CONSETT MAGAZINE

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JANUARY 2016

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Welcome

Dear Consett Readers,

Happy New Year Consett!

It's an exciting time of year, where resolutions are made and sometimes broken. We hope whatever 2016 brings you, it is an incredibly happy one!

In this months edition read about local lad, Michael Weightman and his journey to his first Sky Sports TV appearance; the second part of Monkey's "Death of the Video Shop", Syd Peck's New Year Resolutions, Consett AFC Fixtures, Glenn McCrory's upcoming on stage production "Carrying David", and the story of Mad Maddison by local historian Brian Harrison.

If you have a great story you'd like to share, get in touch by calling us on 01207 438 292. We appreciate all the calls and emails we receive each month and can't wait to hear from you with the next big story!

Made with Love by the Consett Magazine Team!

Here's to 2016!

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The Front Cover

A big thank you to Alan Elsy 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**

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MAD MADDISON



The Maddison family were a prominent and respected family of the area, two of their number even finding fame and reward within the Diplomatic services. They lived in Hole House situated on the banks of the Derwent and enjoyed a prosperous existence. However, as with all families there was a black sheep; this time in the form of Ralph "Mad" Maddison.

A permanent feature in the inns and taverns of the area, especial the Kings Head at Shotley Bridge, better known to the locals as the Bridge End. He loved to cause mayhem and discord were ever he went and his heinous crimes have been well documented. One account states that when the river was in high flood an old lady was stuck on the far side of the river unable to get back into Shotley Village. He offered her a lift on the back of his horse which she gladly accepted.

Unfortunately about half way across he pushed her off into the rolling current. Onlookers watched on in horror as he sat amused. Luckily for the old women she managed to scramble back to the safety of the banks edge.

There is another documented case were Ralph argued with his then son-in-law in the Bridge End. Having lost his temper he placed him on his horse backwards with thorns under the saddle. As the horse galloped off the poor man was flung to his death.

His daughter then remarried John Elrington who Ralph taking an instant dislike to also tried to shoot. Luckily the shot was short of the mark and the poor man got away. However, the feud between them lasted many years. In 1661 when John had became a local magistrate he prosecuted Ralph for arson and larceny to which he was found guilty and his hand was burnt for his crime.

Shortly after John had to flee for his life and was forced to take refuge with the Justice of Assize in Newcastle. Another well documented case came in 1678 when he razed the property of one John Raw of Benfieldside to the ground.

As the years went on Ralph became more and more out of control. He had not always been this way however. In the years proceeding he had been a Warden of the area, hunting down Mosstroopers and the like. But eventually Ralph went to far, when in what was said to have been a drunk rage or fit of madness, he struck out and killed Laird Atkinson of Cannyside Wood at Shotley Bridge on 16th September 1694.

A message was sent out for his arrest from Durham. Fearing the worst Ralph mounted his famous grey steed and sped off in the direction of the Cumberland Wastes pursued by a troop of soldiers.

On reaching Muggleswick his horse stopped and would go no further so Ralph took to his feet and ran into a nearby wood where it is said he took refuge inside on old hollow tree.

However he was soon captured and dragged to Durham were he was hanged for his crimes.

NY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2016



A new year means a new start, almost like a new life. We all make resolutions. But all my friends and me (and possibly you too) have often seen them crumble after a couple of days. I'm going to stop smoking, drink less, go on a diet - we've all been there. I heard of this guy who never even got around to his resolution about starting a watercolour painting hobby. Always too busy. My pal Joey wanted to try to get up earlier to walk the dog. Always overslept. No doubt these things needed extra effort.

Yes, success needs effort, but also time and patience is required. Richard Branson didn't become rich overnight, Madonna didn't leap to fame in one performance. For success, we've got to **make** it happen.

2016 is a leap year, with 366 days including February 29th. It's almost as if we were given an extra day to live. What would you do if you were given an extra day to live? Something important, I imagine! February 29th is an extra day with 24 hours of "free" time. Now, 24 hours of "free" time amounts to about two hours free time per month to devote to your personal resolution, or target. How will you be using your "free" time?

Many of us make resolutions with good but vague intentions. We do much better with specific targets, no matter what our intentions are. In 2016 you could start individual personal development activities like learning Spanish, walking the dog daily, reading more, or taking up yoga lessons.

These are all good, and the time adds up amazingly. For example, if you read a book for only half an hour per day you can get through twenty books a year. You might read more about local history and get involved with enthusiasts in local societies. Try this one for starters.

Consett & District Heritage Initiative

But why not do something helping other people, something beneficial to a wider social group? What's to stop you doing the washing-up one day every week for your wife or mam /grandma? Why not visit an old person every week and make him a cuppa or play cards with him? Or you could help out at Willow Burn Hospice Lanchester

Willow Burn
DERWENTSIDE HOSPICE CARE FOUNDATION

Certainly, these types of activities are often already catered for by existing Consett organizations such as Derwentside Council for Voluntary Services. However, it may be possible to assist these existing organizations to do their valuable work. They always need help and they welcome volunteers. Useful tips to get you kick-started, can be found at **www.cvs.derwentside.org.uk** and **www.cvs.derwentside.org.uk/how_to_volunteer.html**

To continue reading this fantastic article by Syd Peck, please visit **www.consettmagazine.com**

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ABTA

REACH FOR THE SKY



As he finished his commentary, I heard those long awaited words, 'Michael Weightman Sky Sports '

From the age of four he organised football matches in the front garden. Carefully placing his two younger sisters in opposite small white plastic goals, he started commentating. He was always Captain of Newcastle United as well as the other ten players and he also played every position of the opposing team. His Dad and I smiled as we watched him out of the front porch window pass the ball to himself as he became every player, giving detailed commentary on how the game was going.

Inevitably Shearer scored and Michael high five'd his sisters as he ordered them to change sides for the second half. Not sharing his enthusiasm, Katherine and Emily wandered out of their goals to play on the slide and swings. This was when he took full advantage, executing a perfect diving header before acknowledging the cheering crowds.

Football as with a multitude of youngsters was Michael's passion and when he wasn't playing he was watching it on television.

Over the moon with his season ticket when he was five he travelled on the bus with his Dad and other fans from 'The Duke' in Consett to support his team. Throughout his teens the dedication remained and he volunteered at the age of 15 to join hospital radio to increase his presenting skills.

After choosing to do a Journalism degree at Sunderland University he continued with his hospital radio work and was asked to report on a local Derby match. The Sunderland Echo knowing his love for his team ran a story on him standing outside the Stadium of Light wearing his Newcastle shirt. His competence was increasing and he was loving every minute.

It was no surprise when he intimated his desire to go to London to pursue his career. He was offered a job at Sky in 2008 with the goal of working for Sky Sports. In 6 years this was achieved and he became sub editor.

After moving on to Sky Sports News as a football planner his intentions were clear and here was given the opportunity to trial his reporting skills. So on November 12th 2015 as I reached to change the channel I shed a tear, as all the lovely memories from 25 years ago returned.

There was my son in headphones with his name on the screen. As he finished his commentary, I heard those long awaited words, 'Michael Weightman Sky Sports '

DEATH OF THE VIDEO SHOP



It seems every corner shop had a small part of the shop dedicated to rental videos, even petrol stations found a place them. I can even remember someone used to drive around with a boot full of videos to rent to people on their doorstep, the demand was huge.

TV was four channels until Sky came along in the late 80s but it took a long time to become the force which it is today.

The first mainstream video rental shop to open in the Consett area was RITZ on Front Street with it's bright yellow shop front and giant red font writing, it stood out in the town. It was a small shop which made full use of it's space. I remember walking in as a child to see an endless wall of videos.

There were long waits for new releases (VHS videos took far longer for manufacturers to produce, and it wasn't always as easy as pressing a button and moments later a DVD would pop out).

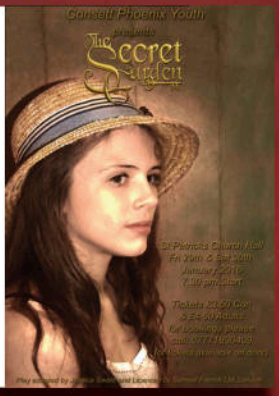
From the time when a movie came out at the cinema to it being available on video was close to a year, if not more. Videos were also out to rent before you could buy them. This was a problem for me, but it also had a positive effect on my viewing habits. If all the latest video releases were being rented by someone else, it meant you'd have to wait until someone would return one of the limited copies to your local video shop. This is where the lost art of finding an alternative video to rent would mean you would discover all kinds of great films and hidden gems.

The old term, "Never judge a book by its cover" is also true for videos, but I think you should also never judge a film by its trailer.

Consett Phoenix Youth production of The Secret Garden will now be taking place on the Friday 29th & Saturday 30th January.

7.30 pm. at St patricks Church Hall Tickets are £4.30 Adults £3.50 Children and Concessions.

You can book tickets via Facebook page or by contacting Brian on 07771890409



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CONSETT AFC FIXTURES



Sat 2nd	January - 3:00pm	Away - Newcastle Benfield
Tue 5th	January - 7:30pm	Home - South Shields DCCup
Sat 9th	January - 3:00pm	Home - Sunderland RCA
Tue 12th	January - 7:30pm	Away - Whitley Bay
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CARRYING DAVID





It's a rarity for a world boxing champion to star on stage playing himself almost three decades after his momentous achievement.



Yet Glenn McCrory is to do that in May next year when Carrying David will be premiered at the Alun Armstrong Theatre in Stanley, a matter of yards from the Louisa Centre where Glenn was crowned IBF world cruiserweight champion in June of 1989. It's a compelling story of brotherly love and a joint fight to beat the odds.

Adopted brother David wasn't expected to live beyond 14 years old because he was suffering from a muscle wasting disease while Glenn was an amateur boxer without any apparent future. However David fought valiantly against the odds and was 29 when he died which meant, wheelchair bound, he was ringside to see Glenn's arm raised in triumph.

Two brothers, one aim.
Achieved by both.
It's an enduring story of mental and physical courage, and one Glenn has been determined to bring to the stage. He made his theatre debut in the autumn starring in The Birds in London's West End and his director from that play, the award winning Adam Morley, is heading north to direct again. The script is beautifully written by well known Tyneside scribe Ed Waugh, author of 18 previous plays.

TICKETS for Carrying David which will run from Tuesday May 24 until Saturday May 28 cost £12 (concessions £10) and are available from the box office 01207 299110.

Any groups of 10 or more, such as boxing clubs, can purchase at £9 per ticket.



A STICK TOO FAR

It's no good. I'm just going to have to accept it. If I throw a stick for Ollie and Nina to fetch, the only way I can expect it to ever come back is if it's a boomerang. Ollie and Nina are just not the fetching type.



Ollie is far too hair-brained to concentrate long enough to follow the trajectory of a flying stick. Within a second of chasing it he'd be off following his nosey nose in pursuit of something rancid to roll in or something long dead to sneak a little nibble at. And then of course there's all that 'OLLIE WOZ HERE' peeing to be getting on with. I reckon there are still some places that Ollie hasn't 'OLLIED' yet; but not many. So, as far as a silly old stick is concerned, unless it happens to land in something horribly smelly or Ollie hasn't already 'OLLIED' it, that stick will be forever a stranger to Ollie.

Nina on the other hand would need to think very carefully about chasing a stick for a very long while (she's a very thoughtful little dog). Nina would need to consider the pros and cons involved in retrieving a stick. I mean, what kind of stick is this stick? Is it a cheese stick? Is it Chewy stick? Is it a stick of great importance… maybe it's a stick of dynamite that needs to be heroically salvaged from the pushchair of a sleeping babe? Hmm, if the answer to all of the above is NO, then Nina just not interested.

However, if I just happened to be throwing 'Butchers Finest Choice' pork sausages for Ollie and Nina to fetch, I might have a bit more luck. I guarantee those flying porkers would never hit the ground. But I doubt very much if Ollie or Nina would ever fetch them back.

READER BE WARNED: If you ever throw a stick for Ollie and Nina and you feel you'd definitely like that precious stick back, you better be prepared to fetch it yourself.

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bright red

Fighting blood cancer for a brighter future

Lee Robson, from Consett, County Durham passed away from leukaemia in 2013 after being diagnosed with the condition for a second time, aged 34 years old.

During his second round of treatment he helped set up Bright Red Patient Care Grants - one off financial awards given to blood cancer patients in most need of assistance.

In just the last few years, Bright Red has given out more than £20,000 to patients across the North East under the grant process with more applications being made every week, which is why we need to continue raising Funds for the Lee Robson Patient Grant.

Lee was first diagnosed with leukaemia in 2002 when he was just 23. In 2012 after he'd taken part in a charity bike ride he was diagnosed for a second time. Lee received a second bone marrow transplant, but sadly the disease could not be cured and Lee passed away a year later.

Bright Red aims to improve the lives of people in the North who are dealing with illnesses such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

We are holding a Lego Fun day which will be held at Consett & District YMCA, Parliament Street, Consett, County Durham, DH8 5DH on 30th January 2016 between 11am-3pm. We will be advertising all business support on the day of the event.

The aim of the day it to enjoy the love of Lego, promoting children's play, learning and creativity, as well as supporting Bright Red, Lee Robson Patient Grant. We have chosen to plan a family day, as my Brother loved his family and LEGO!

There will be free Juice and fruit for all children attending. The money raised will go to vulnerable adults diagnosed with Blood cancer within the North East.

The activities planned:
LEGO Fire Walk | Lego craft Corner | Lego photo props | Lego Tower of Hope | NERG (North East Retro Gaming) | Cake stall | Hot drinks/hot dogs etc | Raffle | Zorbing and other activities | Face painting (small charge) | Iron Man Mascots | Small Lego Exhibition | Lots of Lego for all to play with !

LEGO

ASK the VET

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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.

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

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