CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 99 February 2021

We ♥ Consett

Photo by: Audrey Rogan



FOREVER FREE

euronics
the home of electricals

Shop Local

from your independent electrical retailer



Price Match Guarantee | Super Service | Expert Knowledge | Contact-Free Delivery

BOSCH Invented for life — Traditional Kettle

TWK5P475GB



- Cordless
- 1.7 Litre Capacity
- Triple Safety Feature
- Automatic Switch Off

2 Year Warranty

Only £49.99

BOSCH Invented for life — 4 Slice Toaster

TAT5P445GB



- 6 Browning Levels
- Automatic Shut Off
- Removeable Crumb Tray
- Defrost & Warm Up Setting

2 Year Warranty

Only £69.99

BOSCH Invented for life — Cordless Vacuum Cleaner

BBH65KITGB



- 65 Minute Runtime
- Bagless,
- 3 Power Levels, Washable Filter
- Inc: Crevis Nozzel & Upholstery Brush

2 Year Warranty

Now Only £149.00
Was £299.00

£150 Save

BOSCH Invented for life — Built In Ceramic Hob

PKE611CA1E



- 4 Zone Quick Therm Hob
- Variable 9 Stage Power Settings for Each Zone
- Residual Heat Indicator
- Dimensions: H4.6xW59.2xD52.2cm

2 Year Warranty

Only £229.00

BOSCH Invented for life — Built In Single Oven

HBF113BR0B



- 66 Litres Capacity Fan Oven
- Fixed Intergrated Grill
- 5 Programmes
- Dimensions: H59.5xW59.4xD54.8cm

2 Year Warranty
A Energy Rating

Only £279.00

BOSCH Invented for life — 1200 Spin 7kg Washing Machine

WAJ24006GB



- 14 Programmes Inc: Delay Start & Hand Wash
- Button/Dial Control, LED Display
- Reload Function
- Dimensions: H84.8xW59.8xD54.6cm

2 Year Warranty
A+++ Energy Rating

Only £329.00

Forsters (Radio & TV)

Victoria Road, Consett, DH8 5AZ
01207 502616 Facebook.com/ForstersConsett

*Terms and Conditions apply. Sold as an agent of Euronics Limited. All rights reserved. All offers are subject to availability while stocks last. Delivery & Installation charges may apply Exclusions and Radius Apply. See in store for full details. Images for illustration purposes only. Copyright Euronics 2020. E&OE 2020.

Dear Consett Magazine readers,

Thanks for picking up this month's edition of your free local magazine.

We're happy to continue publishing positive local content at this difficult time, allowing local people to keep up to date with all the good things that are happening in the town both online and print. A special thanks to everyone who contributes with stories, photographs, advertisements, and editorials - without you Consett Magazine would not be possible.

We're looking for great local stories from people like you. We want to hear about how locals are making a positive difference in the community during difficult times. Do you have a story to tell? Is there someone you know who needs recognition? Is there a new local resource that's recently caught your attention? Consett Magazine wants to hear from you.

Future Feature for your business or local organisation

We know many local businesses and organisations are experiencing big changes in the way they organise themselves, be it switching to zoom video conferencing instead of face-to-face meetings or by changing how their services are delivered during national lockdowns. So, we're reaching out to local organisations to be included in the feature - we're investigating how local businesses and organisations are evolving to manage during a global pandemic. How has your organisation evolved in 2020/21? We want to hear from you, get in touch for a chance to have your business or organisation featured in a future edition of the Consett Magazine.

Have a great February and stay safe,

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

Get in touch with Consett Magazine about features & advertising by calling us: 01207 438292, by email editor@consettmagazine.com , by visiting consettmagazine.com or by dropping us a message on Facebook "Consett Magazine".

Part of firefly magazines

Tell Your Story

Or Book Your Advert

Phone: 01207 438292

Email: editor@consettmagazine.com

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Lorraine Weightman
Joyce Shaw
Chris Gage
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Liam Cook
Christopher Rea
Audrey Rogan
Richard Holden MP

SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by **Audrey Rogan**
Send any drawings or photographs to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

Get Published

Get your story, photograph, or adverts to us by the 15th February 2021!

Contact us for advertising in print and online.

Did you know you can also reach 100,000+ people in the North East with a digital campaign?

facebook.com/consettmagazine
instagram.com/consettmagazine
twitter.com/consettmagazine

Disclaimer: Consett Magazine and consettmagazine.com make sure to only use reliable sources and we try to verify all content as much as possible. We cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions. All details are believed to be correct at the time of printing. We recommend that readers check information with any venue about times and dates of events in advance. Readers are welcome to send photographs, letters and other content to Consett Magazine and Firefly New Media UK but we cannot guarantee they will be featured in the publication. Firefly New Media UK reserves the right to neither use submitted material in print and online publications nor return it. The views and opinions expressed in advertisements and content do not reflect that of Consett Magazine and Firefly New Media UK. No part of this publication/website may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without prior written permission from Firefly New Media UK. Permission is only deemed valid if approval is in writing.

To reduce environmental impact, once finished with please recycle this magazine or pass it on to friends and family. Firefly New Media UK - All Rights Reserved

An Unusual Numismatic Find
- By Brian Harrison



As a coin collector I had always enjoyed most forms of numismatics, although my main collection is British bronze coinage 1860 to 1970. I have got to the stage now that most of the coins I want are literally out of my reach cost wise, although I am always hopeful I will find some rare piece in a bulk lot or bargain bin. It does happen so you never know one day that elusive 1919KN in high grade my just drop into my hand. I can keep hoping. So I have now started branching out into other area's of coinage. One such area is token coinage which I find most interesting and where this story focuses.

Over the past 2 years I started picking up bags of odds and end tokens for only a few pounds. There are the regular bandit tokens and gaming tokens but also lots of other interesting pieces. A good example was a £50 Playboy token from the London Playboy Club, which has now been closed for 30+ years, as well as brass Spade Guinea advertising tokens from the likes of Beecroft Bros and Sainsbury's. I have also enjoyed picking up local tokens as well, from the likes of Shotley Bridge Co-Op, London & Newcastle Tea company based in New Market Street, Consett as well as a nice starting collection of Club Pint Tokens, something I really enjoy. All have given me hours of fun in research and I have started building up quite a good collection. Nothing of a major value, just interesting.

While trawling a certain auction website, I came across a large token collection at the starting price of 99p with £3 postage. There was over 1.5kg and I saw a few items I liked the look of so placed a bid of £5.67, strange bid I know but it has been a lucky for me before. I moved on and didn't give it another thought. About 3 days later a ping when off on my phone and I had won, in the end paying the princely sum of £5.60 +£3 postage. I was happy enough and thought it would be a nice little lot to go through.

Two days after I sent payment they arrived with a massive thud on the floor just as I was heading out to a meeting. So I placed them to the side with major anticipation for later. Very sadly I thought about them throughout the day and became quite excited. On getting home later that day I headed for my own little private haven in the corner of the upstairs room which I reserve for my coin research. I promptly emptied them out carefully on to the top.

There was the normal common pieces like the Bell Fruit Machine tokens and Eurocoins, but also quite a lot of interesting looking bits. First to grab my attention was a beautiful looking 1924 British Trades Exhibition token, one I had been looking for for sometime. Fantastic I thought, that has made the cost worth it right there. A nice little £6 token. Next I saw a Cincinnati Beer token one of the things I had spotted online. So I picked it up and laid it aside. It went on like this for the better part of an hour. Sorting, putting into packets or into my standard machine token album.

So with piles of tokens and other odds and ends still in front of me I moved and knocked the table scattering them all across the floor. So down I went to pick them all



up when I spotted something I hadn't seen previously. Staring up at me was a little bronze coin with the Britannia Moneta logo. For anyone who doesn't know this is the logo used by the Royal Mint for their Trial Coins. So I placed it back onto the top and picked up all the other tokens as quickly as I could so I could get back to the little coin.

I picked it up and turned it over and to my astonishment it was the Cincinnati Beer token logo on the other side, the one I had saw earlier. I was over the moon but had never seen anything like this. So onto the web I went. I trawled site after site, page after page and nothing. So I posted a query up on a few of the online forums, again nothing. It started to look like I was never going to find any information at all about it. So I decided then to go for a different approach and began going through past auctions. It took a while but eventually it came up trumps. Lot 480, 28 September 2005 | Dix Noonan Webb as part of the THE JOANNA TANSLEY COLLECTION OF PATTERNS, PROOFS AND COINING TRIALS.

Described as a : PRESS SET-UP PIECE [in conjunction with Cincinnati Inc], in bronze, Britannia seated right, hand-striking a coin, BRITANNIA MONETA, rev. from Cincinnati's advertising check, IF A CINCINNATI SALESMAN CAN'T MATCH THIS COIN HE'LL BUY YOU A BEER, edge plain, 20.5mm, 4.50g/12h. Extremely fine and extremely rare.

Footnote:
This piece was struck on one of the Cincinnati presses installed at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant, Wales and set up for the initial striking of the New Decimal Penny production in 1970 ready for release in 1971. The only possible time the die-pairing could have existed is at the Royal Mint, as the 'Britannia Moneta' dies are never allowed to leave the facility; the Cincinnati die would have been brought in to the Mint, used to set up the press and demonstrate that the die was correctly set, as part of the commissioning process, then removed from the site when Cincinnati's engineers left

I couldn't claim my coin was Extremely Fine, more like fine, but definitely very rare in any condition. So for a few pounds I managed to find not only a load of nice additions to my collection but also a lovely piece of numismatic history.

For any one locally who enjoys Numismatics, from Old Coins to new, from tokens to medallions, there is a local Facebook page the Derwentside Numismatic Group. It is a friendly and welcoming page for all.





Send your loved ones a unique gift inspired by Beamish this Valentine's Day with handprinted postcards, Herron's Bakery treats and Jubilee Confectioners' sweets!

For the first time ever Beamish, The Living Museum of the North is offering special items for that special someone on its online shop this Valentine's Day.

The range includes postcards printed on a traditional press in The 1900s Town's Eagle Press Print Works, solid perfumes from W Smith's Chemist, Herron's Bakery Be Mine Brownie Tins and even presents for your pets!

Show them your "sweet" side with Jubilee Confectioners' treats, from the "You're Canny" Collection to the "I Love You, Pet" Package, the unique gifts include sweets traditionally made in the sweet shop in The 1900s Town and there are plenty of tempting treats to choose from. Plus, you can still buy Beamish favourites – share the love with our sherbet lemons, win them over with our winter warmers and proclaim they're the pick of the bunch with our apple drops.

Tell them they're tea-riffic with our Beamish blend tea and coffee, monopolise their love with Beamish Monopoly and show them you care with a Beamish bear.

Matthew Henderson, Product Development Manager at Beamish, said: "We're really excited to be featuring Valentine's Day gifts online for the first time ever.



"From Herron's Bakery treats and scrumptious sweet shop bundles to our traditionally-printed postcards and our luxury range of balms, bath salts and award-winning cold creams from W Smith's Chemist – there's something for everyone.

"Beamish means so much to so many people, with many of our visitors sharing very special memories at the museum including first dates, visits with family and friends, proposals and even weddings. So, whilst we might be closed at the moment, this Valentine's Day we want to share the love. Whether you're treating your other half, a family member or a special friend, be sure to show the amazing people in your life just how much they mean to you and leave them Beam-ing with our range of romantic presents. You'll also be showing your love and support for the museum, something which really means so much to us all at Beamish."

Visit www.beamish.org.uk to browse the amazing items available. All of the beautiful gifts can be sent with a free personalised message.



Health Minister confirms up to £30 million for a replacement for Shotley Bridge Community Hospital

Richard Holden, Member of Parliament for North West Durham, has had it confirmed from the Health Minister, that, as a result of his campaign, the replacement for Shotley Bridge Community Hospital scheme is to receive up to £30 million in funding, £10 million more than previously allocated, taking the total funding for the project up to £30,000,000.

In a letter to Richard, Ed Argar, Minister of State for Health, confirmed that officials within the Department for Health and Social Care and NHS England & Improvement are working 'very closely' with the project team at NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The budget given for the Shotley Bridge project was originally set at £20.1m from local CCG funds but the Minister has confirmed that an indicative budget of £30m can be used, and that local control will be maintained over the project, with officials working with the local project team to 'support' delivery.

Richard said that the previous option proposals produced before he was elected for a no-bed or eight bed replacement facility were unacceptable and secured a debate in Parliament in which he received a commitment from the Health Minister for the replacement for Shotley Bridge Community Hospital to be part of the Government's flagship 40 hospital building programme, to have 16 beds – formally doubling its ward capacity – and see more services moved to the new facility.

In his letter, the Minister also praised Richard advocacy in campaigning, stating that he is conscious of 'how much work' Richard has done both locally and nationally to advocate the scheme and that it was Richard's efforts that had driven the project forward to the point it has now reached.

Commenting, Richard Holden MP for North West Durham, said: "When I was elected, I pledged to protect local services delivered at Shotley Bridge Community Hospital, and campaign for a new16-bed community hospital on a more accessible site. This is exactly what I'm delivering - "In 2001, Shotley Bridge was downgraded and for decades we've seen the slow move of services away. I was delighted that when I raised the issue last year that the Prime Minister said he'd look at the plans and that the Health Secretary confirmed that our new community hospital would be one of the 40 that the Government are building. Today's confirmation from The Department of Health that they will be making a budget of up to £30m available is a huge boost for the area and will ensure that our local NHS is fit for purpose and that the local community gets the healthcare it deserves.

"I am pleased that my efforts have been recognised by the Health Secretary and his team. This is a project that I have been working on since the day I was elected, and I will continue to work with the local NHS and the ministers on.

"I want to thank the Minister for ensuring extra funding for our area. Nothing could be a clearer sign of this Government's commitment to its levelling up agenda in North West Durham."



Christmas Toy Box Pledge From Rotary North East

Every child in every refuge from domestic violence in the region received a box of toys, thanks to Rotary North East.

The boxes contained £80-plus worth of toys for children, many of whom arrived at a refuge with only the clothes they are wearing. They also may be restricted to living in one room with siblings and their mother.

Rotary North East works with the national KidsOut charity which helps disadvantaged children across the UK, whether they have escaped domestic violence or live daily in poverty.

The Rotary North East KidsOut Ambassador, Norman Sellar who is a member of Rotary Consett, said that almost £6,000 was raised in the region, which funded 233 boxes full of brand new toys and games, many of which had been donated.

The toys were age appropriate and the pledge was designed to promote social and educational development and family bonding.

Contact us through: Facebook Rotary North East; Twitter **@Rotarynortheast**; website **https://bit.ly/3a96tm9** or by emailing **rotarynortheast20@gmail.com**



Michael Quinlyn-Nixon a local artist from Consett has recently published his first book. It features an original engaging poem, delightfully complimented by his amazing illustrations.

The story is Michael's unhistorical account of the origins of the city of Newcastle's mysterious grotesque which is situated on a building in Dean Street.

Michael, who is a qualified graphic designer and illustrator decided to write and illustrate his work at the beginning of the year, inspired by the Vampire Rabbit he walked past nearly every Friday morning for 2 years.

The story begins in 1899 and finishes in the present day, relating the tale of the rabbit's unquenchable bloodlust and the consequences of it's villainous actions. Michael has written the book with adults in mind but believes it is suitable for older children with parental guidance.

Michael said, 'When I am working away at the drawing board, I often watch repeats of 'Murder, She Wrote' and hear how the character Jessica Fletcher (known professionally as J.B. Fletcher) is working on a book. Perhaps Angela Lansbury's character in the programme - a famous author and sleuth - has been the subconscious inspiration and motivation for doing my book. However, the last thing I want to do whilst promoting this book is solve any horrid crimes as I am very peace-loving and, it has to be said, squeamish!'

Michael spent over six months completing the poem and illustrations and tells of his work, 'I started the book in January and finished it at the end of June, so it's been quite an intense project and the last few days of continual proof reading was a bit heavy going, but on the whole it's been a great experience. I am very proud of the area I live in and Newcastle is such a handsome city, so I wanted to include some of the quaint and amazing places the region has to offer, such as the Lit and Phil, St. Nicholas's Cathedral and the bizarrely named Dog Leap Stairs. I'm hoping the book will be a success and bring some tourism to the region too.'

The Tale of the Vampire Rabbit was published on the 31st October 2020. It is available at Amazon and Waterstones, as well as number of local booksellers.
ISBN 978-1-83975-222-3

AKEN ROOFING

Established 50 year

ALL ASPECTS OF ROOF WORK UNDERTAKEN

POSSIBLY THE LONGEST ESTABLISHED ROOFING CONTRACTORS IN THE AREA.

All work carried out by myself in person



Slating, tilling, ridge tiles, leadwork, pointing, underfelt renewal, guttering, upvc facia and soffits, flat roofs, chimney stack repairs etc.

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL 01207 504074



Everyone's A Winner

- By Lorraine Weightman

Observing how our ancestors alternated between feasting and fasting throughout the year, we see how food, nourishment, simple pleasures and celebrations played a major part of their everyday lives and dominated their calendar.

Contemplating these strange times, while staying at home, we are able to reflect on and acknowledge our restricted lifestyles. Instead of all the hustle, bustle, socialising, holidays, and travel we were used to, circumstances have forced us to slow down and simplify our lives. And maybe looking back will help us look forward.

I was lucky enough to read an article by Michael Carter early in January and I'm pleased to announce he is a man after my own heart. Writing for English Heritage, he renounces the cheerless January we have come to know, and urges us to return to ancient traditions and keep our lights and decorations burning until February 1st - Candlemas Eve. Apparently this was common practise in Medieval and Tudor times; as decorated homes enjoyed their greenery until they had another celebration to look forward to on February 2nd.

Candlemas Day in pre - Christian times was an ancient festival marking the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox, and was named 'The Feast of Lights'. It is also a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, forty days after the birth of her baby. And on this day, Christians remember the presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

As a family, we also had cause for a Candlemas celebration, as it was my Uncle Pat's birthday! As well as predicting the weather - which he did every year - it was the only day he allowed anyone to cook his breakfast, as he always made his own and everyone else's - bacon sandwiches being his favourite!

In some countries crepes or pancakes are popular fayre on this day, and are not only associated with Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day as we know it being the day before Ash Wednesday when the fasting for Lent begins.

I have memories of my southern cousins' many visits to Consett, and of them telling tales of pancake races in their town. Although we always made pancakes at home and delighted in adorning them with fresh lemons and Lyle's golden syrup once they had been tossed in the pan; we hadn't actually raced with them. Encouraging us to organise an event in the back street, our family soon had the local kids interested.

As the word got round even the adults were on board and agreed to give up their frying pans for a race at noon.

It was action stations as we placed a long skipping rope at the bottom of Ash Street for the finishing line and asked everyone to turn up with a pinny, a pan and a pancake; announcing that the winner would not only get to eat their pancake but have a taste of everyone else's!

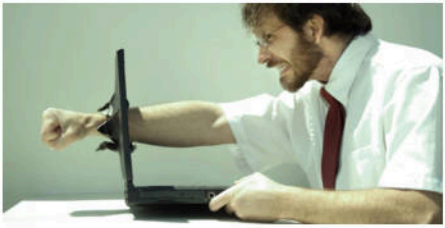
Such was the excitement that the breakfast pancakes were made and consumed quickly so the pan would be ready. I'd borrowed my Auntie Rose's gingham pinny and put on my most comfortable shoes for running. About ten to twelve the competitors started to arrive. I'd opened the back gate to welcome them and a small group of spectators could be seen ambling towards the finish line.

With the batter ready in a bowl, my Uncle Pat was on standby to make the pancake at the last minute. On cue from the gate, I observed as he poured it into the smoking pan, watching it carefully before moving it to the side to cool. With minutes to go I grabbed the handle and took my place.

In the blink of an eye the race was over and I was delighted to have come third. The winner after a celebratory lap of honour settled down to taste our fayre. Savouring every mouthful he moved from one pan to another until finally coming back to mine which he proclaimed was his favourite. More than happy with my newly found status for the best tasting pancake; I secretly applauded my Uncle Pat for leaving his bacon in the bottom of the pan!

By Joyce Shaw

Frustration!!!



The dictionary gives two definitions of frustrations…. the feeling of being upset or annoyed as a result of being unable to change or achieve something. OR the prevention of the progress, success, or fulfilment of something.

Well no doubt everyone can identify with both explanations… and I am no exception! I am not technically minded and despite having a toolkit and drill, where I try to tackle DIY, I usually end up feeling that an expert should have done the job!

Owning and working a computer has been a learning curve but one in which I can feel accomplished (up to a point!), unlike the beginner who, when a mistake was made, put tippex on the screen! I bought a book through mail order called "PC made easy." It promised to be the answer to everything I needed to know. When it arrived I filled in the forms to pay the bill. It stated that I had to pay "on line"……how daft can you get when the poor reader was still probably trying to work out how to switch on the screen!!!

Well sometimes the frustration has to be turned around and the only way is to laugh! I had a week of everything going wrong! I was in dispute with the Gas Board, British Rail and Customs and Excise. I also had trouble with the car dealer until they agreed to clean my new car and fill it with petrol and then, in the same week, I had trouble with the York Tourist Board! I had phoned directory enquiries to pay for the privilege of being given a wrong number.

When I phoned the given number, it was the Milk Board! but they did help sort me out and found the Tourist Board number for me. It reminded me of a similar incident where a friend phoned the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to ask how much it cost to join.

He was given a wrong number and got the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company). When he asked how much it was to join, he was told that he would need an audition. My friend offered them £90 but they wouldn't hear of it! Can you imagine getting Othello to come out and rescue you on a dark lonesome road….or better still, perhaps Bottom would appear from A Midsummer Night's Dream, with his donkey head, giving you a magic potion to get the car going again!!!!

So perhaps frustration is in the mind of the person who gets upset….and perhaps turning it around and laughing at the situation is the best way to deal with life!

By Alex Nelson

Places to Go - Brampton



I had my visit to Brampton all planned out for Saturday 2nd January. Then we, and they, went into Tier 4 in advance of the third lockdown and the trip was aborted. For a small town of just 4,300 inhabitants, it has a much of interest for a day trip (once the pandemic is under control), with a station on the Newcastle to Carlisle line and a train roughly once per hour.

When it was known as Milton, the stationmaster was Thomas Edmondson (1792-1851). It was not a busy station, so he applied himself to the problem all the new railways had of issuing tickets. Handwritten paper bills were insecure and he devised a system of numbered cards for each destination, coupled with a date stamping device. Larger railways took up his idea and he died a wealthy man. Today, railway tickets in, say, Japan and Sri Lanka are the same size, using the system invented originally at Brampton. A cabinet maker by trade, he devised storage cupboards with spring loaded dispensers, all starting from his initial experiments at Brampton.



I would have walked a mile southwest to Talkin Tarn, both a glacial lake and a country park, which is a local beauty spot. This kettle hole circular lake, which takes about 20 minutes to walk round, was formed by glacial action 10,000 years ago.

Sailing and rowing is popular on the lake, which also has a tea rooms on the north side. Thence to Lanercost Priory on foot or a short taxi ride (the bus only operates on a Wednesday)

The priory is both a ruin and a functioning church, originally founded in 1165 to house Augustinian canons. Now in the care of English Heritage, it is normally open weekends and every day throughout the summer. By 1847 the Priory was in a state of disrepair to the extent that the east end roof collapsed. However, by 1849, the church was in use again after a major restoration by Anthony Salvin, who also restored the keep of Durham Castle.

Read the full article online at www.consettmagazine.com

MOTORHOME DEPOT.COM
CARAVAN DEPOT.CO.UK

Brokerage sales
Get better than trade - we take the hassle out of selling privately

Cash purchases
Fast, secure, professional

Bereavement sales
Stress free asset disposal, from our premises if required

Bespoke care
Specialist valeting and transport services

Thinking of selling your motorhome or caravan?

Get your free expert valuation today

We are your local specialists in leisure vehicle sales, with over 25 years trade experience.



Call Chris Gage now on: 07375 074407 or email chrisgage@motorhomedepot.com
Free valuations • We come to you • Existing finance settled

CRiS All Vehicles Cris Checked
Trustpilot Great Reviews
HSBC UK Secure Payments
Working with Trading Standards

Introducing Chris Gage Motorhome & Caravan Specialist

Way back in 1990 I took a job despatching caravans and motorhomes for a large dealer in the Midlands, giving customers a working demonstration of their purchase on collection.

It gave me an excellent understanding not just of the technical aspects of the products, but also an insight into the people who buy them and the reasons they chose this type of holiday.

I realised that they wanted to take control of their leisure time, preferring the freedom to go where they pleased, eat when they're hungry, sleep when they're tired, follow their outdoor sports or hobbies to the full and yet have the comforts of home when away.

After 25 years working in large dealerships in a multitude of roles, today I have a successful business, connecting buyers and sellers as part of the national franchise network Motorhome Depot. After several years continual growth it is now the largest online platform for privately sold leisure vehicles, using a tried and tested brokerage sale process.

For sellers, we offer hassle free, secure disposal of a valuable asset above trade value, while buyers can have confidence that they are buying through a trusted brand with a high satisfaction rating on independent review sites such as TrustPilot.

If you need help buying or selling a caravan, campervan or motorhome, give me a call on:

07375 074407

Coming up in the next issue :Pre-season checks of your leisure vehicle after winter storage.

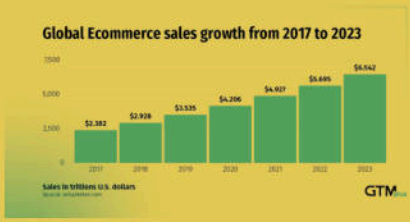
eCommerce: Trends To Expect In 2021

For most people, the events of 2020 have created a huge shift in purchasing habits. For most businesses making sales online has become a life or death matter. If you have a business or are considering starting to sell online, here are some trends for the year ahead based on what we already know:

Consumption Change

In general restaurant, travel, and luxury product sales are expected to continue to decrease. While healthcare, fast-moving consumer goods (non-durable household goods such as packaged foods, beverages, toiletries, sweets, cosmetics, over-the-counter drugs, and dry goods), online services, and everyday product sales – are all increasing significantly. This is mainly due to people being forced to stay at home and they decide to buy essentials to get through lockdown life.

E-commerce Continues to Grow. More Expensive Advertising.



Advertisers started noticing an increase in online ad costs. This means businesses using Facebook, Instagram, or Google Ads will require more professional, personalised and targeted campaigns.

Smart Marketing - Smarketing

Chatbots, email marketing, lookalike audiences, remarketing and social media will continue to be the go-to marketing tools for eCommerce businesses. They will become more effective with advanced big data data analysis, personalised experiences, and optimised ad costs.

Design Focus - Simplicity

Simplified, minimalist designs that eliminate distractions and make the consumer focus on the product is also expected to become a big trend in eCommerce website design this year.

Delivery Comfort.

Flexible postage options are attractive and make customers loyal during this period of time. Affordable and immediate local delivery will win the hearts and wallets of consumers who will get comfortable with purchasing products online.

Reduced Cost of Entry.

Starting an online business will become faster and more affordable. Website development companies have seen an uptick in demand amid the crisis and are starting to rebuild their teams to deliver workable eCommerce websites extremely fast. Pricing and timelines are shrinking. For example, Firefly New Media UK announced they'd start developing eCommerce websites at £2.5k (developed within 3 weeks). Many web developers are likely to follow to satisfy demand of local and traditional businesses taking online sales more seriously in 2021.

Offline to Online Transitions.

Products traditionally sold offline will now sell online. Many business owners are being forced to move their sales online to thrive in this new economy. Others will see it as an opportunity during the crisis. Whatever the case, it'll continue to be the best way to reach the customers going forward. eCommerce web developers are starting to work with traditionally retail stores to go online. From butchers to sporting goods, Firefly New Media UK have seen an increase in interest from many different types of businesses looking to get established online and get a slice of the eCommerce pie.

Online Sales After the Lockdown.

Many people have become first-time online buyers in 2020. And some more experienced online shoppers have become even more comfortable doing it. Both audiences will have a significant percentage of those who'll stick with online purchases after things get back to normal.

As a summary here are the key takeaways:

- eCommerce isn't a short-term spike of profit.
- It's here for the long run and people will continue buying online.
- High quality online experiences and fast, local delivery will create loyal online customers.
- Developing an online shop has become more affordable;
- Online shopping will become more personalised & automated at the same time;
- Small mainly offline businesses can still catch the wave.

Funding may be available for County Durham businesses to get online

You could be eligible for a 40% grant towards a range of different projects including:

- Marketing strategy
- Web design/development
- Video/animation
- Social media

To discuss your eCommerce, website, or digital business idea contact Firefly:

firefly

Call: 01207 438292 / 0800 955 1266 - Email: sales@fireflynewmedia.com

L.TURNER ROOFING
All Aspects Of Roofing Undertaken

ROOFING SERVICES

L Turner Roofing

Email: leaturner83@yahoo.com
Mob: 07398 665610 @lturnerroofing

Slate • Tiling • Leadwork • Dry Ridges & Verges • Rubber Roofing • Guttering & Fascias • Chimneys Repointed
All repair work undertaken • All work guaranteed
CSCS Skilled Worker Registered – Roof Slating & Tiling
Free estimates without obligation

FERN

Property Solutions



Building | Electrical
Plumbing | Roofing
(0191) 394 0045
ferndevelopments.com
sales@ferndevelopments.com



WHATS INCLUDED:

- ACOUSTIC & THERMAL INSULATION
- TWO REMOTE CONTROLS
- EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING
- 24 COLOURS AVAILABLE

GAROLLA ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS
www.garolla.co.uk

Made To Measure...
ROLLER GARAGE DOORS

Garolla can save a lot of space inside your garage. Rolls up vertically into a box. Takes only 8 inches of head-room! Opens vertically so you can park up close to the door. Remotely open/close the garage even from inside your car.

CALL US TODAY
Phone:
01914 620 463
Mobile:
07537 149 128

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

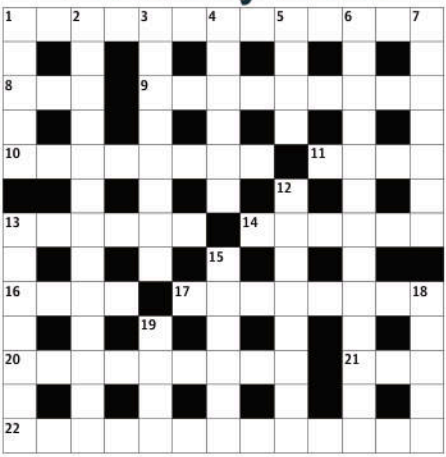
ASK THE VET

Rabbit Vaccinations

In the UK, it is recommended that rabbits are vaccinated against myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease. Myxomatosis can be passed from wild rabbits to pets by fleas and mosquitoes and causes severe swelling of the skin around the eyes, ears and genitals which is often fatal. Viral haemorrhagic disease is always fatal and often causes sudden death, most commonly in outdoor rabbits.

A new strain of this disease has recently been identified that can also affect indoor rabbits as it can be transferred on clothing and on the coats and feet of dogs and cats who are going outdoors and coming into contact with infected wild rabbits. Both these diseases can be prevented with six monthly to yearly injections so please contact your vet to book an appointment and make sure your bunny is protected.

Puzzle Corner February 2021



Across

1. Amateur dabbling artist (6,7)
8. 100% (3)
9. Insipid (9)
10. Cosseted (5-3)
11. Submarine captain's command (4)
13. Faulty shot on the green baize (6)
14. Learned person (6)
16. Upland tract — eg Othello (4)
17. Halted (6,2)
20. Site of two rock temples in southern Egypt (3,6)
21. Adipose tissue (3)
22. Elderly person (6,7)

Down

1. Cobs and pens (5)
2. Central London landmark (7,6)
3. Behaving badly (6,2)
4. Small bunches of flowers (6)
5. Two people romantically linked (4)
6. 1939 MGM Technicolor movie (3,6,2,2)
7. Most optimistic — stories (anag) (7)
12. Fail completely to produce the intended effect (4,4)
13. Warm-blooded vertebrate animals (7)
15. Canadian province (6)
18. Don (3,2)
19. Driest of the sherries (4)



Answers for January

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

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

To advertise in next month's issue



Labour urges local residents to sign up for postal votes ahead of the May county council elections

Labour party campaigners in North West Durham are urging local residents to register in advance for a postal vote in May's county council elections in order to avoid queues and stay safe during the ongoing Covid crisis. The May elections will see councillors elected to run Durham County Council but, given the ongoing pandemic and the social distancing and safety measures currently in place, the election campaign is likely to be like no other ever conducted, with door-to-door canvassing at a minimum and many people still nervous about mixing publicly. Against that background, local Labour campaigners in North West Durham are urging residents to vote by post as the safest option.

Commenting on the party's postal vote drive, head of campaigns for North West Durham Constituency Labour Party, Charlotte Warris, said: "It is essential that everyone registers for a postal vote for the upcoming Durham County Council elections. The 2020 local elections were cancelled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but this year central government is yet to tell us whether the elections will be delayed again. This means that in order to stop the spread of the virus and stay safe we are encouraging people to register now for a postal vote. "Our county council has been exceptional throughout this pandemic, making sure that its constituents are safe. When tested, our council has stood up and made the right call on all the big issues this year, from guaranteeing free school meals for children in underprivileged households, to making sure there is extra funding for local small businesses and creating support hubs by redirecting staff to aid our communities.

"We are calling on all local residents across North West Durham to make sure that they have their say by voting at this important election regardless of the pandemic. So, the message is clear – register to vote, vote by post, avoid polling station queues, stay safe and stop the spread."

To register for a postal vote visit **www.durham.gov.uk/article/2274/Apply-to-vote-by-post** If you need to register to vote you can do so at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

Richard Holden MP - February Statement

There is light at the end of the tunnel. The end of the draconian measures we've all needed to take to hold back coronavirus – especially the new strain – are getting closer and closer. Every day we've vaccinating around 250,000 people. With a death rate of roughly 1:250 that means every day, by vaccinating and following the restrictions 1,000 lives are being saved giving on average another 10 years of life. And every day too, we're one step closer to ending the necessary restrictions that are costing our economy nationally, £1 billion-a-day and causing such hardship to our local economy.

The start to 2021 is a lot lighter now our vaccination programme has got off to a brilliant start.
At a recent Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting I attended, I had the chance to quiz the Chair of the Vaccine Programme and the Head of NHS England. They confirmed that with millions of doses administered we're streets ahead of comparable countries. Not only this, but County Durham is doing it around 25% faster than the rest of the country.

I've spoken to our local NHS and local care home providers, who have informed me that vaccinations of local NHS and care home staff are progressing well, as are vaccinations for those in care homes. They are also carrying out individual visits to people's homes to ensure that those who are most at risk and unable to travel get the vaccine.

Seven mass vaccination sites have now launched across England and people will start to receive letters inviting them to a site. Government has committed to an ambitious target of offering a first dose of the vaccine to fifteen million of the most vulnerable people by the 15th February. From the evidence I heard at PAC during the session on Planning for a Vaccine, this target is achievable – perhaps even beatable.

The vaccination programme comes on top of further packages of financial support that will ensure we protect jobs and keep the economy going. Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses can now claim a grant of up to £9000, the furlough scheme has been extended until the end of April, as has SEISS, businesses forced to close can claim up to £3000 a month, local authorities will receive an additional £500 million to support local businesses, and schemes like mortgage holidays and the kickstart scheme are continuing. Durham County Council is also set to receive over £750,000 to help homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, as part of the Government's ongoing plan to support the most vulnerable in society.
I know that this is a difficult time for everyone, but we can finally see an end point, and this will only get closer as we see the vaccination programmes expand. My office has been working incredibly hard recently with vaccine and lockdown-related casework and, as ever, if you have any queries or issues you would like me to assist with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

So, a very Happy New Year to you all and I will keep you all updated as things get ever more positive over the next few weeks and, before too long, I look forward to seeing many of you down the pub or at the coffee shop, or on the high street again.

Here's Why Your Logo Matters

Your logo is your identity. It's what customers imagine when they think of you. We'll create a logo that you'll be proud to show off everywhere, and your customers will remember.





Remember the Accessories!

Banners, signs, flyers, business cards – we can create whatever you need to let the world know about your business. Professionally printed, artfully designed, and delivered straight to your front door.

Get in touch today for a free branding evaluation.

Let's Get You Looking Sharp

firefly

www.fireflynewmedia.com | 01207 438292