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NOVEMBER 2015
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THE FRONT COVER

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editor@consettmagazine.com

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NOVEMBER2015, CHILL IN THE AIR

Dear Consett Readers,

It is our pleasure to bring you another positive news driven issue of Consett Magazine.

We'd like to remind our readers about our core mission statement, "...to bring the people of Consett positive and informative stories". It's something we do our best to provide to you every month, we hope this free magazine will brighten your day and help spread the word about all the positive things happening in our town.

This month we speak to locally grown video producer, Steven Mason, who has over 100 videos on YouTube spanning over a decade of his life. It's the first part in a new series of stories with some of the most interesting people from Consett.

Who is the most interesting person you know in Consett? Get in touch with us on facebook.com/consettmagazine or via email editor@consettmagazine.com - We want to interview the most interesting people in Consett and help them to share their story!

Yours Sincerely,

The Consett Magazine Team

P.S . A special thanks goes out to the continued support we receive each month from local businesses featured in Consett Magazine, without their support we couldn't make this free publication possible. Please take a moment to look at the local companies featured in the magazine and where possible, please mention Consett Magazine when contacting them.

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★ World Renowned ★
THE JAMES SHEPHERD VERSATILE BRASS
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The world renowned James Shepherd Versatile Brass will be appearing at The Salvation Army in Consett on the 14th November for what will be the last opportunity for brass band enthusiasts to hear this famous group in the North East of England.

The group whose last performance will be in December, has an array of star players ensuring the audience a spectacular evening of quality brass playing.

For more information, please contact The Salvation Army on Sherburn Terrace, Consett, County Durham DH8 6ND, United Kingdom, or call **01207 501712**.

CONSETT PHOENIX YOUTH



The SECRET GARDEN

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st November
St Patricks Church Hall. 7.30pm

Tickets cost £4.50 adults
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A great play for all the family performed by local children aged 7-16.

70% WERE EMPLOYED AT THE IRONWORKS,

OUR IRISH IMMIGRANT ROOTS


Blessed Mary Immaculate, Blackhill.

As far back as the late 1700's Irish itinerant workers flocked over the water to England during he harvest time. Known as Spalpeens these workers used the money from this casual work to keep their small holdings going back in Ireland. Many flocked to the Hiring Fairs across rural England and Scotland finding work were they could. However, by 1818 Irish immigration to England really took off as the first steam packages were introduced. The cost of travel in 1818 from Ireland to England was about 10d but within a decade and as competition grew amongst the shipping companies prices fell to 3d. It is believed that 60,000-100,000 Irish were making the journey every year up until the 1840's.

The Irish were also skilled labourers and the Irish Navvy became a common site as the railways expanded out across the country. The boom in Iron Works also enticed many especially to Works like those at Bedlington, Northumberland which was well ahead of its time. Most of the Irish workers returned home to Ireland but some did stay. At the time the Iron Works at Consett were first founded it was well known that the Irish workers had a good working knowledge of iron making and also were hard working, so the Derwent Iron Company had posters placed up in prominent places not only in England but also throughout Ireland giving people the promise of work and good housing. That along with word of mouth did the job and soon Consett was amass with willing workers.

The Irish travelled to Consett through predominately 3 places, Scotland, Cumberland and Liverpool following in the tradition's of the Spalpeens who had come before them. At the time of the 1841 Census Consett already had a reasonable Irish community, more single men than families at that time. But the expanding Iron Works and the unfortunate failure of the potato crops saw the community boom. By 1851 Durham had the 3rd largest Irish born population in England with 5.4% and Consett's Irish population stood at nearer 22%.

By 1870 of the 900 Irish born workers living in Consett, 70% were employed at the ironworks, most others being in differing trades, such as Innkeepers, saddler's, Grocers, etc... Very few were employed in the mines at that time. The Irish on the whole had very little skill or knowledge of mining so although many Blackleg Irish stories were banded about it was actually very rare.

Many of the Irish workers who came to Consett were Catholic's and had came from very harsh environment back in Ireland. Durham was known as a sympathetic area as there was already a well established Catholic community. Of course with workers flocking in from all over the country to Consett things were still a little on the precarious side as far as religious intolerance went.

The early years of unrest was soon overcame and in the decades that followed the Irish community of Consett grew and blossomed. The Church of St Mary's Blackhill is a testament to the Irish Catholics who were the predominate force behind raising the money needed to build it. Money was given weekly out of their wages and also their time and labour was given freely where and when needed. A major feat.

Most people from Consett have some Irish ancestry a thing of which I think we should all be proud.

BY BRIAN HARRISON

COMMON EXPRESSIONS WITH NO COMMON SENSE

In English we use many common expressions which don't make any sense when you stop to think carefully about them. I offer you five expressions, and you can easily think of others yourself.

Some people see their photo and claim it doesn't really look like them. Well it is said that "the camera never lies" - but in fact it always lies, for the simple reason that it takes a static two-dimensional picture of a dynamic three-dimensional person. It cannot fail to lie. Even a movie camera lies, when you stop to think about it.

Going abroad is often justified by saying "travel broadens the mind" - but this is only true if a person is already broad-minded. If he's a narrow-minded bigot, travel to foreign parts will simply entrench his narrow views. Travel will only broaden the seat of his pants.

How many times have you heard "the last straw that broke the camel's back"? This is obviously nonsense. If this straw did indeed have the strength to break the poor camel's back, why did the first straw not also break its back? Clearly the back was broken not by a single straw, but by the weight of countless thousands of straws.

Perhaps you have said from time to time "don't come crying to me" if things go wrong. Yet, this is incredibly bad advice, especially for children. If you get into trouble son, don't come crying to me.

So, where else should he go? You are a person of some importance to him, and he is already confiding in you about some problem. So the best advice would be, "if things go wrong - come crying to me again and I will help you son".

My mum always used to say that when you were searching for a lost item, it was "always in the last place you'd look". Well, this is so obvious that it's not worth saying. When you search for an item, you check one place after another until at last you find it. Obviously, the item is always going to be in the last place you look, and you would be foolish to continue looking in other places while already holding the item in hand.

No wonder so many foreigners I know have such trouble figuring out the English language !

BY SYD PECK





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BONFIRE NIGHT

BY LORRAINE WEIGHTMAN

Door to door scavenging took place from the 1st of November.

With Ducky Apple night in the bag it was now time to give our full attention to the building of the bonfire. Every available piece of wood was placed skilfully on a piece of square land which nestled behind the back doors of Alexandra and Edith Street, just behind Albert Road.

It was the perfect place as the lack of grass meant there was a minimal risk of the fire spreading, although we never really thought about that at the time. Families delved into their sheds to retrieve anything suitable for burning and we trawled around the shops asking for cardboard boxes. People came out with old chairs and mattresses, broken tables and discarded cots and prams.

The aim was to get the tallest bonfire and to make the most impressive Guy.

A great deal of thought went in to the design, stuffing trousers with straw and finding an appropriate shirt, coat and hat was crucial.

It was a race to beat the rag and bone man and rifle through the bags of clothes left outside yards before the tell tale clip clop of horses hooves was heard along the back street.

An old pram was ready to house the guy when he was finished so we could parade him round the houses knocking on doors and asking for pennies.

The excitement mounted as the 5th of November crept closer and fireworks were carefully stored on the top shelf of locked sheds.

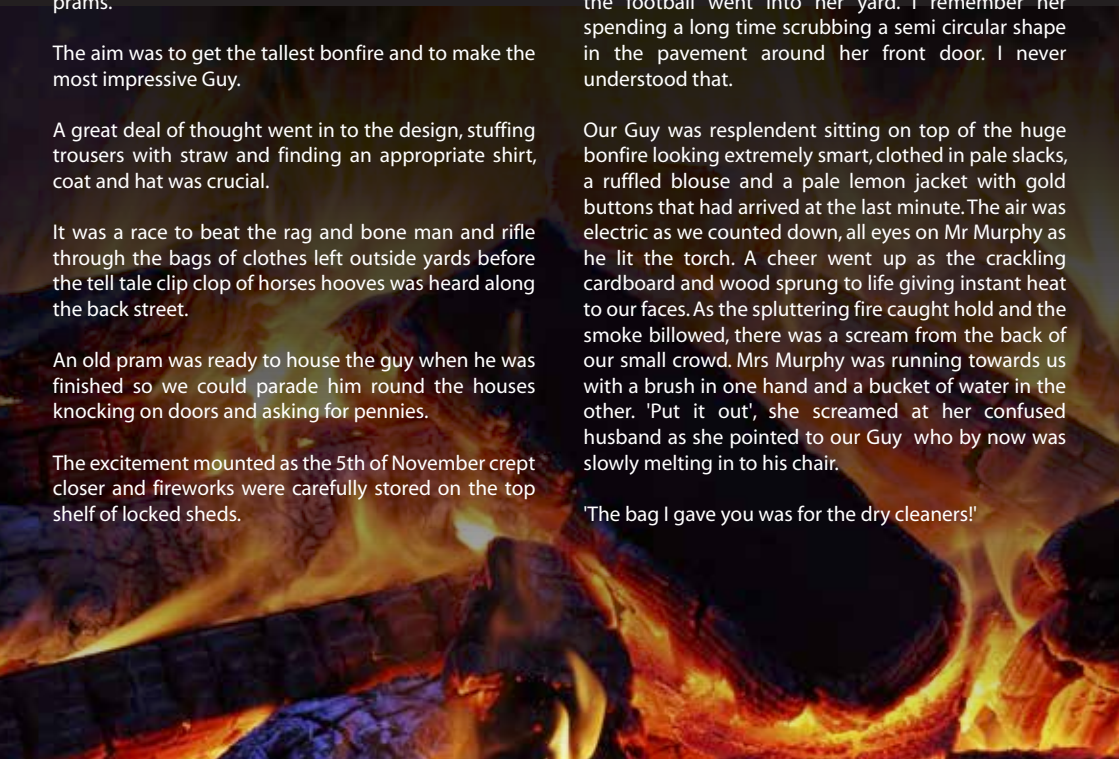
The whole community joined in. While the Dads and Uncles were in charge of the entertainment, the Mams and Aunties made broth and washed King Edward potatoes ready to bake around the fire on old shovels. There was a buzz in the air as the over eager let off their fireworks the night before. They were classed as spoil sports determined to ruin the real thing.

As teatime approached on the night itself we were allowed to get the sparklers out of their protective packet and light one in the back yard. With gloved hands and holding it at arms length we watched transfixed as the jagged white spokes lit up the dusty evening air and crackled in the darkness. The smell was magical and as we made our way to the bonfire wrapped up in thick coats, scarves and hats we could smell the heavenly scent of corned beef pies drifting on the night air.

Mr Murphy always lit the bonfire as he had the know how, being in the Fire Brigade. His wife wasn't as pleasant as him and was always chasing us away when the football went into her yard. I remember her spending a long time scrubbing a semi circular shape in the pavement around her front door. I never understood that.

Our Guy was resplendent sitting on top of the huge bonfire looking extremely smart, clothed in pale slacks, a ruffled blouse and a pale lemon jacket with gold buttons that had arrived at the last minute. The air was electric as we counted down, all eyes on Mr Murphy as he lit the torch. A cheer went up as the crackling cardboard and wood sprung to life giving instant heat to our faces. As the spluttering fire caught hold and the smoke billowed, there was a scream from the back of our small crowd. Mrs Murphy was running towards us with a brush in one hand and a bucket of water in the other. 'Put it out', she screamed at her confused husband as she pointed to our Guy who by now was slowly melting in to his chair.

'The bag I gave you was for the dry cleaners!'



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We are passionate about selling and letting property in County Durham and have recently launched our new branch in Consett to offer buyers, tenants, vendors and landlords a new high quality estate agent to showcase each property at its best and provide outstanding service.



The company has been selling and letting property since 2004 and has a wealth of experience. Our new branch now open in Consett, County Durham offers clients a modern and spacious place to meet and discuss your property requirements.

We have created a dedicated client lounge - similar to a coffee shop where our property consultants can discuss your property in relaxed and informal surroundings, whilst enjoying a high quality freshly ground coffee.



We believe every property is different and that's why we don't have a 'one fits all', sales or lettings package. When our experienced valuer visits your property they will discuss a range of services we offer and will tailor a package which best suits you and your property.



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Spiro Court | Templetown
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rear private garden, garage.



The Crescent | Consett
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Edith Street | Consett
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KILLING THE BOREDOM

WITH STEVEN "MONKEY" MASON

CONSETT IS FULL OF EXTRAORDINARY PERSONALITIES. Steven "Monkey" Mason is just one of those personalities that makes our town so vibrant. He has documented and filmed almost every band from the Consett area since the early 2000s,



We sent Monkey some questions for his magazine interview, expecting the questions to be answered in writing, but in true Monkey fashion, he sent us a 6 part video series answering our questions on camera.

In the videos, the local video producer is seen sitting surrounded by hundreds of classic VHS video tapes as his cat "Mylow" makes a hilarious cameo.

When did he first get into video production?

The first known video footage of a young Steven was back in 1991 while on holiday in America. But it wasn't until 1996 and 1997 (when travelling to visit his Father in New Zealand during the Summer holidays) when he began his love of video production. Back then he explains it was Hi-8 tapes he had to use, this was before the wonders of digital media and computer editing.



www.youtube.com/STEVENJAMESMASON



How much inspiration has Consett given Monkey?

Monkey explains that Consett with it's beautiful scenery, it's history, it's close proximity to cities like Newcastle Upon Tyne & Durham, as well as being close to "the middle of nowhere" are all reasons why Consett has inspired him. Video is something Monkey initially got into to keep him and his friends from being bored in their teenage years (hence the names of some of his productions, "Better Than FA" & "Killing The Boredom").

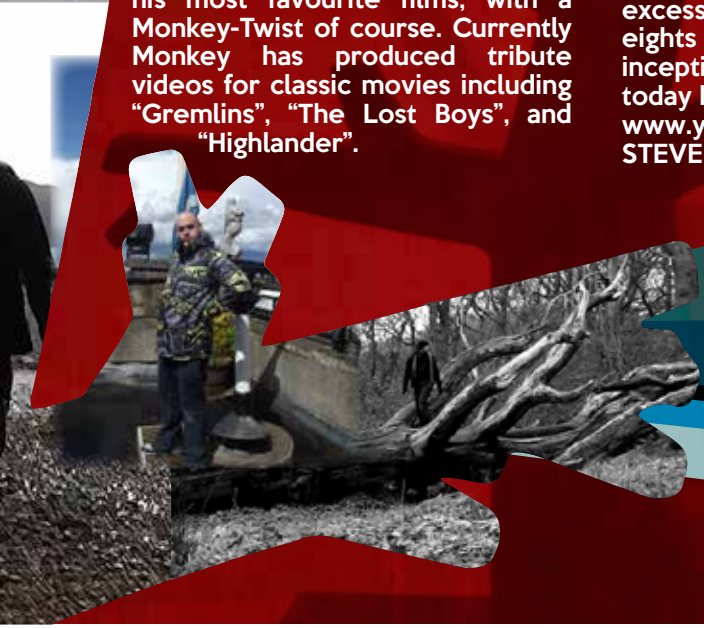


What does the future have in store for monkey and his video productions?

Lonely Tree Entertainment, his latest video project is comprised of tribute videos created to honour his most favourite films, with a Monkey-Twist of course. Currently Monkey has produced tribute videos for classic movies including "Gremlins", "The Lost Boys", and "Highlander".

Where can people find out more and watch Monkey's videos?

Monkey's youtube channel has in excess of 100 videos spanning over eights years since YouTube's inception: You can view them all today by visiting: www.youtube.com/STEVENJAMESMASON



YouTube STATS

Channel Views: At time of print
219,612

Date Joined
May 18, 2006

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SAT	7TH	7:30PM	HOME	ASHINGTON
WED	11TH	3:00PM	AWAY	MORPETH TOWN
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EURONICS



ASK the VET

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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

Why do I need to worm my dog regularly?
All puppies are born with roundworms living in their intestines. These come from their mother during the pregnancy.

A proportion of these worms will encyst in the wall of the intestine and these are not killed by oral worming treatments you might give to your puppy.

Throughout a dog's life these cysts mature and a live worm can pop out and it is only then that oral worming treatments are effective.

We don't really know what triggers the encysted worms to become active hence the reason we have to treat regularly. However the newer 'spot-on' preparations available through your vet can have some activity against these encysted worms so, on the whole are a better treatment for worms.

princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice

FOR RACHEL WOODHOUSE

and all his many, many friends - By Bazza Davison

A quiet man
A lovely lad
When you left us, we were so sad
But still your memory burns so bright
Of you in your colours of black and white
Your friends around you who knew you best
Know you were a cut above the rest
The time I spent in your company
Will remain so vivid in my memory
You had a way that made me feel
That the words we exchanged meant something real
From the Turf Karaoke on a Thursday night
To a Bellamys pool match and a team full of fight
We all adored your great company
Your craic and words meant so much to me
Youre such a great miss to so many folk
A lad you could talk to with a laugh and a joke
Firm in our minds your image will remain
A man you could trust again and again
I t was such a privilege to call you a friend
A person you could trust right til the end
Your life remembered in such a positive way
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