CONSETT MAGAZINE

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Feb 2020



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Front Cover By: Brian Harrison

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Dear Consett Magazine readers,

We've got lots of positive local news from Consett to bring you in this print issue.

Last month Marco represented Consett Magazine on a TV production at Consett AFC (you'll find the video on the Consett Magazine facebook page if you'd like to watch) to discuss the magazine and what function it serves in the Consett community.

It forced us to think back to why Consett Magazine was started in the first place?

"The magazine was launched in 2012 to spread positive local news and for our design/print/web business, Firefly New Media UK to appear alongside good local stories, instead of advertising beside the doom and gloom published in the local newspapers. And it snowballed from there, we really just wanted to create a positive local publication which would have people from the local community contributing and getting involved." - Barry Kirkham

Now, let's dive into what's in this month's issue:

On the front cover, page four and page five, Brian Harrison, local historian tells the story of a wintry monday in Consett back in 1903 and how travelling to Blackhill Station by horse drawn sleigh was the norm around these parts in those days. Debbie Todd covers animal rights with a profile on local animal lover John Gill on page six.

Page seven is a roundup of four great music, dance, and family events coming to the Empire Theatre over the coming weeks, and Lorraine Weightman tells the story of her second homecoming to Consett on page eight and nine.

Read about the local history story behind the name of the new Jo Allan's Cocktail Bar & Grill (formerly Bar 1898) on page eleven, some of you may recognise the name?

Learn about a local girl who has become ranked 42nd in the world in karate and from Consett Pool League on page twelve. Consett AFC fixtures and updates can be found on page thirteen alongside Consett Bridge Club who are looking for new members to join.

Thanks to everyone who contributed and advertised in this issue, and remember there's even more content on consettmagazine.com

Have a great month!

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

PS - And we can't wait to hear from you about your local event, charity or community news, or business announcement in next months magazine.

It's free to submit your story and super cost-effective to advertise for your local business in print and online to reach 20,000+ people in Consett and surrounding areas every single month.

FireFlyNewMedia

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Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Lorraine Weightman
Debbie Todd
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson

SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is a painting by Brain Harrison - send any drawings or photographs to: editor@consettmagazine.com

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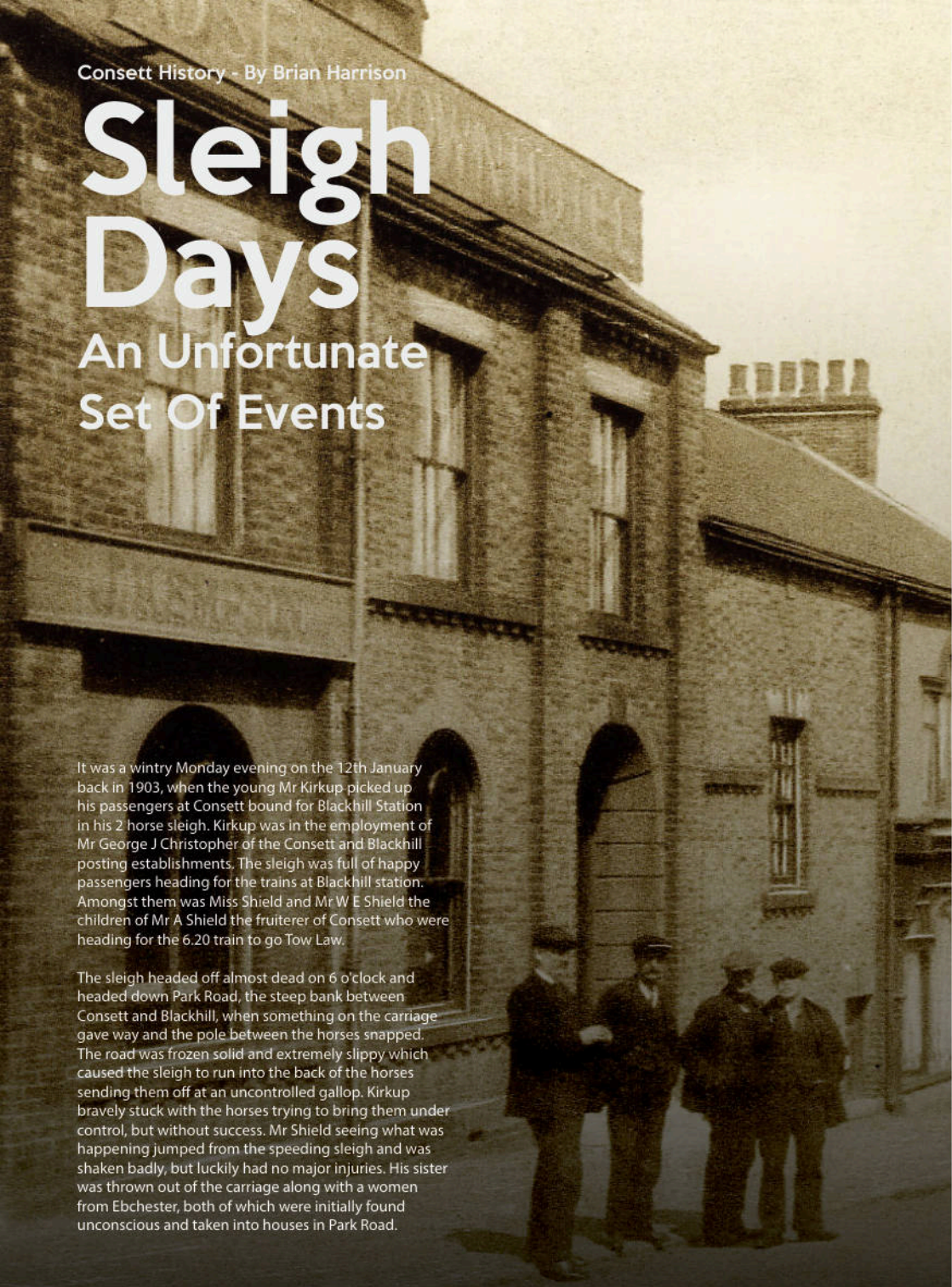
Consett History - By Brian Harrison

Sleigh Days

An Unfortunate Set Of Events



It was a wintry Monday evening on the 12th January back in 1903, when the young Mr Kirkup picked up his passengers at Consett bound for Blackhill Station in his 2 horse sleigh. Kirkup was in the employment of Mr George J Christopher of the Consett and Blackhill posting establishments. The sleigh was full of happy passengers heading for the trains at Blackhill station. Amongst them was Miss Shield and Mr W E Shield the children of Mr A Shield the fruiterer of Consett who were heading for the 6.20 train to go Tow Law.

The sleigh headed off almost dead on 6 o'clock and headed down Park Road, the steep bank between Consett and Blackhill, when something on the carriage gave way and the pole between the horses snapped. The road was frozen solid and extremely slippy which caused the sleigh to run into the back of the horses sending them off at an uncontrolled gallop. Kirkup bravely stuck with the horses trying to bring them under control, but without success. Mr Shield seeing what was happening jumped from the speeding sleigh and was shaken badly, but luckily had no major injuries. His sister was thrown out of the carriage along with a women from Ebchester, both of which were initially found unconscious and taken into houses in Park Road.

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Park Road, Consett.

The sleigh was veering uncontrollably back and forth across the road, people diving out of its way. A small child was knocked, luckily with only minor injuries, but the same could not be said for a poor old man by the name of Mr Childs who was knocked down and trampled by the horses and had to be helped back home. Mr Childs worked for the Consett Iron Works in Delves Pit and lived in Blackhill. It was at this point that Kirkup was also thrown from sleigh and it was feared that he had sustained several broken ribs as well as bruising and sprains.

The horses still out of control continued on until both they and the sleigh collided with the Rose and Crown Hotel on the corner of Derwent Street, Blackhill. The sleigh was totally smashed to pieces and bothhorses sustained cuts around their hocks where the sleigh had veered into them. The bank had been extremely busy with people walking and children sledging. On the whole it was quite a miracle that more people had not been hurt.

About 30 years earlier in late December 1874 another sleigh accident was reported in the area. Mr Hopper, a local surgeon of Leadgate and his groom were heading out on visits to some of his patients when the shafts of their sleigh broke. They got out and made a quick mend with rope and headed off again. However not much further into the journey the repair came undone spooking the horses which set away at speed. The groom was thrown from the sleigh and the reins he was holding fell off the side.

Mr Hopper seeing his precarious predicament decided to jump but unfortunately his leg found the reins which wrapped about and the poor man and dragged him some considerable distance face down. Fortunately for him the lead horse stumbled and fell giving him a chance to untangle himself. He was found to have a severe break to his right leg just above the ankle.

The rights of wild animals has been a hot topic for John Gill from Castleside for over 28 years.



Report and Images courtesy of Debbie Todd who has been studying John Gill as part of her degree at the Northern School of Art.

His rough Collie dog Laddie went missing on land in the Muggleswick area and although he has never been certain what happened to the dog, John started a one man campaign to end the use of traps and snares.

Protesting has been mostly unsuccessful but he is still as determined as the day he started. This is evident from the photos and signs he displays outside of his house. A huge lover of animals he shares his home with his many rescued cats and adores the dogs kept by his partner Brenda, who has supported him throughout his campaign. He can often be spotted walking down near Allensford where he drops off food for the animals each day and has spotted badgers fearing in the summer. A mild mannered but deeply determined man, John has sacrificed a lot of his life to try and protect these animals from cruelty. He has many sad and funny stories to tell and hopes that one day animals will be respected as a part of our beautiful countryside.



instagram.com/debbietoddphotography

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THE EMPIRE THEATRE & CINEMA

Coming soon to the Empire Theatre, Consett

Big Girls Don't Cry



Friday 7 February, 7.30pm | £23
Celebrating a decade of The East Coast Boys' tribute to sixties and seventies hits of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons authentically recreated by a phenomenal cast and live band.

The Bear



Sunday 16 February, 2.30pm | £12.50, £46 Family Ticket (min 1 adult)
With dazzling puppetry, original music and dozens of laughs, The Bear is an unforgettable experience for the whole family.

Spirit of the Dance



Tuesday 25 February, 7.30pm | £27
Celebrating 21 fabulous years as one of the most successful dance shows ever and now, their new spine tingling anniversary show is touring the world.

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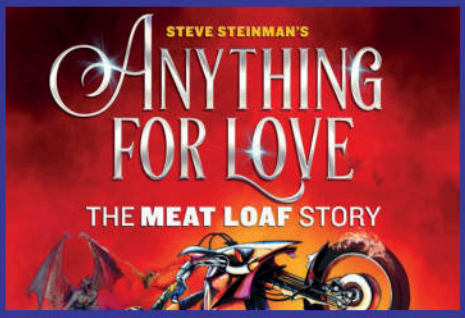

Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm | £28
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03000 262 400 | www.empireconsett.co.uk

Durham County Council

Just The Way You Are - By Lorraine Weightman

Just The Way You Are

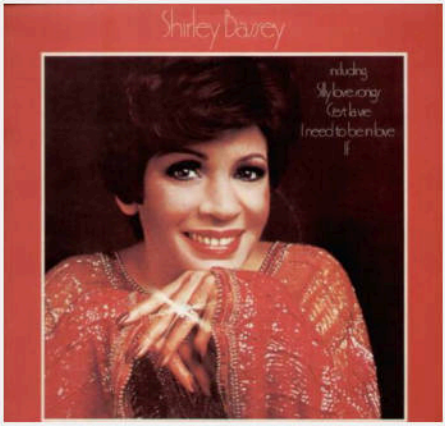


For those of you who have left home, returned or settled elsewhere, raised a family or furthered you career in a new setting; it's inevitable you will have memories of the place you were born and brought up.

I've recently just moved back to the centre of Consett. Although I only lived five and a half miles away for nearly 30 years and spent a good deal of my time in the town, I always missed living in the place I came from. Of all the homecoming stories, mine was met with some amusement by friends and acquaintances, when I commented that I was delighted to be 'back home' with them knowing I'd lived less than a 15 minute car journey away!

There is something about childhood and our formative years' memories that exude a rose tinted hue. Do we remember them exactly as they happened or has some romanticisation been thrown into the mix? To be honest I can't answer the question. While obviously some of my memories are tinged with sadness - we all go through times that are difficult, when we lose loved ones or experience illness or heartache - yet fond memories foster and forge how we live our lives.

I left Consett in 1974 bound for Teacher Training College in London - prompted by my Auntie Rose to explore another world - I embraced the challenge, loving the excitement of living in Kensington, which was something I could never imagine.



So close to Biba, Kensington Market, Hyde Park and the South Kensington Museums, I enjoyed exploring, walking, using buses and tube trains to visit Petticoat Lane, Notting Hill, Oxford Street, Westminster and St Paul's Cathedral.

While walking out one day in Kensington Gardens I spotted John Cleese with his family and on a number of occasions stood outside The Royal Albert Hall and The Odeon Leicester Square for film premieres with my friends; watching celebrities and royalty arrive. It was all new and exciting and something very special.

Three years passed quickly and I applied for the pool in Durham County Council's Education Department to return home and become a teacher. Not sure of my future I applied for some seasonal work in Harrods to secure some money and moved into one room in a flat in Chiswick.

Being a lift operator was great fun, and the old hand operated lifts allowed the skipping of floors so you could go straight from the basement to the 4th floor if need be. On one occasion we heard that John Wayne was in the building. Being a huge fan of 'The Quiet Man' I raced my lift down to the ground floor but one of my colleagues beat me to it, and all I saw was the back of him disappearing into her lift and the doors closing behind him!

But on the positive side, Shirley Bassey got into mine! Consequently the job had it's ups and downs! Still on the teaching waiting list I applied to The Department of Education and Science and secured a post as a clerical officer at The Victoria and Albert Museum, which I loved. Good working hours, a pay rise,

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fantastic co - workers and a huge chance of promotion. I had never been happier.

Then it came, the letter; I'd been offered a teaching job in County Durham. Obviously my family were over the moon and looked forward to my homecoming. I had to make a big decision.

So reluctantly at first, I found myself back in Consett, with it's red dust skyline, steel sprinkled dusty gutters and noisy explosions from 'The Works', I embraced the moment and settled in.

And now on my second homecoming - even though there is hardly a trace of that steel making and mining community I knew - I'm home Consett!

And I love you,

Just The Way You Are!

February 18th 1978 Billy Joel - 'Just The Way You Are' was in the Top 20

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Places to Go –YARM

On a peninsula almost surrounded by the River Tees, is at the southern extremity of places reached by these articles. It is an interesting place for a day out by train, avoiding the problems of parking on the High Street by not bringing your ton of metal with you.

The town of Yarm is served by two railway stations but there is not a single service between them, which raises the interesting possibility of a walk between the two stations, Yarm is only served by the hourly TransPennine Express from York and beyond to Middlesbrough and (newly introduced) to Redcar Central. Passengers from Darlington and Newcastle can change at Thornaby.

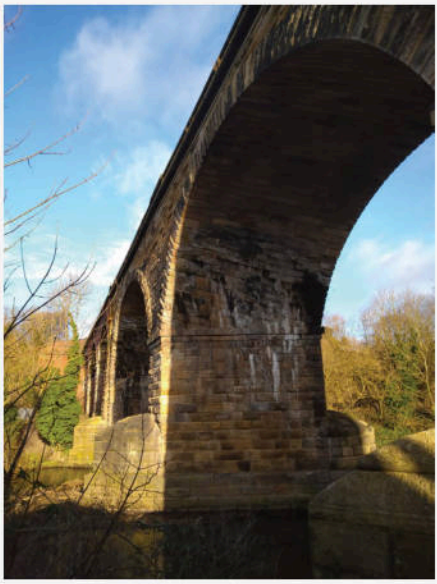
So what's in Yarm, to make it so interesting? Diane, a local, suggested the following on the Visit Yarm website: "the oldy worldy charm, the cobbles, the meandering river, the stone bridge, the viaduct, the diverse quaint shops, the town hall, the food choices, the ale houses, the castle, the fair, the history, the flood, the people!"

Well, the fair is only on one week in October, and the flooding happens, we hope, less often, although the mark on Flood Cottage shows the height of the flood in 1881 higher than the top of the garage. A walk from the Town Hall, built in 1710, east past the octagonal Methodist church beloved of John Wesley, and along the river bank on the town side, passing under the 1400 bridge of Bishop Skirlaw and the railway viaduct back round to West Street will show the extent of the flood defence scheme. A walk up to the parish church will reveal the miniature Yarm Castle erected as a folly.

But we jump ahead. Print off a little map of Yarm at streetmap.co.uk

The better served station is Eaglescliffe, to the north of the town, served by Northern twice an hour each direction between Saltburn, Middlesbrough, Darlington and Bishop Auckland, plus five Grand Central trains a day between Sunderland and London King's Cross. If ever you decide to walk (the posh title is an "urban transect") between two stations with different levels of service, always walk towards the one with the more frequent service, to minimise your waiting time. Buy a return to Yarm, making sure it is also valid on Northern trains from Eaglescliffe.

SCAN ME



Leaving Yarm station turn right eastward towards the roundabout, and go straight ahead, turning first right to Kirklevington Grange prison where the inmates will serve you (outside the prison fence) with the cheapest cup of tea/coffee in Yarm, and the garden centre is worth a visit too. (The car valet is no use to rail travellers.) Then walk down into the town, exploring the Georgian architecture, and later head north over the road bridge, admiring the 43 arch railway viaduct with 7 million bricks, built by the Leeds and Northern Railway in 1849-51. A watering hole is available at the Parkmore Hotel on the way to Eaglescliffe. Total walk, three miles.

The significance of Yarm as a railway centre will be marked by the 200th anniversary of the Promoters' meeting for the first locomotive hauled railway in the world. That opened in 1825 but it was a 1820 meeting in the George and Dragon pub in Yarm which set the process of bringing together land, labour, capital and enterprise, and to petition Parliament. I will next be in Yarm on the evening of Wednesday 12th February when the meeting will be re-enacted. I have some tickets available – email me if you would like to be there.

nationalrail.com

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Website: www.joallans.co.uk

Jo Allan's Bar Honours a Father's History

Many workers at British Steel's Refractories Group would have recognised the signature of a Joseph Allan Dwyer.

From 1978, Allan (as he was known) was the chief accountant for the company that made the bricks that fired the furnaces at Consett Steel Works, so his name was on every paycheck. Consett Steel closed its doors in 1980, putting 4500 people out of work. Allan, unfortunately, died a few years later, long before his time. His son, Richard, was just 17 years old.

Today, Richard Dwyer is a well-known figure in the Consett community. He has been a licensee of pubs for 31 years. But he still thinks about that drink he never got to share with his father. "It's a rite of passage," Richard says, "For the son to buy his father a drink when he turns 18." Richard never had that chance, and he wonders now what his father would have ordered.

Allan never got to share that drink with his son, but today he has an entire pub named in his honour. Formerly Bar 1898, Jo Allan's Cocktail Bar & Grill occupies the old Co-op building on Newmarket Street. The refurbished interior gives several nods to the history of



the building, as well as to the life of the pub's namesake. Walls are lined with bricks stamped "Consett" that Allan's company fired in its kilns. The old bank vault will shortly serve as a venue for craft beer tasting.

One regular described Jo Allan's as having "A bit of class about it that other places in Consett don't match."

The flame-grilled food and handmade cocktails are a cut above regular pub fare, yet this is proudly a Consett local, with Consett prices. Somewhere Allan would have felt right at home.

Jo Allan's

Consett Pool

After a short Christmas break its back to the pool, where the knockout semi finalists have now been decided. Leadgate Club, will take on the Phoenix, and last seasons winners, will take on Finnians B who were runners up in 2019. Both games will be played at the Demi on Wednesday 29th January starting at 8pm.

Onto the league, and the Duke seem to be taking command of Division 3, with 97 points, 3 points off the leaders Demi A, but with a game in hand. Malcolm Conaway is now top of the individual rankings winning 73.81% of his games head of Stuart Grix with 72% - Division 2 sees the Station Club firmly at the top of the table 15 points ahead of their nearest rivals the Kings Head in 2nd place. As for individual rankings, Ron Moran sits firmly ahead of everyone with a staggering 82.14% of games won, with his nearest competitor only on 73.98%. Lets hope Ron can keep this up, as it would be thoroughly deserved, for the young 73 year old.

Over to division 1, and this could be the closest its been for years with 4 teams vying for the title. Blackhill Club sit at the top of the table, 8 points ahead of their nearest rivals Finnians B. But with results such as Finnians A beating Finnians B 10-3, recently, it may come down to the results between the teams with 20 points separating Blackhill Club and the Finnians A who have a game in hand. A surprising leader of the individual rankings, with David Wilkinson top of the table on 81.82%, with Seamus Nolan in 2nd on 79.17%. Last years winner Kevin Rainbow only in 3rd on 75%. - Thanks to all who came to our knockout on the 22nd December. It was a great success with fun had by all. We managed to raise £100 to go towards out end of season charity fund for Derwentside Mind.

With the league coming to its half way point. , we will soon be looking for sponsors for next season for any local clubs interested in sponsoring the league. Please get in touch if your interested. You can keep up to date with all the scores at https://cwnpl.leaguerepublic.com/l/league/536681502.html or for any information about the league, email consettpool@gmail.com

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Olivia Reid 42nd



Olivia Reid, 15, a pupil at St Bede's in Lanchester has been competing in karate, the discipline of kata, for 2 years so quite a short time but has progressed so quickly and done so well she's now competing not only Nationally but also Internationally. After 16 national competitions this year she's won 14 medals, 7 of which are gold. Olivia competed in Cyprus in May of this year at the Karate 1 Youth League competition which is for the young karate elite and finished 21st out of 64.

A very good result for someone who is still relatively new to the competition circuit compared to most who attend these events. There are four K1 Youth League events in a year but unfortunately she missed the competitions in Croatia and Mexico due to lack of funding but has just returned from Venice last Monday after a very successful weekend.

Olivia successfully completed 3 rounds but went out in the 4th, the round before the medal matches, to finish 15th out of 121! She placed higher than any other English female in the competition including the age category above, juniors 16-17 (Olivia is a cadet which is 14-15).

These competitions give you world ranking points so they're very important but funding them is difficult as karate in England receives no funding whatsoever. She is hoping to attend more in 2020 starting with Cyprus in May. At her club in North Yorkshire, JS Karate Academy she has just been awarded Student of the Year 2019 for her achievements. She has travel a long way to train every week. Her coach is a current member of the England squad and was also the England youth coach.

We'd be so grateful if you could publish her story. She's achieved so much and to have some local support from her community would be amazing. If any local businesses wish to sponsor her that would be amazing too. Olivia has the ability to reach the top of her sport but without funding this will be difficult.

After Olivia's success in Venice last month she's now ranked 42nd in the world

Consett Bridge Club



Now Taking On New Members

In a drive to increase our membership we intend to start a course in the basic skills of bridge, which will commence in the spring, and last for 20 weeks. Once the basic skills are mastered, it is just a matter of time and application before you become a competent player. We all learn more and improve as players, with experience.

As a small club, we have players of mixed abilities, so it is a good place to learn the game; no one is made to feel out of place.

Here are some reasons why you might want to take up bridge:-

Bridge is the most compulsive mind game ever devised.

You will make friendships and social contacts that you could only have dreamt of.

Although the game is complex, it can be enjoyed at every level.

Research is showing that playing bridge regularly has both mental and physical health benefits.
It may give you a new lease of life.

Remember that nothing worthwhile comes without effort. Here are some comments from our members:

"After retirement, and needing a hobby I learned to play bridge, and soon became addicted, playing two to four times a week. I even go on bridge holidays." A.J.

The dates for the course will be announced next month. It will be suitable for all; both absolute beginners, and those who wish to revive their game. Consett Bridge Club meet at Blackhill Community Centre, Derwent St, Blackhill. Mondays 6-9pm / Thursdays 12.45-3.45pm

Consett AFC

February Fixtures 2020

1st	15:00	Away	Newton Aycliffe
8th	15:00	Home	Fa Vase Deal Town Or Binfield FC
15th	15:00	Away	Sunderland RCA
22nd	15:00	Home	Stockton Town
29th	15:00	Home	West Auckland

On Saturday the 8th February at 3 pm Consett will be at home for the very first time in the 5th round (last16) of the FA Vase.

We have been in the 5th round back in 2008 when we were away to Merstham when we lost 5 v 4. Our opponents in Feb will be either Deal Town or Binfield FC.

Both are good teams as you would expect in the last 16 of a national competition but we certainly have a quality team capable of beating anyone at the moment with us being unbeaten in the last 18 matches. The final for the FA Vase is at Wembley on Sunday 17th May, get those fingers crossed.

We are also running soccerscillz at the club on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 4.30pm and 6pm for children 4 years old up to 12 years old. They are coached in age groups and if they wish to progress into teams we help facilitate this for both boys and girls.

Our BTEC programme which we are running in partnership with Newcastle United and Newcastle college for our 18 to 18 years olds is into its second year with over 70 students on the 2 year course. We will be taking in a new intake for this autumn so any interested children can contact the club or NUFC.

This years music festival will take place at the club on Friday to Sunday, the 5th, 6th and 7th June. lets hope for some sunny weather.

The club has lots more activities running during the year and we will keep you updated next month with hopefully fixtures for the FA Vase Semi Final.

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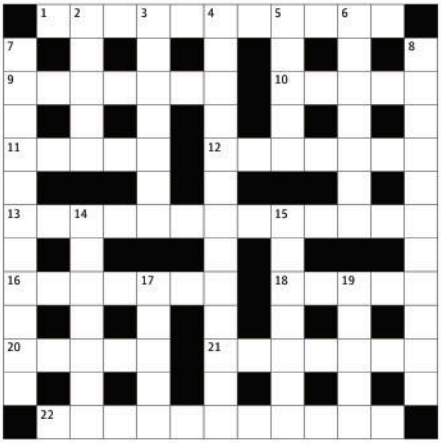
Puzzle Corner



Across

1. Severe disapproval; rejection by God (11)
9. Arguably the defining weapon in the English wins at Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt (7)
10. City and province of Spain, birthplace of St Teresa (5)
11. Former Scottish county town, now part of Highland (5)
12. Go deeply into (something) (7)
13. Blood relationship (13)
16. Grip; charm (7)
18. Instrument for which Mozart wrote 27 concerti (5)
20. Russian edict (5)
21. Analyse (7)
22. Basic requirements; essentials (11)

Down

2. Listlessness; boredom (5)
3. Deciduous shrub of which there is a species called False Acacia (7)
4. Venues for a particular indoor sport (7,6)
5. Sharp vibrating sound (5)
6. Art originally created in simple material to design bird forms (7)
7. Unlimited freedom of action (5,6)
8. Specially minted silver coins distributed by the Queen in the approach to Easter (6,5)
14. Natural or synthetic fertiliser (7)
15. Fix or set securely or deeply; embed (7)
17. The Canterbury Tales pilgrim (5)
19. Japanese cartoon film genre (5)

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

ASK The VET PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction

Canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD) is a degenerative condition caused by a decline in the brain's ability to function as your dog gets older. Amyloid plaques develop on the brain and can affect memory, spatial awareness, learning and the processing of sensory information, along with lots of other things. CCD is often described as canine Alzheimer's disease and although the conditions have similarities, they are also some important differences.

Dogs with CCD will often show behavioural changes such as:

- Disorientation – struggling to recognise familiar people, pets and places, getting lost in familiar locations
- Interaction Changes – decreased interest in interaction or play, barking or crying for no reason
- Sleep Pattern Alterations – sleeping more during the day and spending more time awake during the night
- House Training – passing urine or faeces indoors, not signalling that they need to go to the toilet
- Activity – increased wandering, restlessness and pacing, depression.

There are various supplements, diets and medications which have been proven to improve the quality of life (and clinical signs) of pets with CCD, but it is important they are started as early as possible in the disease process so book an appointment with your vet to discuss any concerns you may have.

princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice

Answers for January



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