CONSETT MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2019

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Welcome

The new year is the perfect time to reflect on the last 12 months as well as look ahead and set goals for 2019!

We've found the most common resolutions for the coming year are to eat healthier, get more exercise and to save more money. And almost one third said that they wouldn't be bothering with any resolutions at all.

For some, the mere mention of new year's resolutions invokes moans and groans due to past failures. The biggest mistakes made when decided and settling on resolutions is having too many or making them too general and undefined.

Becoming more healthy or losing weight, are simply too broad - wouldn't it be better to break the resolution down to "lose X KG every month" or "Eat only one takeaway each month instead of twelve"? You see, it's all about clearly defining goals.

We've put together some help tips to make your resolution a success: firstly be honest with yourself; choose one goal that is SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based); track your progress and be accountable for your goals.

To inspire you, we asked our readers to share what they'd like to accomplish in 2019:

- Worry less, be more positive, and smile more
- Go to bed earlier, get up earlier and get more sleep.
- Pay off all debts and save more money
- Travel and meet new people
- Stop smoking and weekend binge-drinking

So what are Consett Magazine's New Year resolutions (because businesses need resolutions too)?

Here's what Consett Magazine aims to achieve in 2019:

- Provide readers with more local event listings
- Publish more video content on consettmagazine.com
- Tell more local business owners stories to help grow the local economy
- Assist more local people to get into writing, photography, or blogging

To get your advert, story, photo, or video published - email editor@consettmagazine.com or call 01207 438 292.
Warmest regards and all the best for 2019, Barry Kirkham Marco Elsy, and everyone who makes Consett Magazine possible.

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Keith Newman

The Front Cover

By Barry Kirkham
If you have a photograph you would like to share, then send it across and it could be your photo we use - send any photographs to:
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Advertise

Get your story, photograph, or adverts to us by the 15th January 2019!

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FROM THE GROVE TO QUEENSLAND

By Brian Harrison

A number of years ago I had the true privilege of meeting up with my grandfathers cousin Arthur Harrison while researching our family tree. He was a truly fantastic man with an amazing loving family. I had been searching for Arthur's branch for many years, eventually finding them a stones throw away in Tow Law. Arthur was the youngest son of George Jeffrey and Mary Louisa Harrison (nee Needham) and grew up in the Grove. There were 3 other son's, Edward, George and Kenneth.

I visited Arthur a number of times and was always made to feel like a true member of the family. I listened to his stories of his youth, the family and of the area with sheer pleasure. A true gentleman with a fantastic memory. But one thing he did say he regretted was that he had lost touch with his oldest brother Edward who had emigrated to Australia. So my wife an I took up the challenge to see what we could do. We wrote down everything he knew about Edward and his family and started our search. We worked constantly over the next few days and eventually found a niece on Edwards wife side of the family. I don't think she was 100% sure about us at first, but we eventually managed persuader her that we were family and explained the situation.

After a week and a half of research and many many emails we managed to get the contact details of Edwards daughter, Jennifer. Unfortunately, Edward had died in 2001 but both Jennifer and Arthur were able to connect. Within a few months Jennifer and her husband flew over to the UK to reunite with the family. It was a brilliant occasion and even as a distant family member I was there to see it all unfold.

It turned out that Edward had had an extremely interesting life. He was born in the Consett in 1916 the eldest boy of his generation of the family. His formative years were spent in and around Consett before the family moved to the Grove. When war broke out in 1939 he signed up to the RAF and soon found his feet, making sergeant by 1941. It was while in the forces that he met the love of his life Doris, who was also serving in the Royal Air Force as a WAAF. They were officially engaged in September of 1941, having the announcement written up in the local paper, married in early 1942 and their daughter Jennifer being born at the end of the same year.



1963 Promotion to Squadron Leader

ENGAGEMENT

HARRISON—POTTS—The engagement is announced between Sergeant Edward (R.A.F.), eldest son of Mr and Mrs Harrison, of Consett, to Doris (W.A.A.F.), youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Potts, of North Shields.

At the end of the war Edward decided to emigrate to Australia and joined the RAAF as a leading Aircraftsman. He went out to Australia ahead of Doris and Jennifer to get everything ready and to find his feet. A few months later they joined him, living off base. He was initially stationed in Laverton in Melbourne and then to Wagga, NSW. Edward was then stationed at Albert Park Barracks in Melbourne and was discharged on receipt of a Commission as an officer in the December of 1953. He was then stationed at Victoria Barracks for the next 10 years. On the 1st January 1963 Edward was then promoted to Squadron Leader just before being transferred to the Woomera Rocket Range in central Australia.

During this time Doris and Jennifer had moved around with him eventually finding a full time home in Box Hill in Melbourne. Jennifer took over the family home in 1963 and Doris joined Edward full time moving to Elizabeth, South Australia. On the 8th December 1967 Edward was sent to Vietnam having just been promoted to Wing Commander. He was stationed in Saigon for 12 months. A very worrying time for all the family. During his time there he was exposed to the chemical "Agent Orange", something which would lead to major health problems in later life. He was the most senior RAAF officer on the ground during that year.

On returning the couple were then sent to Richmond Air Base which they both really enjoyed. The Base had lots of entertainment and they also made lots of friends. They only made one more move after that when Edward was transferred to Amberley Air Base in Queensland where they remained until he retired as a Wing Commander on 28th July, 1972 aged 56. The couple then moved to the Gold Coast, Queensland and lived out their lives there together. Edwards exposure to "Agent Orange" caused cancer of the bone marrow and he passed away on the 7 June 2001 a month before his 85th birthday.

I feel so honoured to have been able to learn the story of both Arthur and Edward. Arthur sadly past away a few months after meeting Jennifer. I know meeting him is something I will for ever cherish even though it was such a short time I felt I had known him my whole life.



Early 1968 Saigon - Wing Commander Harrison with gun



EVENTS THIS JANUARY

Jan 5

Ruby & The Mystery Cats

Sat 21:00 · The Turf · Consett

We've over the moon to be back at The Turf. The joint was jumpin' last time from the first song til the last. We'll be playing a mix-up of rock & roll, rockabilly, jump jive rhythm& blues.

Jan 8

Storytime with Nicola

Tue 10:00 · Cafe at Inn on the Park Allensford Caravan Park · Consett

Storytime with Nicola, why not bring your little one along to enjoy a story and you can relax and enjoy a cuppa or why not enjoy a full English breakfast £4.95 kids breakfast £2.95 interested let us know. Free milk or juice for kids

Jan 13

Leadgate Residents Family Fun Day

Sun 12:00 · Watling Woods · Consett

Join Stomping Grounds to launch our new funded after school sessions at Watling Wood, Leadgate.

We will kick off by inviting all the family along to tidy up the woods, meet new faces and to share food around the fire. The session is open to all ages.Meet at Watling Wood stone where Phil and I will take you to our camp.We will collect firewood to make a fire and prepare a meal. We will explore the woods and discover the resources it can offer, as well as tidying up the area and making sure it's safe. If you're coming to our after school sessions, this is a great place for us to meet and for you to get a feel for forest school.

We will have a variety of activities available for you to enjoy such as woodland crafts, exploration, fire lighting, setting up a camp and using tools.

Our after school sessions will begin the following Tuesday at the woods, 5-7pm and is open to those 5-16 years of age living in the Leadgate area.

For more information about the family fun day, or the after school sessions, please get in touch with sophienichol@hotmail.com

Jan 19

Sensory Friendly Film

Sat 10:00 · Castleside Village Hall · Consett

Children with additional needs and their families are invited to join us for a special sensory screening of Hotel Transylvania 3. Feel free to sing, dance & play. Film will be shown with lights on and low sound. Tickets include popcorn and unlimited juice.

Jan 25

Burns Supper

Fri 18:30 · Bishop Ian Ramsey Church of England Primary School · Consett

Burns supper and games night, fantastic event last year so get your tickets soon, tickets £7 adults, £3 children, available from MVRA Committee Members, vegetarian/vegan haggis available on request.

Jan 26

Ghost Hunting in association with Spirit Seekers

26 Jan 2019–27 Jan 2019 · Consett & District YMCA · Consett

16+ ONLY, Paranormal Investigation - Consett YMCA, Non Hosted Coach
Basic Hostel Accommodation and refreshments provided.

Built in 1877 as an infirmary, operating theatre & mortuary. Created to deal with injuries or even deaths of workers from the Iron company. It was also built on the site of what was once a hanging ground for criminals & those accused of being witches. Perhaps this has helped to enhance the strange phenomena here such as muffled voices, ghostly mists & sightings of a male spirit that likes to move things.

We can be Sceptical and logical yet open to other beliefs and prayers of protection will be carried out. £60 per person

Non refundable deposit of £20 available with full payment due by 12th January @ 11.59pm strictly.

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IS PRINT ADVERTISING STILL EFFECTIVE IN 2019?



The Short answer is: Yes, absolutely!

Print advertising can be beautiful, and sometimes, much more effective and efficient than online ads or traditional TV advertising. Right, let's look at the when, how and why is print advertising still effective in 2019. We've listed 6 reasons below.

1. It's tactile and invigorates the senses: When you are thumbing through magazines, newspapers and other printed media, you can actually feel the quality of the paper on your fingertips, the smell of the paper stock in the air, and the finish of the paper reflecting subtly in the light, etc. When combined, these attributes touch your senses in one way or the other and most people tend to remember a print advert for much longer than other media;

2. Print gives credibility: Having your advert printed in a local or national magazine will give your company credibility compared to and advert on an unknown website, where anyone with £100 will be able to advertise. Ask yourself: if you saw an advert for a company in The Times, and an advert for another similar company on a random website, which company are you likely to trust? We're pretty sure you would have picked the one with the advert in The Times;

3. Print advertising increases sales and gets a higher ROI: Advertising in local magazines gets your advert to reach targeted local audiences who are looking for products offered by local companies like yours. eg, a reputed local magazine with adverts for local businesses may result in higher sales than compared to an advert for the same product online (because you probably just wanted general information from that site and were not in the market to buy something);

4. Print ads are sometimes required by law: A lot of law agencies require announcements to be made in print publications, which results in mandatory publishing of ads in periodicals and newspapers. Non-compliance with such laws may result in heavy penalties for the company involved;

5. Less distraction, less competition: If you reserve a full page in a local magazine for a grand launch of your company's new product, there is not another business or advert in sight, meaning that the reader is only focused on your business. You can't deny how effective that would be for your business! Print adverts have less distraction and competition (fewer ads per page) resulting in your advert being seen more often;

6. Print lasts longer: Because print advert are tangible, they last longer. How is this beneficial? Remember your visits to the doctor or your dentist? What did you first look for when in the waiting room? Your answer would be 'magazines!!'. So, print ads will last you much longer than other forms of advertising in this context, continuing your product's advertising long after you had it published.



CHILDREN TAKE OVER COUNCIL SERVICES FOR A DAY

County Durham school pupils stepped into the shoes of council staff as part of an initiative that puts young people in decision-making positions.

The National Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge sees organisations across England opening their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles, allowing them to learn about the world of work whilst encouraging organisations and businesses to hear their views.

The event, organised by the County Durham Children and Families Partnership, saw young people from schools across the county take the reins in roles such as museum education officer, school library collections assistant and even Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.

The County Durham Children and Families Partnership, including representation from Durham County Council, the voluntary sector, police, health and schools/colleges, has a strategic responsibility for delivering better outcomes for children, young people and their families in County Durham.

Children visited the Durham Light Infantry collection in Spennymoor to try their hand at the different jobs undertaken by staff and volunteers there, including education officers, curators, exhibition designers and researchers, selecting displaying objects, giving archive tours and photographing donations.

A second takeover offered young people the opportunity to work in the council's Durham Learning Resources, which loans teaching resources such as books and artworks to schools. The children carried out warehouse tasks, prepared deliveries and selected resources to match schools' needs.

The challenge also saw the Young Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner take on the duties of Ron Hogg, the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), for a day.

Sixteen-year-old Ellen Terry was nominated earlier this year by fellow Police Cadets as the Young PCVC. At a meeting of the County Durham Partnership, she spoke on behalf of young people and also spent an hour with the Chief Constable.

LIVE AND LET DYE

The second week in January can have a flatness about it. Not only have all the festivities ended on 6th of the month and the decorations and lights are packed away for another year; but the days are still short, cold, dark and sometimes dismal.

So with all the New Year's resolutions on the go - folk squashing December's over indulgent bodies into spandex and trainers after taking out a gym subscription, Weight-watchers and Slimming World classes filling up fast, and everyone back to school and work; people think of ways of cheering themselves up.

Luckily the Pantomimes are usually still running so that's one way of beating the blues or if there is any cash left over there are plenty of sales about where one can grab a bargain. I recall one such January when my naturally red headed friend - who actually hated her own colour and dyed it a deep brown - decided that I needed brightening up and suggested I try a dye that would enhance my look.

We headed for Newcastle, traipsed around the Grainger Market and Northumberland Street but couldn't find what we were looking for. We headed to the top of Percy Street to the Handyside Arcade which was full of little quirky shops. I remember the Kard Bar always being busy as it was the fashion to fill your bedroom wall with posters. As



we mused around drinking in the atmosphere, we came across what we were looking for in a shop named Bazzarre. It sold among other things, afghan coats, woven cloth handbags, joss sticks and patchouli oil.

Among the hair products was my friends suggested choice, so I bought it there and then without hesitation, trusting her judgement implicitly. After a couple of milky coffees in Mark Toney's and a look down the Cloth Market we headed home to experiment, as it was our Saturday night out and we needed time to get ready.

Bearing in mind the closest I'd got to dyeing my hair was using Wella's 'Shaders' and Harmony's wash in wash out, this was a big step. Surprised to see the contents of my purchase was sludgy green and smelt like mulched grass clippings, my friend advised me that all was well and the results would be worth waiting for.

Wearing rubber gloves she mixed together the henna powder with water and plastered it onto my newly washed hair securing a plastic carrier bag around my head with an elastic band. I sat on a hard kitchen chair with an old towel draped round my shoulders catching the green slime as it ran down my forehead and into my eyes. As there was no indication on the packaging of how long to leave it on my friend suggested an hour would suffice saying she would go off and get bathed while the hair processing took place. Unable to read the pages in 'Cosmopolitan' as my eyes were watering, I day dreamed of shades of red.

As a child I remember being enamoured by a picture of Mary Magdalene's soft subtle tones I'd seen in a copy of Butler's 'Lives of the Saints', which just happened to be on my Auntie Rose's book shelf. But other than that I had never aspired to becoming a redhead!

When my scalp started to sting I shouted for assistance hoping the concoction hadn't had an adverse effect. When the plastic bag was removed my head resembled

a cow pat. After shampooing and rinsing it several times I returned from the bathroom with my head wrapped in a muddy towel.

It was not until my hair dried that the true colour was revealed. My friends response, 'Well, it's definitely taken' was an understatement.

My fine light brown locks had been transformed into a ball of burnt orange that showed no sign of fading.

As luck or misguided misfortune would have it I'd bought a black skirt with a matching red and black jumper for my night out.

When I turned up at 'The Trades' one of my bright spark mates commented on my appearance, pointing out to the whole club that I bore a distinct resemblance to Minnie then Minx!



Cameo
Family History

Discovering your family's story

The guide to researching your family history.

Catherine Meades BSc DipGen QG
Cameo Family History

Most people are curious about their family's story and TV programmes make researching family history look easy – type in a name and the answer is there, go to an archive and the archivist brings you the key documents with the page featuring your family marked. In practice, it's not that simple. Ancestors go missing all the time, creating "brick walls" on the road back in time.

The aim of this series is to lead you through the process of discovering your family's story in simple steps, with some tips and tricks to help you through, round or over those brick walls.

Part 1 – Getting Started

1. Write down everything you know – or think you know – about your relatives.
   - **a.** Dates – even approximate dates can help
   - **b.** Relationships
   - **c.** Locations
   - **d.** Occupations
2. Identify known facts about your family and also record hearsay which may or may not be true. Make it clear which is which!
3. Collect together any birth, marriage and death certificates and other family documents.
4. Draw a simple family tree using the information you have gathered.
   - **a.** See the Cameo Family History Facebook page for guidance on drawing family trees.
5. Talk to your relatives and family friends about what you have gathered – they may be able to add to the information or correct some of the details.

Next month: vital records: birth, marriage and death certificates.

Tel: 07855 556 384
Email: info@cameofamilyhistory.com
Facebook: @cameofh





Places to Go: Leeds Castle

The phone rang in the office of a coach operator in the Midlands. "Hello", said the driver of the day excursion with a full load of passengers for Leeds Castle. "I've got to Leeds. Now, where's the Castle?"

Leeds is a regular day visit away from the north east with TransPennine Express, but Leeds Castle is adjacent to the village of Leeds in the middle of Kent. To get there, you'll need to travel beyond London and on to the South Eastern (SE) service to Bearsted near Maidstone, from where a local company, Spot Travel, offers a minibus transfer to the Castle. I took my parents, both 87, there in late September. They very rarely travel by train. We met up at Bromley South about 1030, and Mum and Dad were impressed with one of the newer trains on SouthEastern, and found the lifts to change platforms at Bearsted very convenient. The minibus (a taxi) met our arrival, and we were the only passengers. Although we had to pay £10 each way for the minibus, I had used my Annual Gold Card to get 1/3 off my own and their fares (they don't have Senior Railcards of their own), and Leeds Castle offers 2 for 1 admission for visitors coming by rail.

Elsewhere, leaflets containing vouchers for the 2 for 1 offers are often available, but to save paper SouthEastern expects customers to download internet vouchers in advance, which I had not.

So, on arrival at Leeds, I had to find a mobile phone signal (round the back of Costa Coffee was recommended) strong enough to find the SE website and get the necessary voucher code for the ticket office. I achieved this after 15 frustrating minutes - I should have done this from home beforehand - but it did have the benefit of saving one senior admission price at £22.50 so was worth the effort.

Admission allows repeat visits for the year. A ride on the land train had us from the entrance to the Castle in a few minutes, once promoted as the "loveliest Castle in the world", which is arguable but its position is indeed stunning. It has been open to the public since 1976, but a castle has been on the site since 1086. In the 13th century it came into the hands of King Edward I, for whom it became a favourite residence; in the 16th century, Henry VIII used it as a dwelling for his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. The castle today dates mostly from the 19th century and is built on islands in a lake formed by the River Len to the east of the village of Leeds. An independent charitable Trust administers the Castle since its last owner, Lady Baillie, died in 1974, since she had no heirs and did not want the Castle to be transferred to the National Trust.

There are other attractions such as a falconry display and an immersive experience "Battle for the Skies" which my father especially enjoyed since he witnessed the Battle of Britain first hand as a nine year old.. The Castle is open for the winter 10-5 from now until March, closed only on Christmas Day.

There's a Dog Collar Museum, and plenty of play equipment for children. We kept the Castle itself until last and the minibus was waiting for the return trip to Bearsted station. I was a first time visitor, but it was a prime example of how a discounted rail fare and the 2 for 1 admission makes a trip by train an attractive option for a memorable day out.

Alex Nelson
nationalrail.com


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ASK The VET

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

By Christina Groves
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET AFTER BREXIT

As things stand, without confirmation of a BREXIT deal (or no deal), veterinary surgeons in the UK are advising clients that we must prepare for a no deal BREXIT which could leave the UK as a unlisted third country and will affect owners wanting to travel abroad with their pets.

If you wish to travel to Europe after March 29th 2019, at present the advice is that your dog or cat will need a microchip, passport and Rabies vaccination as they presently do. However, they will then need a blood test a minimum of 30 days after their Rabies vaccination to check the level of Rabies antibodies in their blood. If this antibody level is acceptable, you will then have to wait three months before travelling with your pet.

If the level is not acceptable, a repeat Rabies vaccination will be required, followed by another blood test which, if antibody levels are acceptable, will then be followed by a three month wait before travelling is permitted. Additional documentation may also be required prior to travel. If you are hoping to travel to Europe with your pet on, or soon after, March 29th, please speak to your veterinary surgeon as soon as possible so they can give you the most up to date information.

http://princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice/

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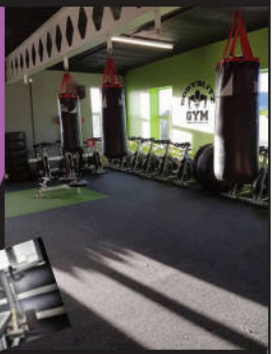
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BODYBLITZ GYM

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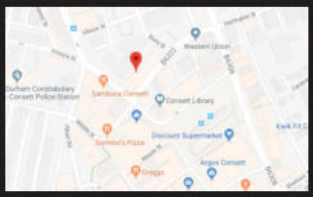
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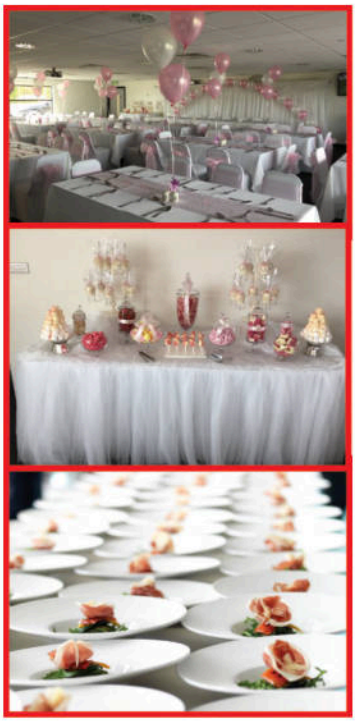
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