Issue 102 May 2021

# CONSETT MAGAZINE

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## Dear Consett Magazine readers,

### Thank you for picking up your free Consett Magazine for May 2021.

In this month's edition, you'll find the next installment of the Corona Photo Project, which aims to host an exhibition or series of exhibitions in the area once restrictions are relaxed and it is safe to do so - the project documents the lives of people in Consett over the last year, showing future historians how the Consett community came together to fight the global pandemic. We think it's a project worth sharing and we hope you'll attend the exhibitions when the dates and locations are published. To find more content about the Corona Photo Project with links to the project Facebook (just visit consettmagazine.com and search "Corona Photo Project").

We hope you'll enjoy this month's content from notable contributors including Lorraine Weightman, Ray Igar, Chris Gage, Consett Brown Owl's Victoria, Joyce Shaw, as well as an article submitted by local residents who've banded together against plans for a local incinerator to be built in Hownsgill Park.

And remember, if you'd like to contribute to Consett Magazine, we'd love to hear from you.
We aim to give a voice to everyone in the community including businesses, non-profit organisations, and anyone who would like to help us on our mission to spread #positivelocalnews - just email us on editor@consettmagazine.com for print ads and content - if you'd like to get content published online visit: fireflymagazines.com/submit-content

### Deadline for June Print Ads/Copy:
3pm, 15th May 2021

### Deadline for Online Campaigns/Copy:
Daily, we update consettmagazine.com with positive local content almost every single day.

Please also check out all of the businesses included in the magazine for quality local products and services, without these wonderful advertisers the free Consett Magazine simply would not be possible.

### Have a wonderful May,

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

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SCAN ME

## The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by **Craig McDearmid**
Send any drawings or photographs to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

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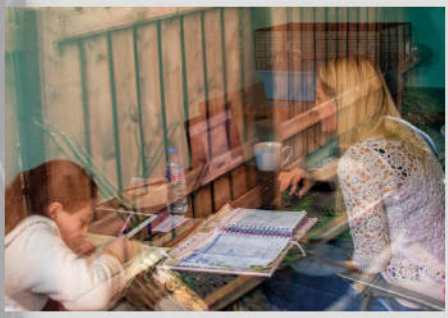
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# Consett Corona Photo Project

The intention is to host an exhibition or series of exhibitions in the area once restrictions are relaxed and it is safe to do so. Prior to this we will publish selected images on our FB page - **https://www.facebook.com/ConsettCoronaPhotoProject**



1. During the first Lockdown **Consett Junior School** like most remained open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (Subtle difference to Key Worker's during 2nd and 3rd Lockdown). Social distancing, hygiene and ventilation became the norm for those at school, whilst On-line schooling via Zoom, Teams etc became common place. (Image: George Ledger)



3. For other children 'Home Schooling' became the daily routine (ended on March 8th). Parents have re-learned things they never knew that they had forgotten! Who knew there were even things called 'Preposition phrases' or 'Fronted adverbials'? Everyone became IT experts with Zoom, Teams, Tapestry and other video conferencing and online learning software. (Image: Steve Webb)




2. During the second Lockdown **Consett Academy** welcomed many vulnerable children and children of Key workers but they were subject to new restrictions and Covid hygiene measures. Each year group used a separate entrance, sanitised their hands on entry and then moved around the building in segregated routes. Face coverings became the norm for the children and staff whilst moving around the school. (Image: George Ledger)

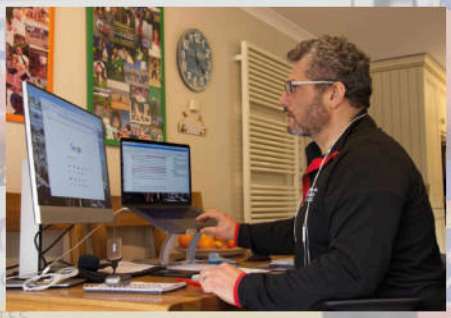


4. **Tanfield School** have been working hard during the lockdown and stayed busy by refurbishing the school with new windows, toilets and heating systems. They have been open to vulnerable and key worker children and have set up a lateral flow testing station within the sports hall for the return of the other students. The headteacher, Mr Clough, was keen to update the Edwardian building to make it more comfortable for the children whilst retaining its character. (Image: Debbie Todd)

**The Consett Corona Photo Project started in March 2020 and has continued to document the effects of Covid-19 upon the people, volunteer groups and businesses in the Consett area. All images have been photographed within the Government guidelines. If you wish to be part of the project or have suggestions, please contact us at: consettcoronaphoto@gmail.com**



5. Childminders, Nannies and After School Clubs have all been affected by the Government restrictions which prevented some parents from using their services. **'Big Hands, Little Hands' Childcare Ltd.** Like most companies they had to furlough some of their staff during the lockdown however they remained open for the children of key workers even during school holidays.
(Image: Chris Bruce



7. Glyn Howatson, Professor of Human and Applied Physiology at **Northumbria University** has had to give lectures and seminars remotely for some time now. He has also spent time at home writing research papers and supervising Ph.D students that he has not been able to meet. Obviously, personal contact with students is very important so hopefully it will be back to normal soon. However, like many other Teachers who are also parents, Glyn has also to perform the role of Home-Schooling parent at the same time, sharing the computer and Wi-Fi with the family. (Image: Chris Bruce)



6. **The Grove Primary School** prior to the 8th March when all pupils returned to their classes. Numbers of children were low but the level of teaching was very high. Teachers not only had to educate the children in the classroom but also set work for home schooling children and support them and their parents.
(Image: George Ledger)




8. Everyone has heard of Marcus Rashford and his campaign to Feed vulnerable children during the pandemic, however schools have been aware of the problems throughout. **The Grove Primary School** decided to enhance the packages that they were giving to their children. They applied for funding through the AAP and bought the children a cookery book each, this allowed them to hand out the book and ingredients for a selected recipe or book ingredients and food parcel. This ensured that the food went to where it was most needed. It was such a success that they repeated the process for Easter - using the books they already have.
(Image: George Ledger)



# Guiding in Lockdown

I lead a team of volunteers and between us we run several of the Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units that would normally meet in Consett. I say normally but obviously due to the pandemic we have, like all other groups, had to change what we do in the last year.

Initially we stopped all meetings in March 2020 and hoped that we would be able to start again soon, after Easter we optimistically hoped. Obviously not. As the lockdowns lengthened we started to meet on Zoom. We wondered how many girls would want to join in, and also what activities we would be able to do.

We have tried everything and anything and nothing is a silly idea. We have done virtual camps where we've had Brownies sleeping in all sorts of places (with sisters holding their parents mattress hostage to have an extra day in their front room camp) and several cook-a-longs with older girls helping out making tea for the whole family. We travelled the world to visit place in the Commonwealth and made stirfry for Chinese New Year. Not every girl has joined in, but the option is there, and we usually have a full screen of eager faces to see what we are doing that week.

It's not ideal, and there have been technical issues galore. The phrase "You're on mute" gets uttered at least 5 times a meeting and almost every pet has made at least one cameo on screen to say hi. We make it work as best we can and if in doubt a game of pictonary!

Every unit in the district has dealt with the restrictions differently and restarting will be different for each unit. Regardless of what is happening now whenever normal arrives, however different, we will still be Guiding.

If you are interested in getting involved with Guiding in the future please visit our website at **girlguiding.org.uk**. Images are a brownie during lockdown joining in a virtual meetings and a mixed group meeting pre-pandemic which we hope to do in the near future.

**Victoria, Consett Brown Owl.**



# A Greasy Pole?

**A few years ago, in Consett, an upstairs nightclub was opened in the main street.**

I felt that this was not going to be an asset to Consett but it was legal and so permission was granted for the club to be opened.

Applications were advertised for girls to become lap and pole dancers.

I talked to a few of my middle aged girl friends and tried to persuade them to apply for the jobs! My reasoning was that if we got in quickly it would exclude the young attractive girls who would be pipped at the post!

I pointed out to them that we wouldn't stand a chance when the owner saw some old wrinklies trying to perform, but I felt it could help to dissuade him opening up a place of ill repute in Consett.

One of my naive friends looked in horror and exclaimed "What if we get the job?" My answer was that we could do the dance of the 7 army blankets and by the time the last one had been removed, the customers would either be asleep or would have given up and gone home! Another friend commented, on practical terms, that if we did manage todo the pole dancing, what happened when we slithered down it, as we wouldn't be able to get up easily at our age!!!

The club did open, but it didn't last very long before it went out of business…there was no way any local man would be a customer, as it would soon be reported back to his wife and his reputation in the town would soon vanish too!!

**By Joyce Shaw**

# Selling Your Home?

**Is it more stressful than you thought it would be?**

**Is it taking longer than you thought it would?**



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# Local Gin Distillery Wins Silver Medal!

Wearside based Gin distributor; House of Ruhr has won silver medals at the 4th London Spirits Competition. The medals are an ultimate endorsement in the global spirits industry. House of Ruhr's Bergmann, Renton and Vogel gins scored highly in the three judging categories of quality, value and packaging.

House of Ruhr was formed by retired police officer Bryn Jones thanks to his friendship with German police officer Peter Meinken whose family own a distillery in the town of Wanne-Eickel in Germany's Ruhr Valley. His passion for the spirit inspired Bryn to set up his import business after Peter asked him to help get Gin made in his distillery to bars and customers in the North East. The Houghton-le-Spring business is delighted to be awarded the prestigious medals.

"The London Spirits Competition stands apart from other spirits competitions by awarding spirits for their drinkability. Where other competitions focus solely on technical competence and distilling prowess, the London Spirits Competitions goes further to evaluate a spirit for its all-around excellence - in the way it tastes, looks and the value it provides," said Bryn.

"We are pleased that our Bergmann, Renton and Vogel gins performed so well at the competition. These silver medals demonstrate that the spirits we are supplying are the kind that bar managers and mixologists want to stock and spirits drinkers enjoy drinking. It's great to bring silverware back to Wearside."




# Your Labour candidates for Consett North

**My name is Phillip Marshall, the local Labour candidate in Consett North ward for the County Council elections on Thursday 6th May.**

I'm standing for election because I love Consett, I have lived here all my life. My daughter is growing up here and I want to do all I can to improve our communities.

I have been involved in many local projects such as being a public representative on Derwent Valley Partnership. You may know me from a 100-hour Snooker Marathon, raising £4,000 for local charities.

I truly believe if you elect me as your councillor for Consett North, I would be a strong, positive advocate representing you on local issues and will effect change and make things happen. There's lots to do but we should be ambitious in our plans.

We pledge to work alongside residents, local businesses and other organisations to ensure that the area continues to develop. Being part of a vibrant Labour Party across Durham means we will be ably supported to offer a strong voice for Consett North at County level. Growing again after the effects of the last year needs co-ordinated action at all levels, something other candidates cannot offer.

In this election I am joined by Clive Hedges, another candidate who has spent most of his life living and/or working in County Durham. We both passionately believe in the need for local accountability.

"I know how much people care about the area. It means so much to me and I will do my best to represent you."

You can contact us at phillip4consettnorth@gmail.com or follow the campaign on Facebook: /PM4ConsettNorth

**Vote Labour on 6th May. Vote Phillip Marshall and Clive Hedges. #KeepDurhamLabour**





# Places to Go: Silverdale for Leighton Hall

I wanted a long journey last August to see how the railway was performing outside the north-east, so I went to tiny Silverdale in north Lancashire, out via Newcastle, Carlisle and Lancaster. Returning the same way would have been cheaper, with a series of three off-peak returns, but I returned via Carnforth, Skipton and Leeds. Silverdale is a rarity these days: a station where the passage between platforms is not by footbridge or subway but directly over the tracks, with no warning lights.

The route to Leighton Moss RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) reserve and Leighton Hall is well-signposted, and before long I was on the straight track east across the reserve and up into the foothills beyond, arriving at the Hall in 50 minutes.
Leighton Moss boasts the largest reed bed in north-west England and is home to a wide range of spectacular wildlife including otters, bearded tits, marsh harriers, egrets and red deer. I could have cheekily peeped into the RSPB hides to observe the wildlife, but I pressed on, up through the field to Grisedale Farm and on the narrow paved road to Leighton Hall. Free Ordnance Survey maps of this area (and anywhere in Great Britain) can be obtained at www.streetmap.co.uk. Request postcode LA5 9ST.

Leighton Hall is presently open on Thursday and Sunday 2-5 (groups on other days by appointment) and was not always as peaceful as today. Owner Albert Hodgson became involved in the Jacobite rising of 1715, during which he was taken prisoner, and the house was burnt with Hodgson's possessions confiscated. The present house was built for George Towneley of Burnley, through his marriage to Hodgson's daughter Mary in the 1750s, in Georgian style and passed to the furniture-making Gillow family in 1822 who remodelled the frontage in Gothic style using local white limestone.

It's a comfortable home which the family open up, but pre-booking is essential. The woodland walk was informative, plus the walled garden which featured a large insect hotel and information from the gardener on how to promote wildlife.

Given how many country homes are closed to visitors right now as a result of COVID-19, whether it's National Trust, English Heritage or private properties, I was pleased to go on the 15.00 interior tour, which was interrupted by a birds of prey display on the front lawns. The tour resumed after the display finished so that visitors could enjoy the whole experience. Most visitors seemed to stay the full three hours. I finished up the last available strawberry scone in the tea rooms at 16.15, and went to collect my bag from the office of Mrs Reynolds, the current owner..

I retraced my steps back to Silverdale station through a field of inquisitive but not aggressive cows at Grisedale Farm, arriving at the station four minutes before the train. A few extra minutes in hand would have been less stressful! Then south one stop to Carnforth, where unfortunately the iconic "Brief Encounter" clock as featured in the film, was away for conservation.

From Carnforth east to Skipton, which I had not ridden before as far as Giggleswick, and a cocktail in Herriots Hotel (very well organised for COVID-19) opposite the station at 1859 - just as Happy Hour was ending. I later had supper in Leeds, to experience the one-way system introduced by Network Rail, and a coffee on the top floor Sky Lounge of the Doubletree Hotel near the station's no longer new south entrance, and a late TransPennine train home to Chester-le-Street.

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**by Chris Gage, Motorhome & Caravan Broker**

Lots of people sell their leisure vehicles privately to get the best return on their investment, rather than selling to a dealer, who of course needs to make a profit for their business. But not everyone relishes the experience of valuing, marketing and selling their pride and joy.

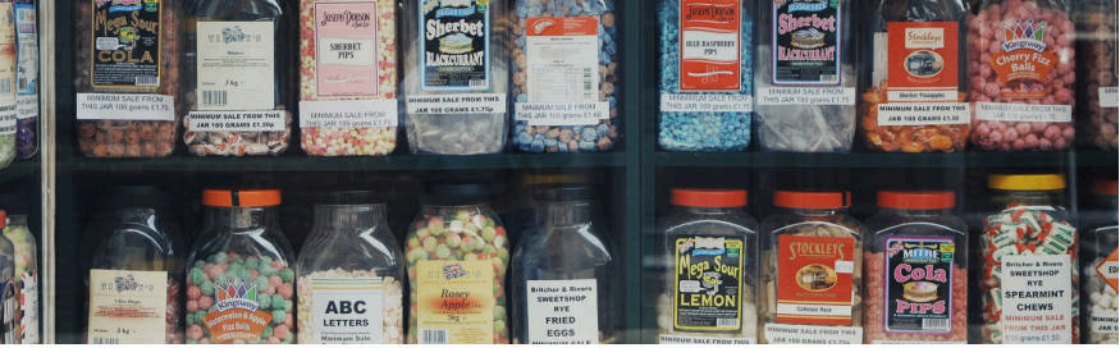
There can be many reasons for sale, including bereavement, separation, illness - all things which can bring mixed emotions when dealing with a life change which forces parting with something often linked to many happy memories. Then there are questions of security, qualifying who is coming to the house and how to ensure payment is received safely - the unprecedented rise of fraudulent activity is well documented.

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# Circle Of Life - By Lorraine Weightman

After moving back to Consett and especially over the last lockdown year I have taken up walking - very slowly at first - partly for health reasons and in an attempt to give my arthritic knees and feet a chance to start working properly again.

Ignoring the discomfort I headed up Medomsley Road towards Number One and then cut down to Aynsley Terrace. The streets were deserted, the air fresh and clear, and my mind wandered back to my childhood days, when I walked these streets with my family and friends. As my 64 year old legs struggled, I saw my 5 year old self bouncing on the flag stones before me, running and jumping over the cracks in the pavement, in a lovingly home made cotton dress, worn under a knitted cardigan overrun with buttons - which gave me a shiver - I don't like buttons!

On my feet were scraped - toed start rite sandals with tiny diamond cut outs. My Uncle Pat referred to the colour as Ox Blood - which I thought was a very unfortunate name - as they reminded me of cherries. They were well worn as I climbed, ran, skipped, hopped, jumped and danced, as children do, often displaying gritty knees with purple and red scabs, which my friends and I compared at school.

I passed the block where Armstrong's sweet shop used to be, which sold delights too delicious to describe, displayed in clear glass jars, filled to the brim with colourful boiled sweets and paper wrapped chocolate covered toffees. I remember my Mam liking Buttered Brazil's which is exactly what they were, a whole Brazil nut covered in a hard butter shiny crust. It's no wonder you don't see them any more!

I then progressed by the old doctors building which is now a convenience store open 8 til late. Consett has changed so much over recent years but if you look up, a lot of the original buildings are still there - even though the ground floor frontage may have changed, - sparking poignant memories.

Unlike some, I have been lucky enough to spend a considerable amount of time with my family and baby granddaughters during these unprecedented times, and have watched them develop and grow up before my eyes, both of them blissfully unaware of pandemics, vaccines and social distancing. In fact the elder sister's main preoccupation - when she is not playing shops or reading stories - is to bounce like Tigger.

Last weekend on my walk with my Fitbit set to count my steps, I tripped up and fell headlong on the cold tarmac pavement near Villa Real. In shock I rolled over and lay on my back like a stranded beetle; watching and feeling eternally grateful as a kind man stopped his car and offered to help me up. With battered knees and bruised pride I hobbled home via Superdrug to purchase Arnica Cream and Rescue Remedy.

Shocks like these give us all cause for reflection, was it just a simple accident or am I getting old and need to contemplate my mortality?

On my family's arrival and a quick inspection of the treat box to see what was in it for later, they enquired why I was sitting with my legs raised. One pair of small ears listening intently to my story responded with outstretched arms, a cuddle and the phrase:

"Gwandma, I will kiss it better for oo"

I smiled and thanked her profusely, praising her for her healing powers.

Throwing all the cushions off the sofa and onto the floor, she shouted,

"Now, you can bounce wiff me"

I declined gracefully - rolled up my trouser leg and applying some arnica cream, responded with,

"Maybe, next time!"

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## DIY Tips - May 2021

- Before you lay a new floor, freshen up your walls so you won't risk getting paint on your new surface.
- Don't wash brushes and rollers after every coat. Just wrap them tightly in cling-film and they'll stay moist.
- Sprinkle talc onto squeaky door hinges and floorboards.
- Baby oil will get paint residue off your skin easily
- Double-sided tape makes a great rug gripper
- Dip scissors into boiling water before trying to cut any delicate fabrics. It'll be a breeze!
- Attach a length of dental floss to a dripping tap and run it directly into the plughole to prevent a noisy night


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PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

# ASK THE VET

## Stick Injuries

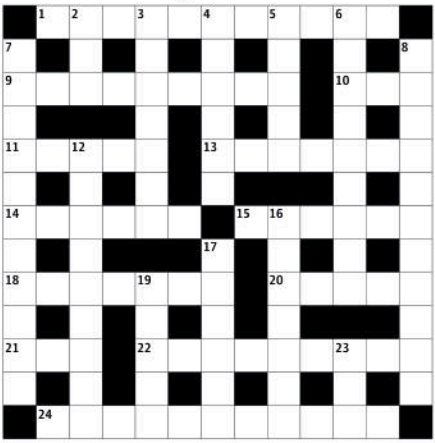
Now the days are getting warmer and the nights are getting longer, people are spending more time outdoors with their pets. If you throw sticks for your dog or your dog manages to find their own stick to play with, they could be in real danger.

'Stick injuries' are a common presenting complaint at veterinary practices at this time of year and can cause all sorts of damage including broken teeth, lacerations of the tongue and back of the mouth and damage deep inside the mouth and neck where there is a lot of important nerves and blood vessels.

Worse still, if you don't know your pet has been injured at the time, weeks later painful abscesses can develop at the site of the injury which may mean a prolonged course of medication, or even repeated surgery, for your pet. The best way to avoid any problems is to NEVER THROW STICKS, use balls or toys to amuse them instead! If your dog picks up a stick while you're out on a walk, take it from them gently and reward them with a treat, do not play tug of war with them as this could result in the stick splintering in their mouth. If you think your pet has been injured by a stick while out a walk, please seek immediate veterinary attention.

**www.princebishopvets.co.uk**

# Puzzle Corner May 2021



**Across**

1. "Before" or "after", say (11)
9. Spying (9)
10. Greek letter T (3)
11. Non-straight line (5)
13. Neatest (7)
14. Ascends (6)
15. Panic (6)
18. Criminal gang member (7)
20. Part of a flower (5)
21. Make a mistake (3)
22. Total (9)
24. 1982 Best Actor Oscar winner in Gandhi (3,8)

**Down**

2. Tear violently (3)
3. Adage (7)
4. Skimpy (6)
5. Walk heavily (5)
6. In succession (2,3,4)
7. Collector of shoreline debris (11)
8. Painted ladies, for example (11)
12. Pay back (9)
16. Catherine the Great, for example (7)
17. Portland's state (6)
19. Path (5)
23. Brewery product (3)






## Answers for April

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

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



# Medomsley Cricket Club 1970s by Ray Agar

Medomsley Cricket Club played at High Westwood in the 1970s as they do now. We were in the Durham County League, which was at a really high standard at the time, with many teams having professionals. I was at college in Leeds at the time but played when I came home for the summer holidays. Our standard was extremely consistent and winning any sort of match was a major event.

Our ace in the pack, however, was Albert Elsden. Albert was in his 60s at the time. He had been a professional cricketer in his youth bowling off breaks, leg breaks, googlies, seamers and a few more variations.

I stood in as wicket keeper one game and watched as Albert spun the ball past the bat and past me, time after time. Albert's eyesight was fading at this time and the opposition's young fast bowler was busy lobbing them down at 90 miles an hour. Just as the bowler was about to run in Albert put up his hand and walked up to talk to him. "Excuse me young man," he said, "would you please mind bowling at my bat?"

Albert Elsdon had raised Medomsley's fortunes when he joined in 1929. Albert, who was a colliery overman, started at Langley Park as an opening bat. He became one of the best leg-spinners in the county and 650 victims in five seasons helped Medomsley to four successive North West Durham titles. A sequence beginning in 1930 coincided with the arrival of the penetrative George Hurst. Elected to Tyneside Senior League in 1934, Medomsley ran away with that title, too. Elsdon topped the Tyneside Senior League bowling, snared 477 victims in six seasons. His 1,300 wickets in all matches in the eleven seasons prior to the war was just the start of an extraordinary career. Albert didn't have far to go to matches as he lived in the end terraced house opposite the school in High Westwood.

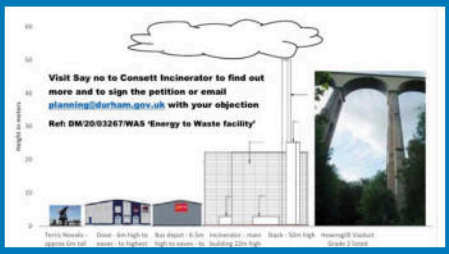
Albert's great claim to fame was to have been chosen to play against Don Bradman's team, when the Australians toured in 1938, which, quite rightly, he was extremely proud of. Having looked through the details of the 1938 and 1948 Australian tours I can't find any details of Albert. If anyone can help that would be great.

The photo is taken at the Medomsley Cricket Club Dinner in the Civic Hall about 1972. From left to right receiving their awards are Davy Moore, Geoff Bell, Ray Agar, Albert Elsden and Brian Harkness. Other players who played at the time include Dave Oxley, Robson Irwin, Stan Lancaster, Jeff Strike, David Strike, Alan Dobinson, Ian Johnston, Chris Watcham and many more.

All the best to Medomsley Cricket Club for 2021. It is great to see them still fielding two teams and their win ratio has to be better than 50 years ago.

# Say NO to Consett Incinerator

**We are a campaign group of local residents who are extremely concerned about the planning application to build an Incinerator in Consett at Hownsgill Park. We have set up a Facebook page to support one another in objecting and share information about this proposal.**




The Derwent Walk, C2C and Heritage Trail all flank the proposed incinerator to be situated in between the Terris Novalis and Hownsgill Viaduct.

It would be highly visible to users of this recreational route causing substantial adverse, permanent and therefore, significant effects to users. Not forgetting the noise, odour, litter, ash and emissions!

We feel the negatives far out weigh any implied benefits the applicant is stating. Does Consett not deserve better? A suggestion of a Heritage Centre that sits along side the heritage trail to celebrate our past would be something we could be proud of, educate our children and visitors for decades to come.

The proposal is at planning application stage, we are waiting for a planning committee meeting date, possibly in July, where a decision will be made. We need to raise the awareness to all of Consett to get objections in as soon as possible.

Please help by joing the say no to consett incinerator grpup on face book, signing the petition and send your objection to **planning@durham.gov.gk**

**Please help raise awareness many other similar groups have won and had these controversial facilities rejected. Every signature and objection counts**

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