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Welcome

Welcome Bonny Lads and Lasses,

This month has been another busy one for the Consett Magazine team. We've been inundated with stories, events, photographs, and other amazing contributions for this edition. Please keep us informed if you think we could improve the magazine or if you'd like to become a contributor.

On page 4, Brian Harrison looks at the ancient history of Iveston where the first mention of the village appears in the Bolden Book from 1183. Local lass Lorraine Weightman shares another great story where she finds herself a long way from home during her first five weeks in London (see page 7). Ollie and Nina are also back up to their old tricks, with "the tree trick" on page 12.

There's a review (see page 11) of the latest offering from Director, Ken Loach -- Winner of the Palme D'or at Cannes Film Festival in 2016. I, Daniel Blake is a wonderfully insightful film into the reality of the UK's most vulnerable people in society. A must see film which has made the entire Consett Magazine team shed a tear, highly recommended, and filmed in nearby Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Page 13 is the entertainment section, with three feel good stories about local lads and lasses who are making waves in music, theatre, and even on ITV's XFactor.

Without further a do, we invite you to flip through your November edition of your free Consett Magazine.

Stay warm this November,

From your friends at the Consett Magazine

PS - Please remember to support the local businesses within the magazine and let us know if you'd like to showcase your story, photograph, or business in the Christmas edition please call us on 01207 438 292, message us on Facebook "Consett Magazine" or email us directly: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Roger Langley
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Christina Stubbins
Lorain Robinson
Steven Mason
Mary Telford
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Micky Emberson

The Front Cover

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THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF IVESTON

Like many other parts of the Consett area the true origins of Iveston Village has been lost to the mists of time. There are strongly held beliefs that it was inhabited at the time of the Roman occupation in the 3rd Century, many coins of this era being found in and around the village. Also its proximity to the Roman road of Dere Street which passes through the south side of the village would give this theory even more weight.

From the end of the Roman period and throughout the so called Dark Ages little is known of the village although as its name Iveston (also Yvestone, Ivestone, Ivestan and many others) is from the old English, it would seem that it was inhabited throughout.

The first written entry of the Village appears in the Bolden Book of 1183, the Norths version of the Doomsday Book. During the 13 Century the village was granted to the Kepier Hospital of Durham a charitable hospital dedicated to the health and well being of the poor. Very little else was written about the village after that until the 14th Century when the Monks from Blanchland built a small Chapel dedicated to St Margaret. Unfortunately due to the dissolution the Chapel became abandoned. It was first used for an agricultural building but as it started to deteriorate the stone was utilised for other buildings in and around the village. The ownership of the village land can be traced from this period up to the 1800's quite easily and is well documented. The Village itself has seen lots of change but still holds onto it historical roots and genuine picturesque feel

Mining seems to have been a major part of the village history for almost a millennia. The first documented mine was in 1440 but believed to pre date this by several hundred years. However it was in the 1800's that the saw the mining industry expand as the need for coal grew in the area, especially for the nearby Iron Works at Consett. The Iveston Colliery as we knew it was sunk in 1839 by Black, Reay and Co. Taken over by Jonathan Richardson & Partners in 1857 and then swallowed up by Consett Iron Works in 1860's. The mine was closed in 1892 when insufficient quality coal could be produced.
The closeness of Crookhall Colliery was also a major contributing factor.

10 years prior to its official closure there had been a major strike culminating in 350 people being thrown out of employment and being evicted from their homes. A huge amount in those days. The problems started with the Consett Iron Company time keeper, known to the miners as a Keeker, a derogatory term indicating a peeping tom, spy, etc.., who had rearranged the way they laid out the tubs. Initially 140 men gave notice to leave to the company if the Keeker was not dismissed. The company refused and so the whole work force came out on strike. The miners also removed all their gear and equipment. When the men did not return the Company, normally quite tolerant, showed no sense of guilt and dismissed them all.

Whether the miners were taken back or not I have been unable to find but it would have been a sad day for Iveston, Leadgate and the entire area.



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HOME COMFORTS



You don't know what you miss until it's not there.
Leaving home for the first time was a big adventure and in the first few weeks; living just off Kensington High Street, taking the lift to the roof garden in Biba, shopping in Kensington Market - where Freddie Mercury and Roger Taylor had a stall - buying my very first Alpaca jumper, a Bob Dylan cassette and getting my ears pierced with a needle and cork by an ageing hippie who smelt of joss sticks and hemp; was like a dream come true!

I'd been away for nearly 5 weeks and had already explored Notting Hill, Earls Court, been to Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus and stood listening at Speakers Corner in Hyde Park; in fact all the things my Auntie Rose had told me about and suggested I visit . I'd finished my first two essays in Psychology and Sociology and was booked on a trip to Stonehenge from the History department. In addition



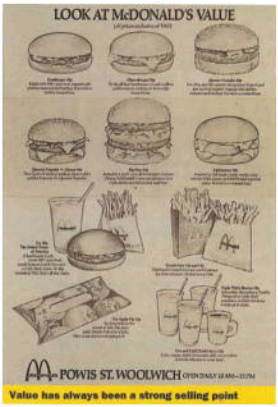
I'd bought a pair of cowboy boots and got myself a Saturday job in a shoe shop called Ravel.

However it was very noticeable that the little things weren't there when significant days came around. We were going to a Halloween disco at Imperial College on Friday and with Bonfire Night just around the corner had decided to decorate our halls of residence. My memories came flooding back of 'ducky apples' , steaming corned beef pies, homemade broth, and charred jacket potatoes on shovels while all the neighbours and their families huddled together around the bonfire that everyone had contributed to. These were great community affairs and all were welcome to join in the fun.

Every November 5th as far back as I could remember we stood and held sparklers, enjoying each other's company and the familiarity we didn't realise we took for granted. Recognising someone else's old clothes adorning the Guy we laughed and cracked jokes about them having nothing to wear for Mass on Sunday!

Then, when the last embers of the fire glowed red in the dense smoky November air, we walked round the corner to home and steaming cups of Cadbury's hot chocolate after a quick half in The Turf. There was always someone in the house and one of the best surprises was being greeted by your pyjamas warming on the clothes horse in front of the fire and a scorching hot water bottle in the middle of the bed.

With all these memories warming my heart, my new friends and I set off to try the first McDonalds that had just opened up in Woolwich. Ordering a hamburger and a vanilla milkshake we drank in the atmosphere and listened to older folk complaining about having no knives and forks. We'd planned to go shopping for turnips in the market so we could hollow them out to make lanterns. I was surprised to be presented with a tiny white and purple vegetable and after much confusion and hilarity was told I should have asked for swede in the first place.



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The stall holder, making fun of my accent, laughed, and said, 'You're a long way from home love!'
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A stunningly powerful Award Winning Film released October 21st could have been set in Consett, the North East of England, or indeed anywhere in the United Kingdom. It could have been set in Durham, London, Glasgow, Manchester, or Swansea, such is the extent of the Tory austerity measures, that set the tone of the story, across the United Kingdom.

Winner of the famous Palme D'or at Cannes Film Festival in 2016, up there with films like Pulp Fiction, The Pianist, and even Apocalypse Now, I, Daniel Blake, is the latest offering from acclaimed social realist Ken Loach and is set in Newcastle Upon Tyne. The film tells the same tale of domestic struggle being experienced up and down the country by the poorest people in modern day Britain.

The injustice of 'the system' is highlighted in this film, it's disturbing to see how people in 2016 Britain are being treated at their most vulnerable, while asking for help.

The film although fictional, tells the story of the immense hardship and injustice people are dealing with head on, after being refused welfare, while being disabled or out of work. It's probably plain to see, for any viewer from the socioeconomic background depicted in the film, that this is an almost lightened up version of the reality many are facing.

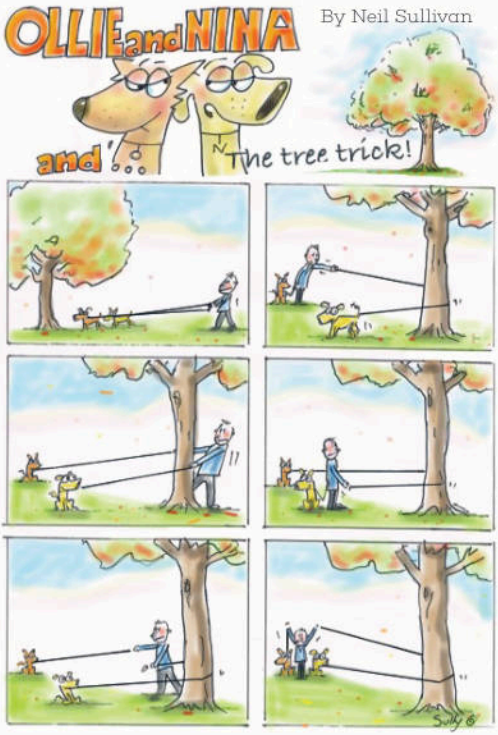
There is a hope there, highlighted by a recent tweet from The Big Issue, that this film will help to change people's and the government's perspective about people in such desperate situations.

"HAS KEN LOACH JUST CHANGED GOVERNMENT POLICY WITH I, DANIEL BLAKE?", wrote The Big Issue.

Do you or a family member have a story about the use of sanctions and their effect on your quality of life? If so, and you're happy to talk about it (even anonymously) then send us your stories to us: editor@consettmagazine.com

Read the extended version on: consettmagazine.com





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Sam Lavery

Sam has always loved to sing but by age 9 we could see that she had something a bit special and it wasn't long before she was performing at the local Workingmen's Club on a Sunday afternoon. I remember her dad, my cousin James (born and bred in Consett) giving me a CD of Sam singing Adele's Rolling in the Deep – I couldn't believe my ears! How did such a strong and powerful voice come from such a tiny little girl?

She has performed at Consett Festival for the last two years. The Festival's organiser, Brad Wilkinson said "We're very proud to have had her perform for us at Consett Festival. She has a natural talent that will take her far and we wish her every success."

At just 16 Sam blew the judges away in her Xfactor audition in Manchester and sailed through to Boot Camp. Unfortunately Sam lost her seat in the Six Chair Challenge and we were all devastated but in true Sam style she shrugged it off and said "everything happens for a reason".

Sam was happily getting on with her next exciting venture when she got the phone call from Louis Walsh asking her to come back as Simon's Wild Card! And so the rollercoaster began again! Next stop Simon Cowell's house in Malibu. After a request from Simon asking her to "go take her make up off" Sam came back stronger than ever and showed him exactly what she was made of, real Northern grit and determination.

She is so overwhelmed and grateful for all of the support she is receiving and is still trying desperately to thank every individual for their kind words.

Micky Emberson

An ex wrestling champion from Blackhill is set to take to the stage for the first time in a musical production of Alice through the looking glass. Although Micky Emberson, 38 is no stranger to the entertainment business. He started his journey as a young guitarist and got his first taste of the stage at aged 16 playing at 'the back o' the shaft' and continued to be a regular on the band circuit for the next 20 yrs with bands like S.O.L.O.W and Dr. Lipshzit which were regulars at local bikers rally's and were hugely popular with the younger generation rock scene. However at 22 he tried his hand at his other passion... Professional Wrestling. He worked hard on the northeast wrestling scene for 13 years over coming injury to entertain the fans and win 2 championship title belts, a good run as a tag team champion and even delved into the world of hardcore wrestling.

So why acting? why now?

It hadn't crossed my mind much till late last year when I decided to join spotlight CTP. They're an amazing amateur theatre group with some excellent young performers which I have learnt a great deal from and 2 amazing directors Helen and Andrea that have gave me lots of support and helped me find a voice I never knew I had. I was legitimately surprised when I landed a role with a solo. I would urge anyone with an interest in musical theatre to look this group up.
Since starting this new chapter of my life I've found myself taking it to other areas of acting which resulted in me landing a role in an independent movie which is due to start filming in November.
All in all I am looking forward to performing on the Empire stage then going on to performing in front of a camera.

Micky will be performing in Through the looking glass from the 15th to the 19th November at the Empire theatre. Tickets available from the box office. 01207 218171



Photos By Ollie Rillands

Consett lad Scott Michael Cavagan

is a singer/songwriter you can really hang your hat on, particularly if your hat is into indie rock which pulses with melodic energy.



Scott Michael Cavagan first came to our attention when he played with Newcastle-based band Laconia a few years back, a band who had some flag-wavingly good rock tunes, with Scott's vocals being a real stand-out feature. He would go on to be part of Dryll, a metal band that was put together by Jeff Mantas, the former guitarist of the legendary Venom (as far as I'm aware the only Newcastle band ever to be name-checked in a Beastie Boys song).



Scott has now branched out on his own and his Neon Lights EP (released by Iniquity Records on 30 November) is a good indication of where he is at now, which is a good deal less noisy than Dryll. The four tracker is bursting with hook-filled melodies which bring to mind a lot of Johnny Marr's very excellent solo work. Guitars ring and chime quite beautifully, and the songs all have an unapologetically pop-filled sense of drive. And his voice is still superb – not showy, but eminently listenable. Bravo!

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We are always looking for new members and anyone from the age of 5 can join, our next show in May 2017 will be "Tangled up in some mess" based on Rapunzel.Rehearsals start in January.

A Big Thanks

The staff of Consett Library would like to thank all Consett Magazine readers and friends for their support of our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September.

Many thanks to everyone who donated cakes and bakes, raffle and tombola prizes, and who came along to eat cake and have a friendly chat. Together with your help we raised the grand total of £1417.

Scout Raises £400

A Cub called Sophie at Consett Cubs won a British Citizen Youth Award, she was down at Westminster Palace In October to collect it.

During the summer she did a 33 mile hike from Lauder to Cove raising £400 for her group.

She also has a Facebook page detailing everything she has done: www.facebook.com /SophiesSummerHike2016/

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