CONSETT MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2015

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Welcome

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WELCOME TO AUGUST 2015

Hello and Welcome to the 32nd edition of the Consett Magazine,

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the magazine this month keep those great stories coming in!

This month we bring you a fascinating history story from Brian Harrison as well as a feel good piece from Lorraine Weightman.

Jim Callan details some local events you might want to occupy your weekends with.

The mighty duo Ollie & Nina are in full swing debating fashion, coupled with Neil Sullivan's fantastic story about a mates Jag!

We also have the heartbreaking ordeal of Toby Rea, Diagnosed with Medulloblastoma. If you'd like to get involved in a sponsored bike ride, search Facebook - "Tobys Treasure Fancy, Dress Bike Ride".

We want to hear from YOU!

Do you have an event, story, photograph, or even a poem you want to share?

Get in touch via email: **editor@consettmagazine.com**
OR message **Consett Magazine** on **Facebook**

From all of the **Consett Magazine** team, we hope you have a very extraordinary August.

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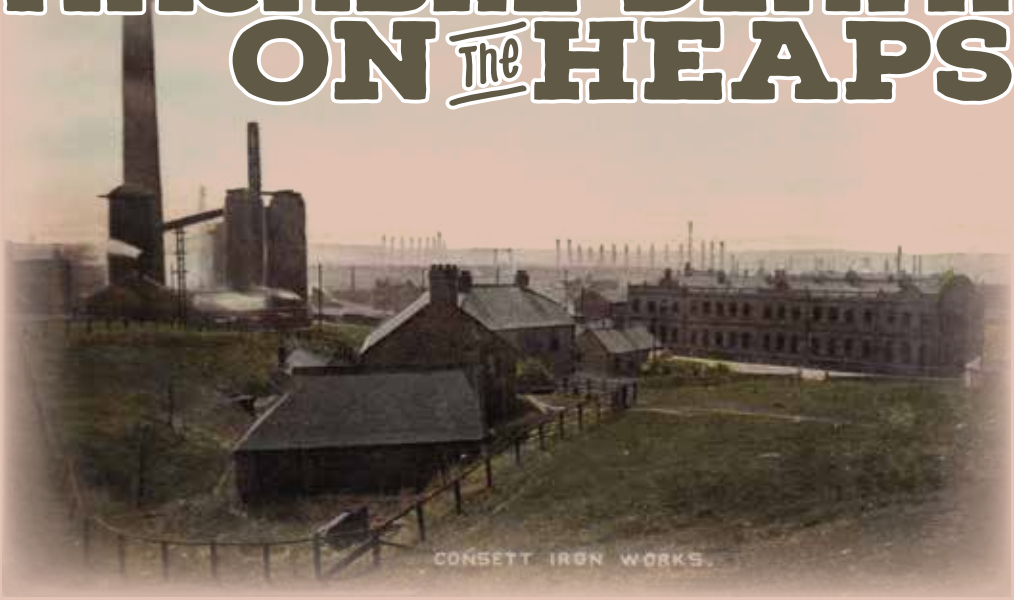


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THE THEATRE ROYAL CLOSED SHORTLY AFTER WW1

MACABRE DEATH ON THE HEAPS



It was a dry spring Saturday evening in April 1863 when James Malone, better known to his friends as Dublin Jack, set out with his friend and landlord George Threw to have a night on the town. James had previously been working as navvy laying the new train line through the Consett Iron Company slag heaps. This work had dried up and he soon found himself employed in setting of the ponds. The work being almost complete he was one of the unfortunate ones and was paid off. However, with money in hand he decided to make a night of it.

The two men soon found themselves drunk and full of merriment and started on their way back home. James was lodging with George at the Stamfordham, so the two start the journey together heading for a cut through the works. As they reached the end of front street they decided to call in for one last drink in the Stirling Castle. George having literally just the one more left James too it and headed home wishing his friend good night, unfortunately for one it would be his last.

James never reached the Stamfordham. Being the worse for drink he stumbled across the heaps, misplaced his footing and fell into the molten slag poured earlier that day. He was found at 3am by John Cole a Tipper working for the Company who had been drawn to the spot by a strange smell. On finding the charred remains all that was left of James was his legs from the mid thigh down.

His remains were removed to the Mr Raw's, Turf Hotel, Consett were they were placed in the cellar until identification could be made. Later on the Sunday James Evans a local Shoemaker made a positive identification and confirmed it was indeed the body of Mr Malone as he had sold him the shoes only 2 days earlier. George also identified him by his stockings and shoes.

An inquest was held and a verdict of "Found Dead" was recorded. An inspection of the place the body had been discovered turned up a shilling and a number of coppers which had obviously come from the unfortunate man's pocket, ruling out any foul play.



BY BRIAN HARRISON



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AND WHAT DID YOU DO AT THE WEEKEND ? - BY JIM CALLAN

There have been many fingers pointed at local authorities for not putting events and family friendly occasions on for people across the Summer and, this year especially, the local authorities and many of the organisations that they work in conjunction with have answered the call with a seemingly endless stream of events.

Since June, the region has seen some spectacular events which have ranged from those linked to national occasions such as the commemoration of World War 1 and Armed Forces Days, classic railway events, fayres, family fun days and many, many others.

Among the most prolific, certainly in the Consett, Stanley and general Durham areas, have been those created and supported by the Consett and District Branch of the Royal British Legion, Stanley Town Council and the Civic Hall, ASDA (Stanley) and Beamish Museum.

The Consett and District Branch of the Royal British Legion have played host to commemorating Armed Forces Day, such as with the event held in Consett's Blackhill Park, and parades along with their amazing fundraising events that have been supported by local supermarkets such as Tesco and ASDA.

The Stanley branch of ASDA have been at the forefront of charity fundraising events with the store supporting charities ranging from the Royal British Legion and Help For Heroes, to Northumbria Blood Bikes and cancer related charities as well as those setup to support local schools and children's organisations.

All of these events and fundraising occasions have one thing in common, apart from the fundraising aspect of course, and that's to entertain the public, shoppers and children. As, of course, do other events arranged by local authorities and councils and many of them free to attend.

With the support of Stanley Town Council, there are other events such as the free to enter "Stanley Blues Festival" at Oakies Park on Sunday 30th August and the "Stanley Festival of Music" between the 14th and 30th of August at various locations around the town.

Likewise, Beamish Museum hosts many themed weekends over the summer period that range from inclusive and immersive experiences to the more display and exhibition orientated events.

If you're looking for something a little further afield, then there's the spectacular "Streets of Brass Festival" that takes place every year in the heart of Durham and features local and international brass bands and musicians providing both free and door charge concerts in the open air and at selected indoor locations across the City.

And, then again, there are eateries aplenty where the entire family can go out for a meal and entertainment that can range from a live countryside experience to more indoor activities and, where desired, intimate meals.

So, overall, there are a great deal of things to appeal to all sorts of tastes taking place across the North and Central Durham areas and they are always worth going to see and experience.

THEY HAD SWIPED HIS LAST BOTTLE.

THE SIX WEEKS HOLIDAY

DOWN THE RIVER

BY LORRAINE WEIGHTMAN

August was the time for fun, lazy holiday days, walking down to the river. From Consett there were a few choices: take on Blackfyne Bank straight to Shotley Bridge or head for The Grove and Mutton Clog then wind down that way. Most of the time we walked but on particularly flush days we'd get the bus from Consett Bus Station to the Smelters Arms crossroads followed by a downhill jaunt to Allensford.

We always took a picnic even if it was meagre as it was great to mix and match appetisers. It's funny how other peoples sandwiches somehow taste better.

It was a taken you put on your swimsuit before you left the house and I'd been nominated to pinch a towel out of the airing cupboard to share. There wasn't much space when we arrived at the river about 10am as this was the local beauty spot and it was packed. We headed further along to the waterfall and put down our red tartan blanket to claim our place and hid our clothes, shoes and sandwiches under it. Now to start playing stepping stones on the rocks and swimming in the cool running river. We'd devised a game of jumping in and out of the waterfall. The lads were more daring and took bigger leaps.

As the morning slid into the afternoon and after a strenuous game of football we collapsed in a heap and decided it was time to eat. Ged and John, agreed to climb out at the opposite bank to investigate as they said they had seen what looked like a tramp in the woods earlier.

After teatime most people began to drift away, getting the smaller kids organised for bath and bedtime. We were allowed to stay out until 7 and had
to be home for 8. It was a good hours walk home, so that arrangement was fine.

Mary and I paddled close to the edge, splashing each other gently while we enjoyed the dancing rays of the sun filtering through the trees. Beneath the clear water tiny sticklebacks darted in and out of the stones while the midges gathered for their early evening dance above our heads.

In a moment our peace was disturbed by angry shouts and the thumping of running feet along the opposite riverbank. Ged and John were being chased. They didn't look so brave now as their pursuer gained ground. He had long dark hair, a pointed beard and despite his heavy old army coat and boots he could run.

John flung something into the water and when it bobbed back to the surface it appeared to be a bottle. Ged threw himself in and although he was a strong swimmer he didn't surface.

From then on everything seemed to be in slow motion. Mary, John and I watched in amazement as the tramp flung off his great coat and jumped into the river. In seconds a spluttering coughing Ged was dragged to our side of the river bank where he lay catching his breath. The man clambered out the other side minus his unlaced boots which were floating downstream. Mary and I waded across holding hands and managed to rescue one boot then another, as the second one had wedged itself against a stone. The bottle was long gone.

We wrapped the towel round Ged and waited. John retold the story with I guess a few embellishments but the gist of it was; they had snuck up on the dozing man who was minding his own business propped up against a tree enjoying his alcoholic picnic and they had swiped his last bottle.

We all agreed with hindsight it was a mean thing to do and with a damper on the day we headed home with me swinging the boots in the leather handled string bag I'd brought the towel in.

Once home I placed them on the kitchen hearth to dry knowing I'd be questioned as soon as they were discovered. My Auntie Rose was first in and after she'd made a cup of tea sat in the chair beside the fire. Before she could ask I blurted out the story and she listened intently, her brown smoky eyes all serious under her dark brows. 'Well Lorraine, all I can say is one good turn deserves another'. She appeared to know the man from my description and said there had been talk of him trying to rob the post office with a water pistol but it was only hearsay.

After contacting Ged, John and Mary's family she said I had been elected to return the boots to their rightful owner. She watched me write a note of apology and gave me ten shillings to put in the envelope then told me the plan.

On Saturday afternoon I arrived at the flower beds below the bus station outside Yagers and placed the boots on the bench with the envelope sticking out of the top, and waited. He appeared within the minute, eyed me, then the boots and threw back his head in uncontrollable laughter. I had stopped shaking by now and laughed nervously with him.

'Thanks pet', he said as he pushed his stockinged feet into his newly polished footwear. Then I noticed his pale, blue, almost translucent eyes glisten momentarily as he read my writing.

Sliding the ten shilling note into his coat pocket he spun on his heel and headed for the nearest pub known as 'The Alex' Before he walked into the smoke filled bar he turned and shouted, 'Don't forget to tell your Auntie Rose, she's right' and disappeared.

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The property has the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating with combination boiler and briefly comprises, entrance lobby, lounge and a modern kitchen/diner. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a white fitted bathroom. Externally the property has a small garden to the front, space to the side which could be converted to a driveway and a large lawned garden to the rear, adjacent to woodland.

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ASBESTOS IN YOUR PLACE OF WORK OR HOME ?

This add has been written to introduce some generally little known facts about asbestos, if at the end of the leaflet you would require further free of charge information there are several numbers you can call.

Quoting published HSE statistics in 2010 there is approximately between 0.5 million and 2 million commercial buildings still with asbestos containing materials. Llewellyn of BRE suggested that 75% of commercial building contain some asbestos. This includes, corner shops, pubs, offices, factories, industrial buildings, basic work units, high street shops, hotels, in fact it can be present in any place of work anywhere.

There are approximately 2.4 million domestic properties (this includes houses, flats and bungalows) with asbestos containing materials.
From the early 1900's it is estimated that over 6 million tonnes of asbestos were imported into the U.K. This asbestos was used in over 3000 documented building materials. Only an asbestos survey, carried out by a trained asbestos surveyor can identify the location of asbestos containing materials through an asbestos inspection and asbestos sample analysis in a UKAS accredited laboratory.

The main reason for this is that asbestos was used in sometimes quite small quantities, from just a few percent (but up to 100%) as part of the ingredients of other non asbestos containing materials such as; floor tiles and adhesives, linos, paper, textured coatings (commonly known as Artex), putty, sealants, floor and bath panels, partition walls, doors, soffits and fascia panels, water tanks, insulation to pipes and heaters, roof tiles, cement roofs, packers around beams in floors, ceilings and walls, and as such the visual appearance of any building material may seem quite innocent but potentially hides a killer mineral – asbestos.

This year it is expected that 5000 people (nearly 14 people per day) will die of an asbestos related disease. By approximately 2020 this will have risen to 12000 people per year (nearly 33 people per day). The highest risk groups of people are those working in the building and allied trades.

It has been shown that in the region of 60% of plumbers tested had been exposed to asbestos, though company documents only showed that 20% had been working with asbestos containing materials. This illustrates that people are being exposed when they are not aware of it.

Work on any project should not commence until the asbestos report has been read and understood by all parties connected with any sort of building works.

Some forms of asbestos were not completely banned in the UK until 1999 and many asbestos containing materials were still manufactured up to the mid 1990's, as such an asbestos survey is a legal requirement for all non domestic properties built before the year 2000.

An asbestos survey is also a legal requirement prior to any employed person working in a domestic or commercial property in the UK. The asbestos survey does not need to be conducted to the whole property if only a small section is due for alteration. For example, you can carry out and asbestos inspection of just the kitchen or bathroom, if those are the only rooms which are going to be worked in. The basic requirement is that if the fabric of the building is to be disturbed then this disturbance should be preceded by an inspection for asbestos containing materials.

Increasingly insurance companies and solicitors are requesting that an asbestos survey is carried out prior to the completion of sale on properties built prior to the year 2000.

An asbestos survey,) carried out correctly can prevent these exposures and deaths, however the asbestos inspection has to be in place prior to works commencing. This is why the HSE have made it a legal mandatory requirement that persons in control of building premises and those in the building and allied trades, including, builders, plumbers, electricians, surveyors, architects, carpenters, shop fitters and demolition operatives have annual asbestos awareness training.

As an asbestos consultancy with over 15 years experience A.D. Scott Asbestos Consultancy Ltd (ADSCS) can provide very competitive rates for testing surveying and licensed asbestos removal (through Think Asbestos Ltd) we also provide free asbestos awareness training and accredited online safety training courses.

There is a lot more information on our web site: **www.adscs.co.uk** and **www.thinkasbestos.co.uk** or if you would prefer to speak with an expert about any concerns in your building please call our completely free phone number from landlines on:

0800 121 47 43 or **01207 438313.**

We hope this leaflet has been informative.

JACK'S JAG - BY NEIL SULLIVAN

"The Jaguar XK sir: You'll not find a more quintessentially English automobile". The slick salesman's English accent is as smooth as the paintwork on the stupendous cherry red Jaguar that's squatting sleek and low on the dealership forecourt.

"Aye, she looks champion leyk, av alus wanted a Jag me." Says Jack. Jack is a canny lad: a Geordie lad, a thickset bloke of about 50 years who couldn't look elegant even sat behind the wheel of a stupendous cherry red quintessentially English Jaguar.



As Jack eases himself into the Jag looking and feeling like he really doesn't belong, the salesman spouts forth techno-info regarding the Jaguars superiority over other lesser automobiles. "And I do believe sir will enjoy Jaguars latest feature: voice activation sir". Jack is puzzled by this new feature, "Eh?" says Jack. "The Jaguar sir, just instruct her sir and she will oblige: mirrors, radio, seats, windows, heating that sort of thing". "Ahh, reyt! Gotya man, a na what y mean now!" and before the salesman could offer more Jag-jargon, Jack slams the lovely, weighty, perfectly balanced Jag door shut. "Oooh, that new-car smell, champion leyk"!

In the quintessentially English countryside, in the quintessentially English automobile, we find Jack, bombing along like a good-un. "Reyt" says Jack, "Voice acti-blinking-vation is it, let's give it a gan". Jack clears his throat: "Er,… windas erpen bonny lass". That's not what happens though, the radio comes on instead (classical FM of course). "What the! Radio off". The wing mirrors tilt down for a fine view of the tarmac. "Ah, haway man pet, mirras up!" Jack raises his voice for clarity but the Jaguar simply doesn't understand, you see, Lady Jaguar doesn't speak Geordie so maybe that's why the drivers seat tilted back to a nearly horizontal angle. "Oh heck man", Jack's getting in a bit of a flap now, "seat up, a mean forwad, a mean,…seat normal"!!!. Jack looks flustered and flushed, maybe that's because the Jaguar has turned her heated seats on to Max. In an effort to cool down a little, Jack screams at the Jag. "Erpen the sunroof or al nack ya"! The sunroof stays shut but the boot lid pops open. "Who asked ya to erpen the boot"? Now Jack has the rear view mirror by the scruff of its neck. "Dee as a tell ya man"! Now, Jaguars built in phone system peep peeps and there's a pizza delivery guy on line ready to take Jacks order.

It's not long before Jack has every function of the quintessentially English Jaguar sliding, popping, blasting, swishing, buzzing, flashing, opening and closing. Coco The Clown, eat your heart out!

Now back at the dealership forecourt, the quintessentially English salesman awaits the return of the Jag. Would the Geordie lad be suitably impressed with Jaguars superior style and elegance? He thinks to himself?

Well, he is just about to find out because weaving out of control down the road appears the quintessentially English automobile, the stupendous cherry red Jaguar XK kangarood onto the dealership forecourt. Lights flashing, horn hooting, petrol cap flapping and boot lid banging open and shut. The windows are at various degrees of open and closed-ness, the radio is blaring something quintessentially English by Elgar at 100 decibels and there's an irate Geordie bloke with a purple head screaming all kinds of obscenities and un decipherable Geordie-isms at his ride.

The purple Geordie lad gets out of the misbehaving Jag, slams her door, just about taking it off its hinges as he does so and with fists clenched and eyes popping he screams at the Jaguar, spraying it with rabid spluttered saliva. "You,… y, rotten.. stinkin', mingin', heap o scrap! A herp y get run owa by a geet big steam rerlla".

All of a sudden the renegade car reverts back to her pristine, stupendous cherry red Jaguar-ness. Windows closed, boot lid shut, lights passive and everything just as you'd expect from a Jaguar.

Jack shoves his face right up to the windscreen of the Jag. "Ah clever clogs eh!". There's a pause while the Geordie lad seethes and the Jaguar settles, then with perfect aim and timing Lady Jaguar squirts Jack right in the eye from one of her windscreen washer jets and thus she has the last word on the matter.

It would appear Jaguar's quintessentially English automobile does speak Geordie after all.

TOBY'S TREASURE

In July 2015, Toby Rea was admitted to Ward 1b at the Great North Children's Hospital, Newcastle. After several examinations it was sadly discovered that Toby has Medulloblastoma a brain tumour located at the back, base of the brain close to the brain stem.



We all decided to go visit Toby and his parents Chris and Keli earlier this week. They told us how fantastic Ward 1b has been throughout their stay.

They have helped and still are helping with financial support, games and toys were provided, they had a sensory room and continuous support was available.

They also arranged a visit from some of The Minions through CLIC Sargent - UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people, and their families as well as a visit from Chemoduck who comes to comfort him throughout his treatment.

All money will be donated directly to Ward 1b at Great North Children's Hospital.

We are currently organising event's in Consett to raise money and details will be advertised on our Facebook page – **Toby's Treasure.**

If you would like to donate you can do so by visiting:

JUSTGIVING.COM/TOBYREA15

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If you would like further information or to get involved please email us on

TOBY.WARD1B@GMAIL.COM



FASHION

Have you ever seen a dog do a double take? Well that's exactly what Ollie did the day we spotted a dandy little doggie strutting her stuff in the latest doggie fashion outfit.

"HEY NINA, LOOK AT THAT LITTLE DOGGIE DUDE, REEEEEAL COOL EH?"

"HMMM, NOT MY KINDA THING I HAVE TO SAY OLLIE".

That's the conversation I imagine occurred between Ollie and Nina in the park that day. Ollie seemed so very intrigued with the whole new concept of wearing clothes. He seemed too intrigued for my liking. Was he going to come out of the closet one day, I mean literally come out of the closet wearing my clothes?

Nina on the other hand, could only tut-tut at the smug little fashionista as she went totting by. Dressing up is not Nina's thing. "The only clothes dogs should be seen in is their birthday suits" is what Nina would say.



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BY ROB BECKWITH

STEEL TEARS

Do you know the earth beneath your feet once blew a dusty red
Sharp whistles in the distance lad rose all from in their bed
Do you know my lad that Consett town was filled with men of muscle
Men of steel and iron ore Front Street awash with bustle
Do you know my lad that when they tipped the slag into the night
Consett clouds shone bright as gold to guide my feet with tender light
Though quiet she did fall my lad a wasteland for the wind
Unto the wall of commoners we found our backs were pinned
In the black yet faced with sack to London once again
Like Jarrow men before we stood beneath a stubborn southern reign
As dark stumps in a moorland field, battered to and fro
By powers far beyond us lad, yet still the works they had to go
A century of history so helpless to defend
And what of you my precious lad on me you did depend
No more the clank of metal or the trains that run through night
I fought as hard as any could but shadows do not fight
And so their insults cut like knives to decimate this town
They even tried to pay me lad to pull the steel works down
Brick by brick and yard by yard your heritage there falling
And to the queues for pennies lad for many this our calling
No more the music of the works play in us their sweet song
The old ways disappearing all but little traces, gone
Black mountains no more grace our land from deepened seams of coal
Still watch the fire as she spits carnations from her soul
Though I no more now walk with you it's this that you must know
Fire burned within us all that lit the heart a glow
She gave this town its industry and in her you are born
Yet hopes upon tomorrow lad lie broken and forlorn
I tried my lad to save for you a future forged in steel
So you my boy before the state would never have to bend or kneel
One hope filled wish I leave behind tis that you'll not forget
That men worked hard with honesty to toil beneath a red rust sweat
Proud men, generations lad, that grafted day and night
Forget this not I beg of you, of this do not lose sight
Don't dream it as a myth my lad, it's true now can you feel
That in your heart their beats the truth young Consett man of steel

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