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Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 11/ June 2013



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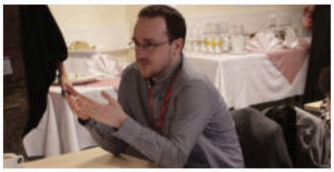
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Welcome

To issue 11 of the **Consett Magazine!**



People of Consett, the Summer months have officially begun; if our calendars are anything to go by. If you were able to see anything through the mist, rain, sleet and snow (!) of May, then you might also be aware of that fact.

Much like the changing of seasons, Consett Magazine has undergone a few more design transitions since it's last issue. As head editor, one of my main goals is to keep the magazine looking fresh; a sentiment that echoes throughout the whole team down here at the offices.

In addition to the physical portion of Consett Magazine, I would like to make more people aware that we have a bucket load of exclusive web content available to read at all times at consettmagazine.com (and while you're there, why not pop over to our Facebook page too?). The story submissions and subjects we wish to cover are beginning to overwhelm our magazine and we simply can't squeeze everything into every issue!

Thanks for reading and I hope you enjoy issue 11 of Consett Magazine.

Ivan J. Laidler,
Editor-in-chief

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by Chris Brown

COMMUNITY FAMILY FUN DAY

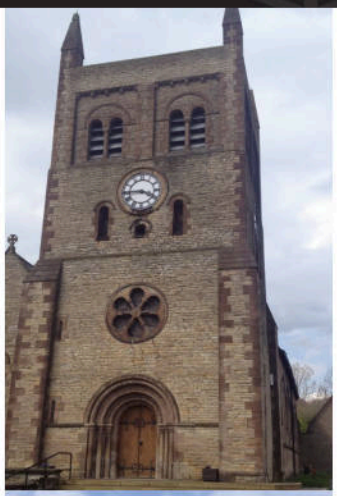
On the 29th of June at Consett and Blackhill Park, all of the churches in Consett are getting together to host their second annual Community Family Fun Day. After the success of last year's Olympic themed event was a big hit with families from all across the Derwentside area who fancied a good day out without spending too much cash. As times are hard for many people in our area, Churches Together In Consett are organising a day of fun activities and music at absolutely no cost. This year's day in the park is looking like it will be even better than last year.

At the bandstand in the centre of the park there will be a number of groups performing over the day showing off their skills and getting everyone in the mood. Alongside the legendary Consett Salvation Army band there will be performances from the Jane Robson School of Dance and also a samba band. Alongside all of this splendid entertainment there will also be a puppet show for all of the children to enjoy. To supplement this quality entertainment the Churches Together In Consett group have also arranged for a number of free activities for everyone to enjoy.

The emergency services will be at the Family Fun Day letting children see their emergency vehicles and equipment giving the children a taste of what they do on a daily basis to try to keep us safe. If sports are more your thing then there will be a number of sporting activities to get involved with. Football, rugby and family games will be going on throughout the day for everyone. No doubt this will be a day of fun for the whole family.

Throughout the year all of the Churches in the Consett area have been involved in their own separate fund raising missions to ensure that this day could be an excellent day for the public without costing money. As times are hard, finding free and fun activities isn't an easy task.

Get yourself down to Blackhill Park and have a good family day out without breaking the bank.







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CREATIVE CENTRE ON THE WAY

by Chris Brown

One of the biggest challenges standing in the way of many creative dreams is the lack of suitable and affordable workspace for dedicated artistic pursuits. Working from home is the perfect solution for some artists but many find they need a dedicated space without the distractions of the household. Studio space is hard to come by in Consett but that will soon change with the arrival of the Durham Creative Centre in Blackhill. The building, which is situated just off Park Road, is currently being prepared to open its doors to the creative types of Derwentside.

The original idea, proposed by Liz Lowery, has been adopted by a number of dedicated artists who are working on renovating the facilities for free, taking it upon themselves to provide a helping hand. Once all of the building and renovation work is complete there will be a number of different workshops available for use for any sort of artistic endeavour. With access to craft, art and music studio space, Durham Creative Centre is looking to cater for all who are interested in getting involved with the ambitious project.

The artistic people in our area all have their own methods of expressing their creativity and the Durham Creative Centre will be the perfect forum to bring all of these people together into one cooperative arts community. Speaking with Michael Coyle of Mutant Designs who has been involved with the project so far, he said "I think at the moment everyone is by themselves doing their own thing but if there was a place for everyone to get together to do their work it would work as a local arts forum." There are also plans to add a teaching to the long list of things going on at the centre to allow people to learn new skills in a relaxed and creative atmosphere.

With all of the opportunities available to the budding artist, Durham Creative Centre could be one of the most exciting developments Consett has ever seen.

If you would like to find out more about Durham Creative Centre why not contact them via their Facebook page which can be found at

facebook.com/ durhamcreativecentre

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TRAIN OF THOUGHT

DURHAM creatives

by Chris Brown

Two of the most important tools we have as human beings are communication and co-operation. These things alone have contributed more to the development of our culture and society than anything else yet still creative people across the region are working alone on projects in isolation when experience and ideas are sitting there waiting to be shared between the community. On the 9th of June a number of local artists will be meeting at The Engine Room at the Station Cafe at Tanfield Railway before boarding a steam train to Causey Arch. This is a unique and different approach to getting local artists together to discuss their ideas, projects and plans for the future. Constructed back in 1725, this historic railway route is filled with inspiration from years gone by.

The Steelworks Project Space is behind the event and is looking to create a place for local artists to get to know one another and become more of a community. "We know there are lots of artists in the area but we can't find each other! If we could, there's so much we could be doing in the way of sharing resources and skills" says Bryony Purvis, one of the founding members. The original idea was inspired by the work of Gateshead art group Rednile who have been seen as innovators in new and exciting ways of getting artists to work together.

The Steelworks Project Space is currently being supported by the Durham Creatives project which aims to help support the development of creative businesses across Durham County. Working together has advantages that need to be exploited by our local artists to develop and grow into something much bigger than the sum of its parts.

If you would like to get involved with this innovative project, contact: info@steelworksprojectspace.org

> "THE STEELWORKS PROJECT SPACE IS BEHIND THE EVENT AND IS LOOKING TO CREATE A PLACE FOR LOCAL ARTISTS TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND BECOME MORE OF A COMMUNITY."

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by Chris Brown

SHIPS AHOY

One of the most prestigious races in the sailing calendar is the annual Tall Ships race. This unique race involving large sailing boats heads across some of Europe's most hostile waters in an event that allows young people from around the world to take part in something that will test them while learning a new skill.

The boats are captained and crewed by a core of experienced sailors, young people aged 15-25 have the opportunity to man the boats as trainees for these epic races. The regulations of the race specify that at least 50% of the crew must be made up of young trainees. This gives the select few young people a chance to do something that is both challenging and rewarding.

Consett resident and ship trainee Emily Elsy is one of the young people who will be participating in the race as a crew member of the Black Diamond of Durham, which is based at Hartlepool Marina. Taking part in the second race of the series Emily will be travelling from Riga in Latvia to Szczecin in Poland from the 27th of July until the 5th of August then bringing the boat home back to the North East to berth in it's Hartlepool home.

A number of local institutions and businesses have been instrumental to helping Emily take part in this epic challenge. Firefly New Media, North Durham Academy, Harelaw Sawmill, trade suppliers Firstfix Systems, maths tutor Dr Sharry Brogan and of course numerous family members and friends have all donated to make sure Emily could take part in this challenging race across the Baltic Sea.

When asked about the support she has received from her various donors and sponsors Emily said, "I would like to thank everyone for their donations without which this adventure would still be a dream."



Everyone at Consett Magazine would like to wish Emily good luck on her voyage across the Baltic Sea.

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DERWENTSIDE CENTRE FOR WELLBEING

by Chris Brown

It's important to keep healthy throughout your life. Not only should you be caring for your physical health but your mental and spiritual wellbeing also. By using the principals of holistic healing and reiki it is possible to live a well rounded lifestyle which helps your body to be in the best shape possible. The Derwentside Centre for Wellbeing is championing these different alternative therapies in Consett from their base at Citizens House. Let's take a look at how holistic healing and reiki could benefit your health.

Holistic healing is a process that involves the transfer of natural energy from a healer to the patient as a means of natural healing. Rather than using medication or painful processes, holistic healing works by relaxing the body. This can help relieve tension whilst also strengthening your immune system in a completely non-invasive way. This is a great supplement to your doctor's suggested course of action and can help in giving you some extra relief.

Another method of alternative healing which can be performed at the Derwentside Centre for Wellbeing is the specialist practice of using reiki. Reiki is a Japanese word with the literal translation of "Universal Life Force" and focuses on the flow ones personal energy to our natural healing systems to work to their full potential.

All of this stemmed from the work of Japanese Dr Mikao Usui who pioneered this unique way of life. Reiki practitioners channel this natural energy and help the patient to best use it for their needs. This is another alternative therapy and isn't a replacement for traditional medicine but a process that should be used alongside it for best results.

If you are interested in holistic healing or the use of reiki head over to http://www.citizenshouseconsett.org.uk/events-activities/derwentside-centre-for-wellbeing to find out more.

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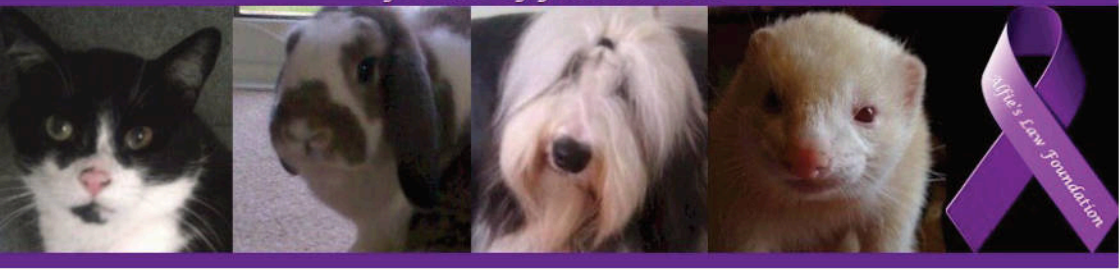
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ALFIE'S LAW: 5 MONTHS ON

by Ivan Laidler

Animal cruelty is a horrific crime which happens far too often across the UK. Recent figures released from the RSPCA have shown that Country Durham in particular is somewhat of a hot spot for animal crimes against animals. This is a shocking statistic which really shines a negative light across our county as a whole. Since its inception, the Alfie's Law group has been trying to raise awareness of some of the horrific atrocities which are committed against animals whilst campaigning for fairer and tougher sentencing of people guilty of animal crimes.

Alfie's Law has been going from strength to strength in recent times and as of the 1st of May have became the Alfie's Law Foundation as a charity designed to help all pets in need across the county. The foundation of the charity's rise can be attributed to their tireless work to try and help stop animal abuse once and for all. Their work has been noticed as their new website has won 2 awards since the charity launched at the start of May.

As animal owners we have a responsibility to look after and care for our pets in the best way possible. It's shocking to think that household pets can be abused in such savage ways by their owners. No animal deserves to be a victim of cruelty and the Alfie's Law Foundation are trying to put an end to animal cruelty. If you would like to show your support for the Alfie's Law Foundation why not head over to their website at pawsforthought-alfieslaw.co.uk to find out more about the campaign.

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June is the start of summer and an opportunity to relax and enjoy your garden. Lawns lush and green and beds and borders full of colour.

The possibility of dry spells are increasing so a mulch around shrubs and spiking your lawn will ensure that as much as possible of the rain that falls, stays where it will do the most good.

As with hanging baskets, summer bedding, once planted, should be watered regularly to ensure it doesn't dry out. Continue to deadhead flowering bulbs as flowers fade but leave the foliage to die back naturally to ensure a good show next year.

Mature deciduous shrubs such as deutzia, philadelphus and weigela should be pruned into shape as their flowers fade. First remove any dead, diseased or damaged growth and then remove a number of older stems at the base to encourage strong new growth.

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CROOKHALL AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

by Brian Harrison

During the reign of Elizabeth I, the country saw a new rise in Protestantism that was imposed upon the entire Kingdom. A large number of staunch Catholics fled the country for their own religious freedoms and amongst them were many learned individuals. They entered the then newly formed University of Douai, France and became very influential, even becoming known as English Secular College. With their religious persecution behind them, the University flourished over the next 200 years keeping to both the Catholic teachings and also more in depth studies leading to the priesthood. Unfortunately a new threat dawned with the uprising of the French people and the start of the French Revolution. The College was seized by the army of the French Republic in 1793.

Many of the students and professors fled back to England, although some were captured and imprisoned along with many other English nationals until their release in 1795. After arriving back in England they took shelter first at the Mission House Pontop before finally moving on to Crook Hall in October 1794, which became a temporary home to the College. One of the first to arrive was John Lingard who went on to publish History of England. Initially he meant to emphasise the disastrous effects that the Reformation had had on the country, but with his unbiased approach become an important piece of writing which is still used and referred to today. Although the college was only based at Crookhall for 15 years, more than 25 priests were ordained. The college became a victim of its own success and soon there was no longer room for its needs. On 19 July 1808 the college was removed to new buildings at Ushaw. A farm house now occupies the spot where the Crook Hall once stood but its legacy lives on in the mining village that bears its name.



Consett & District Heritage Initiative, along with a number of other local groups, will be holding an Exhibition of local interest on Wed 15th - Sat 18th May at St Patrick's Church Hall, Consett. Opening times will be 12pm - 4.30pm Wed & Thurs and 10.30 am - 4.30pm Fri & Sat. Entry is free to all. So why not pop along and have a look and a good chat.

All enquiries please call: 01207 438292

WATCHING TIME GO BY

by Rod Hicken





A few years ago I bought a lovely silver embossed pocket watch made in 1896 by Dobson Gradon Blackhill. Little did I know that it was going to lead me to try and find out more information about this gentleman.

He had several shops in the local area with one at Derwent Street in Blackhill, one at Shakespeare Street in Consett and one more down in Blackhall Mill. Through some research I managed to find out that he lived on Queens Road and that he and his whole family can be found in their resting place at Blackhill Cemetery. He and his son worked together at their various shops only to lose his son in the Great War of 1914-18. Dobson himself later died in 1950 at the old age of 85.

I have managed to find a number of newspaper advertisements promoting his shops and couldn't help but wonder where exactly his Blackhill shop was on Derwent Street. A few pictures showing a large clock hanging outside of a shop. This could well be the place where my watch was made by Dobson all of those years ago.

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE ANY OF HIS SHOPS WERE? MAYBE YOU COULD HELP SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS MYSTERY. SEND US AN EMAIL TO EDITOR@CONSETTMAGAZINE.COM

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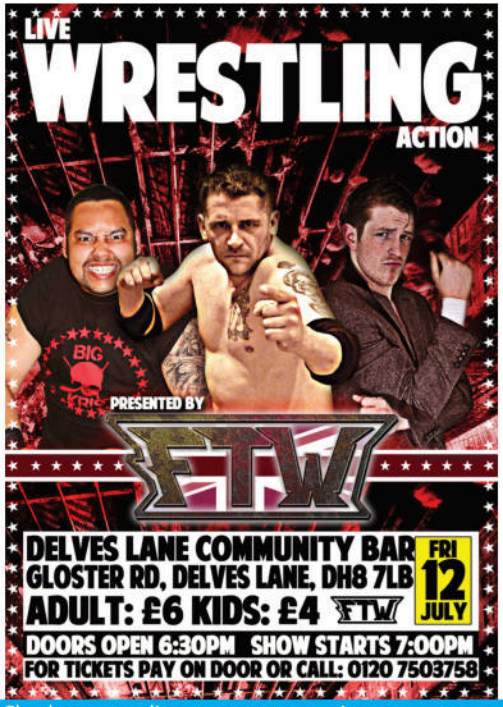
by Ivan Laidler

The world of wrestling is loved the world over by millions of fans who are captivated by the action, the suspense and the sheer excitement of an epic brawl between two skilled participants. Most people know of the WWE and the large American organisations which dominate the international wrestling scene but much closer to home there are dedicated professionals who want nothing more than to entertain a crowd with high impact thrills. The Full Tilt Wrestling Company has been around for 2 years now bringing their brand of sports entertainment to venues all across the North East.

Based in Elswick, Full Tilt Wrestling has an aim to provide the most professional, high quality wrestling in our region at affordable prices that everyone can enjoy. On the 12th of July at the Delves Lane Community Bar Full Tilt Wrestling will be putting on a hometown show for local star "The Knockout" Mickey Finn using their unique six sided ring to showcase the carnage. There will be something for all wrestling fans with high flyers jumping off the ropes, technical specialists showing off their skills on the mat and the infamous Full Tilt match were victory is sealed with a hardcore knockout rather than the traditional pin or submission.

Alongside performing their professional shows, Full Tilt Wrestling also run an academy where anyone who is interested in getting into the ring can learn the important fundamental skills to get going in the ring. By using a grading system similar to martial arts like Karate, trainees can be taught the correct skills for their ability allowing them to progress in the best way possible. To begin with a large amount of training is focused mainly on improving conditioning. In professional wrestling learning to take a hit is just as important as being able to give them out. If you are interested in getting involved with the Full Tilt Wrestling Academy don't hesitate to call the club owner Chris Davis on 07411374933 to find out more information.

Mickey Finn and the rest of the Full Tilt Wrestling Company will be at the Delves Lane Community Bar on the 12th of July for an action packed night of professional wrestling. Make sure you don't miss out.





Les Miserables Comes to Town

by Chris Brown



With the recent success of Les Miserables at the box office this year it's no surprise that the play the film is based off has became popular with a number of independent theatre groups. The most ambitious of the productions has to be from the Act On Theatre Group based at the YMCA in Consett. This youth theatre group, ran by 21 year old Jenn Rogan, is looking to go one step further and give this classic musical all of the justice it deserves. After well received performances of Sweeney Todd and Westside Story, Les Miserables will be an outstanding performance from this young and talented cast.

Aged 12 and above, Act On have dedicated their Monday and Friday nights to making sure the performance goes as smoothly as possible. Although many of the people involved in the production are young, the professionalism shown by these young people is second to none. Les Miserables is certainly not an easy choice of production but the senior members of the group all do their part to help teach the younger members about the important techniques that will prepare them for the stage for years to come. Anyone who is familiar with Les Miserables will know it is a play that contains some dark themes throughout the production. Unemployment, single parenthood, violence, prostitution and alcoholism are all integral to the tale that has the ability to be picked up and moved to any time or setting yet still have the original intended message left intact. It takes a level of understanding and empathy to be able to translate these themes to the audience, which the group delivers in huge amounts. To take something so dark and mature as seriously as they do is a credit to the group themselves. Director and producer Jenn Rogan when asked about the production said "it's an honour to direct such an iconic musical and work with such a talented and professional cast".

Act On will be performing in Les Miserables School Edition at Consett Empire Theatre July 9-13th 7pm evening shows Saturday Matinee 2pm. Tickets are £7/£5 Concessions and available from Consett Empire Theatre Box Office 01207 218171.

THE CLUB THAT ROCKS!

The Club That Rocks is Consett's very own rock club and live venue for bands and emerging artists. Next month we will bring you a full feature on this new club and how it is creating jobs and making noise in the local music scene.



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by Chris Brown

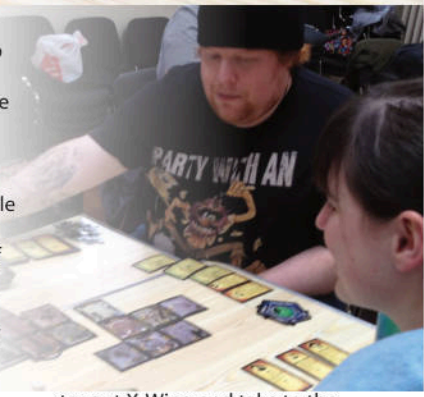
ALL IS FAIR IN DICE AND BOARDS

Have you ever wanted to play the role of an evil old world God? Have you ever felt like leading an army into battle or even running the German power grid?



Surprisingly, you can do all of this right here in Consett with the help of the Tabletop Games Society based in Citizens House on Station Road. Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the month between 1pm and 6pm, this charismatic group are always looking for new members and new games to get involved in.

The range of games the group regularly play cover such a wide variety of different settings, styles and methods of play to suit everyone from the experienced tabletop gamer to the complete novice looking for something different to do with their Sundays. If you are into the world of fantasy gaming there are a number of games to get you in the mood. There are more obscure tabletop games to go alongside classic series such as Warhammer, where opponents use skilfully painted models then battle in a number of scenarios. From dwarves and goblins to creatures that resemble the works of H.P Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos, the creativity of the players involved helps bring this world of fantasy to life. Alongside the traditional fantasy gaming, the Tabletop Games Society also enjoys the more bizarre end of the board game spectrum. Ever fancied being a German energy tycoon trying to make the most money out of the coal, oil and uranium on the market? Power Grid is surprisingly addictive and totally ruthless as you buy up resources to push the prices of the available commodities up for the other players. This surprisingly life like game of economies is a real hit with the guys and girls at Citizens House. If being an energy tycoon isn't your thing, why not try out X-Wing and take to the skies in the classic battle between the Rebels and the Dark Side in the Star Wars universe.



If you are looking to get into the world of tabletop gaming don't worry about being inexperienced. The veteran gamers who make up the society are always happy to sit down and help you get started.

The next meeting of the Tabletop Games Society is the 9th of June at Citizens House between 1:00pm until 6:00pm. More info can be found on their Facebook page;
https://www.facebook.com/groups/253495671419621/?fref=ts

THE GOLD BAR

The Gold Bar is back in the Derwent Centre, Consett.

We buy gold and silver in any condition, whether it be broken or unwanted.

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by Ivan Laidler

In today's society video gaming is one of the most profitable media industries around the globe. From humble beginnings where only a select few knew about the pleasure of the video game now people across the world dedicate their lives to playing games professionally. Things have changed since the early days of gaming but very few people know about the history that made modern gaming possible.

On Saturday the 29th and Sunday the 30th of June Gateshead Stadium will be playing host to the first North East Retro Gaming festival. Organised by Leadgate resident and classic game enthusiast Philip Murphy, the event is bringing together one of the biggest selections of classic consoles, arcade machines and also a whole host of pinball machines. With over 150 different machines for you to try your hand at NERG will be able to give you an idea of how games have progressed over the years.

One of the main attractions of the event has got to be the Matrix pinball machine. This is a one of a kind item hand crafted in Holland and then carefully shipped over for its first visit to the UK. You will have the chance to be one of the first people outside of Holland to play this elusive machine. Alongside this amazing machine, there will be lots of older and more obscure consoles available for you to get stuck into.

Alongside the classics from Sega and Nintendo, there will be consoles which were never officially released in the UK. One of the more interesting pieces which will be at the event is the Panasonic Q. This console is actually a Nintendo Gamecube manufactured by Panasonic and modified to also play DVDs. Being able to see and play these pieces of gaming history is an amazing treat for all you techies.

With all the machines set to free play all you will need is a ticket to get involved and get stuck in with all of the retro gaming goodness.

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BREAKBEAT HEARTBEAT

by Chris Brown

When you ask people about their fondest video game memories, a number of different consoles come into mind but I for one will always look back on the Nintendo Gameboy as my favourite. This handheld classic has helped many a person on a long journey kill some time with Mario and friends but did you ever see your Gameboy as a musical instrument? Breakbeat Heartbeat is one of a growing number of musical artists using the themes and sounds from the 8bit era to make his own songs.

At only 22 years old, the musician, based in Chopwell, has self produced and released over 11 different albums so far and shows no sign of stopping. His success has not only been limited to the UK with avid listeners and fans coming from Norway, Japan and all around the world. Not just sticking with one particular style, BBHB has tried to use all of the different musical styles that influence him to create a wide and varied back catalogue ranging from hardcore dance to acoustic ballads. His latest release Delta takes you down a different musical route with expertly crafted chill out moods.



The title track from Delta is a perfect example of what BBHB set out to achieve with this album. The nostalgic square wave melodies combined with a deep bass line and chopped up drum loops really help this sound stand out by keeping it relaxed but adding subtle complexities to the mix, which can sometimes be missing from relaxing electronic music. The track "Butterfly" even has somewhat of a liquid dubstep vibe about it with the simple kick and snare drum pattern helping the colourful melodies bounce over the solid rhythm track in perfect harmony. Overall this new foray into the world of Nintendo inspired ambient electronic is definitely a solid one.

In a world where the chart hits all sound like the same song with a different vocalist it is refreshing to see a young artist making the music that he wants to. I recommend you have a look for Breakbeat Heartbeat online where you can download his entire back catalogue for free! It doesn't really get much better than that!

> "HIS SUCCESS HAS NOT ONLY BEEN LIMITED TO THE UK WITH AVID LISTENERS AND FANS COMING FROM NORWAY, JAPAN AND ALL AROUND THE WORLD"

Find Breakbeat Heartbeat on his Facebook at www.facebook.com/BreakbeatHeartbeat and listen to more of his music online.

MITCH LADDIE

"A protege of American guitar hero Walter Trout, at 22 Mitch has toured Europe twice, he has two highly acclaimed albums (one of which won Blues & Soul Magazine "Blues Album of 2012"), and is known for a precocious and electric virtuosity. A darling of the UK blues underground, famous faces like Robben Ford have invited Mitch to sound checks and to hang out, as the torch passes to the new generation of blues heroes. Mitch is leading the charge in the UK and Europe.

For the third consecutive year, a maturing Mitch Laddie is nominated for Best Young Artist at the British Blues award. You can vote for him at http://britishbluesawards.com/. "





THE LAST LEAGUE GAME AT BELLE VUE

by Chris Brown

On Monday the 13th of May Consett AFC played their ever last league game at Belle Vue Park against Newcastle Benfield. Due to a floodlight failure, this match was originally abandoned and ended up being rescheduled as the season finale for Consett. Fans of both sides congregated on the terraces with hot cups of tea and coffee and the cold day turned into an even colder evening waiting for the 7:00pm kick off. Even in it's dying days, Belle Vue Park looked immaculate, a credit to Consett AFC and everyone involved from the bottom up.

At 7pm prompt, the match kicked off with a high energy start from both sides. No side looked like the weaker team in the opening stages as Consett and Newcastle Benfield went out fighting for the final 3 points of the season. With Consett currently 8th in the Northern League 1 and Newcastle Benfield down in 21st, the pressure was on Consett to get the result they expected whilst Benfield were fighting for survival. Things were tense but in the 37th minute Benfield broke the deadlock with ex-Consett AFC player Gary Ormston fired home for the away team putting the ball past Consett goal keeper Peter Jameson.

Only 3 minutes after conceding the first goal Consett went down even further as player manager Steve Bowey caught a rebound and put it into the Consett net. Coming to the end of the half Consett had some work to do to get back into this important and significant game. In stoppage time in the first half striker Aris Guerin-Lokonga sprung the offside trap before squaring a ball to Michael Mackay for him to score his 35th goal of the season. The sides went in at the half at 2-1 but it really was anyone's game. The second half didn't quite live up to the pretence set in the first but both teams tried hard to get the result. The final score ended 2-1 to Newcastle Benfield but both teams put in an absolute shift on this cold and windy night in Consett.

We'd like to wish Consett AFC all of the best with next season.

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SHOTLEY BRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

HITTING IT FOR SIX

by Chris Brown



> "WITH AROUND 350 MEMBERS, SHOTLEY BRIDGE CRICKET CLUB CHAMPIONS ITSELF AS A COMMUNITY CLUB THAT DOES A LOT MORE THAN JUST PLAY SPORT"

One hundred and thirty five years is a long time for any organisation to be in operation let alone a local sports team. Shotley Bridge Cricket Club was amazingly founded back in 1888 and has been playing the quintessentially British game ever since. Shotley Bridge Cricket Club has always been a cornerstone of sport in our local area. Over the years the club has produced a number of players who came up through the junior ranks. International cricket star Paul Collingwood crafted his skills under the expert tutoring of the club staff and is now one of the biggest names in English cricket.

With around 350 members, Shotley Bridge Cricket Club champions itself as a community club that does a lot more than just play sport. Charity fund raising is one thing the club takes a huge amount of responsibility for hosting charity events throughout the year in their marquee. Raising funds for a number of notable charities, the club has recently been raising money for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation to help provide the proper support and facilities for young people in the North East suffering from the horrors of cancer.

Another innovative campaign the club has started is known as Cricket Against Leukaemia. They asked all of the eligible men in the league to take a test to see if they were a suitable match to be a bone marrow donor. Only 1 in every 2000 people have the required qualities to be a perfect donor but out of the 129 people who joined in the club's initiative, 2 young men found out they were compatible donors. At the centre of every sports team there needs to be a noble core of players who care about their club. Shotley Bridge Cricket Club has this in abundance. With so much going on off the field as well as on it, the club are always moving forward.

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