CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 101 April 2021



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Dear Consett Magazine readers,

Welcome to issue one hundred and one.

We're excited to bring you another magazine filled with local content from in and around Consett.

And remember, we've got even more content published daily on consettmagazine.com - so you don't need to wait until next month to get your fill of positive local news.

With the end of lockdown in sight, April 12th looks to be the next big milestone on the roadmap to freedom. Step 2 will unlock England, although some restrictions were lifted on March 29, many bigger changes are set to come into effect after Easter. The Government announced details of its four-step road map in February and said there would be five weeks between each step. Seven days before each change, there will be an announcement saying whether the latest medical and scientific evidence support a further relaxation of rules. But assuming the criteria is met, then we're hoping you can go ahead and put Monday April 12 in your diary, as that's the time when life will hopefully begin to look a bit more normal.

So, What will we be able to do after April 12?
Hairdressers and beauty salons will open, gyms will open their doors again, but users will only be able to use the gym and swimming pool, exercise classes will still be banned. Shops - all non-essential shops can re-open. Restaurants and pubs - these can serve food and drink, but only outdoors. There won't be a curfew or a requirement to order a "substantial meal", but customers must order, eat and drink via table service. Outdoor attractions - such as zoos, farms, theme parks and drive-in cinemas can reopen. Libraries and community centres - these can throw open their doors and welcome people back. Children's classes and activities - these can resume, but with a maximum of just 15 people. Staying overnight - self-catering UK holidays will be allowed, but there is still no mixing of households. Funerals - 30 mourners will be allowed. Weddings - these can happen, but with a maximum of 15 guests.

What lockdown rules will still be in place after April 12?
Many restrictions will still be in place after this date and won't be lifted until May 17. Holidays - you still can't travel abroad for leisure and hotels and B&Bs remain closed. Meeting other people - Households are still not allowed to mix and bubbles are only permitted outside, not inside your home. Sport and exercise - no adult indoor sport is allowed. Events - large outdoor events are not yet permitted. Social distancing - the 2 metre rule still applies, as does the wearing of face masks.

When is the next step?
May 17 is Step 3 of the road map when the next big set of restrictions are lifted. These include easing limits on seeing friends and family and the reintroduction of the Rule of Six - where groups of up to six people can meet indoors. Pubs and restaurants can start serving customers indoors, indoor exercise sessions can start again, and hotels and B&Bs can welcome back guests. Up to 30 people will be able to attend events such as weddings, funerals and christenings. Some large scale outdoor performances and sporting events will also be permitted.

We hope you'll enjoy this month's magazine, if you have a story you'd like to share or you'd like to feature your business here next month just get in touch.

Best wishes for the month ahead,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy,
and everyone who makes this magazine possible.

*Information correct at time of printing this magazine, restrictions and roadmap subject to change - please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus for latest UK government information and guidance.

firefly magazines

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by **JP Media**
Send any drawings or photographs to:
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Consett Corona Photo Project

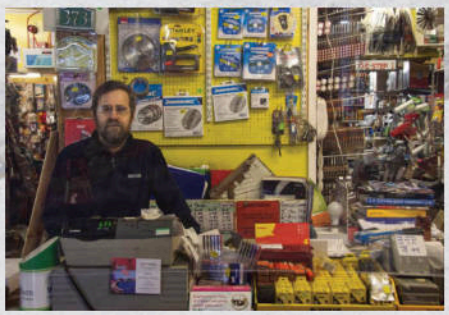
The intention is to host an exhibition or series of exhibitions in the area once restrictions are relaxed and it is safe to do so. Prior to this we will publish selected images on our FB page - **https://www.facebook.com/ConsettCoronaPhotoProject**



1. Elddis Transport – Key workers come in all forms, these are some of the drivers from Elddis Transport, but the post is to honour all drivers. Without them we wouldn't have full shelves at the supermarket, factories wouldn't have raw materials to manufacture and most of all we wouldn't have had the Toilet Paper that a lot of people panic bought at the start of the first Lockdown. (Image: George Ledger)



3. Newcastle Building Society - Chris Moon has worked at Newcastle Building Society throughout lockdown. He has travelled every day using public transport as he does not drive. His branch has stringent Covid-19 rules including limited customers inside and marks on the floor to show people where to stand and adhere to social distance measures. (Image: Debbie Todd)



2. Gralands - I'm sure many of us, during these longer periods at home, have thought, "I need to do something with that shelf" or " I wonder if I can do some sort of DIY project to fill the time". Fortunately for such people the DIY shops have been able to remain open but with certain restrictions on moving about the shop. Gralands is one such shop, and like a lot of businesses have increased their on-line business too. The shop has been adapted according to Covid-19 guidelines, the photo shows Chris standing behind a screen, amongst the 1000's of items they have on offer. (Image: Chris Bruce)



4. Go North East - Public transport is an essential means of travel and even during the 3 lockdowns people have been able to travel on our buses for work, volunteering, essential activity, education, childcare, medical reasons, maternity, compassionate visits etc etc etc. However, whatever the reason passengers should wear face coverings, stay 2 metres apart and follow all the other COVID-19 restrictions as far as possible. Bus companies have to follow guidelines to keep passengers and staff safe. These guidelines include providing hand sanitisers and cleaning all buses regularly and deep cleaning them daily. (Image: George Ledger)

The Consett Corona Photo Project started in March 2020 and has continued to document the effects of Covid-19 upon the people, volunteer groups and businesses in the Consett area. All images have been photographed within the Government guidelines. If you wish to be part of the project or have suggestions, please contact us at: consettcoronaphoto@gmail.com



5. Neil Pears – Food establishments have had to adapt as guidelines and tier systems changed. Neil has continued to produce and deliver delicious freshly made food throughout the pandemic from his kitchen based at Prospect House in Leadgate. Meals are available for collection or delivery. (Image: Steve Webb)



7. Glenroyd House Food Bank - The volunteers from the Food4U foodbank have been keeping families supplied with food throughout these difficult times. They supply a box of essential items to families who have been referred to them by community groups, churches and schools. The food box is meant to last for five days. The food is donated by companies, churches, charities and individuals. They have a lot of food on their shelves and are very keen to give it away.
(Image: Chris Bruce)



6. Specsavers – Opticians have been able to remain open during the Pandemic as they are classed as essential healthcare. People can travel for eye tests, but if they are unable to leave home unaccompanied for the eye test, they can request a home visit instead. Opticians have put numerous safety measures in place, including restrictions on the number of customers allowed in the store at any one-time, social distancing, and cashless payments, where possible. Staff are using personal protective equipment (PPE) and everything is thoroughly sanitised.
(Image: George Ledger)



8. Derwentside Funeral Services – Often forgotten and rarely talked about, funeral directors have been working under immense pressure due to the extra demands caused by Covid-19. Bookings were up more than 50% compared to a normal year. Restrictions for funerals have placed extra demands on staff and families to create smaller, personalised and more meaningful services. Under the Government Roadmap there are no immediate changes to the number of people permitted to attend a funeral – although, this may change in the future.
(Image: George Ledger)

BuZZila



Hey guys, hope your all keeping well and looking forward to seeing all your friends and family again. As most of you will know, the names BuZZila, Consett's very own electronic music producer, composer, songwriter, resident DJ and former opening DJ at worldwide event brand, Goodgreef.

I'd firstly like to thank everyone who has bought a copy of my debut album LEGACY, that is now available to buy in all online stores under Buzzin' Records and will soon be available in physical CD form. I am looking forward to being able to get back on tour and see you all, with my own first wide UK tour in the planning stages, with many more radio appearances, guest mixes, interviews and more coming up. I'd like to thank all of you for your support, including everyone who has listened in to my appearances on the radio, read one of my interviews, bought one of my records, shared my work on social media or came to one of my live shows.

Thanks to all the talented people who work alongside me, whether that is my photographer, my security or my stage team, you all do a great job. Don't forget to follow my official social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SoundCloud and more. Stay safe, keep hopeful, and we will all get through this together, back to what we all love doing!

Words...what's new?

Each year, new words are added to our dictionaries and this past year has been no exception!

Who would have known the meaning of **zoom** as a video link to individuals, not a close up in photography! Or, that **false news** is what we once called lies or a **circuit breaker** had nothing to do with electricity…and a **bubble** was not something to blow, but to be "in"!

The introduction of personal computers created a new language…very odd to me!!! **Windows** was what you opened to let in a cool breeze. **Back up** was another driving term when you're in a car! **Microchips** were those that you cut up very small, for frying. And of course a **mouse** was something that you enticed into a trap with a piece of cheese!…and who thought of given it a ball? Can you remember when **enter** was a sign on a door and "**Cloud**" was a puff of atmosphere?

Spim and **Spam** well spim was never a word! but spam was the processed meat developed to be put in cans during the last war!

I logged on to "**Crowns**" as I was searching for headgear to help me find a design I was making for church banners. What did I get? Plenty of names of dentists who would do the work if I took out a second mortgage!!

Reading an article about odd titles, reminded me of the Sunday morning talk show with David Frost. My ears priced up when I heard him interviewing a man about HRT…it was however, an interview with a man about terrorism, and he was part of the Hostage Rescue Team! Another interesting article I read in a magazine was about a financial consultant who had been promoted in a firm, to Head of the Payment Management System…and the title on his door read "PMS Director"!

Since the subject is about words, what could be more appropriate than this little adage, set in a library, the seat and storage of knowledge and words!…A student is searching diligently for a book, but without any success. The librarian asks if he can help and he is told that the student is looking for a play by Shakespeare. The librarian asks which one and the student replies "William"!!!

By Joyce Shaw

Are you having trouble selling your house?



Fed up with the lengthy sales process, unnecessary viewings, time-wasters, and the big sales board in your front garden?

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John Atherton - 16 year old scooter rider from Consett.

I started riding at eleven years old when my Mam and Dad bought my first scooter for Christmas five years ago.

Riding scooters really helps me with my anxiety and every time I get on my scooter, I feel like I'm away from all my problems. Riding really gives me a sense of freedom, I feel like I can be myself and not be hassled for it.

The lockdown really affected me because I just sat at home and played games. I'd sometimes find myself falling asleep at 7am and waking up at 5pm. So, when the rule of six was later introduced I took the opportunity to get back out on my scooter.



"Now that I'm back on my scooter, I can't see myself getting off it any time soon, unless I break another bone!"

You can find me on Instagram by searching, "John_ Atherton69" - if the people of Consett would like to see more images of me and my friends pulling off some sweet tricks in the local area.

One of my good friends Jacob helps me to run a Consett action sports instagram account to show Consett's best, we call it "Consett_actionsports" and I also run a YouTube channel "JPMedia" where I post videos of me riding.

Photos are by: "andrew_merritt1" on Instagram







Places to Go: Tenby

The first time I went to Tenby, west Wales, was by car. Our 1971 summer holiday started on a Saturday, and my father was determined to get my sister and I on the RNLI lifeboat when it launched from the Tenby lifeboat station at 1300. Lifeboat Day was a big event in Tenby, and having left home in London at 2200, and travelled through the night, we got to Tenby to join a big queue of children anxious to join the splashdown. Some children of the crew were given preference to us and we finally clambered aboard in a manner that would now give most health and safety officers apoplexy. Holding on to a rope for dear life, the grossly overloaded vessel thundered down the ramp into the sea. That almighty splash signalled the start of a great holiday.

Next time I visited Tenby was as an adult when I travelled by train to check out an hotel which proved to be worse than feared, and after one night I moved to a far superior bed and breakfast overlooking the Castle beach with private steps to the beach and a large comfortable room at half the price of the hotel which I shall not name, except it was called the Belgrave, which has been subsequently fully refurbished and greatly improved.

In these days of restricted travel, especially for those looking for a suitable alternative to a holiday abroad, that part of England beyond Wales which is Pembrokeshire should be on your radar. Devon and Cornwall will be full to the gunnels, but Wales is worth considering and I can warmly recommend that southern part of the coast, served by the local train from Carmarthen to Pembroke Dock, connecting into Great Western Railway to Swansea and beyond to London Paddington and the north. Details of travel from your local station are available at nationalrail.com. The line from Tenby provides several options for excursions including the coastal walk from Saundersfoot, the smaller resort one station up the line along the cliff top path back to Tenby, just a small part of the Pembrokeshire coastal path. Whenever planning a linear walk, always take the train first and walk back, rather than walking to meet a train at a specific time which might lead to a hurried rush to the station, or a long wait, neither of which enhances the day. The train at 0940 from Tenby to Saundersfoot is ideal, with a pleasant stroll into town from the station and time for a look around and maybe an early lunch. Then head south along the path for five miles back to the Harbour beach at Tenby, enjoying the views.

Another excursion can take you out to sea on the frequent boat service to Caldey Island, a Cistercian monastery. The monks are an industrious bunch, making all sorts of treats, mostly edible, for visitors. Most visitors don't stray far from the buildings, and the ferry landing, but in 1971 our family decided to walk round the island, which was an undisturbed trek until we saw a monk hurrying to meet us with his towel around his waist. He was heading us off before we found monks sunbathing on the remote beach. Fr Pascal, also known as Father Happy, was a French Cistercian, and we exchanged Christmas cards with him for several years before his death, and I found his grave in the cemetery on my most recent visit. You could fill a week without a car based at Tenby, with as many castles, beaches and coastal walks as you could handle.

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Is now a good time to sell my motorhome or caravan?

by Chris Gage, Motorhome & Caravan Broker

In short, the answer is 'yes'. And here's why:

Its no secret that there is a staycation boom going on. The curbs and disincentives to travel, especially internationally for the time being, have resulted in a surge in demand for home grown self-catering holidays, not only due to availability, but also because they offer total control of your environment.

As we look forward to hospitality venues reopening, which includes caravan and camping sites scheduled from mid April, a caravan, motorhome, or even a tent, offers that autonomous environment; your own space with the facilities you need, yet independent of others, in a shared holiday location. For many, camping, glamping, motorhoming or caravanning are going to be sensible recreational choices, at least for this year.

We are seeing large numbers of new buyers entering the market looking to take control of their holidays. Motorhome and caravan dealers report brisk online sales and expect a further surge in demand once they can reopen properly. Yet the supply of new caravans and motorhomes is limited from manufacturers, so more buyers are looking at the used vehicle market too, keeping values high.

For anyone thinking of selling their caravan or motorhome, the best prices are likely to be over the next few months while local demand remains high and there are limited options for international holidays. I have no doubt that there will be an adjustment in the market once all holiday options are back to normal, but for the time being, now is a great time to sell, especially if you don't need to buy.

So, if you're thinking about selling your motorhome or touring caravan, talk to me about how brokerage works, with a trusted brand and national reach.

I'm here to take the hassle out of selling privately, avoiding the pitfalls and getting you the best return.

Book a free appraisal today by calling 0191 354 5997.



Another Miracle - By Lorraine Weightman

According to the dictionary, 'A pilgrimage is a journey that someone makes to a place that is very important to them' As a child the only place of pilgrimage I was remotely familiar with was Lourdes. At the time, I didn't know it was a town in south western France in the foothills of the Pyrenees, yet after overhearing adults conversations I had notions of it being a magical place where people were cured in a bath. Even growing up with two cousins called Bernadette, choosing it for my confirmation name; and well used to seeing plastic water bottles containing Holy Water in the shape of Our Lady on the mantelpiece in every room in the house, I still knew little - and was quite unsure - of the whole story.

However that all changed, when I saw Jennifer Jones in the film 'The Song Of Bernadette' which happened to be on television one Sunday afternoon. Mesmerised I asked my Mam if we could go there on holiday. Having already shelled out for a week at Butlins in Filey, she fobbed me off with the predictable 'We'll see', which was something that was said in our house when there was no chance of it happening. Still enamoured with the film I resolved that one day I would go, and as I grew up a little, I watched as people I knew, including some members of my family go on the diocesan trip without me. By the time I was fifteen however, the opportunity arose. St Patrick's Church in Consett were organising a pilgrimage and my brother and I, as well as my school friend, my Uncle Michael and Auntie Rose all had our names down. Both grateful for the chance, funded by our families and benefactors, my friend and I were well aware our Saturday jobs in Woolworths couldn't provide the cash needed.

When the big day arrived, the bus left from John Street in Consett to take us to Newcastle airport, and as all teenagers do, we hogged the back seat, and tucked into our sandwiches.

We were on an adventure and had no concept of what to expect.

The aeroplane was full of pilgrims, excited at the thought of travelling to a place where miracles were proclaimed. For us it was a travel adventure. I had never left England before, so this was my first plane journey and the anticipation was evident. Among our holiday clothes, we had in fact packed mantillas, just in case head covering was mandatory and a swimming costume to be on the safe side in the baths - which on reflection were not entirely as we expected, and bore no resemblance to the ones we knew in Consett. However, on arriving in Lourdes and settling into the hotel, after dinner we prepared for the torchlight procession.

Carrying candles with prayer printed paper protective cups, we drank in the atmosphere of pilgrimage and the extent of belief displayed; as the Rosary and Ave Maria rang out loudly in numerous languages throughout the procession, as it triumphantly wound it's way, lighting up the sky.

An hour and a half later with the candles extinguished, the eligible older members of our group retreated to the Jeanne d'Arc cafe on the bridge to share stories, food and drinks, while we explored the numerous souvenir shops packed with rosary beads, statues and various containers to fill with water from the spring that Bernadette found in 1858.

The days flew by, and in between rosaries and processions, we visited Bernadette's house, the Grotto, churches, museums and the healing baths - all memorable and moving.

All too soon, alongside heavy cases packed with Lourdes water, we said an emotional goodbye and made our way to the airport. The cabin buzzed with chatter as we told stories of our encounters.

Happily laughing and enjoying ourselves, my friend and I both raised our eyebrows when we heard the rosary being recited from the front of the plane; both naively commenting, 'Haven't we done enough praying for one week!'

However when the Spanish City at Whitley Bay came into view three times, and realising the plane was circling, we hastily joined in; as there was a gentle uneasiness that things weren't quite right.

Much later than expected, when the plane landed safely, we were greeted by fire engines, ambulances with their back doors open, and the sound of clapping, as our anxious families showed their relief as they tearfully welcomed us back.

That evening, over a cup of tea, my Mam and Dad said that they'd been told the plane couldn't land as a light in the flight deck was telling the pilots that the wheels were locked.

So, how we got home, was another miracle!

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Why do I need to worm my dog regularly?

All puppies are born with roundworms living in their intestines. These come from their mother during the pregnancy.

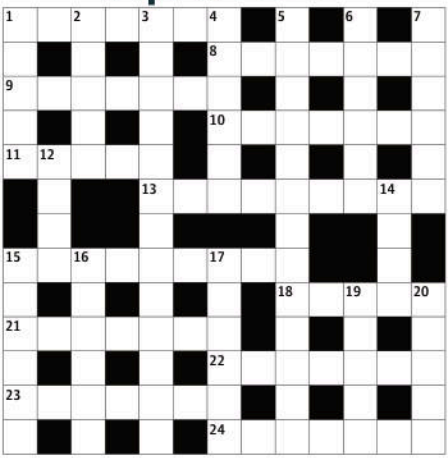
A proportion of these worms will encyst in the wall of the intestine and these are not killed by oral worming treatments you might give to your puppy.

Throughout a dog's life these cysts mature and a live worm can pop out and it is only then that oral worming treatments are effective.

We don't really know what triggers the encysted worms to become active hence the reason we have to treat regularly. However, the newer 'spot-on' preparations available through your vet can have some activity against these encysted worms so, on the whole are a better treatment for worms.

www.princebishopvets.co.uk

Puzzle Corner April 2021



Across

1. Type of biscuit (4,3)
8. Port and largest city of Burma (7)
9. Neapolitan criminal organisation (7)
10. Heavy silk fabric with a raised design (7)
11. Yell (5)
13. Trite (9)
15. Variety of chicory - I hid a croc (anag) (9)
18. Documents to be filled in (5)
21. Ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia (7)
22. Erudite (7)
23. Serious and sincere (7)
24. Hertfordshire town (7)

Down

1. Ascot events (5)
2. Small dramatic role (5)
3. Begin to get better (4,3,6)
4. Language (by gum!) (6)
5. Actually (2,5,2,4)
6. Science of plant life (6)
7. Become less strict (6)
12. Maori ceremonial war dance (4)
14. Dutch cheese (4)
15. Travelled aimlessly (6)
16. Wish for (6)
17. General condition of body and mind (6)
19. US cattle farm (5)
20. Country divided by the Nile (5)



Answers for March

B	L	A	C	K	B	E	L	T	■	R	■	A
■	O	■	U	■	L	■	I	■	V	E	S	T
L	A	M	B	R	U	S	C	O	■	C	■	T
■	F	■	E	■	R	■	K	■	N	O	N	O
S	■	C	■	F	A	C	E	T	■	L	■	R
H	O	U	R	L	Y	■	D	U	B	L	I	N
I	■	N	■	E	■	■	B	■	E	■	E	■
F	E	N	D	E	R	■	T	E	T	C	H	Y
T	■	I	■	T	U	T	U	S	■	T	■	S
L	I	N	E	■	M	■	M	■	E	■	A	■
E	■	G	■	A	B	O	U	T	T	U	R	N
S	U	L	K	■	L	■	L	■	C	■	N	■
S	■	Y	■	D	E	L	I	G	H	T	E	D

Answers for this puzzle will be published on the same page next month.



Siddle C. Cook, *President*

Siddle Cook of the local Transport Company and the Consett Citizen Choir (Part 1) information kindly supplied by Ray Agar

With regard to Siddle Cook I am old enough to remember when the name was used the right way round on red wagons! Siddle was a good man and did a lot for the local community,

In 1948 Siddle became president of the Consett Citizen's Club. This was established with the generous help of the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organisations through the British War Relief Society of the United States of America. It was opened by Samuel D. Berger, First Secretary and Consul, American Embassy on 11th December 1948. The Club was expected to make a valuable contribution to the cultural and recreational activities in the area. It stood on Front Street between the Black Horse and Dimambros but unfortunately is no more.

Although the Club is no more its lasting legacy is the formation of the internationally renowned Consett Citizens Choir. The Choir was started in the Club in 1949 and has gone on to great things. Siddle Cook soon became the president of the choir and supported the Choir in many ways. He was particularly helpful in helping with the pantomimes where he became stage manager. He used to travel to Manchester to collect the scenery, it was handy owning a transport company.

I don't know whether this is any use for you Richard, feel free to use it or not as you see fit.

I have also a number of photographs, programmes and articles about the Choir between 1949 and 1970. My dad was secretary at this time. Has anyone written a history of the Choir? I am happy to help if needed.

Attached is Siddle's photograph from the Consett Citizen's Club Brochure of 1962.

Richard Holden MP - April Statement

Consett deserves good news. The announcement earlier this month of the £4.8 billion "Levelling Up" fund was just that. Aimed specifically at providing funds to invest in towns and villages whose areas haven't had significant recent investment.

Councils, supported by MPs, will be able to put in bids of up to £20,000,000 for regeneration, improving local travel or to support cultural and heritage assets. Being particularly targeted at including ex-industrial areas, coastal communities and towns in need of support, I really think we're in with a chance here in Consett but also in the Three Town Area of: Crook, Willington and Tow Law.

North West Durham has been ignored by the Council in recent years and neither it, nor the former MP, pursued any bids for North West Durham for either the High Streets Fund or the Towns Fund. Furthermore, when it comes to funding, the Council are happy to spend fortunes on pet projects in the City of Durham but that we're always forgotten about. But I am acutely aware that many of you in North West Durham feel let down by previous Governments of all political colours as London and the South have consistently received most of the investment and financial support, despite it being needed far more elsewhere.

As your local MP I am committed to changing that, as is this Government, and ensuring that communities across the country are listened to and receive the support they deserve – especially following the past year, which has led to a greater need for financial support as we look to reopen and regenerate the economy.

So, what next?

I am already working with the local Council and my MP colleagues Dehenna Davison (MP for Bishop Auckland) and Paul Howell (MP for Sedgefield) as we look to bid for funding for the whole area. Last week, I spoke with the Chief Executive of the Council about the opportunities for using the fund for Consett, as well as the Three Towns area of Crook, Willington and Tow Law. I want you to get involved with these projects so please get in touch with me and my team via: www.richardholden.org.uk/contact if you're interest in helping out or are a local organisation that wants to get involved.

The Levelling Up fund is tailor made for our communities and the opportunity to bid for funding is massive. It is imperative that it isn't wasted like it has been in the past. I will fight tooth and nail for North West Durham to get the funding it needs, but I'm going to need your input and support. This is a real chance for our area and communities to receive transformative investment that will, crucially, improve the lives of local constituents by provided real improvements to our local towns.

With my very best wishes - Richard Holden MP

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