CONSETT MAGAZINE

FREE

Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 04/ November 2012

NORTHERN LIGHTS
One of the world's most amazing phenomenons

ACROSS THE POND
Local girl takes on the American Dream

POLICE REFORM
Changes in the system

LOCAL SOUNDS
Music reviews of Consett's up-and-coming bands

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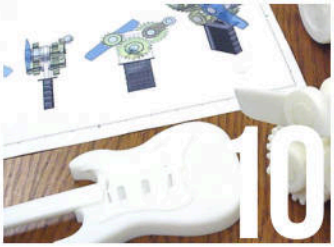

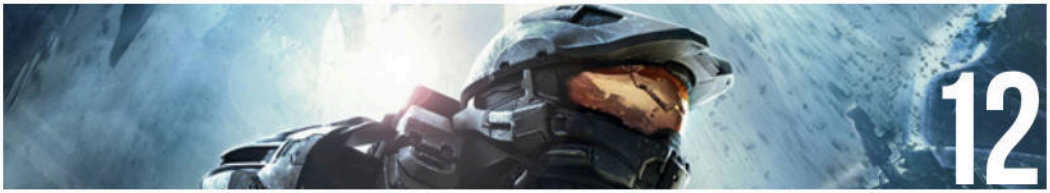

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello and welcome to the November issue of Consett Magazine...

It's November and winter has well and truly has its grasp on Consett as temperatures start to plummet and people are wrapping up to beat the cold. This glorious time of year sees many of us getting ready for December and the potentially snowy times ahead as everything gets darker and colder. Despite this, one of the nations much loved outdoor celebration will keep us out in force. Guy Fawkes Night is fast approaching and no doubt hundreds of people will be out and about in the area having some fun with all manners of fantastic fireworks.

During this time of celebration, we should remember what went on all those years ago in 1605 when Guy Fawkes plotted to blow up Parliament in London with a shady gunpowder plot to assassinate King James the First. When you are out enjoying some seasonal fun, take some time to remember the significance of what went on all those years ago.

This year, another significant thing is happening in November. The Police and Crime Commissioner elections are taking place this month on the 15th of November and we here at Consett Magazine have highlighted what is going on and how you can help make a change to the way your local community is policed. Along with this we have some exciting features in this month's magazine.

We take a look at the awe inspiring phenomenon of the Aurora Borealis which can often be seen from our town on a clear winter night, a variety of local musicians currently on the scene, a look at a female football heroine from the area who is making waves in the USA and also a look at a new fitness centre opening up right here in Consett.

We here at Consett Magazine hope you stay safe this Bonfire night but have some firework fun in the process.



We currently distribute 5,000 copies of the magazine to homes and businesses in Consett and surrounding areas.

As an independent magazine for the town of Consett we want to hear from you about any of your concerns, events or news.

(01207) 438 292
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THE TEAM

Editor-in-chief
Ivan J. Laidler

Editing Team
Barry Kirkham
Chris Brown

Questions and feedback:
26 Middle Street,
Consett,
Co. Durham, UK
DH8 5QJ

Phone:
(01207) 438292

Email:
editor@consettmagazine.com
http://consettmagazine.com

Photographers
Chris Brown
Lee Costello
Freddie Jackson

Advertising/Sales
Firefly New Media

Graphic Design
Firefly New Media

Contributors
Firefly New Media
Brian Harrison
Freddie Jackson
B. Kirkham
Kevin Dodd
Sid Bishop
Dominic Hewitson

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Consett's New Fitness Facility for 2013

by B. Kirkham

The Gym, opening in January of next year, is a new fitness complex situated in what was Testos Bingo Hall in Consett as a new place to work out and get healthy. Work on the building started in May of this year and is coming closer to completion with each day that passes. The amount of work put in to get this new gym ready for action needs to be seen to be believed. Over the renovation period of the building, 26 skips full of rubbish were removed and a whole new roof was installed to make sure everything is in tip top condition coming up to the opening in January.

The Gym has 16,000 square feet of space which will be filled with equipment for both men and women with enough machines that no-one has to be standing around waiting to get on and get fit. The upstairs of the gym will feature a number of cardio areas which include spinning and boxing along with the facilities to give sports massages and a mixed sauna to relax after a hard work out. Downstairs is where you get lifting in a number of different weight rooms with areas dedicated to chest workouts and also a conditioning room.

Another plan for The Gym is the inclusion of a sports bar opening in 2013 which will feature a café with cooked to order health foods such as steak and salmon to help you stay healthy whilst you enjoy a great meal prepared especially for you. The outside area has also been renovated with a new patio area, a redeveloped car park and also a lick of paint for the building which has been standing unused for around 25 years.

"It's been a big project but I've really enjoyed it"

It's great to see a member of our community taking steps to renovate and reuse an unoccupied building. Turning an empty space into a positive area for fitness can only rejuvenate a part of Consett that has not been used in a very long time. Owner and project leader Stephen Neilsen said, "It's been a big project but I've really enjoyed it."



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The Soaring Price of the Red Kites

by F. Jackson

A toll on a heavily used Consett bus route?

The 45 and 46 buses, or The Red Kites, are one of the main public transport routes from Consett to Newcastle, via The Metrocentre. Many residents of the Consett area work and shop at these places. This is why I was puzzled to learn about a strange quirk in the way the Go North East zones are laid out which directly affects this bus route and no other.

For those who aren't familiar with Go North East's zones: They are boundaries which divide up the area which Go North East operates in. This determines the price of their BuzzFare tickets. The price goes up the more zones you pass through, up to a maximum of 3 which becomes an all-zone ticket. The 45 and 46 buses pass through 3 zones, rather than 2 because of one bus stop, Hamsterley Mill.

This bus stop raises the price of the BuzzFare day ticket from £5.90 to £7.30 for all who cross it. The zones have to go somewhere, but why is the price of a journey between Consett and the Metrocentre the same as a journey between Consett and Middlesbrough, when the 45 and 46 are the only buses that use this bus stop?

Go North East said: "A journey between Consett to Newcastle on all routes, via A694 via Hamsterley Mill or A692 via Dipton, requires a three zone ticket as buses operate through the Cherry, Green and Purple zones."

When asked if this meant that a similar service shouldn't operate with varying prices. They said that it was fairer this way, because the X70 and X71 pass through 3 zones to get to Newcastle, so the 45/46 must too.

"Yes that's right - and great value for regular travellers given the distances involved, particularly when compared to the costs of running a car." However, these buses do not offer the same service, they operate along different routes, the X70 and X71 operating through much of the green zone, and the 45/46 simply passes through one stop.

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Is this a covert toll on a bus route many use each day, or simply how the zones have ended up? Does this make ticket prices fairer? You decide.

Why not share your views on consettmagazine.com and join in the discussion.



Reader Submitted Article

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Police Commissioner Ballot Beckons

by Chris Brown

This month, the system in which the police are being run will change significantly due to your vote. For the first time, the public are being allowed to vote for the Police Commissioner which they believe will be able to tackle the crime that matters in their area. A police and crime commissioner will be an independent figure who can engage with the public to find out what matters to them and what problems the police should be tackling problems in your area.



This seems like a great idea which will help the public take a more significant role in the way their local communities are run and protected by their police service. Many people believe that turnout for these elections in November will be at record lows. A winter election is rarely a good idea, dark nights and cold conditions can often have a negative effect on voter attendance with many people preferring to stay indoors and keep warm.

The police and crime commissioners will have a role in how the police tackle the problems in the area but will have little to do with the day to day running of the police as that will still be handled by the Chief Constable. The commissioner would have control over the police budget making sure it is spent in a way which the public in the area are happy with and keeping the books balanced. Everyone has problems with the way that the government spend and allocate the budget, this way you can have a say in how things get done in your area. I urge you, go out on the 15th of November and vote for the candidate that you feel will make a difference to our community. Look at your potential candidates and think about what will make our community a better place.



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Aurora Borealis – The Mystery of the Cosmos

by Chris Brown

Over the winter months, it is often possible to see one of the greatest phenomenons the planet has ever known from your back doorstep.

The aurora borealis is more often associated with the arctic wastes of Northern Canada, Scandinavia and the Arctic Circle but there are times when this awe inspiring sight can be seen right here in the North East of England. The name "Aurora Borealis" is a hybrid of the name of the Roman goddess of dawn, Aurora and the Greek word for the Northern winds, Boreas.



The Aurora Borealis as seen from space

On a clear night in the North of England, it is possible to see this incredible sight as the sky comes alive with light and colour as charged particles collide with the atoms in the high altitude atmosphere. There charged particles often originate from the Earth's magnetosphere along with solar winds originating from the sun. When these collide with Nitrogen and Oxygen it causes a beautiful display of colour dancing in the sky. Ranging from amazing blues to deep reds, the aurora borealis has amazed people for years with early viewers of the aurora in the middle ages seeing it as a sign from the heavens.
We now have a scientific idea on how the aurora came to be but the sight of this mystic phenomenon makes many people travel north just to get a glimpse of this extreme natural beauty. We here in Consett are fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of this cosmic event right from our back door step. With sightings happening during October this year, it is often a case of looking over to the northern horizon on a clear winter's night where the sky will seem to be illuminated in the most spectacular of manners. Keep an eye out and see if you can see this amazing sight.

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Richard Murray & Family

by Brian Harrison

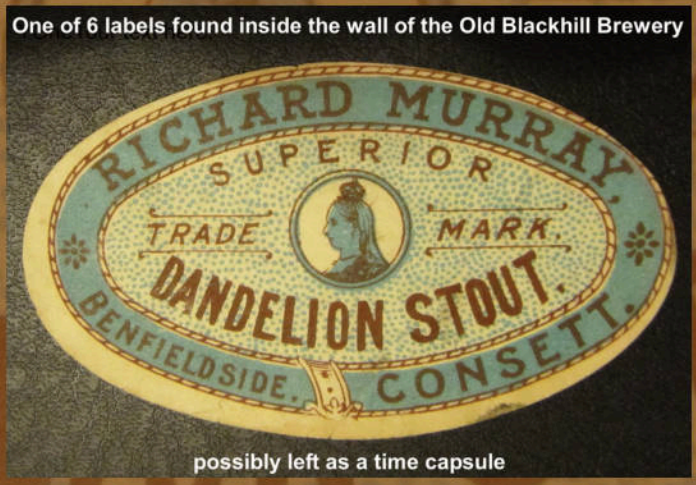
Brian is part of the Consett & District Heritage Initiative.
For more info contact cdhi@live.co.uk or drop into The Lodge, Blackhill & Consett Park, Wednesdays 10am-4pm.

Richard Murray was an extraordinary business man who gave a lot to this town.

Most people know him because of the Richard Murray Memorial Hospital, later to become the NHS Richard Murray Maternity Hospital (1947-71), which was built in 1913 from an endowment of £50,000 left by him. He lived most of his life in Benfieldside and started his business by selling land for housing. He quickly advanced and built the Park Royal Hotel, Blackhill. Shortly after he started the Richard Murray Brewery, which he had erected right next door. The brewery became very successful, so much so that he soon amalgamated with the Vaux Breweries of Sunderland to become the North Eastern Breweries of which Richard was the major shareholder and Managing Director. He also had links to many other businesses in the area as well as being instrumental in the formation of the Consett and District Permanent Building Society. It was also through his generosity that St Aidan's Blackhill had its tower erected in 1903. The 1891 Census shows his varied occupational prowess when it stated his profession as: "Brewer, Innkeeper, Ship owner, Builder and Farmer", a very impressive résumé.



One of 6 labels found inside the wall of the Old Blackhill Brewery



possibly left as a time capsule

However, Richard was only one of four brothers all of which became quite successful. The first, William, emigrated to South Africa where he made a fortune in the gold mines, Murray Park in Johannesburg being named after him. Tragedy unfortunately struck when he lost his life during the Boer War. The next, Joseph, became a well known Butcher in Consett his shop being located in Middle Street. Finally, John Swinburne Murray, who ran a large farm in Edmunbyers before also emigrating to South Africa. He continued in farming there for a few years before returning to Consett where he took over his father's business of auctioneering. He created the Blackhill Cattle Market next to his brother Richard's Royal Hotel, and was also linked to many other agricultural businesses. All the brothers were well liked and respected in the area.

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3D printing is the process of printing 3D objects like a table spoon, belt-buckle, or even a part for a car. Just like the revolution in personal computing which started around thirty years ago, we are on the cusp of a manufacturing boom which will bring personal manufacturing of 3D objects into your home. 3D printers are in fact, available today.

These printers are fairly expensive, but prices are dropping rapidly. Very soon there will be 3D printers for sale in the same shops where you can pick up a PC, laptop, or tablet computer. Imagine being able to use 3D printing to produce a part for your car, or a model you just designed on your computer. This is a very real possibility, and within a decade we could see the mass production of products moving to printed to order. This would eradicate waste, we would only print the number of car parts we need, and not more than we can actually use.

This technology is changing the way which products are being manufactured with companies such as Disney getting on the band wagon pretty quickly with a number of their toy products being manufactured through the 3D printing process. This is a monumental shift in the manufacturing process which could move more manufacturing to the UK and other developed countries. Industrial 3D printing is nothing new but systems which you can use at home to make a number of creations are now starting to emerge. MakerBot and 3D Systems have a number of 3D printers which are available for consumer use.



This provides a dilemma. The idea of being able to design and print anything you have the correct CAD files for means that effectively, any designs you find online could be printed in your home for your own use. One fear which is present with the rise of 3D printing is the ability to manufacture products which are restricted by your respective government. In the US, there are laws governing the sale of guns including that all guns must be registered. If you could print out the lower receiver of an assault rifle, you could effectively create an unmarked and untraceable gun.

Even with these drawbacks, 3D printing is on its way into our homes. The advances in technology which allow us to have such equipment are nothing short of monumental. These printers are self replicating and any parts which are needed can be printed from the printer itself. This self replication process means a 3D printer can essentially make a copy, of itself. How this emerging technology will be regulated will be crucial to their availability and use in the near future with people already pushing the boundaries of what is capable with the current technology, we can't wait to see what happens.

Log on to consettmagazine.com to share your views on this story!



All enquiries please call: 01207 438292

Free School For Consett

By Kevin Dodd

We are a small group of parents, teachers and a head teacher passionate about improving the quality of primary school education on offer in Consett.

There are too few schools in the area judged by Ofsted as good or better.

Those that are good are increasingly over-subscribed and under pressure from new housing developments.

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VIDEO GAMES COMING SOON

Coming up to the end of the year, the video game industry is in full swing trying to push their new offerings off the shelves and into the homes of millions of people worldwide in time for Christmas. There is something coming out for everyone in the winter with a huge selection available for all types of gamers from hardcore fans to part time players. Be certain to check out which games we think are going to be worth the hard earned cash this winter.



Forza Horizon

Our pick for the Xbox 360 would have to be Forza Horizon. This open world racer is a departure from the standard racing game on the market where instead of being on the track, you are thrust into a world of 100% real mapped roads where you have to race in a number of events around this racing sandbox. This has been done before with the Test Drive Unlimited games but when coupled with the realistic physics which Forza has to offer, this is a truly amazing concept.

Halo 4

This winter also sees the reintroduction of the Halo series to Xbox which is being continued by 343 Industries over Bungie. Microsoft have taken a big interest in the newest adventure into the Halo universe making sure that all of the games new features and story are congruent with that of the original titles. The Halo games have generally been the big sellers of the Xbox world and this newest instalment will not disappoint.



Wii U & Super Mario Bros U

The big winter gaming news is the release of the new Nintendo console the Wii U. This development of the mighty Wii features a new style of controller which actually works as a double screen set up like that which in the Nintendo DS handheld systems. New Super Mario Bros U is one of the titles which will be available upon release and is sure to drum up some major interest in Nintendo's newest console. Be sure to check out our favourite plumber and his group of friends in this traditional side scrolling adventure game.



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Crime Scene in Consett

The latest release from local rock outfit Crime Scene **by Ivan Laidler**

With the atmosphere in Consett, there is nothing better than some classic rock and metal music to fit in with the industrial history of the town. Crime Scene are a local three piece band whose music harks back to a time when metal and rock music was played by heavy industry workers in their spare time when not in the factories smelting and manufacturing. Crime Scene replicates some of the raw feel of their musical predecessors whilst adding a twist of blues to the age old formula.



Crime Scene's current line up consists of Geoff Dickinson on bass and vocals and London born Sid Bishop playing guitar. The band is currently looking for a drummer as previous percussionist Luke Taylor has recently left the band to go to University down the country. Concerning the search for a drummer, "We've seen a couple of people" says Sid "but no luck so far. The search will continue, helped enormously by Matt in Steeltown Music". It's fantastic to see that these great guys have the support of Consett's local music shop in their search for their third and final member. Sid dropped by our office and brought us a copy of Crime Scene's five track EP to give us a idea of what the band have been up to in recent times. Recorded at White Wolf recording studio in nearby Stanley, their EP gives a great impression of what the band are capable of. Track one, Mirror, has a great classic metal feel which really harks back to the origins of the genre back in the 60s whilst "Capture The Moment" has a blues feel running throughout the track with creamy guitar licks coming thick and fast.

Crime Scene's CD is a well recorded piece of work which really highlights the talent of Geoff, Sid and Luke. Let's hope that the band find a new drummer and continue working on their material and playing shows in the local area.

Motion Tourist - Miles

by Chris Brown

One man down, Motion Tourist still manage to produce a scintillating new record. The now 3 piece, have brought together an acoustic record, that mesmerizes and shapes your emotions throughout.

Within the record, it connotes negativity, disappear, loosing, fear, lies, words all repeated numerous times. Yet this colourless core is fluctuated by the layers of dry acoustic riffs, hypnotic guitar grooves and an intelligent bass line, allowing the track to progress into an upbeat foot tapper of a record.

The killer crescendos, heart felt lyrics and vocals, as well as poignant acoustic sounds, makes this Motion Tourist return a superb one, and Miles a must listen.

Review: Dominic Hewitson

What's Happening in Consett

November 2012

A Night of Musicals @ The Empire Theatre, Consett – Thursday 1st November

Smack The Pony – Hip Hop, Grime, Dubstep and DnB @ The Black Horse Thursday 1st November

Russian State Ballet & Opera House – Swan Lake @ The Empire Theatre Friday 2nd November

Honest Jack LIVE & Fireworks Display @ The Miners Arms, Medomsley Saturday 3rd November

Shotgun Hooker LIVE @ The Demi, Consett Saturday 3rd of November

Black Nevada LIVE @ The Cricketers, Blackhill Saturday 3rd November

An Evening With Brian Conley – A Centenary Celebration @ The Empire Theatre, Consett Sunday 4th November

Go As You Please – Bingo, singing and much more @ Blackhill Club, Blackhill Sunday 4th November

Stealer LIVE @ The Black Horse, Consett Friday 9th November

Road Stunner LIVE @ The Cricketers, Blackhill Saturday 10th November

Go As You Please – Bingo, singing and much more @ Blackhill Club, Blackhill Sunday 11th November

Roadstunner LIVE @ The Black Horse, Consett Friday 16th November

Seven Sins LIVE @ The Demi, Consett Saturday 17th November

Feedback LIVE @ The Cricketers, Blackhill Saturday 17th November

Go As You Please – Bingo, singing and more @ Blackhill Club, Blackhill Sunday 18th November

Dave Mitchell LIVE @ The Miners Arms, Medomsley – Friday 23th November

Seven Sins LIVE @ The Cricketers, Blackhill Saturday 24th November

Seven Sins LIVE @ The Cricketers, Blackhill Saturday 24th November

Go As You Please – Bingo, singing and much more @ Blackhill Club, Blackhill Sunday 25th November

Mitch Laddie Band LIVE @ The Black Horse, Consett – Friday 30th November

Got an event?

Send details to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

Consett Girl Shoots for The States

by B. Kirkham

Female football has always been seen as a secondary attraction after the traditional male game but in recent times the attitudes towards female football have been changing.

With huge crowds coming out to support Team GB at the London 2012 Olympics, Women's Football is starting to get the recognition it deserves throughout the UK and around the world. Women's football has always had a big following in the United States and many women looking to further the skill head over looking for the next challenge.

19 year old Charlotte Brown from Medomsley started her Football career at a young age of ... playing for Consett Football Club's junior team. Over all of the year's honing her skills with Consett she decided to move over to play with the East Durham team based in Peterlee where she would later play for and captain their college team. Playing in a number of positions over the years, Charlotte has now settled into the winger role being confident in her game on both sides of the pitch where her outstanding speed gives her an edge on the competition.

After finishing a sport course at East Durham College, Charlotte was accepted for a scholarship to play football over in the US for the Bethel University team in the state of Tennessee.



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Sat 3 Nov
Ashington V Consett Away

Mon 5 Nov
Team Northumbria V Consett Away

Sat 10 Nov
Consett V Bedlington Terriers Away

Tue 13 Nov
Consett V Whitley Bay (League Cup 2) Away

Sat 17 Nov
Consett V South Shields or Shildon FAV 2 Home

Tue 20 Nov
Consett V Guisborough Town Home

Sat 24 Nov
Whitley Bay V Consett Away

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