoop and carry off huge pieces of bread in their beaks to devour on some near rooftop.

The other day when this happened, I was reminded of the Alfred Hitchcock film with its disturbing scene when the birds sought revenge and struck. To be fair to these crows; they were more interested in filling their hungry stomachs, rather than replicating a scene from a 1960's movie, which the theme was - according to Hitchcock - 'exact revenge against humanity for taking nature for granted.'

And by far the cheekiest of my garden visitors, are the seagulls!

I have to ask myself, what on earth are they doing here in Consett, almost 900 feet above sea level, but there you go - it takes all sorts!

Locally, it's also heartwarming to see Red Kites soaring high in the distance, even though I have never observed one close up, they are easy to identify with their giant wing span of almost 2 metres, and distinctive brown and red plumage.

If that has whetted your appetite for bird watching, you could always pop along to the bus station and have a ride on a red kite bus to Winlaton Mill and follow the Red Kite Trail.

One of the most treasured places in my garden, is beside a metal dragonfly, that marks the spot where my granddaughters and I held the funeral of the lovely little blackbird they found on the path. With a full solemn committal, we buried him in a white paper towel shroud, carried ceremoniously to his resting place on a shovel.

After the event I was asked, with wide eyed anticipation,

'Are there birds in heaven Grandma?'

'I would like to think so' I exclaimed,

'If not, there would be loads of bread left over!'

They both nodded in agreement and were happy with the reply - for now!





Moulding Magic in Consett: A Peek Inside 'Designed With A Twist' Sarah Loveland - Consett in Focus

If you've baked, enjoyed chocolate decorations, or used wax melts, you've likely encountered silicone moulds. Right here in Consett, 'Designed With A Twist' is creating these versatile tools.

Based on the Number One Industrial Estate, this UK business blends creativity with technology, using 3D printing and lasers to design their unique moulds. The process involves hand-mixing silicone, removing air bubbles, and carefully pouring the mixture into moulds. After setting, each mould is trimmed and packed with care.

Founded by Corinne in 2021, 'Designed With A Twist' regularly offers new designs, from seasonal themes to fun creations like summer flip-flops. Every mould is made to order, adding a personal touch.

It's wonderful to see such craftsmanship happening locally, bringing high-quality, UK-made products right to our doorstep. Next time you're in need of something special, think of the magic being made in Consett!



Capturing Community Spirit: My Journey with Foundation For Good

Kyle Kennedy, a talented Photography student at the University of Sunderland, has recently taken on a remarkable project with the Consett-based charity, Foundation For Good (FFG).

What started as a simple volunteer opportunity quickly turned into a deeply rewarding experience, showcasing Kyle's skills and passion for photography while supporting a vital local cause.

Initially drawn to a Facebook post seeking a photographer for FFG's food bank, Kyle soon discovered that the charity's work encompassed much more.







FFG provides essential services to the community, including food, toiletries, and even white goods, along with transport and fuel support. Their reach extends further with well-being programs for adults and youth, a boxing club, and an alternative learning provision.

One of Kyle's first tasks was to photograph the ambassadors of Tag Combat, a unique sport designed by FFG's CEO, Fraser Neill. Tag Combat offers a safer alternative to boxing, tailored for people with disabilities. Participants wear vests with Velcro tags, aiming to remove their opponent's tags without causing harm. The sport is gaining traction, with potential collaborations on the horizon with Dosport UK.

Since joining FFG, Kyle has captured a range of powerful images, from staff portraits to the charity's facilities, and even produced a promotional video for their social media. His work not only highlights the incredible efforts of FFG but also reflects his growing expertise as a photographer. Kyle's journey with FFG is a testament to the power of combining talent with community service, and we're eager to see where his creative path leads next.

Meet the Plumbing Hero of Consett: Andrew Dixon of ATD Plumbing

Chris Bruce - Consett in Focus

Plumbing has been an essential part of human life for millennia, with evidence dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization around 2600 BCE. The term "plumber" itself comes from the Roman word for lead, "plumbum," used in their ancient piping systems. Roman bathhouses, like those at Chesters and Corbridge, highlight the early art of plumbing.

Fast forward to today, and plumbers remain the unsung heroes of modern life, bravely tackling the depths of our bathrooms and kitchens. They keep the water flowing, fix leaks, and save us from DIY disasters.

In Consett, one such hero is Andrew Dixon. After qualifying, Andrew started his local business, ATD Plumbing and Heating, and has been ensuring the community's plumbing needs are met ever since. Thanks to his expertise, Consett residents can count on clean water and functional toilets, keeping the modern world running smoothly.







Putting victims needs front and centre

FOR far too long, near-record numbers of victims have been dropping out of criminal proceedings (1.5million last year alone) and there is a staggering record backlog of over 60,000 cases in our criminal courts.

Backlogs not only hinder the timely resolution of cases, but they also pose a significant barrier to holding perpetrators to account for their crimes. Faced with long waits for trials, victims may think twice about pursuing justice which can lead to a drop in conviction rates and perpetrators walking free to commit further crimes.

That's why it is important to me that victims feel confident to come forward to report crime, assured that when they do, they will be given the relevant care and support throughout their criminal justice journey, from reporting to trial.

Despite the Victims Code being introduced in 2021, victims are still feeling let down and trust in the criminal justice system (CJS) is at an all-time low. Victims who have already endured trauma and abuse should not be subjected to additional suffering due to inefficiencies and delays in the legal process.

The Victims' Code sets out the rights that everyone can expect to receive as a victim of crime (see below All victims have the right to be informed about the criminal justice process and the support available.

Criminal justice agencies are responsible for making sure that victims receive the rights in the Victims' Code. They should all tell you about your rights as you go through the criminal justice process.

The Criminal Justice Agencies include:

- The Police
- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)
- Youth Offending Teams
- HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)
- British Transport Police (BTP)

As your Victims Commissioner, I am determined to see The Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) consistently adhered to by CJS agencies, by making sure victims are receiving good information and they are being invited to provide a Victim Personal Statement (VPS).

My team have been working closely with our CJS partners to facilitate the adoption of a whole systems approach to ensure information is shared with each other so that victims voices are heard and justice is done.

CJS agencies need to identify and assess the individual needs of each victim so they feel included, seen and heard and ensure they receive appropriate care and support.

My Victims Champion often hears victims complain that they feel unheard, and in some cases, even disrespected. Good quality communication is key. Victims want to receive clear information that demonstrates care, respect and compassion.

Over the last 3 years with the support of my team I have been working hard to put victims back at the heart of the criminal justice system by doing everything we can to ensure victims' voices are amplified, heard, and respected.

Following the recent disturbances we have seen the rapid full force of the law being applied against those involved. But sadly the existing backlogs still remain, so I will be calling on the government to ensure victims of crime receive the justice and support they deserve.

I will be pushing them to secure essential long term sustainable funding to invest in support services for victims of crime so we can help them cope with the aftermath of their experience. By offering emotional support, counselling, legal guidance, and practical assistance, victim services help individuals successfully navigate the criminal justice system whilst rebuilding their lives.

With the right care and support in place victims will get justice the deserve and perpetrators will pay the price for crimes they have committed!



Unlock Exceptional Savings at Howdens of Consett – Sale Starts 9th September!

Consett residents, mark your calendars! Howdens is kicking off its highly anticipated sale on the 9th of September, and it's set to be an event you won't want to miss. Whether you're a trade professional or a homeowner looking to upgrade your space, this sale offers incredible savings on a wide range of high-quality products.

Since 1995, Howdens has been a trusted name in the trade industry, known for providing top-quality kitchens, joinery, and hardware. From just 14 depots, we've grown to over 800 locations across the UK, France, and Belgium. Our Consett depot is a proud part of this legacy, offering products from local stock, ensuring you get what you need, when you need it.

What's on Offer?

Starting 9th September, Howdens of Consett will feature exclusive discounts on a variety of products. If you're looking to transform your kitchen, you'll find unbeatable deals on units, worktops, and appliances. For those tackling joinery projects, our sale includes a selection of doors, flooring, and hardware essentials – all at prices that can't be beaten.

Our sale isn't just about discounts; it's about quality. As a British manufacturer with a Royal Warrant by Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, we're committed to delivering products that meet the highest standards. Whether you're fitting a new kitchen or need reliable hardware, you can trust that our products will stand the test of time.

Why Howdens of Consett?

Howdens isn't just another supplier; we're a vital part of the Consett community. Our commitment to supporting local tradespeople and homeowners has made us a trusted partner in countless projects. With accolades like being named one of the Top 25 Best Big Companies to work for in 2020, we're dedicated to excellence in everything we do.

Visit Us from 9th September

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support a local business while enjoying exceptional savings. Visit Howdens of Consett from the 9th of September and discover why we're the UK's number one supplier of trade kitchens.

Whether you're a professional or a DIY enthusiast, we've got everything you need to make your project a success. We look forward to welcoming you!

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Brewing Tradition: Consett Ale Works at The Grey Horse

George Ledger - Consett in Focus

Brewing beer is a blend of science and art, with a history stretching back over 12,000 years. The process is simple yet profound: heat water and grain, boil with hops, cool, ferment with yeast, and carbonate.

In Consett, The Grey Horse on Sherburn Terrace has been brewing since 2005. David took the reins as manager in 2018, with Ian joining him a couple of years later. Together, they operate as Consett Ale Works, producing four distinct beers: Steeltown Bitter, White Hot Ale, Red Dust Ruby Ale, and Porter.

While most of their beer is enjoyed right at The Grey Horse, some is bottled, allowing fans to savour these local brews at home. Consett Ale Works continues to uphold the tradition of brewing, offering a true taste of Consett's heritage in every pint.





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