CONSETT MAGAZINE

Nov 2024 | Issue 144



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E Energy Rating

BOSCH — Induction Hob
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Dear Consett Readers

Welcome to the November 2024 edition of Consett Magazine! As the days grow shorter and the festive season approaches, we're excited to bring you another issue filled with positive local news, community stories, and heartwarming features from in and around Consett.

This month's cover, beautifully captured by Stephen Finch, showcases a striking industrial image—a reminder of Consett's proud heritage and the enduring spirit of our community.

The Consett Lions Club held fundraisers and community events in October. They raised money for the Great North Air Ambulance, collected spectacles for vision care programs, and hosted social events that brought the community together.

We're also thrilled to introduce Mirrin Alexander, the newest member of our team. Mirrin will be out and about, connecting with local businesses and the community to bring you the latest features and stories. Be sure to check out her introduction on page 17 and say hello if you see her around!

On page 5, we take a look at Blackhill Bridge Club's welcoming spirit as they celebrate new members and announce their 2025 Beginner's Course. With a combination of social events and regular games, the club offers a perfect mix of challenge and camaraderie.

For our feature stories, Chris Bruce dives into the traditional craft of farriery with Rodney Britton, who has been keeping this age-old trade alive in Consett for decades. We also have a spotlight on CasaLingua (page 10), a fantastic language school making languages accessible to all ages, and Fettled Vintage Creations (page 11), a local business committed to sustainability through furniture restoration.

Looking ahead, the Consett Christmas Tree Festival kicks off on November 28th, bringing a festive sparkle to the community. There are also plenty of events lined up, including the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime at St. Patrick's Hall (page 12), and the return of the Santa Express at Weardale Railway (page 14), perfect for families eager to embrace the Christmas spirit.

Finally, don't miss Joyce Shaw's charming poem on page 7, where she explores the whimsical and unique place names of the North East—a fun and poetic journey through our region.

We hope this issue brings you joy as we head into the festive season. A big thank you to our contributors, advertisers, and readers for your continued support. We are proud to provide free local news that celebrates Consett's community spirit.

.Warmest greetings for the month of November,
Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, Mirrin Alexander, and all those individuals who tirelessly contribute to the creation and distribution of this free monthly magazine.

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or book your ad space:

Phone: 01207 438292

Email: editor@consettmagazine.com

Contributors

Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Mirrin Alexander
Lorraine Weightman
Liam Cook
George Ledger
Chris Bruce
Joyce Shaw
Ken Toward
Stephen Finch
Joy Allen

SCAN ME

The Front Cover

By Stephen Finch



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Consett Lions October Roundup: Supporting the Community and Beyond

October has been a vibrant and rewarding month for the Consett Lions, with a series of community-focused activities, fundraising efforts, and events that highlight their ongoing dedication to both local and international causes.

The month began with a significant fundraiser for the Great North Air Ambulance. A collection held at Tesco Consett raised an impressive £500, thanks to the generosity of local residents. Many shared heartfelt stories of how the service had saved the lives of loved ones, underscoring just how vital this cause is to the Consett community.

The Consett Lions also extend their gratitude to the shoppers at Boyes, whose contributions via a collection tin are helping to support the Lions' broader mission of community service. These small but steady donations make a big difference in funding their ongoing projects.

World Sight Day, held on October 10th, saw Lion Mike Rogers participating in his regular commentary for Durham Cricket matches, ensuring visually impaired fans could enjoy the games. Additionally, the Consett Lions continue their spectacle recycling program, with collections ongoing at Consett Library, helping to provide vision care to those in need around the world.

October was also packed with social and fundraising events. The Consett Hiking Club Quiz on the 17th and the Lions Fundraising Quiz on the 28th were both held at The Steel Club, offering a fun way for the community to come together and support the Lions' work. Both events were well-attended and full of fast-paced quizzing action, bringing a lively atmosphere to the club.

The Charter Lunch on October 26th at Blackhill's Masonic Hall was a major highlight, where Lions members from across the country gathered to celebrate the ongoing work and achievements of the Consett Lions, while the District Meeting on the 27th looked toward an exciting future for Lions Clubs with new projects and goals discussed.

Looking ahead, there's much to anticipate, with the St. John's Ambulance Training Evening on November 7th and the Consett Christmas Tree Festival starting on November 28th among the upcoming highlights.

To learn more about joining this vibrant and active club, email p.jarman@hotmail.com or call 07501017663.



Willow Burn Hospice 35th Anniversary Gala

On Friday 21 March 2025 Willow Burn is celebrating 35 years of the hospice with a huge party you won't want to miss!

2025 marks 35 years since Willow Burn Hospice was officially opened by H.R.H The Duchess of Kent. Willow Burn was made possible by founders Valerie Davison and Irene Mortimer, a grant from the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and by the generosity of local people.

Over 35 years, Willow Burn has seen a lot of changes, new faces, new services and a brand new hospice and community hub. One thing that hasn't changed is that generosity from local people. Willow Burn is part of a community where we treasure lives and everyone is supported to live well and die well. Your support enables our team of doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants and counsellors to deliver hospice care of the highest standard to our patients and those important to them.

The annual black tie event will take place at the Winter Gardens at Beamish Hall and will raise funds towards the hospice's daily care and support services, and will include entertainment, a drinks reception, a three-course meal with wine and auction. Returning to host the gala is North East personality and former BBC Radio Newcastle presenter Alfie Joey

Tickets are £55 each and sponsorship packages are £500 each.

To find out more or to purchase tickets contact Rachel Quince at:

rquince@willowburnhospice.org.uk

willowburnhospice.org.uk/our-events/

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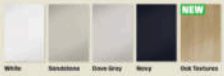

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Blackhill Bridge Club Welcomes New Members and Announces 2025 Beginner's Course

The thriving Blackhill Bridge Club is excited to welcome seven new members who have successfully completed this year's beginner's class, led by the wonderful Carol. The new members bring a mix of experiences, from seasoned players to those new to the game. Andrew and Helen, after early retirement, fulfilled their long-standing desire to learn bridge, while Hayley joined for a more relaxed playing environment, despite already knowing how to play. Olwyn wanted to refresh her skills, and brought Gordon along, who is now glad he stayed to learn the game. Jim returned to bridge for a fresh challenge and new friendships, and Michael joined after recovering from illness, enjoying the game while improving his memory.

The club, based at Blackhill Community Centre, is a friendly group of 21 active members who meet every Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Newcomers and experienced players alike are always welcome, making it an ideal spot for anyone looking to learn or improve their game.

For those interested in learning bridge, the club is offering a Beginner's Course from April to September 2025. Whether you're completely new or need to brush up on your skills, this course will guide you through the basics with expert instruction. To reserve your spot, contact John at 07397 157682 or Liz at 01207 659573.

With a mix of social events, such as a recent meal at the Royal Oak in Medomsley, and the excitement of regular games, Blackhill Bridge Club offers the perfect combination of challenge and community spirit.



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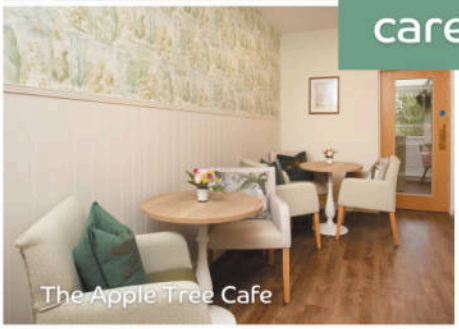



Having completed a construction project in May 2024, residents living in the revitalised Derwent care home can now explore new specialist care facilities - including The Apple Tree Cafe, The Orangery and The Village Shop.

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

Achieve a Healthier You This October with ELYFIT's Private Blood Testss

You train hard, eat clean, and push your limits further than most ever dare. But are you truly in tune with your body's inner engine? Is something holding you back? Injury, fatigue or you think nutrition is correct but is your body lacking?

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Whether you're facing delays with your GP or simply seeking peace of mind, ELYFIT offers a wide range of tests, from diabetes and thyroid checks to sports performance and hormone levels. If the test you need isn't listed, we're here to assist.

Our services are designed to complement your wellness journey, offering tailored health insights to support your fitness goals. Discover more about how we can help you stay healthy this November and take the first step towards a healthier, more balanced life with ELYFIT.



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Rodney Britton: A Lifetime in the Farrier Trade

Chris Bruce - Consett in Focus

Rodney Britton has dedicated his life to the traditional craft of farriery, a trade historically linked to blacksmithing. Starting at just 14 years old, Rodney began by helping his father, before pursuing a formal apprenticeship in North Yorkshire. This allowed him to work alongside his father professionally.

As a farrier, Rodney trims horses' hooves, makes their shoes, and carefully fits them, providing essential care for horses in Consett, Lanchester, and Hexham. Although skilled in creating decorative wrought iron objects, Rodney's passion remains in working with horses, continuing the age-old craft of farriery.

With years of experience, Rodney Britton carries on a tradition that has been passed down through generations, combining craftsmanship with a deep understanding of horses' needs. His work is a vital part of maintaining the health and well-being of horses in the local community.





What's in a name? Here's 100!!

By Joyce Shaw

There's Peterlee and Pity Me, Maiden Law and Walker Shore
There's Framwelgate and Old Wingate, Butterknowle and Bogle Hole

Beggar's Wood and Evenwood, Byker Hill and Hamsterley Mill
Annfield Plain and Eden Vale, Cowshill and Ettersgill

Windy Nook and Crawcrook, Meadowfield and Dadry Shield
Page Bank and Unthank, Shiney Row and Prudhoe

Hadrian's Wall and Crookhall, Phoenix Row and Toronto
Oxhill and Dragonville, Hutton Henry, Gilmonby

Fir Tree and Hamsterley, Helmington Row and New Kyo
Little Bavington, Longframlington, Hunwick and Muggleswick

Percy Main or our Delves Lane, Tanfield Lea and Killerby
Grange Hill and Carrville, Deaf Hill and Blackhall Mill

Hunstanworth and Nettlesworth, Hedley Hill and Ferryhill
Whittonstall and Newton Hall, Clough Dene and Byers Green

Lumley Thicks and Elwick, Pelton Fell and Haswell
High Dyke and Pontop Pike, Tow Law and Maiden Law

Northlea and Oak Tree, Pickering Nook and Crawcrook
Wall Nook and High Stoop, Allansford and Rushyford

Wackerfield and Burnopfield, Crawleyside and Castleside
Scots Gap and nearby Shap, Stony Heap and Bryan's Leap

Sunny Brow and Haswell Plough, Tudhoe Grange, Otterburn Range
Seaton Carew or West View, Quaking Houses or Seahouses?

The hamlet Beal and Villa Real, Whitley Bay and Belsay
Thornaby., Old Hartley, Langley Moor, and Barlow

Castle Chipchase or No Place, Merrybent or Mount Pleasant
100 places but there's more. Our great North East has names galore!!

Castleside Village Hall Celebrates 100 Years of Community Spirit

Castleside Village Hall recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary, marking a century of bringing people together in the small village of Castleside, located between Corbridge and Tow Law. Despite the village losing its chapels, shops, post office, and a pub over the years, the hall has remained a cornerstone of community life.

For the past century, the hall has provided a vital space for local residents and those from nearby areas to gather for a wide range of activities. From monthly craft fairs and coffee mornings to groups like Indoor Bowls, the Women's Institute, Yoga, and Drama Tots for children, the hall has served all ages and interests. It also offered a spacious main room and a smaller corporate room for private events, such as weddings, funerals, and parties.

Throughout the years, the committee organized numerous fundraising events like murder mystery nights and tribute acts, which helped support free or low-cost community celebrations such as Halloween and Christmas parties.

The hall's outdoor area, Drovers Dell, became a popular play space for local children, ensuring that the village's youngest members had a safe place to meet and play. Castleside Village Hall's 100th celebration was a tribute to its lasting impact and its role at the heart of village life.



COPIED PHOTOGRAPHS Village Institute Opening 1924



Ladies who assisted at the opening of the Institute



25th Annual Hedgelaying Competition Celebrates Traditional Craft in County Durham

The 25th Durham Hedgelaying Competition recently took place at Woodland Hall Farm, Knitsley, drawing skilled hedgelayers from across the region to compete for the title of County Durham's champion. Held on Friday, October 11th, the event was organized by Durham County Council in partnership with the Durham Hedgerow Partnership. It aimed to promote greater understanding of the ancient craft and encourage younger generations to take up the tradition.

The competition was open to everyone and celebrated hedgelaying, a centuries-old method of maintaining healthy hedgerows. Cllr Mark Wilkes, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and climate change, highlighted the importance of hedgerows for wildlife, carbon capture, and flood prevention, calling them "nature's multitaskers."

Competitors had five hours to lay around seven meters of hedge, judged on criteria such as neatness, quality of cuts, and adherence to traditional styles. The event provided a great opportunity for attendees to watch the skilled hedgelayers in action, learn about field boundary management, and meet local experts.

The competition continues to shine a light on this vital, eco-friendly craft, keeping it alive for future generations.





Fettled Vintage Creations: Sustainable Furniture Restoring in Consett

George Ledger - Consett in Focus

As sustainability becomes a priority, Fettled Vintage Creations, owned by Helen Ledger, offers an eco-friendly approach to home furnishings through upcycling and furniture restoration. Helen has been transforming old furniture into stylish, one-of-a-kind pieces for many years and took her passion full-time about a decade ago.

Starting from home, Helen's craft soon outgrew her space, leading to the launch of Fettled Vintage Creations in Leadgate after the Covid lockdown. Earlier this year, she relocated to a new shop in Consett, where she continues to breathe new life into old pieces.

In addition to her restoration work, Helen offers workshops in upcycling, painting, decoupage, and upholstery, allowing others to learn the skills needed to create their own sustainable home décor. By repurposing furniture, Helen's work promotes sustainability while offering unique pieces that are both beautiful and environmentally friendly.



CasaLingua: Bringing Languages to Consett

Kim, the passionate founder of CasaLingua, is bringing her language school to 26 Middle Street, Consett this November. After years of teaching French, Spanish, and Italian to local learners, she's taking a bold step by opening a dedicated space for her classes. With over 100 students already learning from her each week, Kim's mission is clear: to make languages accessible to all ages in the Consett community.

Having previously worked as Head of Italian in a Gateshead secondary school, Kim's experience abroad and her love for languages have shaped CasaLingua into a growing success. Now, as a limited company, she's excited to offer even more classes and working with other tutors and companies to expand the language options in Consett.

Join Kim for an open morning on Saturday, 2nd November, where you can enjoy language taster sessions with promotions, competitions and activities for new and existing students. Discover why CasaLingua is a fantastic addition to Consett!







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Understanding the Importance of Early Childhood Education

At Shotley Bridge Nursery School, we recognize that the early years of a child's life are critical in shaping their future development and success. According to a recent report from the University of Sheffield, a significant number of children in the UK are starting school without the necessary skills to thrive, particularly in areas such as language, communication, and social abilities.

This period of early childhood is when the brain is most receptive to learning, and the experiences that children have during this time create a foundation for lifelong skills. Quality early years education, like that provided at Shotley Bridge, plays a pivotal role in ensuring children are 'school ready' and able to take on the challenges of formal education with confidence.

Our Approach to Building Skills for Life

At Shotley Bridge Nursery School, we are passionate about sparking children's curiosity and helping them discover the world through play and exploration. We focus on creating a nurturing environment that encourages independence, resilience, and a love for learning. Our experienced team of early years professionals works closely with each child to support their individual growth, ensuring they develop essential skills in a supportive and engaging atmosphere.

We offer a range of activities designed to enhance language, communication, and social skills, allowing children to express themselves and connect with their peers effectively. Through hands-on learning experiences, we help children become confident, inquisitive, and well-prepared for the next step in their educational journey.

Adapting to Modern Challenges

While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly affected children's development, we also acknowledge the influence of today's fast-paced lifestyle. With an emphasis on instant gratification, many children miss out on valuable opportunities to use their imagination, experience challenges, or simply be bored — all of which are crucial for their cognitive and emotional growth.

At Shotley Bridge Nursery School, we aim to counteract these trends by providing a balanced approach to learning that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Our goal is to give every child the best start in life by building their confidence and encouraging them to embrace their unique selves.

Join Our Community at Shotley Bridge Nursery School

We believe that early years education is a collaborative effort between our nursery and families. By working together, we can create a strong support system that helps every child reach their full potential. If you're looking for a nurturing, community-focused environment where your child can thrive and become school-ready, Shotley Bridge Nursery School is here for you.

Contact us today to learn more about our programs and how we can support your child's development.

Let's Prepare for Success, Together!

Ready to join us on this journey of learning and discovery? Visit our website or contact our team at Shotley Bridge Nursery School to secure a place for your child. Together, we can lay the foundation for a brighter, more confident future for every child.

www.shotleybridge-nurseryschool.co.uk

Call: 01207 581 700

Tequil A Town

A "True" Story By Lorraine Weightman.

Monday
News broke earlier today that 250 newly built houses disappeared overnight on the former site of Consett Steel Works.

The only thing now visible to the naked eye is an extremely extensive patch of scorched land where dozens of families once lived.

Police at the scene said they received a call in the early hours of Monday morning from an insomniac dog walker who reported that on taking his usual route, he turned the corner into the estate and there were no houses visible; stating he could see all the way to Blackhill with nothing to mar his view.

Mr. D. Ogtreats from Consett was questioned by police immediately afterwards and charged with arson about 8am that morning.

He denied any untoward behaviour, stating he would be contacting his solicitors, Hadaweigh and Shight - a local firm - to represent him.

The fire brigade have cordoned off the area and asked local residents to stay away in case of toxicity and contamination.

Tuesday
Yesterday over 250 homes vanished into mid air overnight, including cars, wheelie bins and those cute little gnomes that sit on toadstools holding fishing rods!

This morning, locals reported that on the cordoned off area where the houses once stood, huge plants were growing out of the still smoking ground. An expert was called in to examine and identify the strange cactus like plants which have reached heights of over two metres already and almost covered the site completely.

Consett folk have been asked to remain indoors and only venture out when extremely necessary, as the army have been drafted into the town centre and have permission to question anyone they deem to be suspicious.

The inquiry continues…

Wednesday
News has broken this morning of the huge forest of spreading cacti which is taking over a town in north west Durham.

Consett the third highest market town in England is now covered in strange cactus type plants which are engulfing, streets, parks and any open spaces.

The incident began three days ago when a large housing estate disappeared and was replaced by these speedily growing plants.

President Biden in one of his last duties in office was flown into Consett Airport earlier today to review the situation.

Arriving in Air Force One, he hurriedly joined the cavalcade, making his way past Number One roundabout, finding time to call into Lorraine Weightman's home for a cup of tea before speeding to the original site where the houses disappeared.

Experts from NASA and Cape Canaveral, have travelled with him to investigate the strange phenomenon.

Mr D.Ogtreats who had been arrested concerning the matter was released on bail after revealing his encounter with a stranger the night before.

Mr Biden in a press conference said he hoped they would get to the bottom of this within the next 24 hours.

Thursday
Just before midnight yesterday the President of the United States gave a statement on international television.

He declared that a huge cohort of Space Travellers had managed to beam up a whole housing estate in Consett Co Durham to make way for a gigantic farm of Agave - pronounced 'Uh Gah Vee' - plants to make their favourite drink.

Known as 'The Tequila Bandits', they have intergalactic Amazon stores which sell their product and needed to up their supply chain.

3 weeks later ...
Consett residents have been generously reimbursed for any inconvenience caused after an agave plantation took over their town.

Mr. D.Ogtreats' solicitors Hadaweigh and Shight, have made a statement saying he will be pursuing compensation for his ill treatment and wrongful arrest, but is happy that the tequila shortage in the town and the rest of the world has been rectified.

Consequently, Consett, is now the tequila capital of the world and all residents including those from the infamous housing estate, hold extremely valuable shares in this popular product.

Finally, they are all secure and living happily in their own homes on another planet in a different universe after a pre meditated rip in the space - time continuum, which luckily for them boasts the very same micro climate found in Consett!



Greenways Court Resident Reunites with Passion for Swimming After 60 Years

At Greenways Court Residential Care Home, we prioritise keeping our residents' aspirations alive. This philosophy was beautifully demonstrated when Joy, a resident with a passion for swimming, experienced a heartwarming return to the water after decades.

Joy had once been a talented swimmer, even trying out for the GB Olympic Team in the late 1950s. However, upon moving to Greenways Court, she believed her swimming days were behind her. After hearing this, Tracy Graham, a dedicated staff member, was determined to change that.

Tracy contacted local authorities to find a suitable swimming pool, eventually connecting with Amy from The Derwent Hotel, who kindly offered their spa facilities. With approval from management and Joy's family, and with the help of caring staff members Dorothy and Sue, Joy returned to the water.

The moment Joy entered the pool, her joy was unmistakable. It was an emotional experience for everyone, especially her niece Margaret, who was moved to tears. The Derwent Manor went above and beyond by closing the spa to the public, creating a special and private experience for Joy.

This story highlights the power of small acts of kindness and how they can have a lasting impact. Greenways Court is grateful to everyone who made this unforgettable moment possible.



Ross Café and Wine Bar

by Lorraine Weightman

Ross

I was lucky enough to pop into a new Café and Wine Bar in Consett on its opening day last month.

Pleasantly surprised by the updated decor and spacious venue, I sampled the delicious coffee and homemade bakes on offer. It was lovely to speak to Emily and Ryan who made myself and my friend very welcome and told us their story which is available on their Facebook page - Ross Coffee & Wine Bar Consett - which I have copied below.

'Meet Emily, a talented baker hailing from the picturesque region of Cumbria. Baking is in Emily's blood, with a family history rich in culinary excellence, including her mother, an award-winning chef. After years of delighting customers in Cumbria with her exquisite baked goods, Emily has decided to bring her culinary expertise to the North East.

Having recently moved to the charming town of Consett, Emily is thrilled to announce the grand opening of her new venture, Ross Café and Wine Bar, in the heart of Consett. Set to fully open its doors today, Ross Café and Wine Bar promises to be a cosy, inviting space where the aroma of freshly baked food and pastries fills the air.

Emily warmly invites you to join her on this exciting new journey. Whether you're stopping by for a morning coffee, a delicious pastry, or just to say hello and have a look around, Emily hopes you'll feel right at home.
To ensure every visitor has a wonderful experience, Emily has teamed up with Ryan, who will be managing the front of house. With his friendly demeanor and dedication to excellent service, Ryan will make sure you feel welcomed and well taken care of from the moment you step through the door.

Come and experience the love and dedication that goes into every creation at Ross Café and Wine Bar. We look forward to welcoming you



The Santa Express, a festive family train ride at Weardale Railway

Weardale Railway has launched a magical festive family experience from Stanhope this festive season! Their beloved festive Christmas train The Santa Express is back, bigger and better than ever before, promising an unforgettable Christmas Experience journey for the whole family.

The Santa Express is more than just a train ride – it's an immersive Christmas experience with live performances from an all singing and dancing Christmas cast & crew. Departing from Stanhope Station, families can enjoy a warming cup of hot chocolate and a cookie to set the festive mood. Then it's All Aboard ! the Festive train as a heartwarming Christmas Story unfolds. Along the journey there will be Christmas songs to sing along to as well as some surprise specially commissioned Santa Express songs. With games and bags of festive fun & giggles along the way!

The Santa Express journeys deeper into the breathtaking Weardale countryside, to Santas Durham Workshop at a secret location, where Santa Claus himself will jump onboard to meet every child, who will receive an exclusive quality Santa Express gift as a cherished memento of this magical unique experience.

Wayne Dixon, General Manager of Weardale Railway says:

"We already operate an incredibly successful Calender of Events all year round and our Christmas train is the highlight of the Year!. Historically proving so unique & popular that this year we've increased the capacity, due to demand, and have introduced a range of ticket types to suit all. We're now operating four trains on weekdays and two on weekends throughout November & December, with 3 carriages per train each day! We have been thrilled with the response to our Early Bird offer and are incredibly excited to bring The Santa Express to the people of the North East, once again".

Don't miss out on the most magical Christmas journey of the year! We encourage all of our guests to grab your tickets, and your best Christmas hats, jumpers, pyjamas or outfits to join us making unforgettable memories aboard the Santa Express.

Pre-booking is essential to secure your seat on this unique festive family fun adventure! Choose from Standard, Premium, or VIP ticket options, either seated at tables or airline style seats. Starting from just £25.

www.santaexpress-weardalerailway.co.uk

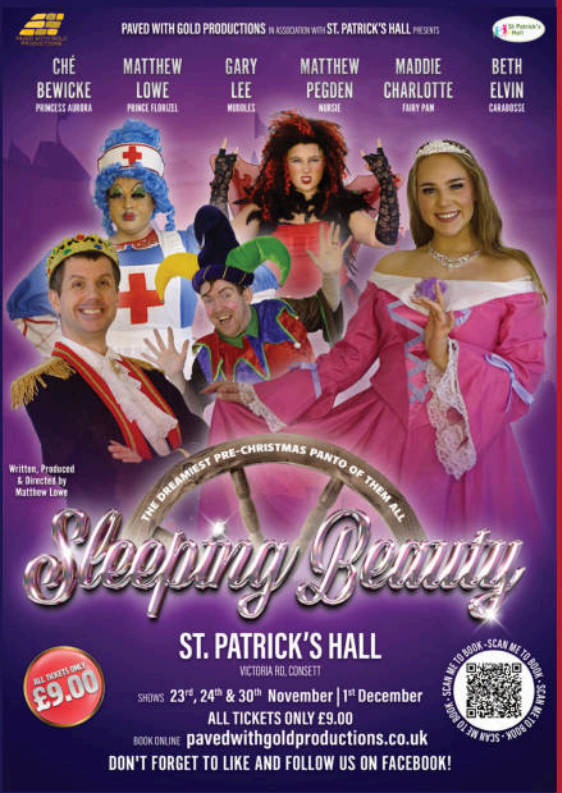
Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Comes to Consett!

After the success of last year's Dick Whittington and his Cat, Paved With Gold Productions is back at St Patrick's Hall, Consett, with their new pantomime Sleeping Beauty. Company founder Matthew Lowe was thrilled by last year's feedback and is excited to bring another budget-friendly show to local families, with tickets priced at just £9 – much lower than many bigger venues.

This year's pantomime tells the classic tale of Princess Aurora, who is eagerly anticipating her 16th birthday party and hoping Prince Florizel will fall in love with her. However, the evil fairy Carabosse has other plans, plotting to ruin the celebration. Thankfully, the quirky good fairy Pam is there to save the day, and the hilarious duo Nursie and Muddles promise plenty of laughs for both kids and adults!

- Saturday 23rd November – 2pm & 5.30pm
- Sunday 24th November – 1pm & 4.30pm
- Saturday 30th November – 2pm & 5.30pm
- Sunday 1st December – 1pm & 4.30pm

Tickets are £9 and available at:
www.pavedwithgoldproductions.co.uk
or by calling: 0333 666 4466. For group bookings of 12 or more, contact Matthew directly at 07719949899. Follow Paved With Gold Productions on Facebook for updates!



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Don't suffer in silence from neighbourhood harassment

- By Joy Allen

AS Police and Crime Commissioner I receive a considerable amount of correspondence concerning neighbourhood harassment from victims who are dissatisfied with how the police and partners are dealing with their problems. Harassment is affecting a lot of people in our communities. In one year, there can be over 4,000 incidents of harassment reported to the police.

Resident's homes should be places where they feel safe and secure. Sadly, I know only too well after meeting with victims alongside my Victims Champion, that this is not always the case. Victims of harassment can be subjected to regular and sometimes daily harassment and intimidation from their neighbours and this harassment can go unresolved for years.

Neighbourhood harassment can take many forms, from verbal abuse and intimidation to more subtle forms of bullying, such as social exclusion or property damage. Living in such close proximity to one another, it's no surprise that disputes with neighbours can get heated and unpleasant quite quickly.

Common types of neighbour disputes:

- Noise, such as loud music and barking dogs
- Unpleasant remarks, name calling, threats, physical violence, damage to property or possessions.
- Parking
- Property boundaries
- Overgrowing trees and hedges
- Children playing in the street

Victims have told us how they feel like prisoners in their own homes, dreading encounters with those who are making their lives miserable. The psychological impact of such harassment can be profound, leading to feelings of helplessness, depression, and long term mental health issues.

Victims of harassment have been suffering in silence for too long. Unsure of who or where to turn for help or fearing that speaking out will only exacerbate their situation. As a result, those experiencing harassment often feel isolated, ignored and disbelieved.

Everyone has the right to live in peace in their own home without the fear of being bullied, harassed or intimidated by neighbours. The emotional and psychological toll of living in a hostile environment can lead to a decline in overall well-being. Not forgetting the victims children who can be deeply affected by the stress and anxiety that comes from living in a tense household, which can affect their development and mental health.
To raise awareness and improve signposting (so residents know which agency to report harassment to) I have rolled out 'Anti-Social Behaviour Don't Suffer in Silence' campaign to encourage victims to come forward and seek help from the correct agency, request case review and appeal decisions.

By raising awareness and fostering open communication, we can help those suffering in silence to reclaim their homes and their lives so they can once again live in peace and free from harassment.

How to resolve a neighbour dispute:

1. Try to solve the problem informally by talking to them as soon as possible.
2. If your neighbour is a tenant, you could contact their landlord.
3. You could use a mediation service if raising the issue informally does not work.
4. If the dispute involves a statutory nuisance (something like loud music or barking dogs), you can make a complaint to your local council.
5. Contact the police if your neighbour is breaking the law by being violent or harassing you.
6. As a last resort you can take legal actions through the courts.

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Durham Police Headquarters, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT
Telephone: 0191 375 2001 | Email: General.EnquiriesPCC@durham-pcc.gov.uk | Online: durham-pcc.gov.uk



Mirrin Joins the Consett Magazine Team

We're excited to welcome Mirrin Alexander as the newest member of the Consett Magazine team! Mirrin will be out and about in Consett and across County Durham, connecting with local businesses and the wider community. She'll be bringing you the latest features, human-interest stories, and the news that matters most to our readers.

Whether you're looking for an interview, a photoshoot, a feature on your business, or an advertorial, Mirrin is here to highlight the vibrant people and places that make our area special. Keep an eye out for her around town and be sure to say hello!

If you'd like to get in touch with Mirrin and the Consett Magazine team, you can reach her at: **hello@consettmagazine.com** or by calling 01207 438 292.

We're thrilled to have her on board and can't wait to see the stories she'll bring to life!



Karen Turns Her Life Around with an 8½ Stone Weight Loss Through Slimming World

Karen's weight loss journey is an inspiring story of turning her struggles into triumph. Originally from California, she moved to the UK over 12 years ago after meeting her husband online. Though she initially adjusted well, the stresses of moving far from her family began to take their toll. Over time, Karen gained weight, but it wasn't until 2017—when she lost her father, mother, and younger brother within a few months—that she hit rock bottom. Grief overwhelmed her, leading to depression and unhealthy habits.

By 2022, Karen was facing serious health issues. She struggled with simple tasks like walking uphill and even sleeping due to breathlessness. She knew something had to change, but tackling the problem alone was difficult.

That's when a Slimming World advert caught her eye. After hesitating for weeks, Karen finally took the plunge and attended a meeting. She feared failure, but from the moment she walked through the door, she was greeted with warmth and support. Her consultant, Dawn Ferguson, and the entire group embraced her, giving her the strength she needed to push forward.

The Slimming World plan was a game-changer for Karen. She found it easy to follow and could still enjoy her favourite meals like fajitas and pizza. After losing 5 pounds in her first week, she was hooked. With the group's encouragement, Karen continued losing weight and soon began feeling better physically and emotionally.

At 59, she was also dealing with menopause, but as the weight came off, her symptoms eased. Karen started adding exercise to her routine and found herself embracing challenges like walking up hills—something she used to dread.

Now, 8½ stone lighter, Karen feels fantastic. Her message to anyone struggling as she did? "You CAN do it." With the support of Slimming World, she has transformed her life and urges others not to doubt themselves—because if she can do it, anyone can.

Christmas Comes to Consett on November 30th

Get into the festive spirit as Christmas comes to Consett on November 30th! With over 60 stalls selling fresh produce, including baked bread, meats, scotch eggs, and cheese, as well as craft and gift stalls, there will be plenty of festive treats to explore. Visitors can enjoy hot food from a variety of trailers offering burgers, Chinese, Greek, Caribbean cuisine, and a tempting array of cakes and savory bakes.

Stalls will be set up in Middle Street, the Derwent Centre, and the Heart and Heritage Centre on John Street. Don't miss Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will be greeting children in their grotto at the Heart Centre. Santa will also judge children's artwork displayed on the Heart Centre's walls, with one lucky winner receiving a gift voucher.

Additionally, local children will be singing in Middle Street at 11 am, and the Consett Christmas Tree Festival will be held at Christchurch the same weekend.

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info@princebishopvets.co.uk

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01207 590340 | info@princebishopvets.co.uk
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DesignXpress: Consett's Leading Printing Firm

George Ledger - Consett in Focus

DesignXpress, a successful printing company based in Consett, has been serving the region since 1995. After moving between various locations, they finally settled in the No. 1 Industrial Estate, offering a wide range of printing services to businesses and individuals across the UK.

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