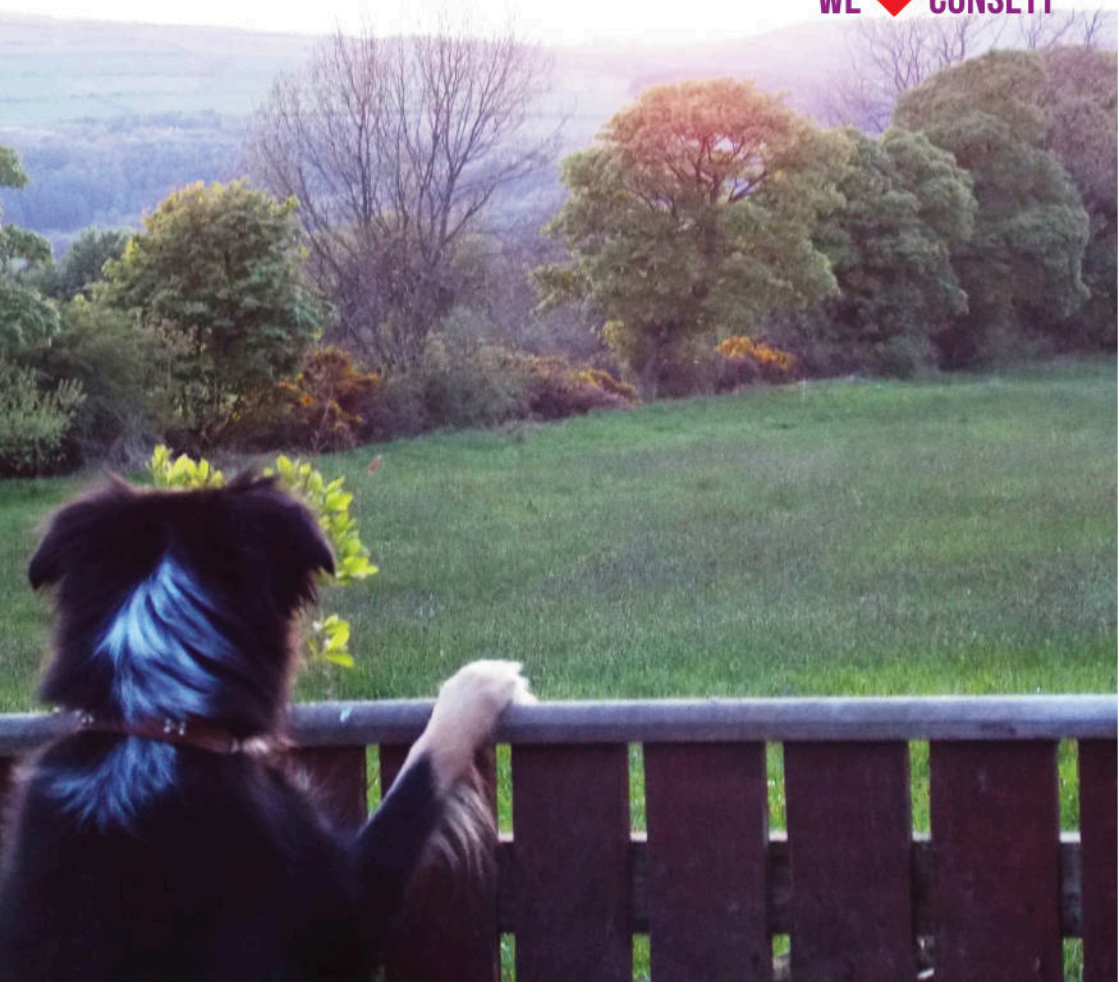
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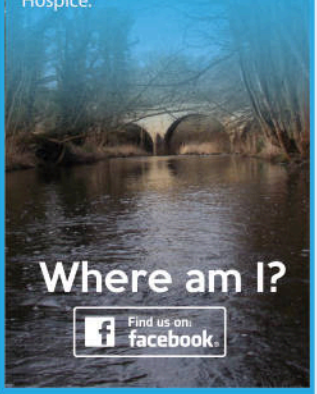
Welcome

Dear Consett Magazine Readers,

Unbelievably we are halfway through 2016 already!

How fast has 2016 went for you?

In this month's edition, our resident Consett historian Brian Harrison is searching for his Great Grandfather, Thomas Dowson. Lorraine Weightman reminisces back to when she was eighteen and had just discovered Botto's Nightclub. Lisa Guthrie is voted Sun FM's most stylish blogger. June sees the grand opening in Beamish of two new shops, W.Smith's Chemist and the JR & Edis Photographic Studio. And Watson & Jackson launch their pop up coffee shop on the 2nd June in aid of Willow Burn Hospice.



Did you know that Consett Magazine has a bit of a motto we go by, we try not to report on anything negative (we leave that up to the local newspapers) but instead we focus on positivity in the Consett community. Our motto is "To inspire, educate, inform, and entertain", so please take a moment to let us know about all the great things you and everyone in the community is up to, we want to hear from you!

Share your events, stories or photographs with Consett Magazine, please go ahead and drop us an email to **editor@consettmagazine.com**. And if you have a local business we can help you advertise to 10,000+ people. Call us today on **01207 438 292.**

Warmest regards, have an amazing June from everyone here at Consett Magazine

PS Mention Consett Magazine while contacting any of our advertisers, we appreciate their continued support of the magazine, we couldn't provide you with this free monthly magazine without their support and contribution. Please enjoy your local Consett Magazine and pass it onto a friend when you are done.

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Tallman Brad
Malcolm Clarke (Online)
Jim Callan
Helen Cook
Dr Jacqui Molyneux
Tim Camsell
Lisa Guthrie

The Front Cover

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: **editor@consettmagazine.com**

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IN SEARCH OF MY GREAT GRANDFATHER



As I am sure many of the readers are aware as part of the CDHI my wife and I help people with their family research. Either helping people to start or helping with those brick walls that sometimes block further research. My own personal brick wall came in the search for my maternal Great Grandfather, Thomas Dowson.

The only information I had for Thomas came from his marriage certificate. He married my great grandmother Nellie in 1916, his fathers name also being Thomas and he was a member of the KOSB's. Both Thomas and Nellie gave their address at time of marriage as 19 Thirlmere Street, Milkwellburn. The acronym KOSB initially meant nothing to me at first, not having previously done any military research, but soon found out that it stood for the Kings Own Scottish Borderer's.

I had searched for 10 years for Thomas but as you can imagine trying to find a Thomas Dowson, son of Thomas Dowson with no idea of place of birth, etc.. was a bit of a nightmare. With more than 40 possible candidates on the 1901 Census, I had hit a major brick wall.

In 2009 came the early release of the 1911 Census in which I found even more possible Thomas'. However, there was one last hope, the release of the overseas forces records. Bingo there he was in RANIKHET INDIA, Miltary base of the1st Bat Kings Own Scottish Borderer's. Unfortunately I now had him but no link to his family. After a punishing few months of hard research I managed to cut the list down to 3 men, luckily all in Durham.

One of the families on the 1901 Census was only small, a father and two boys, Thomas b1865, William b1888 and finally Thomas b1890 the right age for mine. So I started to search for them. I tracked them all on the 1911 Census and they were all living apart. Turning my attention to William I found the following:

William Dowson b 1888 Hebburn. He married Lizzie Ann Nicholson on 23 Sept 1908 St George, South Moor, Stanley, Durham. They lived at the Smith Arms, Old South Moor West Stanley before moving to Rose Avenue, South Moor, South Stanley. William worked as a miner when he took up the call to arms on 31st Aug 1914. He was posted to France on 26 May 1915 with the 2nd Batt. DLI. On 16 August 1915 he took a gun shot wound to his left leg and after 1 month in hospital was discharged and sent home.



After he had recuperated he rejoined the 2nd Batt DLI Expedition Force and on 1 Apr 1916 once again entered France. Initially posted to the 8th Ent Battalion he dug trenches for the next 3 weeks before rejoinind the 2nd Batt DLI on 1 May 1916. A big push was made on the 3rd May but unfortunately for William it was to be his last. At 2.45 in the afternoon an enemy shell exploded in the trench not far from where he was positioned and he took shrapnel to the head and he died from wounds.

Studying his War records an affidavit signed by Lizzie, William's wife, after his death, it stated known relatives: Thomas Dowson (Full Blood Brother) of 19 Thirlmere Street, Milkwelburn. There it was, after 10 years of searching the proof I had been looking for. William, my 2x great Uncle had not only paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country but almost 100 years later had lead me to my family and helped me prove my lineage back through Thomas and on.

Thomas himself had been an apprentice drummer boy with The Kings Own Scottish Borderer's. He joined at the tender age of 14 in 1904. Thomas was signed up as a regular in the 1st Batt. in1909, after he turned 18 and his apprenticeship was complete and attained the position of



Drum Major, although as a regular he was still classed as a private. In 1916 Thomas was also wounded in Gallipoli and laid up for a few months, rejoining the fight with the 4th or 5th Batt. Thomas survived the rest of the war virtually unscathed, although from family lore he suffered with trench foot from which his feet were said to resemble lumps of raw meat, as well as suffering from the after affects of poison gas inhalation for the remained of his life.

If you are interested in researching your family tree or have come to a brick wall, please get in touch so we can see if we can help. We are at the Lodge, Blackhill & Consett Park every Tuesday morning by appointment only. You can contact us via CDHI@live.co.uk or through our facebook page.

Read the full story at: consettmagazine.com

STOP

SUICIDE TRAINING ON PREVENTION

Location
Consett AFC
Belle View Stadium
Delves Lane
Consett
Co. Durham
DH8 7BF

Date
28th June 2016

Time
9am - 5pm

www.ifucareshare.co.uk
share@ifucareshare.co.uk
@IFUCARESHARE
(0191) 387 5661

STOP or Suicide Training On Prevention is a one day course developed by If U Care Share Foundation.

This course in Consett is for those living or working in the Derwentside area.

The course began after delivering other training packages to over 200 individuals as well as awareness workshops to over 14 000 young people and supporting over 600 people whose lives have been touched by suicide. This wealth of experience means that the course very much highlights the lived experience of both those bereaved by and at risk of suicide.

Delegates following the course have increased knowledge and confidence to intervene if someone may be feeling suicidal. An integral and unique part of the course is the focus on those bereaved by suicide and how we can better support them both in a professional but often personal capacity.

STOP is very interactive and engaging course on what can often be a very difficult and emotive subject to discuss. Courses are a full day and there are a maximum of 20 delegates per course.
To book a place on this course contact Allison at:

allison@ifucareshare.co.uk

INSIDE OUT

IF U CARE SHARE FOUNDATION

THE AVERAGE PERSON TELLS 4 LIES A DAY OR 1460 A YEAR; A TOTAL OF 87,600 BY THE AGE OF 60. THE MOST COMMON LIE IS "I'M FINE"

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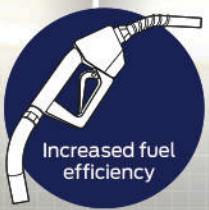


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LOST AND FOUND



I was brought up in a family and community who prayed on a regular basis. Because it was part of our life, we took for granted that we had various saints waiting in the wings who we could negotiate with, or call upon when we needed something. Saint Christopher came with us on journeys, Joseph looked after our home, Anthony collected lost things and Jude was there to pick up the pieces when everything fell apart.

Having the comfort of this entourage - among many others - we were well equipped to face the world, knowing we were protected. June was the month of the procession to honour The Sacred Heart and everyone turned out in their finery on one Sunday afternoon to walk the streets singing hymns and reciting prayers.

The only thing was, now we had discovered Botto's we were keen to go every weekend, and getting up for Sunday morning Mass became a bit of a struggle, however, we still managed on a few hours sleep.

We had the usual warnings on Saturday evening not to stay out too late as we only had two hours break between morning Mass and the Procession which started at 2pm the next day. We knew we'd handle it. You can do anything when you're eighteen!

First stop was 'The Duke' at the top of the market, then a quick one in 'The Fountain' followed by 'The Braes', 'Black Horse', 'Turf', 'Coach and Horses' and the penultimate drink in 'The Freemasons' before hitting the nightclub, which was the highlight of the night.

All the girls were sleeping at my house, as I lived the closest, depositing their bags in the hallway before we went out.

Botto's was great, as usual, and we danced to 'Devil Gate Drive' , 'Tiger Feet', 'Killer Queen' and did all the actions to 'Kung Fu Fighting'!
All too soon 2am came round and the lights were on to remind us to make a quick exit. Nobody wanted to go home and stalled as long as possible even when the bouncers were shouting "Can you get your drinks off please!"

I'd been talking to the DJ for some of the evening and he offered me a lift home. Even though I only lived two minutes away I accepted and told the girls the door was open. They went downstairs to get the coats.

Later, I found out they'd been confronted as they crept up the stairs to bed and reported that I'd gone off with a man in a car.

So, when I arrived home, I wasn't expecting my 4 foot 11inch Auntie Rose to open the car door, give my chauffeur a good telling off and order me into the house. Sliding into bed beside my fast asleep friends I held my breath and waited. Then she was there; pushing the bedroom door gently,
"So you're home then, safe and sound?"

Nodding, I whispered a hasty,
"I'm sorry"

With a twinkle she kissed my forehead, tucked me in and said,

"And I've spent all night praying to Saint Anthony so we'd find the body!"

I turned over in bed and fell asleep smiling.

LOCAL LASS VOTED MOST STYLISH BLOGGER



Lisa Guthrie from Consett who started "tried and tested" facebook group (which has over 17,000 female members) 15 months ago has won an award, the Sun Fm Most stylish Blogger award.

Lisa was so convinced she had not won that she planned not to attend the ceremony but her close friends Lucy and Deanne persuaded her that she must go and that they would support her and come too.

Lisa was over whelmed with the win and would like to thank everyone for their votes and the support she has received.

She said "I really cant believe I won, I'm still in shock". Since starting the popular facebook group Lisa has landed a role as co-host alongside Katie Bulmer and Suzanne on Made in Tyne and Wear "Chatty Lasses".

Lisa has also just recently landed her own TV beauty show which will be like a TV version of her facebook group helping advertise local beauty and fashion businesses in the area for the same channel. Sharing beauty tips and glory products.

Find us on facebook
TRIED and TESTED by Lisa

CONSETT ACADEMY PRAISED BY OFSTED



Consett Academy was inspected by Ofsted on the 16th and 17th March 2016 and was graded as 'GOOD' overall with several outstanding and exemplary features.

The report highlights what many people have known for a while; the Academy has a great group of young people who attend the Academy every day with the vast majority working hard and conducting themselves in a mature manner.

The success of any school is based on a positive partnership between parents, students and staff, this too has been recognised as a strength.

Mr Reynolds, the Principal, says, "Although, at times, over the last four years the journey has been challenging I am confident moving forward that we are able to provide an outstanding education for any young person who wants to work hard and achieve at Consett Academy.

As I have said publically on many occasions the starting point for any school is keeping young people safe, so I'm particularly pleased that this has been judged as 'OUTSTANDING'", 'Outstanding arrangements for ensuring pupils' health, safety and welfare mean that they benefit from excellent personal support'.

Ofsted GRADED GOOD

"In this school there is **exceptional** and **effective** extra assistance for the young people"

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Willow Burn
DERWENTSIDE HOSPICE CARE FOUNDATION



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Watson & Jackson Estate Agents based in Blackhill Consett are excited to announce the launch of their pop up coffee shop on the 2nd June in aid of Willow Burn Hospice based in Lanchester. For two mornings a week the estate agent will transform the front of their shop into a comfortable and stylish coffee shop. Selling a range of coffees, tea, cake and Willow Burn merchandise. In addition there will also be a monthly raffle with some exciting prizes. All proceeds will be donated to Willow Burn Hospice. So please come along and support the hospice and enjoy some delicious cakes and drinks.

The estate agency has been fundraising for Willow Burn on a regular basis throughout 2015 and has already raised over £1000 through their summer and Christmas fayres, both are held within the branch in Blackhill and attract fantastic support from the local community.
Managing Director Adam Jackson commented, "We are thrilled to continue our support for the hospice on a regular basis with our new pop up coffee shop, please show your support and come along to the opening on the 2nd June".

Willow Burn Hospice treasures the lives of people whose illnesses are no longer curable, enabling them to achieve the best quality of life. The local hospice services provide a friendly and supportive environment in which everyone feels welcome.

Willow Burn Hospice opened in 1989 as a result of two remarkable women, Irene Mortimer and Valerie Davison, who identified a local gap in the service of hospice care and with the support of the Secretary of State set up Day Hospice Care with the help of funding from Macmillan. The Willow Burn Day Hospice service was expanded in 1991 to include In-patient services and up until 2006 these were the only beds available in Durham.

Opening Times (launching on 2nd June), Tuesdays - 11am to 1pm and Thursdays - 11am to 1pm. We will be adding new days and times if the new shop is successful, so please come along and pledge your support.

Location (next door to Tesco Express in Blackhill) Watson & Jackson Estate Agent, 36 Durham Road, Blackhill, Consett, County Durham, DH8 8RX.

For further information please visit: www.watsonjackson.co.uk and click Willow Burn Coffee Shop at the top of the page.

FOUNTAIN TO RETURN TO SHOTLEY BRIDGE AFTER 60 YEARS

A 19th century drinking fountain that was removed from a County Durham village more than 60 years ago is set to return – in replica form.

The Pant fountain was erected at the junction of Front Street and Snows Green Road in Shotley Bridge in 1886, marking the arrival of piped water into the village.

It was removed more than 60 years ago as part of a village road scheme, eventually turning up at Beamish Museum where it can still be viewed.

The Pant has now returned to Shotley Bridge – albeit not the original – as the culmination of a series of improvements to the village.

North East firm Classic Masonry Ltd was commissioned to produce a stone likeness of the original, which now has pride of place in the village.

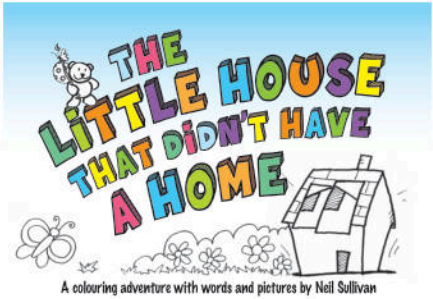


Craig Keers has one of the most interesting and admirable jobs in County Durham. Out and About is a professional companionship service which helps disabled, elderly, or anyone who needs a little help getting "out and about".

If you or someone you know is disabled, elderly and finding it hard to be mobile, or just in need of some help getting to where they want to go, give Craig a call.

Craig can be reached on 07415342801, he is DBS checked, and is the proud founder and owner of "Out & About".

OUT & ABOUT



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BLACKFYNE UNDER 12'S



Blackfyne Under 12's have just clinched the Pinpoint Recruitment Junior League Division 3!!

This is the teams third promotion in 2 seasons having started last season in Division 5 we are now looking forward to playing in Division 2 next season.

As we will be playing 11 a side next season instead of 9 a side, we are looking to add a few new players to our squad. If you are interested in coming along for a trial please ring Tim on 07866305686 for further information.



"**Outstanding** arrangements for ensuring pupils' health, safety and welfare mean that they benefit from **excellent** personal support"

Ofsted GRADED GOOD

"In this school there is **exceptional** and **effective** extra assistance for the young people"

"Behaviour in lessons is generally **good** and frequently **outstanding**"

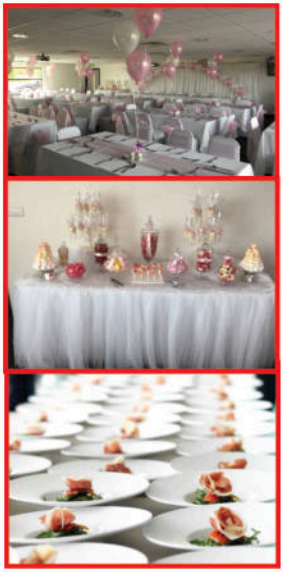
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SHOTLEY BRIDGE NURSERY IN TOP 10



Shotley Bridge Nursery School has won an award for being a top recommended nursery in North East England.

The nursery came in the Top 10 most recommended nurseries out of 391 nurseries in North East England.

The top ten nurseries in North East England received an award from the leading guide to day nurseries, daynurseries.co.uk, with the award based on the nursery's recommendations from the children's families and carers.

Davina Ludlow, director of daynurseries.co.uk, said:

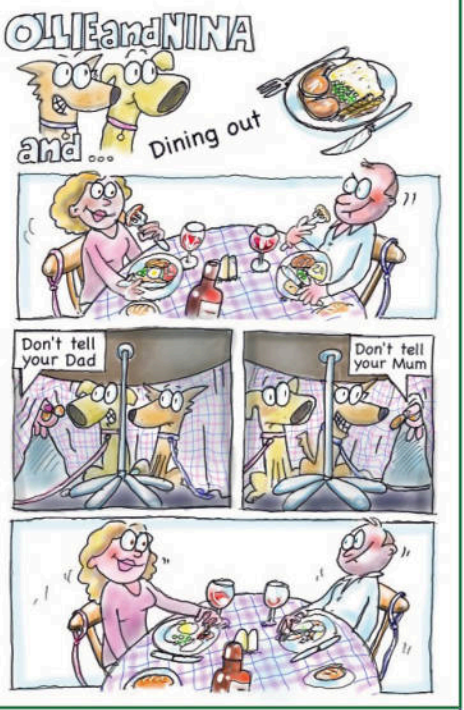
"We would like to congratulate Shotley Bridge Nursery School on being a top recommended nursery in North East England! It is a wonderful achievement to be recognised as a highly recommended nursery by the families and carers of the children that attend the setting.

"Recommendations of the Top 10 nurseries show they are nurturing, caring and stimulating environments where children can develop and learn at the same time as having fun.

"The first five years of a child's life are crucial in shaping the adult they will become, which is why we decided to recognise those nurseries, which are playing such a vital role in our children's lives."

SHOTLEYBRIDGE Nursery School Ltd

Ollie & Nina - By Neil Sullivan



Laura Bowery, co-director of Shotley Bridge Nursery School Ltd said:

"We were absolutely delighted to receive a Top Ten Award from daynurseries.co.uk and greatly appreciate the input and recommendations of our parents. Obviously without their support we would not have achieved the award. The past year has been a time of immense change for our nursery as we moved into new, purpose built premises in September 2015 and have doubled our capacity.

"It has been a lot of hard work but our parents have been incredibly supportive during the move and the new environment is so much better for the children. We really believe that children are the most important people in the world and this idea is at the heart of everything we try to do."



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By **Dr Jacqui Molyneux**
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

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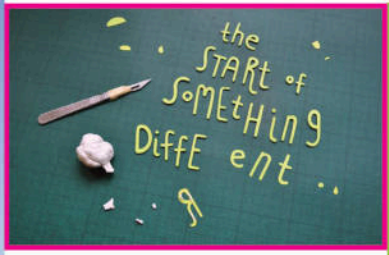
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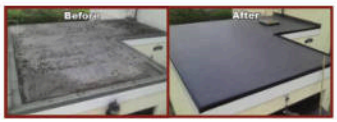
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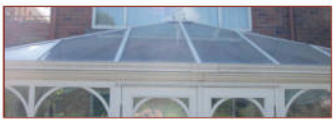
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A SNAP IS THE BEST MEDICINE AT BEAMISH



Beamish Museum welcomed two new additions to the 1900's Town on Friday June 6th with the opening of W.Smith Chemist and the JR & Edis Photographic Studio.

The suppliers of cure-all's, Codd bottles and providers of quality period portraits were opened by Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England.

Visitors can have their pictures taken in Edwardian costume in the photography studio of JR & D Edis, while at W Smith's chemist they can try the traditionally flavoured aerated waters, help to prepare medicines, and discover miraculous "cure-alls".

The unusual corner building was constructed mainly by the museum's own Buildings Team and is based on a property on Elvet Bridge in Durham City. The businesses are named after chemist William Smith and photographers John Reed Edis and his daughter Daisy, who all worked in Durham City in the early 1900s.

Visitors can try flavoured aerated waters, such as sarsaparilla, blood tonic and kola (spelled the traditional way), served in "Codd bottles", named after their inventor Hiram Codd. These waters were often sold as medicinal by chemists and imitated mineral waters from spas such as Harrogate and Bath.

The growing popularity of photography meant by the 1900s most towns had studios, which used their local chemist's shop to buy the necessary chemicals for their work.

Beamish Museum is an Arts Council England's Major Partner Museum (MPM) and leads a consortium with The Bowes Museum.

Beamish is open seven days a week, from 10am to 5pm (last admission 3pm).



CONSETT FESTIVAL



Tell us about what to expect at the festival this year?

You can expect more live music this year. We've added back the second stage, which will be positioned at the opposite end of the main marquee. We're alternating the stages so there should be continuous music throughout both days. One stage finishes, the next starts. We're also adding a DJ Tent for the first time. It'll feature a selection of local DJs playing a diverse range of genres all faithful to people who love to dance.

We're really pleased to be working with the very popular Farmer's Market where there will be a selection of over 20 very varied stalls to browse. There will be food for all tastes from local vendors from several outlets. The real ale bar will be selling a selection of local ales and ciders. The clubhouse will be home to a children's activities area featuring face painting, puppet shows, craft and storytelling workshops.

There'll be a selection of bouncy castles, slides and fairground rides from The Jaimie Clark Fairground as well as sporting activities from the local junior football and netball teams.

Where is the festival held?

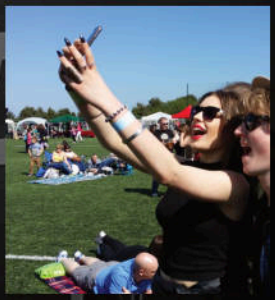
This will be the second year the festival will be held at Consett AFC's new stadium. The astroturf guarantees there is no mud and the quality of the facilities there really make this the perfect venue.

Why has the festival been so successful in Consett?

If I had to guess I'd say it's because it's really the only thing of this nature to be held within Consett itself. The mixture of entertainment for all ages and a wide range of musical genres makes the festival appealing to a lot of people. Plus we try our best to keep the prices as affordable as possible and make sure that any profits we do make go to local charities and youth club/sports teams.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

Sunshine! Ha ha. Really it's going to be the two stages in the marquee and I'm quite excited to see how well the new DJ tent goes. Also the Farmer's Market will be great to wander round.



How will the festival be better than ever?

Other than the two stages bringing more live music, we're also adding a DJ/Dance tent for the first time. This tent will offer a variety of upbeat 'club' music on the Saturday and a more chilled out selection of Funk/Northern Soul music on the Sunday. We're adding more food options in the form of a Vegetarian/Vegan friendly vendor and another making fresh waffles and thick milkshakes. Also this year we have a Children's storyteller to add to the popular craft workshops.



What should people bring to the festival?

We have a 70's themed fancy dress competition on the Saturday night. In keeping with our headline act this year, the Sleeze Sisters. A really good fun, glam rock/disco covers band that were a huge success last year. Festival goers wearing 70's style clothing are in with the chance of winning T-shirts, tickets for the next festival, Champagne and other goodies. If dressing up isn't for you then just bring a warm family friendly attitude with you and we'll all have a great time!

What is the cost?

You can pay on the gate each day at £8 for the Saturday, £4 for under 18's. Sunday £5 for adults, £3 for under 18's or if you buy tickets in advance a weekend ticket is only £10 for adults and £6 for under 18's. As always under 13's are free entry with an adult.

Dates / Times?

JUNE 2016
Saturday 4th 11am - 10pm
Sunday 5th 11am-6pm

Going from Strength to Strength in 2016

All areas of the **Firefly New Media UK** business have been increasing in productivity.

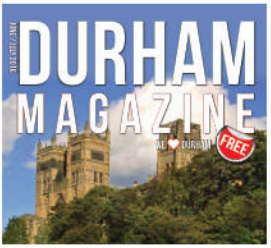
Website Design and Digital Marketing

We have invested in extra resources to continue to provide a high quality online service for our clients in the fields of website design, web management, and digital marketing. We will be rolling out the new website management and marketing plans for less than the cost of an in house IT team, and even the smallest businesses can benefit from our plans which start at just £49 per month.



Local Magazine Publishing

The Consett Magazine has allowed Consett businesses to market themselves at a very cost effective rate for almost four years now. The magazine aims to provides readers like you with a good local resource for news and is available in print and online. We hope to continue to bring local readers and advertisers with a positive and always free local Consett Magazine way into the distant future.



It is with great excitement that we announce the launch of the Durham Magazine in June 2016, the magazine will be much like our flagship local magazine in Consett, but will target people in Durham City. In coming months, we will announcing the next new local magazines to be published in other areas of North East England. Call us if you'd be interested in writing, advertising, distributing, or contributing in anyway to the Consett, Durham, or any of our new local magazines.

Graphic Design and Printing

As always, we pride ourselves in quality graphic design and printing. We aim to convey the perfect design idea for individuals, businesses and organisations. In the last year alone, we have designed everything from packaging and signage, to web banners and social media branding. Due to some very recent events, we can also offer wholesale printing prices to Consett customers. For example; 500 business cards from only £29 or 10000 Flyers from just £135.

As we grow we hope to continue a high level of service, please contact Firefly New Media UK if you'd be interested in any of our services.
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