CONSETT MAGAZINE

October 2020



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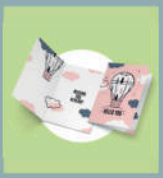

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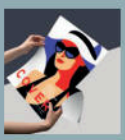

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Dear Consett readers,

Thanks for picking up this month's edition of your free Consett Magazine.

As it's October and we've not got too much time left in 2020, we aim to provide a little bit of positivity for the people in our town, especially in a year that's been unkind to everyone on planet earth. So, if you've got something positive to feature in next month's edition, please do send it across to us at editor@consettmagazine.com - we can't wait to hear from you.

In this months edition, you'll find stories from Lorraine Weightman, Brian Harrison, Joan Willis, Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital (Ask the Vet), and the Places to Go feature from Alex Nelson.

We get a lot of emails each month about the content published in print and on consettmagazine.com - we are often asked about our political preferences, the truth is - we print whatever we feel is relevant and most importantly positive for the local community. We leave the negative news to others while focusing exclusively on what's positive for our town.

If you feel your voice isn't being heard, perhaps you'd like to take the time to send us an email (or if you need help please ask someone to help you compose your email) to have your say? If you can put together a short story of up to 300 words and include some images, we'd love to publish it. We accept content from anyone and everyone in the area, we simply ask that the content provided is positive, helpful and informative to the community.

We hope you'll enjoy this month's Consett Magazine. Warmest regards,
Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, and everyone who makes the Consett Magazine possible.

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by **Chris Dodds**
send any drawings or photographs to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

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Water Water Everywhere and only Beer to Drink

In the early years of the Derwent Iron Company, the idyllic hamlet of Consett boomed into a buzzing industrial town. Homes where built on mass to house the eager new workmen and their families, but soon the town was sinking under the pressure. Water had become a valuable and scarce commodity. Beside the small well at the back of the Commercial Hotel, the nearest places to get fresh drinking water was over a mile in any direction. Washing both body, clothes and also the home was a luxury in these hard times. It was soon found that infants as young as 2-3 were drinking beer as the water supply was too contaminated for consumption. Something had to be done. So in December 1859, the same time as the Derwent Iron Works were transferred over to the Derwent & Consett Iron Company (Ltd), a company was called into existence, Consett Water Works and a special act of Parliament sort to enable the town to get a decent water supply.

It took almost 4 years to put all the necessary pieces into place, with lots of problems and opposition along the way, but on the morning of the 15 August 1863 the first sod was cut and pipe laid from the reservoir, which had been dug earlier, situated behind the Commercial Hotel (now The Braes). Flags flew from all the shops and establishments down Front Street and along Middle Street with the slogan " Consett Water Works – The Poor Man's Victory". The band of the 18th Durham Rifles played and marched along Middle Street followed by the excited crowd cheering them on. Guns fired from the Brick Flats bringing even more people into the town from Blackhill. The day was celebrated to the full and at 3 o'clock speeches were given.

By November of the same year work was completed the company having effectively piped pure water to in excess of 22000 people throughout Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate and surrounding area's. The Consett Water Works had already prove to be a massive success. The venture had cost £25,000 of which the shares had been sold at £5 each and all been purchased by the committee themselves. Although a major boon to the people of the area, the great need to the industry of water meant it was also a very successful and profitable venture for the committee themselves.

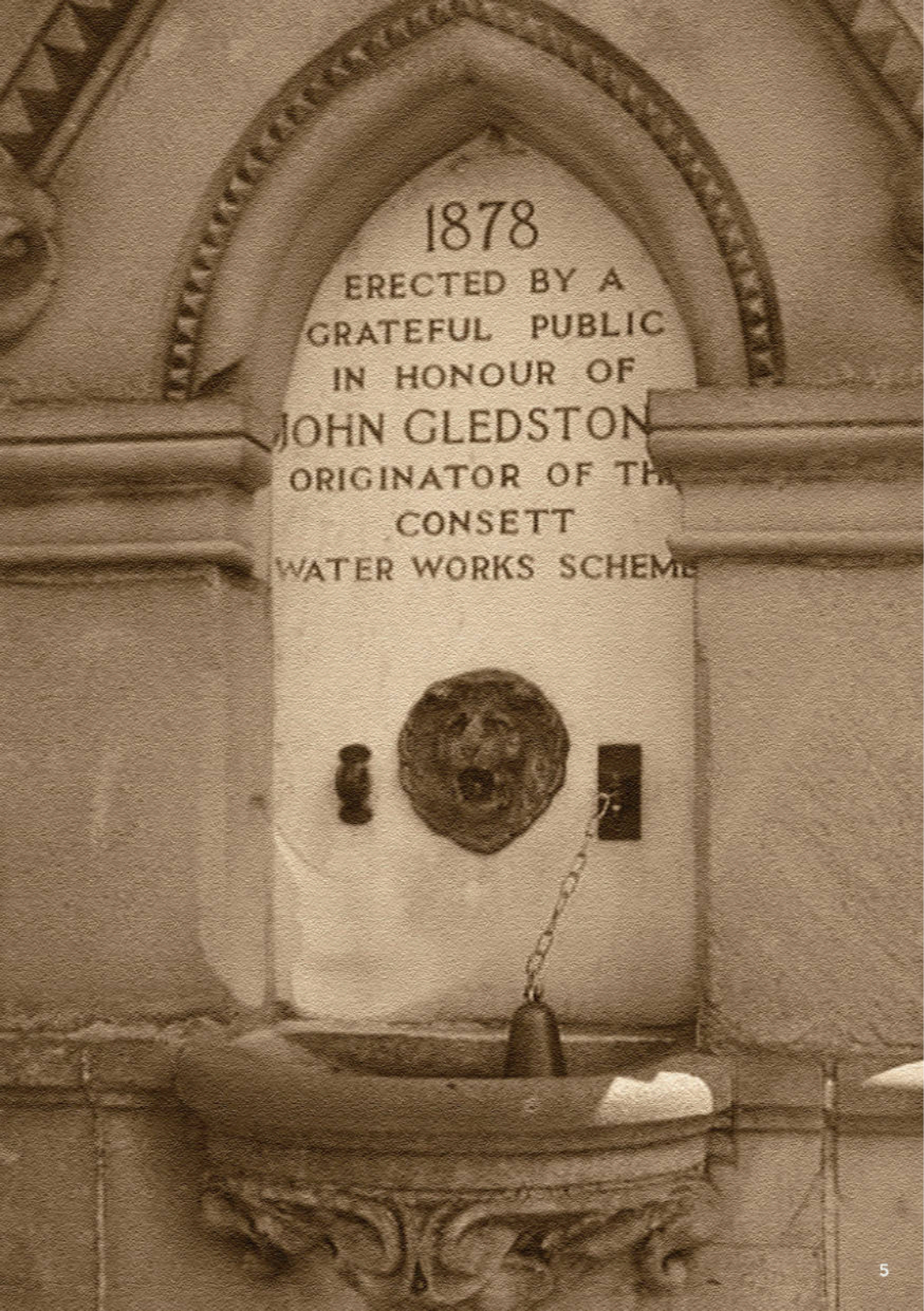
In 1878 a Fountain was erected by the grateful public of the area in dedication to the Originator of the Water Works scheme, John Gledstone. The Fountain was placed at the junction of Front Street and Middle Street. A magnificent looking monument to a well loved and respected man.

Over the next few decades the Consett Water Works flourished and grew with the town. Expanding with new Water Works throughout the area as well as bath houses and public washeries. By 1894 the Company had expanded so much that it now found itself on the borders of Weardale. So another act of Parliament was sort to expand even further and also, at the request of the shareholders of both Companies, combine with the Weardale and Shildon Waterworks Co.

It took 8 years for the Consett Water Bill to go through the House of Commons and the House of Lords, but in June 1902 the bill was passed allowing both the expansion and amalgamation. The new Weardale & Consett Water Works Co. were now able to raise another £360,000 to upgrade and expand their combined holdings. The company once again went from strength to strength.

However, some 18 years later Durham County Council along with all the Local authorities decided that the water of their area would be better ran by the local government. On 27th April 1920 a Bill was submitted to a Parliament select committee of the House of Lords, for a Durham Water Board to be appointed with the power to purchase the existing Water Companies within their area's. The bill was past in July 1920 with only minimal opposition and the Weardale and Consett Water company and all its undertakings were bought out and effectively swallowed up.

The only visible reminder of the Consett Water Works was the Fountain. It stood in place on Front Street until it became a hazard due to the impact of the motor car at which time it was moved along to Aynsley Terrace, overlooking the Park. In the late 1960's it was removed for the purpose of work being done in the area and was never replaced. It now stands, pride of place, in the main street of Beamish Open Air Museum.


1878
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IN HONOUR OF
JOHN GLEDSTON
ORIGINATOR OF TH
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WATER WORKS SCHEM



Why Your 'Brand' Is So Much More Than Just a Logo

Products are never just products, right?

Coca-Cola is more than a fizzy drink. Starbucks is more than a coffee. Ray-Ban is more than a pair of sunglasses.

Interacting with these products provide experiences, and we buy them with that experience in mind. Better yet, the companies that create and market them know exactly the experience they want you to have when you make (or consider) a purchase. That's why they create a brand.

What's a brand?

A brand is a feature or set of features that distinguish one organisation from another. A brand is typically comprised of a name, tagline, logo or symbol, design, brand voice, and more. It also refers to the overall experience a customer undergoes when interacting with a business — as a shopper, customer, social media follower, or merely a passerby.

Brand Awareness

Brand awareness refers to how familiar the general public and your target audience is with your brand. High brand awareness leads to brands being referred to as "trending," "buzzworthy, or "popular." Brand awareness is important because consumers can't consider purchasing from your brand if they're not aware of it.

Branding is your organisation's name, logo, colour palette, voice, and imagery. It's also more. It's that intangible feeling your customers have when they interact with your brand. You know … that experience we talked about in the beginning.

That's how powerhouse brands deviate from all the others. The tangible components contribute to this — a gorgeous logo, a clever tagline, an authentic manifesto, and a clear brand voice — but truly strong brands thrive when they focus on the big picture of their brand. Get to the heart and soul of your target audience and your organisation, and a successful brand will follow.

Create your brand with Firefly.

Firefly New Media are available to help you define your brand, your logo, your brand guidelines and to help you create consistent branded content for your organisation.

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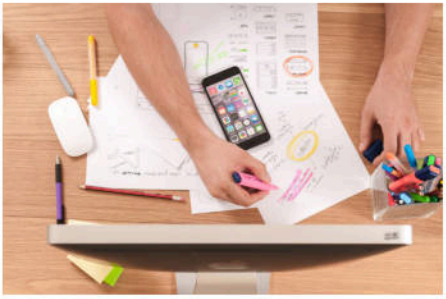

Just for your logo, you'll need the following graphic assets: source files [.AI for future edits, or to render different sizes from], web-ready [72 dots per inch, jpeg or png] , print-ready [300 dots per inch, PDF], you'll need a dark / light version for use on different backgrounds [both print & web versions], a square version for use on social media profiles, and an icon version for your web pages .ico file [that's the little icon you see on web browser tabs or when someone saves your web page to their bookmark. And believe us, there are many other versions of your logo your organisation will need, like a logo file for embroidery purposes, or a transparent file for watermarketing social graphics.

If you don't have these files now, you'll waste time in the future frantically searching them. Get organised. Clearly define your brand and get all your brand assets in one folder, so next time you need to print something or update your social media, you have all your logo files to hand.

Consider Firefly New Media for your brand package, they'll help you to create the perfect logo and provide you with all the file types needed to build your brand.

Call 01207 438 292 or email sales@fireflynewmedia.com to discuss your branding project.



Message in a Bottle
By Lorraine Weightman

I have written before about feeling protected as a young child; mainly because of the love of my own and my extended family and moreover when I was informed I had my very own guardian angel. This was some revelation.

Always knowing I was being watched over, I was prepared to take any kind of little risk, as I trusted in my protector to deal with, and rectify every situation. In a similar vein, I was told to pray to Saint Anthony if I lost anything, as he was sure to find it; This knowledge has resulted in me pestering him consistently for the last sixty years!

You would think by the time I'd grown up I'd have learned to take some responsibility for my actions and tried to repay my guardian angel by giving her a well earned break.

However that didn't happen, and I continued on my path of acting on impulse without thinking things through.

There have been many occasions when the outcome could have been much worse and I know who I'm thanking for that.

It seems like the following place always gets a mention but I did spend a lot of my youth in Botto's. On one occasion I got so excited dancing to 'Stray Cat Strut' I walked up my friends legs and chest and attempted an overhead somersault after 4 halves of John Smith's and a chip buttie. The fact that I made a perfect landing on two flat feet was not only a little miracle but worthy of a gymnastic medal!

I also have a recollection of walking back from 'The Scotch Arms' in Blackhill one New Year's Eve and believing I was walking on a snowdrift, soon found out - when I stepped sideways - I was on a wall and disappeared into the snow beneath. Re-emerging unscathed, I survived to tell the tale!

And so it continues. On returning home to Consett in the late seventies, I travelled by bus to my new teaching job. The journey was long, adding a couple of hours onto the day and I noticed that two of my colleagues made their way to school on motorbikes.

This seemed a favourable option, and at the end of the school week I asked one of them if I could ride his bike down the drive to see if it suited me. Reluctantly he obliged as he quickly explained the controls on the handlebars, emphasising the throttle and brake. Having only ever ridden a push bike I nodded that I knew what I was doing, and in my best pencil skirt and twin set I straddled the bike and set off. Within seconds my goldfish memory kicked in, so instead of braking I revved the bike, lost control and found myself upside down in the hedge. Trying to laugh through the tears I was helped to my feet and with bruised, bleeding knees and elbows I apologised and hobbled my way to the bus stop, praying I didn't see anyone I knew.

There were only a couple of people on the bus when it arrived and I sat at the front, nursing my pride and my aching bones. After a couple of minutes I noticed a gentle tap on my shoulder and the smiling kindly face of the elderly lady from the seat opposite. Reaching into her bag she produced a small bottle of green oil.
'It's a mix of comfrey and healing herbs, it will help' she whispered.

Getting off at the next stop she turned and smiled and I waved in reply, tentatively rubbing my knees with the sweet smelling oil.

Needless to say that story was the talk of the staff room on the following Monday morning and I never lived it down.

So in the month of October when we celebrate them, Id like to express my appreciation to all those guardian angels out there - both heavenly and earthly, but especially my own!





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Undercover Art - By Joan Willis



A day out in London is always a special treat and there is always something new to see. Out of all the museums and art galleries there I would recommend the Courtauld Gallery in Somerset House, on the Strand in central London (although it is closed at present until 20121 for refurbishment.). It has an outstanding collection of masterpieces of the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters such as Manet, Degas, Monet, van Gogh, Cezanne and Gaugin.

Into the 20th Century there are works by Modigliani, Matisse, Kandinsky and the Bloomsbury group, alongside masterpieces of German Expressionism and modern British art, displayed on different floors.

My daughter and I enjoyed an almost exclusive viewing of these paintings (hardly anyone seems to know about this secret gem!) and found ourselves alone, in a large room when I spotted an interesting, highly polished desk. It seemed fascinating with all its drawers etc and the security guard came over to us and spent time, telling us all about this item furniture! He showed us all the nooks and crannies of the drawers where the owner kept his secrets……

Who was the owner?….. Anthony Blunt…. who was the Queen's Surveyor of Pictures. He was the Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art but he also happened to be a spy, in the Russian spy ring of the Cambridge 5! He worked in M15 and spied for the Russians in the 1930s until the 50s. However this only became public knowledge in the 1970s when he was working for the Queen.

Margaret Thatcher took away his knighthood but he was immune from prosecution, because he confessed to the British government so that his spying career was kept secret for 15 years!

Who could have imagined a trip to an art gallery would reveal such a gem of modern history!!!!

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On arrival at Grantham station I saw the sign "Home of the Woodland Trust", a respected charity to which I applied for a job back in 1993, and I had not visited the town of Grantham since. It's an East Midlands town through which the Great North Road passed and also the railway since 1850. My journey was on a new LNER Azuma train from Durham, changing at Newark southbound and direct back northbound, although the three compulsory seat reservations were all in a single seat with no window at the end of the carriage. Each time, I moved elsewhere and had a table of four to myself, as like most passengers I prefer a window. Trains to and from were all punctual, and not busy – in fact the lack of cars in the car parks at Durham, Newark and Grantham suggested many car users had taken that mode of transport for their entire journey.

The Stagecoach 1 bus to Lincoln starts from outside the railway station main entrance and travels three miles to the entrance of Belton House, built 1685-8, a National Trust (NT) property since 1984. I approached on foot, seemingly a strange thing to do although the bus is hourly and stops in the estate village with beautiful cottages and a pleasant church. At the time of writing, you have to book online with the NT, and it is always easier to get slots later in the day and stay until closing time. Since the grounds of Belton House were closing unusually three hours early at 1400 for a staff meeting (announcing redundancies, sadly), I just had two hours to explore the formal gardens which gave way eastwards to parkland with follies and ponds and



finally a large boating lake and dense woodland paths beyond. I missed the largest adventure playground which the NT has before it was early closing time and I took the bus back into town.

Grantham has two very famous former inhabitants. One of these the town is very comfortable with, that being Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) the physicist and mathematician, who is commemorated with a park featuring a sculpture of the apple and hand, and a statue outside the Guildhall. Legend has it that the apple fell on his head in Grantham that helped him to discover gravity - not invent it, you will understand! Gravity is also the name of a nightclub in town and the local radio station.

The other famous person is the much more controversial Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister 1979-1990 who was born above a corner shop on North Parade in 1925, which is now the Living Health chiropractic. Unfortunately it was closed for treatments, and there was no statue.

The town museum was closed, and the tall parish church of St. Wulfram which housed a public library as early as 1598. But Notions antiques centre in the High Street was well worth a visit. I found the Angel and Royal hotel closed for refurbishment, once a major coaching inn which fell on hard times when the railway arrived. One of England's oldest hotels dating from 1203, it hosted King John in 1213. The Angel only gained the name "and Royal" in 1866 after a stay by the Prince of Wales. When finished, it will be worth a stay. For evening meal, I elected for fish and chips at the "Relax" restaurant on Westgate, but I do wish the lady there had refrained from repeatedly calling me "babe". I can just about handle "pet" in the north-east, but "babe", I thought, was a step too far. - **By Alex Nelson**

Nancy Shaw - "In with both Feet"

Each month we'll bring you an excerpt from the fantastic book written by Nancy Shaw - "In with both feet" - Available on Amazon.

PART 3 - ENGLAND AGAIN

The Absolute Worst Journey anywhere, any time!

I had not written to Tommy and Ella since receiving their venomous letter and it was left to Brian to give them the news that we were coming home. He wrote and asked his folks to rent a house for us for the next six months, and both of us were bowled over at their response, "Well Brian, there's nowt to rent, so you can have your old bedroom back, but Nancy and the children will have to find somewhere else to live!" What on earth had I ever done to harm either of these people, apart from being born illegitimate, marrying Brian and having two babies in two years?

I knew I was over-sensitive. I'd had a lifetime of being over-sensitive. I was a product of my upbringing. I'd get all psyched up and feeling confident, then somebody would make some stupid remark that I'd take as a personal reference to me, and I'd stew over it for days. Except in this case there were no slyly dropped hints, there was no sophistication or subtlety whatsoever, it was out there, plain and simple in their letter, "Nancy, you'll never be good enough." And how did they expect Brian to respond to their moronic suggestion? Did they really think he would say, "Well goodbye Nancy, David and John, I'm off to stay with my folks? Sorry, but you have to fend for yourselves!" Did they really think he would do that? Neither of us could quite believe what they'd suggested, and even though it hurt me as I guess it was supposed to, Brian said he'd find another solution. One has to wonder what they really hoped to accomplish, but after writing to Beattie and telling her all about it, she wrote back and invited all of us to stay with her for however long we needed.

It had taken a few weeks to get letters back and forth so it was about six weeks before Brian once again wrote to his folks. He said, "Thank you for the offer of accommodation for myself, but I have a wife and two children, and where I go, they go. Nancy's mother has very kindly offered to accommodate all of us and we will be staying with her for the foreseeable future." I didn't want to come between Brian and his folks but I felt a lot better after he sent that letter. It was just as well they weren't the reason for my homesickness or I'd have stayed where I was. On reflection, it's a pity they weren't because it would have saved us a horrendous journey and a terrible homecoming. Still, at that time their letter hurt, but my attention soon shifted to Brian and the children. I think somewhere deep inside me came the first stirrings of real motherhood, like a mother bear awakening after a long winter of hibernation, only in my case it was a lifetime of hibernation. My husband and children were much more important than I ever was, and I determined that nobody on this earth would be allowed to upset them in any way, and nobody would be allowed to interfere in my little family circle, and at the top of the list were Ella and Tommy Shaw.



Finished at Last - By John Willis

Approximately 25 to 30 years ago I started to make a patchwork quilt. It was made in the traditionally - English paper pieced style in which very accurately cut two inch squares of paper were wrapped in two and a half inch squares of differently patterned cotton material and tacked down. These squares were then oversewn together with tiny close together stitches.
I alternated these squares with plain white cotton to produce a checkerboard effect.

I then embroidered sprigs of lavender onto the same white cotton with no clear idea how big it would eventually be. It was like Topsy, it just grew.

I carried small boxes of prepared squares with me wherever I went and worked on them at every opportunity.

Occasionally they were put away into a cupboard for a few weeks or even months but they always eventually re- surfaced.

I always had a very traditional approach to patchwork using recycled blouses, shirts, dresses and skirts garnered from friends, family and charity shops. I very rarely bought any new material.

The quilt became a collection of memories sewn together with love, with contributions of work from my daughter and granddaughter.
It was eventually finished during the lockdown with a large sigh of satisfaction from me and a sigh of relief from my friend Stephanie who had promised to complete it if misfortune of any kind overtook me before it was finished!

Anyway, something good emerged from COVID 19!

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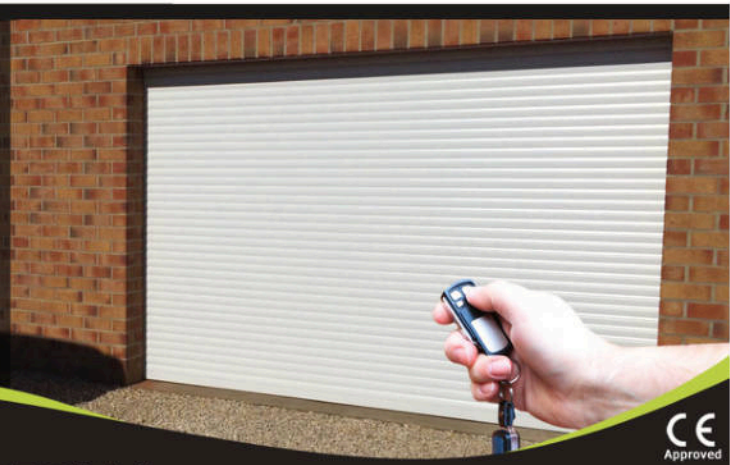

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Fireworks

Firework season is approaching so to keep your pets calm and safe throughout, we recommend you follow these guidelines:

Keep dogs on a lead when out on walks to avoid them being spooked by loud noises and running away

Keep cats and dogs indoors if possible and give them somewhere to hide.

If you know your pet is scared of fireworks, plan to visit your vet at least 6 weeks before bonfire night to discuss medication options, as this will allow enough time for certain medications to build up to an effective level

Visit the 'Sounds Scary' page on the Dogs Trust website. Start playing the noises at a low level in the background and reward good behaviour, building up the volume of the noises over a period of 4-6 weeks to ensure they are associated with something positive (e.g. treats or toys)

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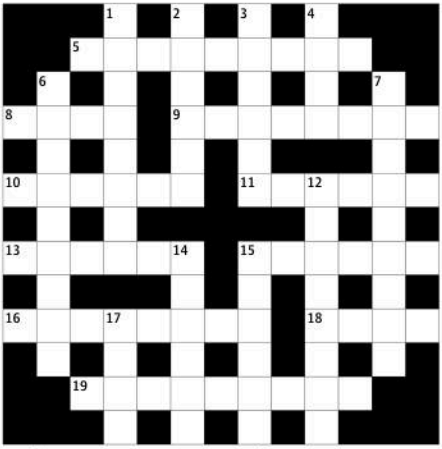
Puzzle Corner October 2020



Across

5. Copious (9)
8. Hint (4)
9. Long-sleeved glove (8)
10. Marked with lines (6)
11. Easter (anag) - puzzle (6)
13. Make a formal withdrawal (6)
15. Fruit eaten as a vegetable (6)
16. Manifestation of mirth (8)
18. Organ that anchors plants in the ground (4)
19. Imperious (9)

Down

1. River flowing from Lake Tana (Ethiopia) to Khartoum (Sudan) (4,4)
2. Fitting closely (6)
3. 18th-century dance (6)
4. Enclosed conduit (4)
6. Without reservation (3,3,3)
7. Slump (9)
12. Sign of the zodiac (8)
14. Thing with a distinct existence (6)
15. Arrest (anag) — French philosopher, d. 1980 (6)
17. FBI agent (1-3)

Answers for September



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



North West Durham Labour to hold public meeting for voter feedback on the last general election

North West Durham Labour Party is to host a virtual public meeting on Zoom that will be open to all residents of North West Durham to hear their thoughts on the last general election.

The party say that they would particularly like to hear from residents who voted Conservative at the last general election but have a history of voting for Labour.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, Fiona Nicol, chair of North West Durham Labour Party said: "We really want to hear from residents who voted for another party at the last general election but have previously voted Labour, why they did so and how they feel about that now. We also really want to engage with the local community and hear their ideas for taking our community through the current coronavirus crisis and beyond."

The meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday 15 October at 7pm. To register for the meeting, please email nwdclp.campaigns@gmail.com

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