CONSETT MAGAZINE

June 2020

FOREVER FREE

We Love Consett





Thank you to Nick Bassarab for sending us this amazing picture of the winding gear at Grove Rake Mine If you'd like your pictures published email: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Dear Consett.

Due to continued social distancing measures, this month we've rolled out the digital print edition and postponed the print edition for June 2020. We'll be reviewing going back to print again in the coming months.

We hope this month's stories will find their way to our readers online. As the shops slowly are reopening, we hope everyone is staying save and following the official guidelines from the government.

Let's take a little peek at what we've got inside this month's edition of Consett Magazine: Local historian Brian Harrison revisits an old football rivalry. Lorriane Weightman has been busy during the lockdown and brings us 4 fantastic poems I think we can all relate to.

We also caught up with Steel Town Music and found out their inspiration for painting the town! Read the full story on pages 13 and 14.

Puzzle corner is on page 15, where you'll find the June crossword and the answers to last month's crossword (May Consett Magazine - Digital Edition).

As always, you can access all the Consett Magazine stories past and present on consettmagazine.com - where we've published 1800 articles to date.

To read all 91 editions of Consett Magazine from 2012 to today, visit: http://issuu.com/consettmagazine

Warmest regards,

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

PS - Given the situation with Covid-19 we encourage people to get in touch and tell us how they've been using the lock-down time? How has the lock down affected you? Let us know, email: editor@consettmagazine.com or call 01207 438 292.

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by **Steel Town Music**
send any drawings or photographs to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

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Leadgate Park and Exiles, Two Clubs One Village

In the 1890's Consett and the surrounding area's where a bustling hive of Industry with the Steel Works and the local mines. The men worked hard but also played hard too. The Football Leagues were just finding their feet and the North was the place to be.

Most of the villages in the area had a football team of sorts but few could boast of having two and both being members of the Northern League, Leadgate was a village who definitely could. The main contender was Leadgate Park who's ground could be found off Durham Road, Leadgate and the next was Leadgate Exiles, a Roman Catholic football team who played at The Brooms.

As you can imagine there was very little love lost between the two sides. The feelings held by the two teams become all to clear on the afternoon of Saturday 25th October 1890 when they met in the second round of the Durham Challenge Cup. The tensions were running high throughout the entire match and continued well into the evening culminated into a full blown riot. The police had to be called but unfortunately the first two officers who arrived were set upon. They managed to get one man into handcuffs but unfortunately his friends intervened forcing the officers to the ground. The man, still handcuffed, made his escape.

Another man picked up a large stick and then proceeded to smash the Pub windows on Front Street, Leadgate the officers went to arrest him but he hammered one of them over the head then ran off at high speed in the direction of Dipton followed by the two officers who were not able to catch him.

Word was sent to Consett and within half an hour another 5 police officers turned up. They stated that the village was in an uproar with people openly fighting in the streets and alley ways. They eventually managed to calm the crowds and two arrests were made.

The Leadgate Exiles who were said to have been around since the late 1870's were disbanded soon after 1899. However Leadgate Park who had also been around from the 1870's, played on in the Northern League until after the War. They then became professional in 1919 with their last season being 1925 when they also disbanded.

Originally Published: May 2015.






EXILES



Lockdown Poems

By Lorraine Weightman

One Potato, Two Potato

Thinking I was really good,
I went and bought a sack of spuds,
To feed myself and mine alone,
While we hibernate at home.

Day 1, I roasted them with oil,
after they were on the boil,
presented them with good fresh greens,
and half a pan baked aubergine.

Day 2, I dauphinoised the slices,
with milk, and creamy cheesy slices,
I served them up with ham and peas,
and a bit of mustard - gently squeezed.

Day 4, I baked them in the oven,
with croutons and a little mutton,
a frozen M&S dessert,
some double cream - just a squirt!

Day 5's tortilla with added eggs,
onions and tomato bread,
complimented a red Rioja,
and a steaming caffè mocha.

Day 6, I plumped for lots of mash,
with cold corned beef to make a hash,
I opened two small tins of beans,
and a couple of packets of custard creams.

Day 7, I made a pan of chips,
two fried eggs with the crispy bits,
washed it down with Advocaat
and 4 and a quarter chocolate bars.

Day 8, feeling adventurous,
I made another pan of chips.
I placed them in some buttered bread
slapped on some sauce, and went to bed

Day 8, I boiled them in their skins,
threw in some butter and opened the gin,
lay on the sofa in one big heap,
and fell into a fitful sleep.

Day 9, I cut them and ate them raw,
I don't like potatoes any more,
I folded up the half filled sack,
put on a stamp and sent it back!



Staying Inn

The pubs won't open 'till Christmas,
It's true, we've just been told,
It's definitely not fictitious,
As it was said by Michael Gove!

So, here we are, safe at home
Enjoying a tipple or three,
Sipping slowly and quite alone,
Our very own licensees!

It's time to take it on the chin,
And create our in house pub,
Named, so aptly, 'The Staying Inn'
It will be our central hub!

The excitement now, is unsurpassed,
There's a dartboard on the wall,
A juke box order is being despatched,
And a pool table for the hall!

There's crisps and peanuts on the bar,
And menus on the table,
'Alexa' is a superstar,
Playing everything she's able.

There's special offers all around,
'Don't buy one, get four free',
No need to get a double round,
As there's only thee and me!

Welcome to 'The Staying Inn',
The bed and breakfast's free en gratis,
At last orders, there'll be a lock in,
So time for a bit more practice!

Yet still, I'm wishing for Christmas,
When the doors are open wide,
And everyone's back in business,
All of us standing, side by side!



All Gone

The toy box hasn't been opened,
Her highchair is aimless and sad,
The stair gates swing with no purpose,
I don't have to hide my IPad!

No tiny steps on the kitchen floor,
Her cup and plate are empty,
No handprints on the living room door,
Or her pinching my phone for a selfie!

Mr Tumble's not dancing on the screen,
Her books all asleep on the shelf,
These circumstances were unforeseen,
I so miss her joyous self.

No loud voice, shouting out 'All gone!'
As she spoons in the last of her breakfast,
Cuddles and kisses are down to none,
These were the things that I cherished.

Yesterday I found her sock,
Pushed underneath the couch
A sad and poignant reminder,
She's not visiting my house.

She's safe at home with her parents,
I see her grow up on WhatsApp,
Which gives me reassurance,
As I watch the time elapse.

While I contemplate tomorrow,
And these insightful thoughts unfurl,

I realise -

The baby I cuddled 6 weeks ago
is now a little girl! X

Thank You For The Days

What day is it? I look for my phone,
I know - yesterday was Sunday,
I went to Mass in my dressing gown,
So today - it must be Monday!
Monday my writing group's on Zoom,
We meet about one thirty,
I host it straight from my living room
But sometimes the screen goes blurry.

Tuesday's, I talk to my folks in Oz,
On Messenger through my Ipad,
It's great to see them, just because,
They're all great and hilariously mad!
Then, I plan the rest of my day,
Should I wash the kitchen floor?
Or, crack open the Tanqueray?
Perhaps, wait until half past four!

Wednesday is the day for the bins,
Dragged out to the cul-de-sac,
I spray them before they come back in,
With Dettol and AntiBac!
For twenty seconds I soap my hands,
Then I do it again, twice more,
Perhaps I'll learn to do handstands,
Did I wash the kitchen floor?

I'll be clapping outside on Thursday's,
Along with all of my neighbours,
Bearing witness with a grand display,
of thanks, to the brave key workers.
Did I finish that course on OpenLearn,
on how to pronounce Mandarin?
Shall I cut my hair or try a home perm?
Enough of these shenanigans!!

As Fridays's nearly the weekend,
I attempt to go out to the shop,
At the Co-op I get my dividend,
wearing a mask made out of old socks.
Home with my bags, dropped by the door,
Ready to be washed in the sink,
I disinfect each surface, even the floor,
Then pour myself a big drink.

On Saturdays, I have a few treats,
Extra glasses of wine and crisps,
Which explains why I'm not that petite,
The calories go straight to my hips.
I settle down to watch the TV,
Eating a packet of petit fours,
Yet my mind feels some unease,
Did I wash the kitchen floor?

The next day I wake up early,
relieved another week has passed,
I'm grateful for small mercies,
yet wonder how long this will last.
We're told Sunday is a day of rest,
It's my favourite day, hands down,
And the thing I like about it best,
Is, I go to Mass in my dressing gown!



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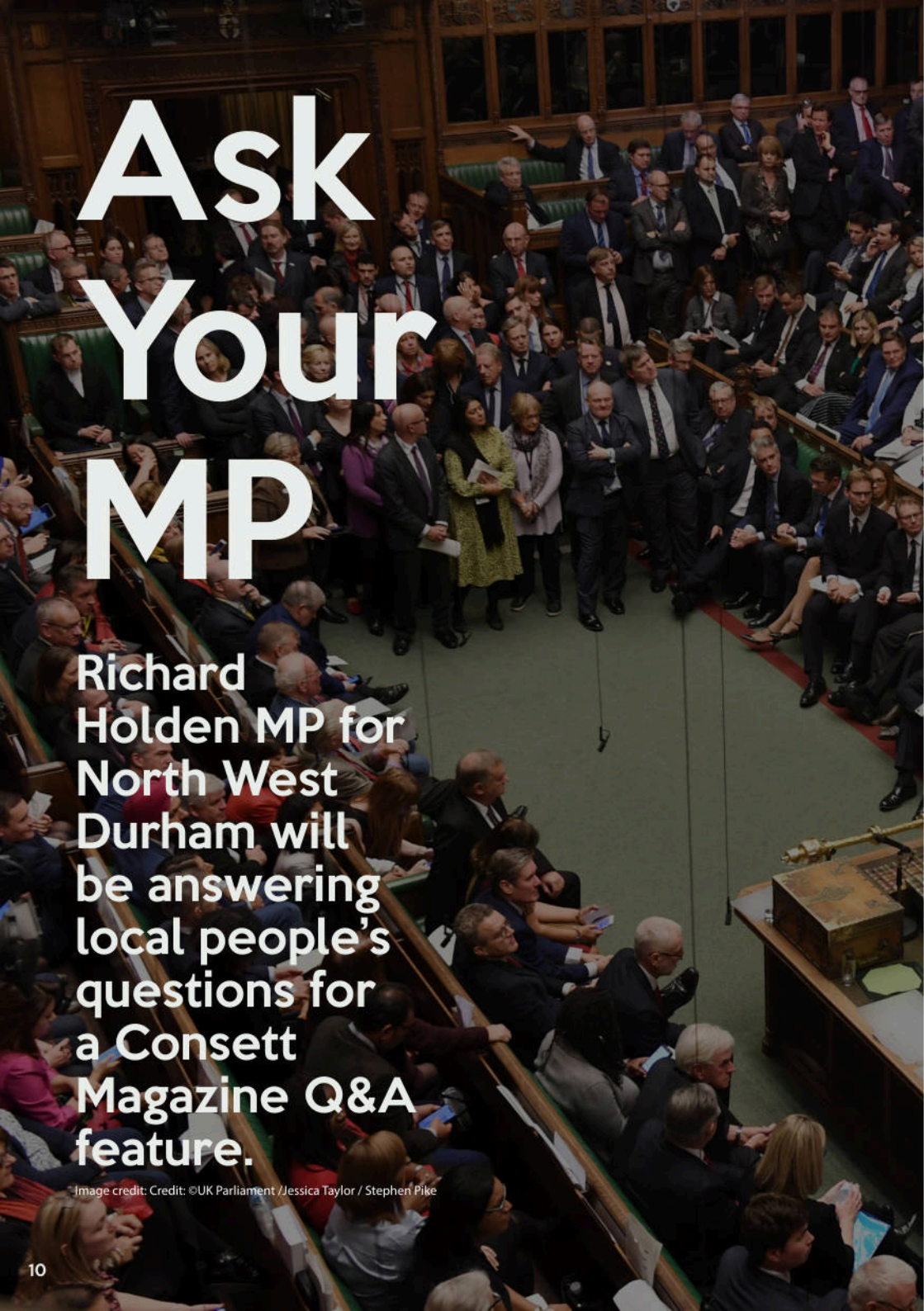
Ask Your MP

Richard Holden MP for North West Durham will be answering local people's questions for a Consett Magazine Q&A feature.



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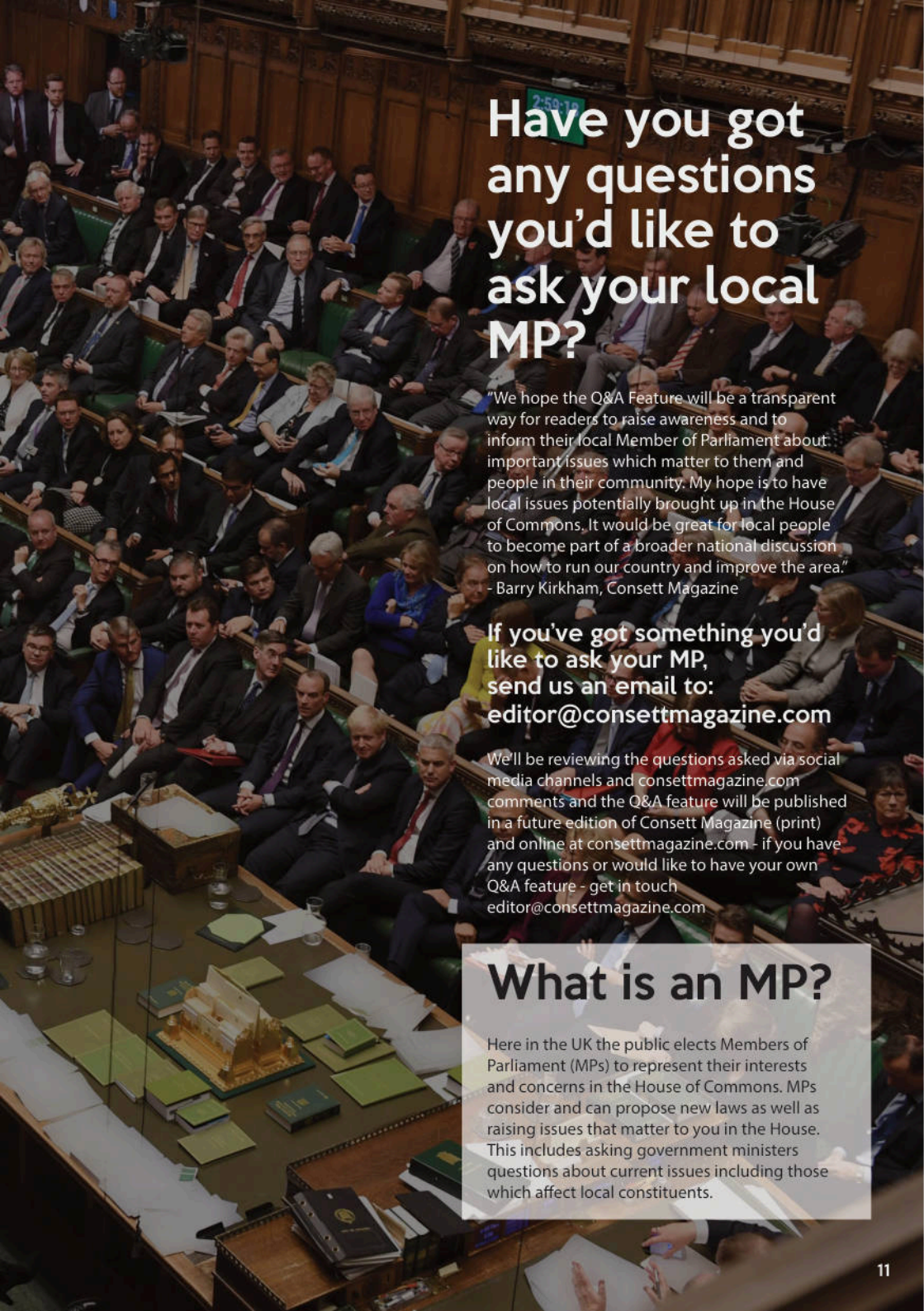

Have you got any questions you'd like to ask your local MP?

"We hope the Q&A Feature will be a transparent way for readers to raise awareness and to inform their local Member of Parliament about important issues which matter to them and people in their community. My hope is to have local issues potentially brought up in the House of Commons. It would be great for local people to become part of a broader national discussion on how to run our country and improve the area."
- Barry Kirkham, Consett Magazine

If you've got something you'd like to ask your MP, send us an email to: editor@consettmagazine.com

We'll be reviewing the questions asked via social media channels and consettmagazine.com comments and the Q&A feature will be published in a future edition of Consett Magazine (print) and online at consettmagazine.com - if you have any questions or would like to have your own Q&A feature - get in touch editor@consettmagazine.com

What is an MP?

Here in the UK the public elects Members of Parliament (MPs) to represent their interests and concerns in the House of Commons. MPs consider and can propose new laws as well as raising issues that matter to you in the House. This includes asking government ministers questions about current issues including those which affect local constituents.

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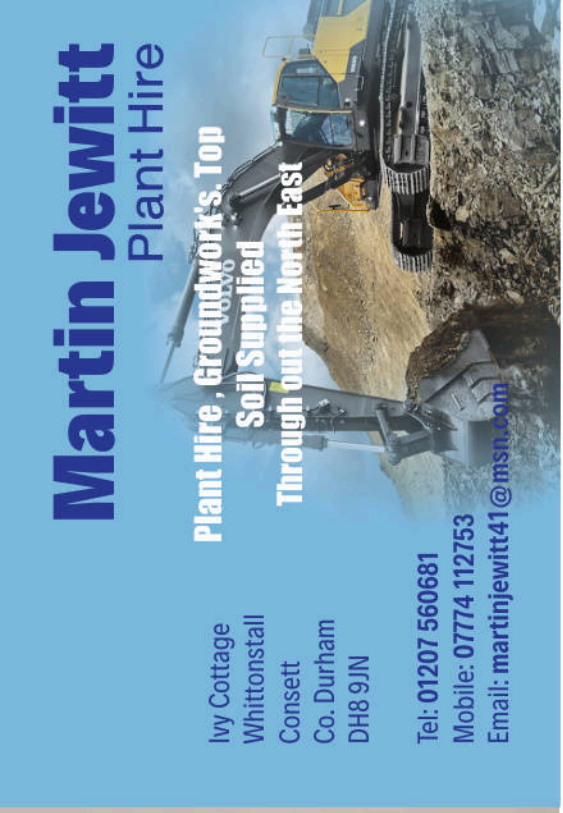
Ask the Vet June 2020 Cars & Pets



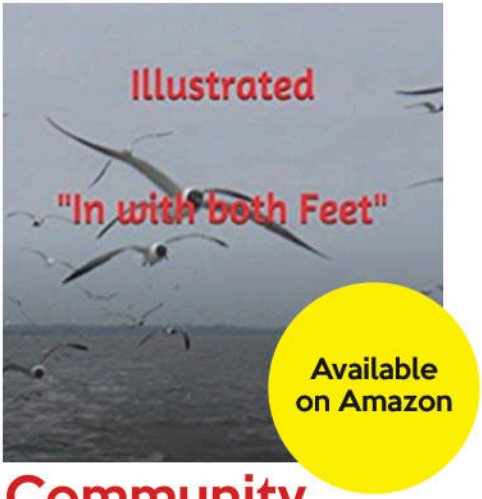
Now that we are finally getting some nice weather please remember not to leave your dog in a hot car. Even if you open a window the vehicle will get extremely hot, surprisingly quickly – even if it is only 22 degrees outside the car will get to 47 degrees in a short time.

As the dog pants to cool down the humidity in the car rises quickly which makes it even more difficult for the dog to further cool down, and they very quickly develop heatstroke. This is an emergency and needs treating quickly – take your dog to the nearest vet as soon as possible. But, like many things in life, prevention is better than cure.

princebishopvets.co.uk /client-advice







Community Announcement:

What is your name?

Nancy Shaw

What is your business or organisations name?

"In with both feet" an autobiography of a Consett lass

How long have you, your business or your family lived in the area?

Since 1943

Do you have a message you would like to communicate with your customers and Consett Magazine readers?

Keep calm and carry on!

Do you have any local hero stories or people that deserve a shout out for their efforts during this time?

For every cloud there is a silver lining. Instead of everyone vanishing after supper to their own rooms, I have a lot more conversation with my son and teenage grandchildren who share a home with me.

How can local people support businesses like yours during this difficult time?

Keep buying local groceries

Paint the Town

If you've taken a walk around Consett town centre recently you may have noticed an unusual splash of colour on the back of one of Consett's shops.

Steel Town Music enlisted the help of local artist Glenn Malpass to brighten up the back of an otherwise drab exterior wall. Matt from Steel Town said "We just wanted to do something different with the building... we just had the idea and did it… we didn't expect that so many people would stop and take pictures… it's really brought a smile to so many people"

Town centres and high streets across the UK have seen a dramatic decline in business over the last decade as more people are shopping online or visiting retail parks to buy from national chains.

To compete, small businesses have to create something unique, Steel Town Music hopes it's vibrant artwork will attract people back into the town centre and inspire other Consett businesses to #paintthetown.

If you'd like to get involved in the Paint The Town campaign then head over to Facebook and search for: Paint the Town - Consett.

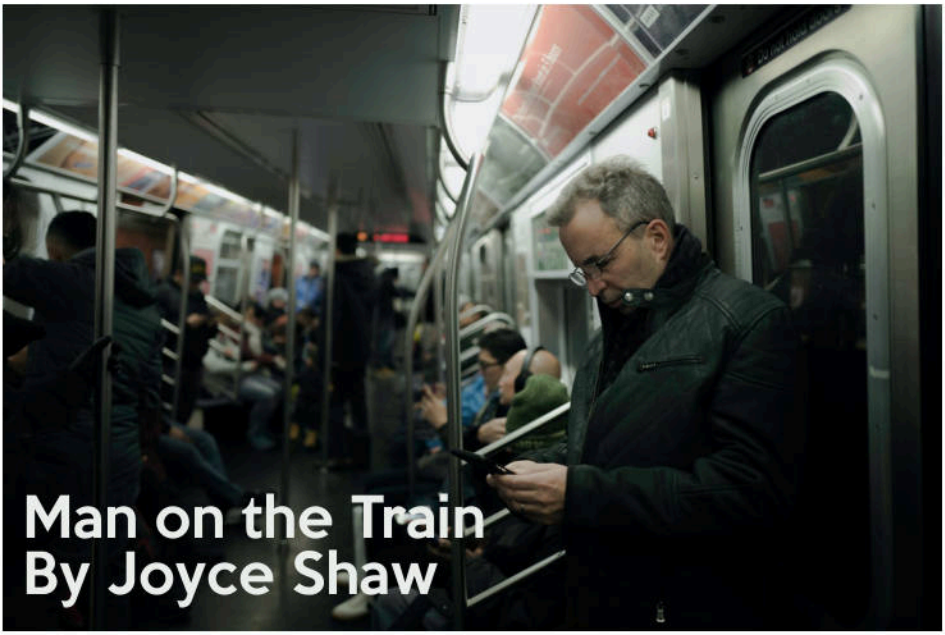
It is hoped other businesses and building owners will allow local artists, schools, and community groups to use their bland brick walls to promote creativity in Consett. It could also spruce up the area to attract more people back into the centre to shop, eat, and do business. We think it's a win-win opportunity for the town's people and it's small business owners.



Photos By: Steven "Monkey" Mason



Glenn Malpass
Local Artist



Man on the Train
By Joyce Shaw

It's a wonderful day when an ordinary meeting turns into an amazing encounter!
A few years ago, on a hot summer's day, I boarded the train at Durham to go to London for the day. I was heading for the German Embassy to hand in my report on an assignment I had just finished whilst teaching in Germany.

My reserved seat was occupied by a rather large gentleman who had spread himself and the daily newspaper, all over the seats at the table. He was very apologetic and wanted to move but I realised that the seats opposite were vacant for half of the journey and so I gladly sat in those seats and left him undisturbed.

The train had many carriages…mine was M and 1st class were A. We had hardly travelled a few miles when the train stopped at Ferryhill. Both the driver and the train manager left the train to examine the rail and undercarriages. Nobody knew what was going on but it became an easy way for people to start talking to each other. I asked the question why we were sitting at a very strange angle and the man with the newspapers, opposite me, explained that the railway line was stopped on a camber.

I commented that I bet the first class passengers were on the flat and this caused some amusement!

From that moment, the man asked me why I was going to London and I explained my appointment with the German ambassador. I asked about his background as I recognised his New Zealand accent. He began to tell me that he had bought a big ticket to tour the UK on a train. He was recovering from a detached retina which had meant that his job was on hold for a few months. When I asked about his job I was quite amazed that someone who seemed quite ordinary sitting in a railway carriage with ordinary people, could have such an extraordinary life!

What did he do? Well, he explained that he used to fly jumbo jets across the Atlantic, but now he was a pilot for the UN, flying over Sudan every day to drop bales of maize for the starving Sudanese below.

He went on to explain to me that the Sudanese government had brought in mercenaries to cut down the crops and starve the people. One light moment came when he told me of his helper who was Sudanese and was saving to get married. He needed 12 exotic cows for his dowry to his bride's family.

What an amazing journey it turned out to be, because we started to talk to each other!!!….and little was I to know that 3 years later I would understand all about African dowries. At that time I would never have imagined that I would live in Africa and later, hear Mia Farrow in Canada as she explained about her work in Sudan and the Sudanese genocide!

The man on the train certainly opened up a new chapter in my life…far beyond any plans I could ever have imagined in the future!



Richard Holden, MP for North West Durham, has confirmed that the Consett Post Office will be reopening.

The reopening follows Richard's letter to the Chief Executive of Post Office, Mr Nick Read, to express his concerns about the premature closure of the Post Office and the effect this has had on the local community.

The Post Office is currently based within the retailer PhoneHub, which sells phones and stationery, but the store was closed for more than a month.

Richard wrote to Mr Nick Read to enquire about the reopening of the Post Office and to express his concerns about its closure. Richard has now received confirmation that the Post Office is reopening and was informed that the branch operator was putting measures in place to ensure that the reopening is safe for both staff and customers. The store will be operating with revised hours of 9.00-16.45 Monday to Saturday.

Commenting, Richard Holden, MP for North West Durham, said:

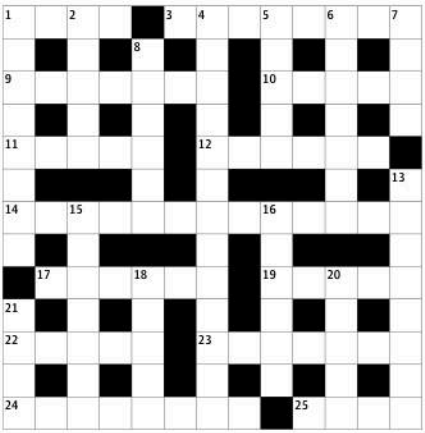
"I AM REALLY PLEASED THAT THE POST OFFICE HAS NOW REOPENED THIS WEEK AS IT IS A VITAL SERVICE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE VULNERABLE WHO RELY ON THE POST OFFICE FOR SO MANY IMPORTANT DAILY TASKS.

Answers for May

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

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

Puzzle Corner



June 2020

Across

1. Hit with the flat of the hand (4)
3. Person unknown (8)
9. More spacious (7)
10. Extreme contempt (5)
11. Peeled the outer surface (5)
12. Lacking in insight (6)
14. Cleaning equipment — we respect a rep (anag) (6,7)
17. Grasslands (6)
19. Offer as an excuse (5)
22. With the top just covered with water (5)
23. On the way (2,5)
24. Without reservation (8)
25. Stratagem (4)

Down

1. Thick, hard shell (8)
2. Dumbfound (5)
4. Domestic cat mottled in brownish-yellow and black (13)
5. Something well worth having (5)
6. Becomes adult (5,2)
7. Tirade (4)
8. One under par at a hole in golf (6)
13. Hard and tedious work (8)
15. Dependent upon (7)
16. Sell abroad (6)
18. Fluid said to flow in the
20. veins of the gods (5) Commensurate (5)
21. Outer garment (4)



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