CONSETT MAGAZINE

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Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 16/ November 2013



LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT

The Dust Town Dogs switch on Consett's Christmas cheer.

CANCER RELIEF

Locals raise money for a well established Cancer charity.

LIKE A DIAMOND

The rain of riches on Saturn is something spectacular.

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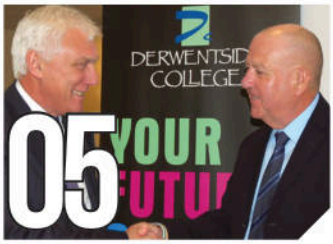

















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HAVE YOUR SAY!

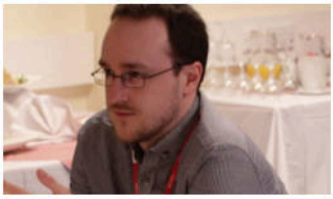
We get many interesting emails and phone calls each month from readers like you who wish to tell their story in Consett Magazine. If you think you have something to say, then let us know. We are looking for stories of local significance from events, history, and sport, to thoughts on public services and education.

In the coming months we intend to give more magazine space to you the people of Consett in a feature called "Have Your Say". We don't mind what you have to say; we just want to hear from you!

You can send us an email to editor@consettmagazine.com or give us a call on 01207 438 292. We can't wait to hear from you!

Welcome

To issue 16 of the **Consett Magazine!**



Happy November, people of Consett!

The month of fireworks and falling leaves is upon us. To go along with this season of change we have a jam-packed issue of Consett Magazine for you to read around a nice cosy fire.

The town we live in is currently in a state of limbo between quiet retreat and bustling retail park. As it stands, the area around Genesis Way is flowering into a very prosperous section of Consett and should serve to greatly stimulate our local economy. With the likes of Tesco, Carpet Right and B&Q already confirmed as bringing their stores to us, things are looking up.

There is still a cluster of store space laying empty down there and a little bird in the pub told me that clothing retailer Primark supposedly has its sights set on it. We contacted Primark to confirm this, but they cannot officially confirm anything as this moment in time, so the rumour is still a rumour. Consett Magazine will certainly be keeping you updated on how our retail park develops over the coming months and into the new year.

Bringing the magazine back into the picture, our November issue has a nice varied selection of stories available to digest. Flick back to our contents page to see what's going on!

As always, please enjoy your read and don't forget to pass your magazine on to your friends and family!

Ivan J. Laidler,
Editor-in-chief

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SIR BOB MURRAY TO CELEBRATE STUDENT SUCCESS AT DERWENTSIDE COLLEGE



Sir Bob Murray is to be the guest speaker at Derwentside College's Annual Awards ceremony in his home-town of Consett later this year and will personally sponsor four new special achievement awards for local students.

Sir Bob, who is best known as a successful businessman, philanthropist and for his chairmanship of Sunderland AFC is increasingly recognised as a leading advocate of the power of education to change young people's lives.

Sir Bob said: "It is an honour to be invited to be the guest speaker at the Annual Awards ceremony at Derwentside College This will be the second time I have given an address at Derwentside, having been previously invited in 2001. "Derwentside College has an excellent track record and enviable reputation in vocational training and education and plays an important role in shaping the future destinies of young people.

"I left school at 16 with just one O' Level and the baby boom in the immediate aftermath of the war meant that there were twice as many people looking for work in 1961 and no prospect of me joining the steelworks where my father had worked. They were difficult times and being out of work had a profound and lasting impact on my life.

"Initially I had nowhere to turn and was unemployed for a year. That experience changed my outlook on life forever and gave me the drive and ambition to change my life. "It took me 10 years of studying part time to further my education and get qualified but the most important step I took was enrolling at Derwentside College in 1963. I never looked back and am a passionate supporter of education. I know from personal experience how education can change your outlook on life and I want to encourage as many young people and adult returners to think about doing the same.

"I'm delighted to be sponsoring four new special achievement awards from this year, as I also want to recognise and celebrate the accomplishments of some of the most dedicated and hard-working students from the College."

Albert Croney, Principal and Chief Executive of Derwentside College, said: "We are delighted to welcome Sir Bob Murray as our Guest of Honour for this year's award ceremony. As a former student, Bob has shown the extent of what hard work and dedication can achieve. Our awards evening will showcase the success of students and the on-going support and commitment we provide to a number of local and regional employers. Four-years ago the College worked with 2374 learners and this has risen to over 9000 this year. I am pleased to say that Derwentside College continues to go from strength-to-strength and is supporting more learners and businesses in the region and beyond."

THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN CONSULTATION

by Ivan Laidler

The County Durham Plan has been created to set up a policy framework until 2030 to ensure a thriving economy in our County whilst protecting the things we as a region hold dear. As the aim of the plan is to increase the economic performance of County Durham, it points to a number of sites which could be used for building new houses, shopping areas and also create new jobs as a result.

This pre-submission draft copy of the County Durham Plan will be submitted by the local government to the Secretary of State for examination. Throughout November, the local government will be asking you for your views on the County Durham Plan.
You can get a copy of the County Durham Plan from Consett Library, the Consett Customer Access Point or online at durham.gov.uk/cdp
Alongside the information available to you, the council are arranging a number of consultation evenings across the county where you can find more about the County Durham Plan and voice any concerns. On the 11th of November between 4pm and 8pm at St Patrick's Church Hall you will be able to get a better look at what the plans entail for Consett and how they may effect you.

This will be a great opportunity to get involved with the government plans for the area by having your say. If you can't make it to the event you can still make sure your voice is heard by getting in touch online. You can leave your views on the plan website which can be found at http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/ or via email to CDPconsultation@durham.gov.uk

If you can't get to a computer you can also submit your views via post. There is a special freepost address you can write to. Just write "FREEPOST Spacial Policy" on the envelope and pop it in a post box.

The full consultation period is running until the 6th of December so be sure to get your opinions in by this date.



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DUST TOWN DOGS TO LIGHT UP CONSETT

by Chris Brown

The Dust Town Dogs are one of Consett's favourite local bands. Their infectious mix of folk, bluegrass and hillbilly rock has propelled them from small beginnings to the largest venue in Consett. Saturday 23rd of November looks to be a monumental day in The Dust Town Dog's history as alongside their show at the Empire Theatre, the band will be given the honours of turning on Consett's Christmas lights.

It's been a long journey for The Dust Town Dogs from a simple two piece playing in the corner of the bar to the amazing show that so many people in the area love. The Grey Horse open mic night sparked something special which has developed into one of the areas best musical talents.

From 10:30am until 6:00pm there will be a number of different free family activities for everyone to enjoy. There will be face painting, traditional market stalls, Santa's Grotto and of course lie music from a number of different local artists culminating in the Dust Town Dogs setting the Christmas lights away.

This doesn't leave the Dogs much time to get back to the Empire Theatre to prepare for their home town headline show on the evening at 8pm. With support from Meghan Nicholson, the Dust Time Dogs are looking to make history going from their humble beginnings to the main stage at one of the most prestigious venues in all of Derwentside. The festivals which nowadays The Dust Town Dogs regularly play are a far cry from the small pub gigs back in the day but everything has to start somewhere.

You can find out more information about the band from their website thedusttowndogs.co.uk or by searching for "The Dust Town Dogs" on Facebook.

IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY FOR THE DUST TOWN DOGS FROM A SIMPLE TWO PIECE PLAYING IN THE CORNER OF THE BAR TO THE AMAZING SHOW THAT SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE AREA LOVE "

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IT'S ALL IN THE MIND

by Lorraine Weightman

Derwentside Mind launched its lottery funded Living Well Project on Friday October 11th 2013 at its newly refurbished Stanley premises. The project aimed at promoting positive well-being in Stanley offers a variety of services comprising of Talking Therapies including Counselling, NLP Coaching, Hypnotherapy, Life Coaching and a range of Holistic Therapies such as Indian Head Massages, Reiki, Relaxation and Chakra Balancing.

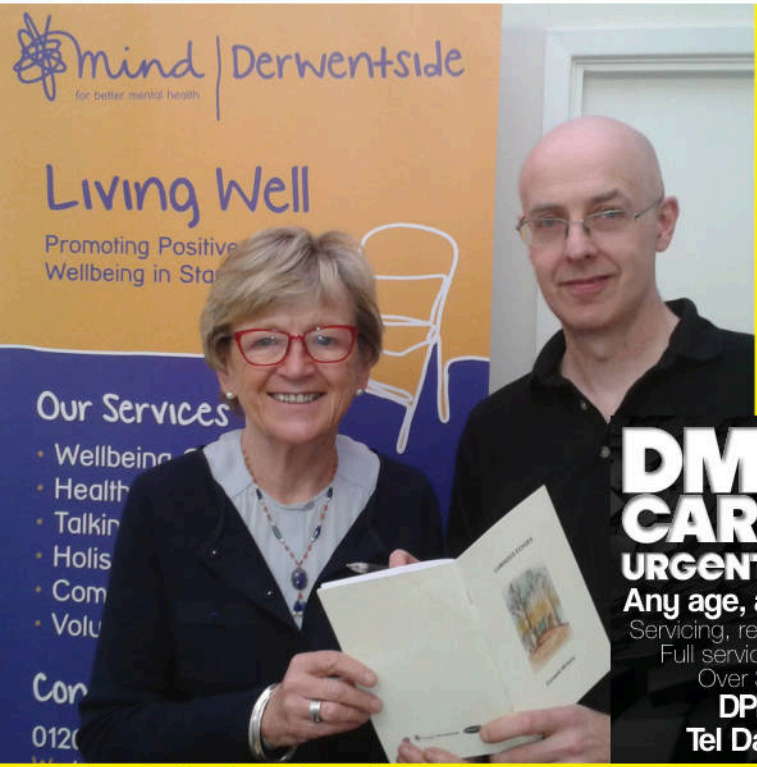
The charity has been well established in Consett for many years and has offered - as well as the above - Well-being Courses and Activities ranging from Confidence Building and Anxiety Management to Exercise, Art and Creative Writing Classes.

The Rt. Hon, the Baroness Hilary Armstrong who is President of Derwentside Mind is pictured with Steve Urwin, a local poet and writer who runs and organizes Creative Writing Workshops. They are sharing Luminous Echoes, an anthology of creative writing and poetry created by Steve and members of Consett Writers at Derwentside Mind.

Brenda Greener, the manager of Mind in Derwentside pointed out that 'Derwentside Mind has continued to provide good quality mental health services to the people of Derwentside. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been associated with the organisation for your ongoing support and involvement over the past year. Everyone's contribution no matter how small is very much appreciated'

There were a host of visitors throughout the open day including Kevan Jones MP and Lisa Shaw from Real Radio.

Derwentside Mind provides practical and emotional support to people of all ages and its patrons include Pat Glass MP and Alan Robson MBE.



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CUTTING EDGE START-UP

Hair dressers and stylists have been growing in popularity over the past few decades. With more and more people turning their hand to this ancient art, it is hard to know which is the best and most suitable for your needs.

Meet Stephanie Richardson a 21 year old from Consett with a passion for hair design. She has recently set up a new business in Shotley Bridge called Bellieza. She offers a range of hair treatments at great value for money. Her motto is simple and clear, Quality, Style and Value. Much like Stephanie, Bellieza is a modern and fashionable establishment. As an accredited Fudge stylist, Stephanie doesn't compromise on quality. Her passion has developed over the 5 years of experience working in local salons.

Bellieza offers weekly deals via their facebook and offers special OAP prices all week round. If you'd like to find out more or book an appointment then call 01207 655 022.



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MOVEMBER IS BACK

Being November, the charity campaign based around funky facial hair is back!

Movember has returned once again and is encouraging men to grow a moustache for charity. In support of male specific cancers such as prostate and testicular cancer, men are encouraged to grow the biggest and baddest moustaches they can to raise money for these important causes.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer found in males in the UK. Unlike female specific cancer problems, the levels of awareness and prevention of prostate cancer are lagging far behind. Over 40,000 men every year are diagnosed with the disease and estimations suggest that by 2030 it will be the most common form of all cancers.

Action needs to be taken to help stamp out this serious men's health issue. That is what Movember aims to do in a month long campaign to grow amazing moustaches in support of these serious issues. The objective is to shave at the start of the month and see what sort of lip hair you can come up with by the end of November. The more interesting the choice of moustache the better!

We here at Consett Magazine would love to see your moustaches this November so don't hesitate and send them to us at editor@consettmagazine.com or via our Facebook page. We will be sharing the best of them through our Facebook and Twitter pages.

If you want to get involved in the Movember movement head over to uk.movember.com for more information about the campaign and useful men's health information.

Know Your Mo



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(Super Mario)



The Lemmy
(Motorhead)



The Asterix
(Asterix)



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(Frank Zappa)



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(Salvador Dali)



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(Hercule Poirot)



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HELPING TO KEEP CANCER AT BAY

A coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support held at Consett Library has had a big impact to the important charity. On the 27th of September, people around the UK helped the charity by all hosting their own coffee mornings in support of the Macmillan cause. Consett Library managed to raise the amazing amount of **£854.72** from their coffee morning which will no doubt be a great help to the charity.

The Library would like to thank everyone who was in attendance and helped them reach their final total.

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Dialect

by Mike Bowden

"What fettle hinny?" called Tommy from the next allotment.
"Am not ower grand marra, some scallywag's pinched me leeks and the show's the morra, the biggest in Consett."
"Hadaway man, neebody would dee that roond here."
"Well they have,' shouted Billy and immediately apologised. 'Am sorry man, but whorrama ganna dee noo."
"You can have one o mine marra, but they divvent come anywhere near the size o thine."
"Thanks, but a cannat accept charity. Anyway, wor lass is ganna gan off it when she finds oot. She was hell bent on me winnin forst prize, it's one of them plastic tellies."
Tommy laughed.
"A divvent see what's funny aboot it," said Billy with a scathing glance.
"Am not laughin aboot your leeks man, it's a plasma telly you divvy. Anyway am var nigh finished , so am gannin hyem for me tea, but am sorry aboot your leeks."
A familiar face peered over the allotment gate.
"Billy, tea's ready, its bubble and squeak so you better mek sharp or there'll be nen left."
"Aye pet, but somebody's pinched me leeks lass," he said sadly.
"That was me you gaumless gowk, a took them hyem to wash em."

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Knitsley Viaduct and an Alarming Incident

by Brian Harrison

Knitsley Viaduct, which spanned the valley between Knitsley and Lanchester, was built in 1862 as part of the North-East Railway. It was a picturesque construction built of wooden trestles. The structure itself was about 100 yards long by 100 feet high.

On Monday 21 December 1874 a train left Durham at 7.55pm heading on its way as usual to Blackhill. It had made all its usual stops and was now heading toward the Viaduct. As it began to cross, the train started to oscillate violently, followed by a harsh grating sound heard and felt throughout. The train came to an immediate halt right in the centre of the bridge. With great care one by one they began to exit the carriages. To their horror they could see that many of the carriages had been derailed. The first class carriage was hanging precariously over the edge.

It was at this point, seeing the rails all torn up and a large portion of the palisade of the bridge missing, that everyone suddenly realised that the final carriage had fallen over the edge. The guard and a number of the men hurried down the bank. On approach they found the carriage smashed to splinters but thankfully it had been empty.

About an hour later the passengers were placed onto the truck, which had not been derailed, and were safely taken on to their respected destinations. An inspection later found that the axle of the last carriage had come away and made it jumped the rails about 100 yards prior to the bridge. By some miracle the couplings which attached it to the forward carriages had worked loose saving the rest of the carriages from being pulled down with it.



In about 1915 due to the need for major repairs, the decision was made to turn the once majestic structure into an embankment. So using old ballast and colliery slag they filled in and built up under the bridge. The embankment can still be seen today but few would even guess what lies beneath.

All enquiries please call: 01207 438292

WINTER SPOOK-TACULARS MEAN A TIME OF CELEBRATION

by Jim Callan

October and November traditionally heralds the oncoming autumnal and winter months and thoughts of Halloween, Guy Fawkes and, of course, Christmas.

But, another traditional aspect of this time of year is the rise of the season of the supernatural and all things ghostly.

County Durham, including Consett, has numerous ghostly and supernatural tales to tell. Conversely however, instead of being in dread of these months, we celebrate them with the likes of Halloween, Bonfire Night and, finally, Christmas.

Most of the ghostly stories usually concentrate on personal deaths, disasters or, in Consett's case, the demise of the exclusive and immigrant-driven iron ore industry with the arrival of the Bessemer Process. And the arrival of the ghost of the "Spring Lane Mill Worker".

It's believed that he mysteriously vanished when walking from the mine to his home and that he met a grisly end by either suicide or foul play. Whatever the reason, his spirit would occasionally be seen walking along Spring Lane, with his head reverently bowed, before disappearing at the same spot in what appeared to be a self-generating mist that evaporated with him.

When, one by one, the mills fell silent as all work moved to Sheffield, there were claims that the eerie sounds of machinery and sounding horns, along with general working noises could be heard floating across the Derwent Valley. Followed by sporadic sightings of spirits of workers believed to have been devastatingly affected by the demise of the local industry.

Today, whilst commemorating the last 200 years of such history, we also celebrate the likes of the major dates with parties, firework displays and, of course, the Christmas celebrations across many modern cultures. After all, a traditional Christmas includes the two greatest ghost and redemption stories ever. Namely, Jesus and Scrooge.

So, whilst the colder months are associated with a sprinkling of doom and gloom, they also include colourful celebrations featuring fireworks, the abandonment of those things that lurk in the shadows by emulating them in costume, and the wish for goodwill. Mainly, represented by raucous parties, the giving of gifts and giving occasion to think of others.

FAMILY TRESEARCH

by Marco Elsy

Researching your family history can seem daunting. Most people wouldn't know where to start. For many, finding the time, having access to the specific archival records and researching the ancestral lines can be complex and time consuming.

Tresearch is a local service set up by historian Ian Bowley. They offer a friendly and personal approach to family history research.

For the last 15 years Ian has been pursuing his hobby, researching family lines from as far back as the 1500's. He specialises in the North East of England and through his own research he discovered that he may be a distant relative of the great Winston Churchill.

Ian is now focusing his efforts full time to help local people trace their origins.

From as little as £30 Ian can begin to build your family tree. This deeply personal service would make a wonderful gift for that special person in your family.

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A little bit about our new store

From Dawn - Deputy Manager -Consett

The size of our new store when complete will be 23,000 square feet, incorporating an external garden centre.
We have had over 1000 people apply for jobs, and after 2 weeks of assessment days and interviews, held inside Derwentside College, we have offered 50 jobs.

The quality of applicants has been exceptional, and we are so happy with the team we've put together. There is a real mix of personalities, each with something unique to bring. our youngest employee is 17 and our oldest is 67.

We also have established a relationship with the community policing team, who are supporting us over our opening weekend, & into the next year, with some interactive security demonstrations & offer a service whereby our customers can come along and have their valuable property marked with a security pen. Victoria from the community policing team , is helping me to co ordinate a monthly clean up. Where once we are open and trading, we commit to a team of B&Q staff, going out into the town, to litter pick, clear debris such as leaves etc.

The Consett first scouts, has been a tradition within Consett for over 100 years, and we are honoured to have a superb relationship with them. They will be on hand to pack bags over our open weekend, and also busy periods. We will be running games and competitions, where the scouts will be on hand to oversee as it helps them gain badges. They have recently fundraised to have a new scout hut built, and we will support in any donations, which will be of use in the new building, going forward.

B&Q staff from the store holding classes for children in local schools to come along and learn new skills. As a parent myself, I know how exciting it is for children to do something different at school. And something as simple as taking kids into our garden centre to learn about the environment, and growing, fits in with the curriculum too.

They recently performed at the golf open tournament at slaley hall, and B&Q Consett are proud to support them and have them play at our opening weekend, and also over Christmas.

My plans for the store do not just stop at our opening weekend, as you can see I'm looking in to 2014, and my vision is to make B&Q a hub of the community, and gain a firm reputation as a store that gives something back.

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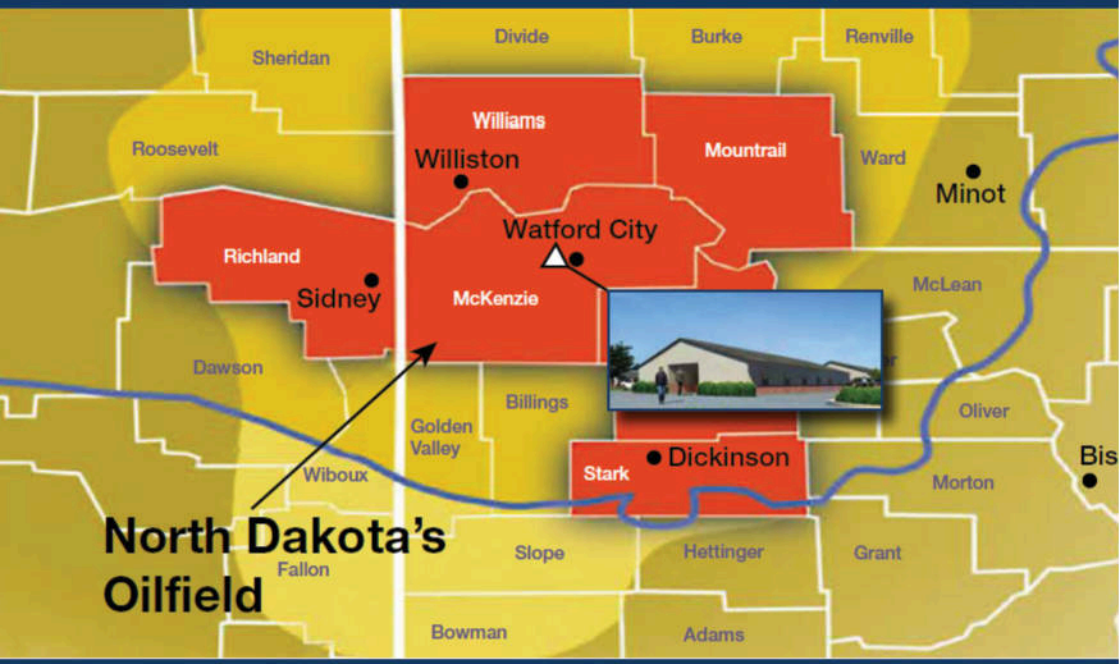

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FALSE WIDOW TALES

By Marco "Eight-Legged" Elsy

There have been some wild stories regarding the "False Widow" or Steatoda grossa over the past few weeks and some of our very own readers have sent us pictures of spiders fearing that they, children or pets might be in danger.

After some careful thought we decided we'd bring you a guide to your house and garden spiders.

Spiders have been around for a long time, around 400 million years. There are roughly 43,000 known species of spider in existence. Throughout history, many cultures have referenced spiders. From Greek mythology to African folklore, the spider has been a symbol for many different things.

Almost all of us will have seen spiders in our homes – perhaps walking across the lounge floor, stuck in the bath, or quietly sitting in a ceiling corner. Several species share our living spaces, some staying year round whilst others have just found their way in through open windows or gaps beneath doors.

The truth is that few spiders are able to comfortably live in modern centrally-heated homes. The majority would prefer to be helped back outside where they live in garages and sheds or among the general clutter around the outsides of homes and in gardens.

Spiders are very important in our urban environment and help to control the numbers of many nuisance household pests, so are useful and eco-friendly pest controllers. Use this guide to get to know your lodgers a little better – it will help you to identify 4 species commonly found in homes.

House Spider
(Tegenaria species)



A large spider with a brown cephalothorax and tan-coloured abdomen often with characteristic 'herring bone' pattern. Six species of this group are commonly found in homes and they are the classic 'spider in the bath'or the spider dashing across the living room floor.

Orb Web Spider
(Zygiella x-notata)



A small spider with pale body and legs and silver-grey markings on the abdomen. It is usually found around the outside of houses and gardens, and is particularly common around windows.

Lace Web Spider
(Amaurobius species)



A medium-sized spider, usually brown and frequently having yellowish markings on the abdomen. One of five species of Lace Web spiders. Usually found outdoors on walls, fencing and clutter around the garden.

Zebra Jumping Spider
(Pholcus phalangioides)



A small spider with white and black markings and a characteristic jerky 'start and stop' movement. Usually found hunting on external walls and surfaces but frequently venturing indoors through open doors and windows.This group of spiders do not use webs to catch their prey but actively hunt by day. They have large eyes and ambush small insects by pouncing on them.

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RAINING RICHES

by Chris Brown

Recent research into the two largest planets in our Solar System has come across with some startling revelations. Jupiter and Saturn are the two largest planets in our Solar System and yet there is still much to learn about these gas giants.

Analysis from scientists in the USA has shown that carbon can be found in abundance in these gas giants created from lightning igniting methane gas. This carbon is then converted to chunks of graphite and then diamond as they fall eventually to the molten core of the planet. To think that one of the most valuable precious stones on Earth may be the common equivalent to hailstones on another world is truly unbelievable.

Once the diamonds have been formed, they then fall through the gaseous layers of the planets and melt into the molten core at the centre. It has now been theorised that in one year over 1000 tonnes of diamonds are being created in the gas clouds of Saturn. It is now speculated that the centre of Saturn may well be a sea of liquid carbon due to the intense heat and pressure exerted at that point.

Whilst these phenomenon can't be directly observed, the science behind these wild theories stands up to the rigours of modern day standards of astrological science. There are some who claim this theory to be incorrect due to the assumption of a pure carbon atmosphere on Saturn. A mixture of carbon, hydrogen and helium is a far more likely composition of the planet's atmosphere.

As science improves, the list of discoveries in the modern day will keep increasing and with each new piece of research there are questions that need to be asked. Even so, it is amazing that science can help build a better picture of the universe around us.

TO THINK THAT ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE PRECIOUS STONES ON EARTH MAY BE THE COMMON EQUIVALENT TO HAILSTONES ON ANOTHER WORLD IS TRULY UNBELIEVABLE



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NORTH EAST SONG WRITING DUO POISED FOR EUROVISION

by Dan Noble



North East based musicians/ songwriters 'The Larks' are set to make their European debut with their song 'Summer Loving' as candidates to represent Switzerland at Eurovision 2014.

The Larks, met following a reunion between former school friends, Dan's wife Janette and Hayley . It was on this occasion that Hayley played a recording of her singing and later, upon hearing her voice, Dan suggested they form a band - and 'The Larks' were born!

Both had written music in the privacy of their own homes for years and were set on recording and performing covers as a trio with Dan's talented childhood friend, Bass player and Violinist, David fox.

Working with the London based producer Stephen 'Beanz' Rudden of Plutonic Group, himself having the UK 1995 entry by Love City Groove, spurned a number of collaborations between the trio before entering their song 'Summer Loving' co-written with and produced by Mr Rudden.

Now working in collaboration with 'Beanz' under his label 'Plutonic Group,' The Larks make music for use in television, film, advertising and in other media channels.

Hayley says, 'Meeting Dan and getting involved with Beanz has been a real turning point for me. Eurovision is part of exciting projects we have planned for the future.'

You can see the video for Summer Loving by following the following link:

http://www.eurovisionplattform.sf.tv/videos/summer_loving

For further information and to listen to more of their work with Stephen Rudden follow the links below:-

www.thelarksmusic.com
https://soundcloud.com/beanz-rudden

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LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT SKY

by Chris Brown



This month plays host to one of the most beautiful experiences ever to grace Durham County with a dazzling light show. Running from 2009 with increasing success, the 2011 festival had an approximate footfall of over 150,000 for this truly unique event. From November 14th to the 17th Durham will be playing host to the 2013 Lumiere Festival with luminescent artwork from a large range of artists from all over the world. The Lumiere has brought a significant sum of money into Durham and this year is looking to be better than ever.

One of the biggest attractions at the festival is the piece known as "Elephantastic". This piece features a giant parading elephant which has been created and designed by French design house Top'la and is a spectacle to behold.

Another marquee piece on display for the first time in the UK is "Solar Equation" from Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. Through the use of live mathematical equations, the artist creates an infinite number of solar animations on the largest spherical helium balloon in the world. This art becomes interactive the with the use of an app to allow viewers to manipulate the equations themselves.

Due to the interest in the festival, this year is set to have longer opening hours to allow for more people to see these unique art installations. Now open from 4pm until 11pm, you can go and see the exquisite light art across the city in this unique and amazing event. During the peak hours of 4:30pm until 7:30pm at the festival, a free ticket system will be in place to ensure that things run smoothly. You can get your tickets from Ticketmaster or from the Gala Theatre. Be sure not to miss this amazing spectacle of World art right in the city of Durham this month.

Visiting the Lumiere festival without a priority ticket:

To allow visitors to have a safe and enjoyable experience, the festival organisers in consultation with Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary, have decided to implement a priority ticketing system solely for the central peninsula area this year during the busiest part of the evening, between 4.30 and 7.30pm.

The priority tickets have been very popular and all of these have now been issued. But everyone can still enjoy the whole festival with a little planning.

Only 11 of the event's 27 installations are located within the restricted area, with some of the most exciting works situated outside the ticketed area. People without priority tickets are therefore strongly advised to visit the outer areas first, and come to the central area after 7.30pm.

Check the festival website for maps and suggested routes.

Full details are available at lumiere-festival.com/durham/ticketing



All enquiries please call: 01207 438292

CYCLING TRANSFORMED COUNTY DURHAM LADY'S LIFESTYLE

move into sport in County Durham



(from left to right) Irene Hutchinson, Jane Pickard, Sheila Hodgson and Marilyn Anderson

Four years ago Jane Pickard was shy, housebound and depressed – going on a cycle ride couldn't have been further from her mind. Jane, now 48, from Newton Aycliffe said:

"Something needed to change and by pure chance I happened to hear about my local Get Active cycling group and that I would be given use of a bike and helmet and given some coaching free of charge. I felt I had nothing to lose by giving it a try. People were very friendly and welcoming and I was given some instruction which was very necessary as I hadn't been cycling for many years."

Jane's life has been transformed – she not only goes on weekly bike rides but has taken the training necessary to become a coach herself and even met her partner Ian Maitland through cycling; he is also one of the cycling coaches and both will be delivering new Back On Your Bike' beginners' programmes backed by Sport England and Durham County Council. Part of the 'Move into Sport' 12 week courses to offer the instruction, equipment and camaraderie to be able to progress and enjoy sports like cycling, but also including table tennis, golf, angling, rowing, dance and many more.

'Back On Your Bike' programmes will operate in Newton Aycliffe, Barnard Castle, Bowburn, Sedgefield, Murton, Chester-le-Street and Stanley.



(from left to right) Jane Pickard, Irene Hutchinson, Sheila Hodgson and Marilyn Anderson

(left) Ian Maitland and (right) Jane Pickard



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by Chris Brown

THE NEW HOME OF CONSETT AFC AND MORE

November is a big month for Consett AFC. After playing the final games in the historic Belle Vue Stadium at the end of last season, a new facility close to Delves Lane has been under construction and is set to be ready for the end of the year.

That time is now almost upon us as the new grounds are to be opened to the public this month.

This is a monumental move for Consett AFC as so far this season they have been playing their home games in Durham due to lack of a home. It will be great for the team to once again have a stadium to call their own.

It's not just the team who will benefit from the opening of the new stadium as it will be open from 10am until 11pm and cater for people of all ages. There will be a wide array of food available from the café within the stadium with dishes ranging from tea and scones to soup or a full meal. Another plus point is that all bread used in the café will be baked in house taking the dining experience up another notch.

The club have also made a point of providing space for local groups to meet or events to be held. This again adds an extra dimension to the services the club can provide for the community. No matter if it is a birthday party or a community group, the facilities will be available for the people of Consett to utilise.

On the pitch, things are looking great with a new 3G surface providing amazing flexibility in the uses of the grounds when not in use by the first team. With it being a synthetic pitch surface, there is less chance of heavy rain or snow causing damage to the turf, allowing for more games to go ahead as planned.

With the official hand over on the 18th of November fast approaching, it will be great to see what the new stadium can do for Consett AFC and the local community.



> THE CLUB HAVE ALSO MADE A POINT OF PROVIDING SPACE FOR LOCAL GROUPS TO MEET OR EVENTS TO BE HELD. THIS AGAIN ADDS AN EXTRA DIMENSION TO THE SERVICES THE CLUB CAN PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY



All enquiries please call: 01207 438292

GIRLS' FOOTBALL KICKS OFF TO A GREAT RECEPTION

by Nathalie Paris

Back in July this year, Philip Dodd (aka Doddsy) visited local primary schools to gauge the interest in girls' football for under-10 and under-11 teams. The result? Over 30 girls started to come to training on a Wednesday evening throughout the Summer, sometimes on a Thursday too! Three teams were created; The Consett Panthers (U10), The Consett Spiders (U11) and the Consett Lions (U11)!

The girls train every Wednesday (from now until w/c 18th November at Consett Academy South Campus, 6-7pm; from w/c 25th November at Consett Stadium, time tbc) and play on a Saturday morning in Peterlee at East Durham College, which has amazing facilities. They were very lucky because The Steakhouse, Castleside, kindly offered to sponsor them and pay for all their strips as well as a Christmas party! All the girls have to do is play the football they love to play, give it their best (which they always do) and enjoy themselves!! It's been amazing to watch the progress they've been making over the past few weeks – their teamwork is developing so fast and when they score goals there are a few of us on the touch line who make some noise!









IF ANY GIRLS ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING, THERE IS STILL TIME TO DO SO. ADDITIONALLY IF ANYONE ELSE OUT THERE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THEM (WE COULD DO WITH SOME WINTER JACKETS FOR THE GIRLS FOR THE COLD WEATHER), PLEASE CONTACT PHILIP DODD AT PDODD1979@HOTMAIL.CO.UK . THANK YOU!

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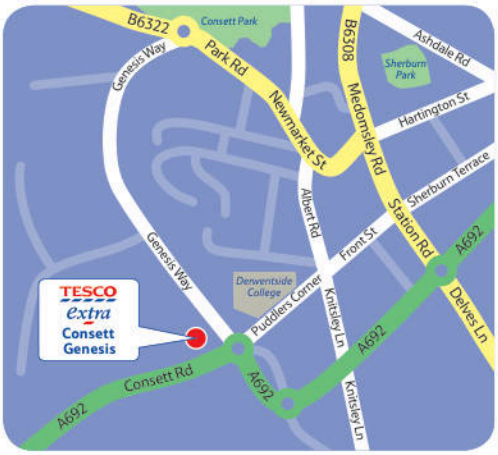

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