CONSETT MAGAZINE

FREE

FEBRUARY 2016

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Welcome

Dear Consett Readers,

February, the month of love.

For many it's a time for embracing your loved one over a candle lit dinner and glass of wine. Or, you could fall into the single category, where you frantically purchase roses and cards in a effort to woo a potential mate.

For others it's a predictable consumer bubble, filled with superficial nonsense.

We've gone all out this month on the St. Valentines theme with a number of local writers submitting their take on the "most romantic day of the year." Perhaps this may get you in the mood. :p

Yes that's right we've just thrown an emoji in the editorial. What is guaranteed to give you a smile is Lorraine Weightman's story on page 7.

We hope you enjoy this issue and remember we want to hear from you, so get in touch.

Stay classy Consett.

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Syd Peck
Malcolm Clarke (Online)
Jim Callan
Alan Harland (Online)
Dr Jacqui Molyneux
Emma Atkinson
Chris Dodds
Danielle Williams

The Front Cover

A big thank you to Danielle Williams for providing the fantastic photo on the front cover. If you have a great photograph you would like to share, then send it across and it could be your photo we use - send any photographs to: **editor@consettmagzine.com**

Advertise

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THE REFORMATION AND BROOMS



In the mid 16th Century a new upheaval hit not just England but also the rest of Europe. It was the start of the Reformation. The power of the Papacy was being challenged and the emergence of new Christian factions began. It fractured Europe leading to wars, mass emigration and persecution. England, under the rule of Henry VIII formed the new Church of England forcing the Catholic Church underground. Six years after Henry's death in 1853 Mary ascends the throne leading to 4 years of one of the most violent purges of protestants in History aptly giving her the nickname "Bloody Mary". The power of the church shifted back and forth between Protestant and Catholic rulers eventually remaining with the new Protestant Church of England.

During this time Catholicism was outlawed and its followers held there services in secret in the likes of Pontop Hall. The Brooms St Cuthbert's Chapel was one of the very first Public churches to have been built after the Reformation. Taking over from Pontop Hall which had been used for some 50 years as a place of worship to the catholic congregation of the area. The 4-5 acres of land for the Church was donated by Mr John Smith of Brooms in 1793. It took 2 years from 1794 to 1796 to build and its major benefactor was Mr Silvertop. It began to serve the area in 1802 as the Mother church of the North West Durham.

In 1849 a new Reverend was given the task of taking over the budding Brooms Mission, Reverend Francis Kearney, later to become Cannon Kearney. He was an inspiration and took to his task with vigour. Within 10 years the small congregation had swollen to mammoth proportions. The influx of the Catholic Irish to Consett, in Leadgate and Blackhill especially, who had migrated to the area for the Iron Works meant the Chapel was just too small. His first task was to build a Church at Blackhill which came to fruition in 1857 as well as dedicated schools for his flock. This being done he then turned his attention to the Chapel. The Brooms Mission being the parent church needed to be updated.

In 1869 the new church at Brooms was finished and was officially opened on 25th Oct 1869 as Our Lady and St Joseph's replacing the St Cuthbert's Chapel, which was then used as a the sacristy. The new church was beautifully decorated in Gothic style and was truly a masterpiece. Almost one and a half centuries later Brooms still proudly stands today on the outskirts of Leadgate. A majestic building in a beautiful setting, the progeny of a much less tolerant time.

2016 IS A LEAP YEAR



FEBRUARY is named after FEBRUUS, the Roman god of purification, but is not one of the original Roman months. It was added to the calendar later by the Etruscans (neighbours of Rome) in the 7th century BC. In Britain, it is the coldest month except for January. February has 28 days, except in Leap Years, when it has 29. The year 2016 is a Leap Year. There is no reason why February has only 28 days. It was simply decreed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, while he was busy altering a lot of months at that time. For those who are followers of horoscopes, remember that Aquarius ends on February 18 and Pisces begins on February 19.

Groundhog Day is traditionally celebrated on 2nd February. The legend is that if it is cloudy when the groundhog comes out of his burrow on 2nd February, then spring will come early. If it is sunny when he comes out, the groundhog will see his own shadow and he will go back inside the burrow, knowing that spring will be late and that winter will last for another six weeks.

St. Valentine's Day is traditionally celebrated on 14th February and is a day for sweethearts to show each other their love. It was originally made popular by Chaucer and similar writers who wrote about the Middle Ages and their romantic qualities - simple country life, peaceful co-existence and so on. There never was one particular St. Valentine, but it is thought that several saints shared the same name at that period. Nowadays, it is a day used to show affection for anyone, including family members, friends, colleagues, school pals, teachers, and so on. It is a general occasion to show we care about other people.

In 2016 the month of February has an extra day, because it is a Leap Year. This happens every four years (with rare exceptions). This extra day is the 29th, and is the day on which it has long been traditional for a woman to ask a man to marry her.

This reversal of the normal marriage proposal is said to have started with Ireland's St. Bridget in about 460 AD. She complained to St. Patrick that women had to wait unduly long for men to pop the question. So St. Patrick gave her (and all women) a single day in the Leap Year to ask the big question of their man. Some historical accounts say that at one time the Leap Year extra day in February was not recognized in law, and since the day was illegal, the proposal made on this day had no validity, so the man could wheedle out of his deal.

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SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY MANAGER



Saint Valentine's Day Manager

Just as the half price sales are over and things are getting back to normal the shops are filled with red heart shaped balloons, cards, chocolates, red roses and champagne. All to celebrate the feast of Saint Valentine, who among other things is the patron saint of engaged couples, fainting and greetings.

It's alleged that while he was in prison he cured the jailer's blind daughter and on the way to his execution he left her a note, 'Your Valentine'. February 14th is now widely recognised as a day of love, devotion and romance where people express their feelings either with cards, flowers or gifts.

I started my first Saturday job in February in Woolworths in Consett. Valentine's Day fell on Sunday that year so the shop was expected to be exceptionally busy.

I'd been working on broken biscuits and sweets the week before, but just before the store opened there was a message to say that haberdashery had no cover. ' Will you be alright on here?' the supervisor asked as I stood uncomfortably behind the counter.

After a quick lesson in curtain tape, bias binding, zips and elastic I was informed there was a new record player and I was being trusted with it. The newly installed record counter had been tagged onto the end of haberdashery and sold a meagre selection of LP's Including the latest Top of the Pops Albums. Having been given strict instructions to only choose love songs all day, I played TOTP Volume 15 for most of the morning and the shoppers enjoyed 'Your Song', 'Stoned Love' and 'You Don't Have To Say You Love Me' by copycat singers posing as Elton John, The Supremes and Elvis Presley. By 2pm I had run out of things to play as 'My Sweet Lord' had appeared three times and the four renditions of 'Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep' were giving everyone a headache. In a moment of boredom and madness I searched underneath the counter and found a Morecambe and Wise Album and with mischievous glee played the first track.

As 'Boom Oo Yata -Ta-Ta' blasted round the store, it was hard to suppress my laughter as the supervisor hot footed it in my direction, even though most of the customers and staff were joining in.

Understandably reprimanded, as I collected my pay packet that evening and folded up my overall I was called into the office. Without looking up the Manager said,
'I believe this is yours'
while handing me the infamous LP
'Oh and by the way I've never laughed so much in ages, Happy Valentine's Day!'

Death of a the Video Shop (Part 3)
- By Steven "Monkey" Mason

DEATH OF THE VIDEO SHOP



I still remember the first video I bought with my own money. It was Ghostbusters, I got it from HMV in the Metro Centre. This was a big deal for me. Fast forward to 2016, I now work at that same HMV where I bought my first video, selling Ghostbusters on DVD and Blu Ray to a new generation.

As I reminisce about video shops of the past, I remember the shop Ritz being taken over by Blockbuster (the biggest video rental company in the World). When Blockbuster came to Consett, it made the Ritz shop drop a lot of it's older films to focus on new releases.

Then one day, out of the blue a new video shop opened called "Titles". Titles was located on Church Street in Consett, where Cash Converters is now. Titles packed a punch. It was a massive shop with a huge back catalogue, new releases, and was one of the first to stock videogames for rental.

By the mid 90s, new releases were a huge deal for video shops. New releases came out weekly and many low budget movies would go straight to video. This was a time when your choice of new film releases was abundant and much more varied than it is today.

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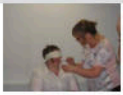



Free Training Courses in County Durham

Would you, members of your group your local community or volunteers benefit from some free training?
If your group are Aged 19+, resident in County Durham and either a jobseeker or volunteer- we may be able to offer training free of charge for groups (on your premises or ours)-please give us a call or drop us an email to discuss how we may be able to help you
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Please give us a call on (01207) 693828 or drop us an email (lynne@fanetraining.uk) if you would like more information on any course

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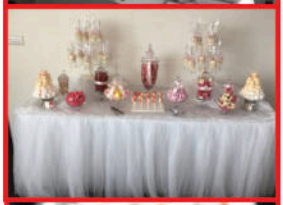



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A BETTER FREE WEB SOLUTION



A website is an absolute must for all businesses. While free website solutions might seem attractive – especially for cash-strapped start-ups – the image they portray isn't always professional.

So do you make the leap and hire an outside firm to design a killer website? Or, do you get 'web development for dummies' and try to figure it out for yourself.

'The advantages of employing an outside web design firm to handle your site are pretty obvious.'

In business, the people who understand what they are good at and what they are not, are the one's who tend to succeed. For a few, delegating comes easily, maybe too easy. For others who are perfectionists, letting go of even the most trivial task is almost impossible.

Having an outside team handle your website will free you up to tackle the other important things your company needs to devote time and energy to in order to survive.

Bringing in an experienced web design team will absolutely make your company appear more professional, and could convert into some serious business leads.

Consett Based Web Design Company

Firefly New Media announced recently that it was to offer a free website design service with a small management fee. The company understands and supports their clients online presence and brand.

According to Barry Kirkham, Firefly's founder, **"What is the point of a Website if you never update it? It's like having a shop window and never changing what's in it. We provide you with a complete website solution and will maintain your entire online marketing strategy.**

Need an update? Give us a call. Need an email campaign sent to 2000 customers? Give us a call. Need us to auto-post your latest offer across all your social platforms? That's right, call us, whatsapp us, email us, facebook us whatever's most convenient for you. And we do all this from just £99 a month. Firefly create beautifully designed and fully functional websites for free, then just pay us to manage it for you, stress free."

Firefly have created websites for all types of businesses including tradesmen, nursery schools, dental practices, veterinarians, training providers, and much more. Every website crafted by Firefly is mobile friendly, meaning that no matter what type of device someone is using, they will be able to see and navigate around a client's site with ease. The future of the internet is mobile, Kirkham added. Over the past few years, more and more people have been accessing the web through mobile devices than through traditional computers or laptops. It is vital that all businesses have a mobile friendly Website.

You can reach Barry on 01207 438 292 or 0800 955 1266 for a no obligation chat and advice about how your website can work harder for you in 2016.



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CESAR & JEREMY WHO?

The dog-training lady from the farm in Wark was like Cesar Millan and Jeremy Kyle rolled into one, she took no nonsense from man nor beast. And she took one look at Ollie and declared "oh dear, what have we here? A Collie-Saluki cross, Hmmm don't expect too much".

As it happened Ollie the Collie-Saluki cross proved her wrong. He turned out to be very trainable, very smart and very charming. He melted the dog-training lady from the farm in Wark's little heart.

When we first rescued Nina from her Kuala Lumpur kennels she was a physical, emotional and nervous wreck. She hid from us in and around our house for a bout 3 weeks. Then one day she just appeared by the sofa to say hello. Now she practically lives on the sofa.

She can even teach old clever clogs Ollie the Collie-Saluki cross a thing or two when it comes to being the smart one.

Cesar Millan, is a Mexican-American self-taught dog behaviourist. He is widely known for his television series "Dog Whisperer with Cesar Millan"



Money Raised for Children's Ward

Tristan Raine and his wife Emma Raine held a raffle to raise money to buy presents for the children who were spending Christmas at the Treetops Ward at the University Hospital of North Durham.

The couple received fantastic donations from the stall holders at the Consett Farmer Market. The winner of the raffle was Cameron Boyd from Medomsley.

They raised just under £200 and bought some fantastic presents for the children.

The staff are Janet Hughes (ward manager), Annette Motton (staff nurse), Tracey Davison and Julie Neeson

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Then why not volunteer with us at Citizens Advice County Durham - Consett office.

We are looking to recruit volunteers in the following areas and more - Reception, Gateway, Generalist Advice, Administration, Digital Money Coaches.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Helen Wightman on 0191 3726741 or email helen.wightman @cdcab.org.uk

Easter Egg Appeal

To support vulnerable children in the local community

The following drop off points in Consett are available for our Easter Egg Appeal

- 105 Briardale, Delves Lane
- Neashams Taxis - Consett
- Kalairas hairdressers - Consett
- Imago - Shotley Bridge
- Knitsley Farm Shop

For other drop off points please visit the Facebook Page

/christmasdonationsNE

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(Charity number 1073863)

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By **Dr Jacqui Molyneux**
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

Are you aware of the upcoming change in the law regarding dogs?

From April 6th 2016 all dogs in the UK over 8 weeks old must have a microchip implanted so that they (and their owners) can be identified.

If your dog does not have a chip, contact your vet now to get this done. In most cases it costs less than £20 and it only needs to be done once.

If you are not sure take your dog to a vets and ask the staff there to check for you.

We all have chip readers and most of us would not charge to do this.

Don't get caught out – there is a potential **£500** fine if your dog is not chipped.

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- **Online Advertising Solutions**

FireFlyNewMedia

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*For the "free website design service" offer there is no upfront charge for the building of the website, after which ongoing website maintenance, hosting, advertising and other service fees shall apply. Other terms and conditions also apply.