CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 105 August 2021



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Dear Consett Magazine readers,

Welcome to another **#positivelocalnews** edition of Consett Magazine.

In this month's print edition, Lorraine Weightman is back with a story about her love/hate relationship with cars (page 9), you'll find an update on the "Corona Photo Project " on pages 4-5, Consett based, Fusion for Business announce their partnership with the Durham Wildlife Trust as part of the their mission to combat climate change and raise awareness for the preservation of nature in the UK on page 6, read Phil Brown Steelworks Story on page 7, and get to know local musical talent Caitie as we interview her on the release of her debut single, Live it Up (page 13).

We want to hear from you too!

We're eager to hear from local people and businesses about stories which matter to you and the wider community. So, if you've got an idea for a story you'd like to share with our local audience, please send us an email on editor@consettmagazine.com or visit: https://fireflymagazines.com/submit-content to submit your story

Have a fantastic August,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, and everyone who makes the Consett Magazine possible.

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We're delighted to have been able to provide this magazine to the Consett community every month for free and for over nine years now - And it's all thanks to the advertisers who support us every month, we could do it without you.

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by Audrey Rogan
Send any drawings or photographs to:
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Consett Corona Photo Project - August 2021

This month we are showcasing a mixture of people and organisations, that are some of most recent photos taken as Government restrictions are gradually relaxed.

If you wish to be part of the project or have suggestions, please contact us at: consettcoronaphoto@



1. 17th May saw Stage 3 of the Governments relaxation measures allowing various premises to reopen including Pubs. Graham, landlord of the Scotch Arms in Blackhill pulls the first pint on Monday since the 4th of November, and the customers enjoy their first ones too. Graham and Louise have been keeping things going by supplying takeaway Sunday dinners, and Louise and her daughter have been delivering them to local people who can't get to the pub. Let's hope all the pubs and bars in Consett can pick up business and survive now that the situation is improving. - (Image: Chris Bruce)



3. Care Connect is Durham County Council's monitoring and response service, which allows vulnerable people to remain independent for longer in their homes. The service normally runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and has continued to operate to fully throughout the pandemic. The system allows a person to call for assistance if they have an accident, feel unwell or have fallen at home. John, works as part of the Council's dedicated team of highly trained staff who respond to the calls and offer the required assistance that is needed. This has the added benefit of giving peace of mind to the person and to their family and friends. Care Connect staff have had to adapt to wearing PPE and hand sanitising as well as conforming to social distancing whilst they continue to deliver an excellent service and offer reassurance and assistance to many people. - (Image: George Ledger)



2. During lockdown a lot of Muslims were unable to attend mosque at some points. This never disrupts their routine of praying 5 times a day and they can pray anywhere so long as it is clean and there are facilities to wash their hands and feet. They will pray at home, at work and even when they are out and about. The staff at Pizza Corner in Stanley have worked all through the pandemic and have been very busy especially during the total lockdown periods. It has been all work and no play but now they can relax during the daytime and resume their outdoor BBQs. They all bring meat, salad and bread and contribute to preparing and cooking it then chat and catch up before cleaning the area thoroughly. This is something that is very popular in their home town so they like to keep the custom alive - (Image: Debbie Todd)



4. Life is slowly getting back to normal at Village Halls and Community Centres such Ebchester Community Centre. Clubs like Crafting and Pilates, events like the Beer Festival and film nights, wine tastings, wedding receptions and christenings and many others will all hopefully start again soon when the regulations allow. Graham and his partner Christine are back running Pilates classes for the first time since November. - (Image: Chris Bruce)

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 of Consett area. All images have been photographed within the Government guidelines. We are currently planning and arranging some exhibitions in the area, we will publish details of them shortly and continue to publish more photos on our Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/ConsettCoronaPhotoProject



5. Church goers and the general public heard the sound of Church bells on Sunday 23rd May for the first time in full after they fell silent at the start of lockdown. In line with guidance updates during the different lockdown periods and Tier structures, many churches have been completely silent and others, like St, Cuthbert's Benfieldside, have been permitted occasionally to ring some bells for short periods of up to 15 minutes ahead of church services. In their case, up to 3 bells were able to be rung by members of the same household, but this doesn't sound quite the same. St Cuthbert's recommenced ringing all 6 bells together again ahead of the church service on Sunday 23rd May, under Government Stage 3 restrictions with some of the ringers being able to ring for the first time in over a year. The guidelines to allow this include - The Rule of Six applies indoors meaning that only six people from different families can meet at one time, so the band have set up a rota of ringers to comply with this (however, since St Cuthbert's small band of ringers includes 2 families with 3 ringers from each, social distancing is easier in the very confined area of the bell tower). Hands – Face – Space rules apply, Benfieldside ringers have 'Hand sanitisers' inside the tower, Face coverings are worn by all ringers and Social distancing in the tower is kept to the maximum distance possible. Finally, unlike many Bell Towers, St Cuthbert's has particularly good ventilation with two opening windows, a balcony door opening into the body of the church and the staircase providing a through draft of fresh air. (Image: George Ledger)



7. Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team operates 24 hours per day every day of the year and provide a search and rescue service for the whole of County Durham, from the high fells in the West to the coastal communities of the North Sea. The team responds to requests by the police to a range of incidents, from injured or lost people in the hills to vulnerable missing people in urban settings. The team's skills and resources continue to grow to keep pace with our developing role. The rescue team consists of about 50 volunteers, all on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All our volunteers have full time jobs and meet almost all their own expenses. To maintain the skills of the team members regular training events are vital as each member must receive training in casualty care, crag rescue techniques, communications, search techniques, search management and searching rivers. Unfortunately, during Covid times many of these sessions were cancelled because of the restrictions. Sadly, the requests for help have not lessened and over 30 call outs have been responded to by the team so far this year. As can be seen in the photos, team members must abide by social-distancing rules and PPE guidance in order to restrict the 'fall out' if a member tests positive for Covid-19. Creating even more stress and hardship for the team members every time they respond to a call for assistance. (Image: George Ledger)



6. Consett Rugby Club Music Event, the club recently opened its doors to the public for a weekend music festival. The Covid secure open-air concert was met with anticipation from the community as a sign that some normality was returning to our lives, as from March 17th Large Events were allowed but with restricted numbers and further restrictions. A great time was had by all who attended, including the music acts who were grateful to be able to perform again. The friendliness of the club and the glorious weather ensured plenty of smiling faces. (Image: Steve Webb)



8. Durham County Council Street Wardens have had plenty of challenges during Covid helping our local community to stay safe and protecting the environment. One of these challenges was that members of the public couldn't access Council tips, so Fly-tipping increased. They have also had opportunities though to learn new skills by helping other Council departments such as becoming a 'Dog warden' or a 'Pest control officer'. Their main role involves partnership working with agencies such as the Police & Fire Service. They are very much at the heart of our community. (Image: Steve Webb)

Stronger Together

Fusion for Business announce partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust in pursuit of protecting the local area.



Fusion for Business, a leading provider of business energy cost saving solutions in the County Durham region today announced their partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust as part of the company's mission to combat climate change and raise awareness for the urgent need to preserve UK nature.

According to a recent report from the independent Climate Change Committee, the UK is woefully unprepared to deal with changes occurring to the climate.

The state of UK nature has been declining for some time, with habitat loss being one of the main factors driving the loss of plant and animal species. It is predicted that in particular peat bogs, which currently helps reduce the effects of climate change by absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, could dry out and as a result begin releasing their stored carbon back into the air.

As a company devoted to defending the Earth from carbon wastage, Fusion for Business (FFB) are passionate about supporting Durham Wildlife Trust in their efforts to conserve the wild habitats within the local meadows, peatlands and woodlands in the Consett area in order to keep carbon release to a minimum. The partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust will see the dramatic acceleration of these areas being protected, starting with Knitsley's Rabbitbank Wood Nature Reserve, as FFB commit to protecting one acre of nature for every customer the business serves.

As part of the initiative, each customer will be allocated an acre number and provided with regular communication regarding the preservation of their acre.

Samuel Lind, Operations Director at Fusion for Business said:

"Enabling our customers to be part of the journey is imperative to our success. From planting new trees to nurturing the beauty that already exists, Fusion for Business are proud to champion the need for change when it comes to protecting our planet. As a business based in a rural location, this partnership is very close to our hearts and enables us to effectively deliver on our social value commitments."

Chris Charlton, CEO of Fusion for Business adds:

"Doing the right thing for our people and our planet is at the forefront of our business strategy. Bringing positivity and sustainability to the Consett area is of utmost importance, now more than ever."

Alongside this new partnership, Fusion for Business are also supporting Durham Wildlife Trust with their own carbon management through FFB's first of its kind Desktop Energy Optimisation Report. A free of charge energy efficiency service offered to all UK businesses and organisations to calculate their forecasted energy spend over the next 5 years, combined with the assessment of the managed building's energy savings potential.

Zoe Hull, Head of Operations and Development at Durham Wildlife Trust comments:

"We are so excited to have Fusion for Business on board. They have shown real enthusiasm and a passion to understand the difference they can make to local wildlife and by making the decision to support Durham Wildlife Trust they will make a tangible difference to their local ecology. By supporting specific sites, they are enabling the Trust to map out future works and do even more to ensure the conservation and future of wildlife."

To find out more about what FFB are doing to support the local community and to explore the range of careers opportunities available in their growing Consett HQ please contact: info@fusionforbusiness.co.uk

Phil Brown - My Steelworks Story Part 3

So in 1972 I started to work in the Oxygen Steelmaking Plant , as well as the main building where the steel was made there was the scrap handling plant, in here the scrap metal was processed to a suitable size to go into the LD vessel. Then there was the Dolomite Plant , in here the dolomite bricks were made, these bricks were for lining the LD vessels.

As an apprentice I had to learn the various maintenance tasks in the different areas. So I worked with the boiler squad for a few weeks , learning how to maintain the waste heat boilers and the ancillary equipment — pumps, valves ,pipework, fans, soot blowers, steam turbines, heat exchangers. This was hot and dirty work and kept you fit going up and down the different levels.

Then I worked with the crane squad, there was overhead cranes in the Charging Bay , Casting Bay, Stripping Bay. On the cranes it was routine and breakdown maintenance. Mainly checking the long travel drive couplings, adjusting the hoist breaks and changing the brake linings. Also for insurance inspections , we had to open the hoist gearboxes and various linkage pins and the hoist hook and block to check for wear.

Another big job was to change the trunion wheels (drive wheels) Safety was important because the overhead cranes were about 30 -40 feet above floor level. In those days you just walked along the crane gantries with no restraints, now a days you have to be attached to a safety wire and wear a safety harness.

After working on the cranes I had to work in the Dolomite Plant. This is where they made the different size and shaped bricks used to line the vessels. In here I had to learn about the hydraulic brick presses and the brick molds, pan mills , ball mills, cone crushers, bucket elevators, screens, conveyors, fans, pumps.

To make these bricks , dolomite was brought in by road and tipped into a hopper, from here it was put through either the ball mill or the cone crusher to reduce the size of the dolomite. After being crushed the dolomite was passed over a vibrating screen which allowed the different sizes to transfer into different hoppers. To make a batch mix a certain amount of dolomite was weighed then tipped into the pan mill , with the mill rotating , the dolomite was churned up by fixed paddles in the mill, then hot tar was poured in.

This was all mixed in together, when ready the mixture was emptied from the mill into a mobile hopper, this hopper was transported to the brick press by fork truck. On the brick press there was 3 molds on a round table , so as a measured amount of the batch was tipped into a mold, another mold was being hydraulically pressed, the third mold was having the brick ejected from the mold.

Because of the LD vessels shape and size, the dolomite bricks were of different size and shape. In the Dolomite Plant it was hot, dusty and dirty work. After a few weeks training here, I then went to the Scrap Handling Plant to learn the maintenance involved there. In the scrap plant there was two large bays with two overhead cranes in each bay.

The cranes had large electro-magnets on the hoist block to pick the scrap metal up. Some scrap metal was brought in by local scrap men , other scrap metal from other sources. To cut the metal into smaller sizes there was a large hydraulic shear. I think the hydraulic shears had a cutting force of 350 ton. The shears could cut railway tracks into small lengths so they would fit into the scrap pan ready to be tipped into the vessel.

When working with the supervisors and fitters they were keen to pass on there plant knowledge to bring me up to scratch with the work involved.

Also a lot of knowledge could learned from the fitters mates and the riggers. To help me gain experience with the hydraulics , I attended a Pneumatics & hydraulics course at the government training centre in Langley Moor , Durham. Another part of my training was working with a fitter called Tommy Sanderson , Tommy was given the job of overhauling the boiler feed pumps, these were multi-stage centrifugal pumps. These pumped the hot water up to the steam drums on the 5th floor , about 100ft.

The steam drums were like a large header vessel to store the water in before circulating into the boilers. We had to overhaul the pumps in the mercury rectifier house because it was a clean environment and had a hoist in. The pumps were special as everything was stainless steel apart from the pump casing.

Also. I was shown how to scrape the white metal bearings in, these bearings supported the pump shaft at each end. There was 4 boiler feed pumps, 3 were driven by a large electric motor and the fourth was driven by a small steam turbine in case of a power failure. In the 1960's & 70's working day shift , there was no official tea break. As an apprentice, either with the boiler squad or the crane squad I was the tea boy.

Someone would give me their locker key so I could sneak down to the locker room and put some loose tea into a "Billy can" , then go into the canteen and put some hot water in, then back to the locker room and put some powdered milk in (Marvel) then grab some enamel mugs and go back on the job. Either sitting up on the boilers or on a crane (that was isolated) we would have a mug of tea !!!

One day I was working with Tommy and we had to go inside the steam drum for L D 3, the vessel was off for a reline and repairs. The steam drum was a large vessel , about 7 ft in diameter and about 25 ft long , inside were coils of tubing which steam was passed through to heat the boiler water up. On each end there was a small access hatch. Our job was to go inside and repair some steam leaks on the coils.

As the drum had been emptied of water, we removed one of the hatches, an operator from Boiler control did a gas test inside the drum and it was OK. We received the various work permits and started to progress the job. We had to put a portable light inside and some spanners etc., to get inside the drum was an art in itself, you had to be a slim Jim and either go in head first or feet first.

Once inside we started to located were the leaks were and repair them.

After a few hours I began to feel light headed and dizzy , I asked Tommy how he was and said he felt the same, so we moved to the end and exited the drum.

After getting some fresh air we went to Boiler control to tell them.

After another gas test in the drum it was found the oxygen level was low. Then they realised that while we had been working inside the drum, the contractors were doing tube repairs on the fume hood using cutting and welding equipment and the fumes were finding their way into the steam drum.

So that was very close for us and we were lucky. !!

In 1973 I had completed my apprenticeship and stayed in the Steel Plant as a Maintenance Fitter / Turner. As I was still doing well at college , i was told I could still do day release.

I went to college until 1977. By then I had passed the City and Guilds Technicians Course parts 1 , 2 & 3. I was then awarded a City and Guilds Full Technological Certificate in Plant Engineering.

Best Regards - Phil.

Story taken from https://historyofconsettsteelworks.com/

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Top Gear
By Lorraine Weightman



I spent my childhood and teenage years without a car. My family didn't have one, and with living in the centre of Consett we either walked everywhere or boarded a bus to our chosen destination - which as a child, was normally a trip to Newcastle with my Mam for a day out in Fenwick's taking in Binns and Bainbridge's on the way.

Eventually in my early twenties after returning home from college I took the plunge and booked some driving lessons. With sweating palms I pulled away from Alexandra Street, and at first I took to it like a duck to water. At the end of the hour, my driving instructor seemed well pleased and with 'Mirror, Signal, Manoeuvre' ringing in my ears I looked forward to my second lesson the following Saturday morning.

I think this was when the problem started. Heading home from Botto's after 2am in the early hours did nothing to enhance my driving performance at 9am the same day!

Hungover and heavy lidded I made every mistake going and couldn't wait for the hour to be up.
When he said,
'Same time next Saturday?'

I meekly requested an after work slot through the week, and reading my mind he nodded his approval. With things going well, my instructor soon decided I was ready for my driving test and said Hexham was the easiest. The day arrived and filled with enthusiasm and high expectations I began. Perhaps if I'd been driving a slim line car I may have made a better job of giving way to oncoming traffic - while manoeuvring through the Market Place gap - in an attempt to avoid browsing pedestrians on the tiny narrow pavements!

With one fail to my name and my confidence in shreds, I decided to have a break and regroup with a new driving instructor who was recommended by a friend.

All went well for a few lessons, however he did insist that I shouldn't be afraid of the accelerator pedal and learn to pick up my speed, especially when I was overtaken at the traffic lights by a pale blue invalid carriage.

I have memories of him - after asking me to reverse round a corner - throwing his head back in uncontrollable laughter when I said,
'Eeeee, it's just like going backwards!'

Eventually the inevitable day dawned and I set off to Gateshead, this time with more trepidation than before. It was then that the penny dropped; two people with clipboards were walking towards the car and one was wearing a trilby!
'Who's that'
'Just the examiners examiner', my driving instructor added
'You'll be fine!'
I had a feeling the game was up before I even started, yet like a lamb to the slaughter I turned on the ignition.

When I was told to reverse and turned my head, I saw his hat fly across and hit the window, as the examiner's examiner threw himself down in the back seat so as not to obstruct my view. The little confidence I had left was shattered and by the time I drove back, I knew I'd reached of the end of the road - literally!

Dejected, on the way home I booked another set of lessons. Determined to put the past behind me I concentrated really hard for the following weeks; yet as I gained confidence, so did my driving instructor! I'm not sure the amorous clinch he attempted was in the instruction manual and suffice to say I looked for yet another driving school.

Only weeks later I was driving down Coatsworth Road in Gateshead feeling really pleased with myself as the test was going so well. Two minutes back to the centre and it would be all over.
Parking up, putting on the handbrake, I waited for the verdict. With a mixture of elation and amazement , I heard the words,

'Well I'm scraping the bottom of the barrel here, but I'm happy to say you have passed!'

My love / hate relationship with driving has continued since then.
So it will be no surprise to you to know that a few years ago I was giving a friend of mine a lift to Durham, and on a long stretch of road I noticed him looking at the gear stick with a puzzled look on his face.
He exclaimed,
'Put it into top'
'Top what?'
'It's got a 5th gear!'
Bewildered, I answered,
'Well, I never knew that!'
Shaking his head he asked,
'How long have you had this car?'

After a short pause, I whispered,
'Eleven years!'

PROPOSED ENERGY FACILITY SETS OUT FACTS TO CORRECT MYTHS ABOUT ITS PLANS

A proposed energy recovery facility that could generate low-carbon heat and power for Consett residents by responsibly re-using 60,000 tonnes of locally-produced non-hazardous, non-recyclable RDF waste (otherwise destined for landfill), has been proposed for Hownsgill Industrial Estate.

Subject to planning permission, Hownsgill Energy Centre will create approximately 70 jobs both operationally, as part of the construction process, and thereafter in the wider supply chain, as well as help attract multi-million pound investment and new development projects to directly benefit the community.

It will specify proven, state-of-the-art technologies, and advanced filtration and cleaning systems used in world-leading facilities elsewhere, to fully ensure the extremely safe production of renewable energy, powering the equivalent of 8,000 homes without any health and safety risks to the general public.

An environmental permit will also be sought and required in order to operate, ensuring the strict compliance with the highest regulatory requirements and standards set out.

However, and unfortunately, an abundance of misleading and inaccurate information being circulated by opposition groups online and via promotional 'against' literature, has distorted many of the truths surrounding the plans, in particular those regarding emissions and health.

Furthermore, invitations sent out by Hownsgill Energy Centre (Project Genesis Ltd) to some network spokespeople, officials and community representatives in order to fully engage and provide the opportunity for open and balanced conversations, have also been declined.

A spokesperson explained, "We totally understand that the community will have questions regarding this proposal, and we very much welcome that discussion, we always have. As well as other activities, we recently held an online consultation in conjunction with local Delves Lane Councillors, which was very productive. However, it was also disappointing to learn and see that many of those vocally active in their opposition, were also refusing to engage with us too.

"Our plans are not for some 'monster, toxic plume incinerator' as it is being incorrectly labelled, but instead for a very safe, small-scale energy facility that will be in-keeping with the site it is proposed for (ie an industrial park earmarked for future industrial development). It is very much needed on a local basis, not only to reduce the waste currently going to landfill, but also to help improve the local infrastructure given that there is now a much higher demand on power supplies from the likes of electric vehicles and home charging points. Without significant network investment, improvements and facilities like Hownsgill, the network simply cannot cope.

"This isn't a spontaneous idea that we have just come up with. We have carefully planned, researched and assessed the need for low carbon power in Consett over many years. Simply put, we, as a community, cannot keep turning a blind eye to non-recyclable, non-hazardous materials produced in our very own area, some of which from household improvement skip waste, being buried for years to come for our children to deal with.

"This energy facility is an extremely safe proposition that carries no health risks to local residents. What will be emitted from the stack will be primarily water vapour and harmless carbon dioxide, and will not result in the inhalation of anything that is not already present in the air we breathe."

Durham County Council is due to hold a planning meeting in September (date tbc). More details regarding the plans and Hownsgill Energy Centre can be found at **www.hownsgillenergycentre.co.uk**





HOWNSGILL ENERGY CENTRE



We fully understand that there will be questions regarding the proposed plans, and we welcome open and balanced conversation regarding this. Unfortunately, there are still many misleading and factually incorrect statements being circulated by third parties on social media.

UNTRUE	TRUE
"Toxic smoke plumes and harmful emissions will be emitted from the stack, and be a health risk."	The visible plume will primarily be water vapour (steam). Due to advanced filtration technologies, toxins will be destroyed PRIOR TO entering the stack. The facility will not result in inhalation of anything that is not already in the air we breathe.
"There is absolutely no need or demand for a facility like this to be built in our area."	Derwentside produces 100,000+ tonnes per annum of residual C&I waste on top of what Durham County Council deals with. The Durham Local Plan details location criteria (ie industrial estates similar in appearance/ process to other industrial uses). HEC is well located to manage local waste (instead of sending it to landfill), near the businesses and new developments it will serve.
"Hazardous materials will be used."	Materials will be non-hazardous commercial waste which CANNOT be recycled or reused. This will be sorted, pre-shredded and baled at local transfer sites that meet strict standards and environmental criteria.

Project Genesis has a very positive track record, and this development has been carefully researched for several years. If approved, it will have many positive benefits for Consett, its economy, new investment and jobs creation, helping residents make the much-needed shift to low carbon energy.

For info or to contact Hownsgill Energy Centre, go to: www.hownsgillenergycentre.co.uk

Lincoln

People very rarely just get on a long distance train for the fun of it. Excluding a few rail enthusiasts, people are going shopping, attending an event, visiting friends and relatives, a funeral, a job interview or whatever. They need a reason to take the trip. LNER, the operator of trains on the East Coast Main Line, devised a day of activity with the City of Lincoln and advertised a special trip on a scheduled train at 0806 from London Kings Cross to Lincoln on Saturday 3rd July. Luckily, I was already in London.

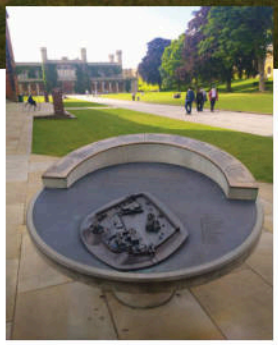
The excursion did not have a specified return service. Passengers could choose how long they wanted to stay, including overnight. I elected to leave at 1912 and took an East Midlands Train to Newark North Gate where a short connection enabled me to catch the train north to Durham.

Lincoln City and its suppliers pulled out all the stops to welcome the special visitors. There was free food on the platform before you even got on the train, and goodie bags containing vouchers, mead, blackcurrant jam, rapeseed oil, and numerous vouchers for things I might like to do when there. I had booked a first class ticket, and the carriage was not crowded. A breakfast platter arrived with Lincolnshire sausage, bacon, egg, hash browns and baked beans. With so much effort having gone in to planning the Lincoln Experience Train, it must have been galling to find that a signalling problem in the Welwyn area delayed the train by around 50 minutes into Lincoln. 50% refund! More galling still for the customers who knew that had the train been a further ten minutes late, the one hour rule on delay repay would have got them all their money back for the journey! Anyway, breakfast on 3rd July was the first I had on LNER before the first lockdown, and was accompanied by two more bottles of free gin which arrived with plum bread and general jollillity all round.

On arrival, I did not head into the city centre, but headed south on the High Street through the southern outskirts of Lincoln to South Park, where I passed a glorious collection of high-end Victorian houses. At Canwick Road I met a brief shower, where I sought protection in a handy bus shelter. Climbing the hill, I found my objective: the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) commemorating 57,861 men and women from 62 nations who died in Bomber Command during WW2. Opened in 2018, the Chadwick Visitor Centre was impressive and informative with videos, exhibition and ephemera, and the spire and engraved metal memorials (in the same type of metal as the Angel of the North) was quite moving. Overlooking the city, the land is on a long lease from Jesus College, Oxford.



It was the first day of the open top tour bus but it doesn't serve the IBCC. It should. I found a Stagecoach bus into Lincoln, and spent the rest of the afternoon following the Imp trail also inaugurated the same day, making my way north to the Castle, up the very Steep Hill which is a big surprise for anyone who thinks Lincolnshire is flat. I did not have time to see the Magna Carta, but enjoyed an ice cream and a rest on the grass until it was time to walk across to the Cathedral for Choral Evensong at 1730. There were only five adult choristers and a conductor, but they packed a punch. Meanwhile my Delay Repay from LNER was confirmed on Monday morning.





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www.nationalrail.com

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We caught up with local Consett artist Caitie who just released her DEBUT Single - Live It Up



What first got you into music?

Growing up I have always LOVED music, I would always be blasting it through the house! My older brother also performed in a local band and I used to sit and watch thinking I want to be on the stage and perform to others.

Who inspired you to make music?

Music has always been like therapy for me. There is no one person that has inspired me it's so many artists out there and also my family. Seeing what music can really do for people (me being one of those) pushed me to make my own music.

How would you describe the music that you typically create?

Mostly pop and current music that connects to people. I write from positive and negative past experiences in the hope that others can relate in their own way.

Who would you most like to collaborate with?

There are so many but it has got to be James Arthur or Niall Horan

If you could go open a show for any artist who would it be?

It would be a dream to open for James Arthur! I feel like I could connect to his audience with the lyrics I write.

Where have you performed? What are your favourite and least favourite venues? Do you have any upcoming shows?

In 2019 I started to do gigs at local bars and restaurants and the same year I performed at Consett Festival, I loved this and hope to do it again with some original material. During this time I also went to Newcastle city centre to busk on Northumberland street. I have got to say my favourite venue was The Cavern in Liverpool where I got the chance to sing 'someone like you' - Adele to a big audience. I will never forget the feeling! Any upcoming events or new song releases will be announced on my social media's @caitiexmusic

What is your favourite song to perform?

Over lockdown it has given me lots of time to spend with my song-writing and I would love to hopefully perform some of my original music soon. If we are talking covers I do love to perform an Adele song!

Which famous musicians do you admire?

The list is never ending but to name a few James Arthur, The Script, Adele, Demi Lovato, Ellie Goulding..

What's next for you?

I am excited to say I have more original music to come this year. I am loving writing and performing in the studio, so the plan is to keep creating and see what happens!

https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/caitie1/live-it-up-2

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Grass Seeds

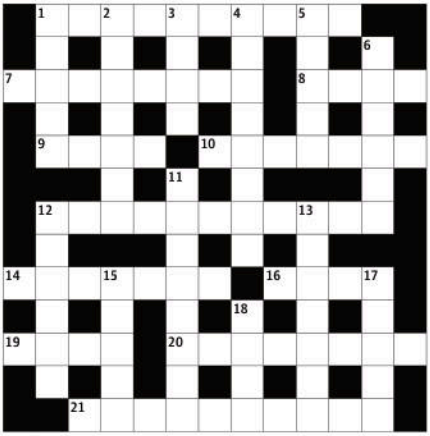
In the summer months, injuries caused by grass seeds are a common problem seen at veterinary practices, with dogs with hairy ears and feet being most at risk.

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

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

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

Puzzle Corner August 2021



Across

1. Game involving two hoops (10)
7. Multiplying by three (8)
8. Flat fish (4)
9. Locks (4)
10. Possibly (7)
12. Extremely old (11)
14. Show to the public (7)
16. Quit (4)
19. Deprivation (4)
20. Forbearing (8)
21. Precarious (5,3,2)

Down

1. Parentage (5)
2. Die down (7)
3. Long poem - awesome! (4)
4. Long loaf — tube gate (anag) (8)
5. Move unsteadily — a bad place to be left in (5)
6. Nearsighted (6)
11. Mammoth (8)
12. Agatha Christie detective (6)
13. Went to bed (7)
15. Italian sauce containing basil (5)
17. Slapstick theatre for children (abbr) (5)
18. Bone from the human elbow (4)

Answers for July

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

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

Brothers/Sisters In Arms

On Friday, someone you well know,
and I, had something in common,
We both were AstraZeneca'd
bearing arms, and not our bottoms.

While others pause it's roll out,
We bravely faced the jab,
Divided by the Watford Gap,
And it didn't feel that bad!

For the first time in my life -
- and it's really not my swan song,
I can say I shared a moment,
with someone called Boris Johnson.

March 19th 2021



NEW POETRY BOOK

Lockdown Lines - By Lorraine Weightman

Profits from this book will go to local Consett Rotary Charities

To reserve your copy or for more information email: lorraine7556@gmail.com

The Monster's Tale – the legacy of Consett - By Ian Hall

A monster once lived atop a hill revered by all round,
Eating minerals, belching fire and spewing dust in town,

Red the fire, red the sky and red the air to breathe,
The earth was stained, the rivers too, including moor and heath,

Workers proud, drinking hard, there's nowt they couldn't do,
But rich men in their shiny suits would soon apply a screw,

They'd cut its throat, and let it die, without a second thought,
New investment, proper jobs, new life would now be sought,

After three score years and nothing new but houses all around
The hilltop changed, new folk arrived with hardly any sound,

The train tracks changed to cycle paths from Roker to Whitehaven,
Bright blue skies, stunning views, and red kites - let's save them,

New schools, new shops and fast food chains, replaced the noisy bars,
With uber, online shopping and commuter jobs, there's just a load more cars,

It needs to grow, with heart and soul to have a future strong and proud,
To help its friendly, caring folk be confident and loud,

Football, golf and rugby teams can play with pride and passion,
Its growing fast, its heart beats strong but alas there is a lesson

Inspired by Monster – the Consett Steelworks poem

Consett Park Bowling Club (BLACKHILL) is open to the public every Sunday from 1pm

It's free no age limit , bowls provided , come and enjoy refreshments available from our Clubhouse and Bar.

We recently took part in the BOWLS ENGLAND BIG WEEKEND
Bowls Big Weekend I Prize Draw Winner Announced,
We are delighted to announce the winner of the Bowls Big Weekend
Prize Draw

Included is a tailored coaching session for club Members with Mal Evans, the first Level 3 qualified coach through the Coach Bowls programme. Mal will visit Consett Park BC and offer his incredible advice to club members

We have an Open Pairs Competition on Sunday 15th August and a visiting touring team from West Surrey will be visiting on the 16th August.

Contact us at www.consettparkbowlingclub .com and follow us in the Consett magazine

firefly

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