CONSETT MAGAZINE

FREE

Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 02/ September 2012



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Spotlighting the rising rap star

WIND POWER
Blowing the lid off local energy plans

THEN AND NOW
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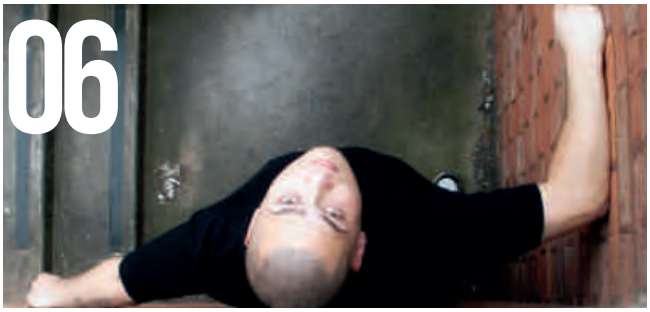



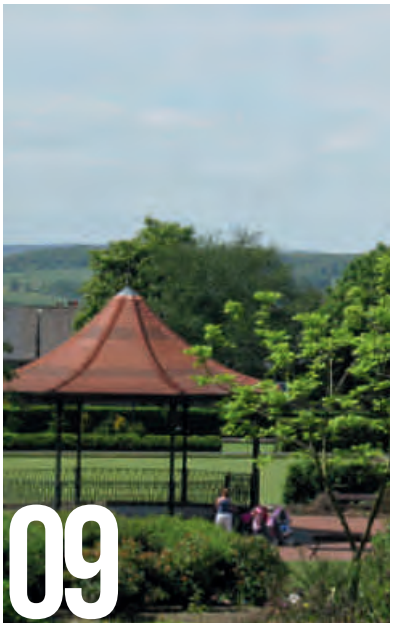





Contents

04 Editorial
A great start for Consett Magazine.

05 Parking Peril
Finding a place to rest on our busy streets.

06 Ego Trip
Spotlighting the rising rap star.

07 Money Matters
Getting to grips with the fractional reserve.

08 Wind Power
Blowing the lid off local energy plans.

09 Then and Now
Consett Park over a century.

10 Flying High
Engineers set their sights for the skies.

11 Proving Grounds
Plans for new community driven stadium.

12 Mobile Transport
Regional transport embraces app technology.

13 Consett Rugby
Welcoming in the new season.

SEND US YOUR STORY

editor@consettmagazine.com

We want to hear from you!

Welcome...

...to the second issue of Consett magazine for September 2012! First of all I would like to give a special thanks to everyone who provided support to the magazine for the launch issue last month. We'd like to thank all writers, contributors, photographers, advertisers, social media followers and most importantly you, the reader, for our very successful first issue!

We received a fantastic response from people around the area who have read the magazine. We have been greatly encouraged to hear the magazine has ventured as far away as Tennesee in the US. Specific comments about the magazine which we have received include the balance which has been achieved between advertisements and good quality content. As you may know, Consett Magazine is an independent publication which provides a voice for the people of Consett. If you have any concerns whatsoever or a newsworthy story please do not hesitate to get in touch with us as we'd love to hear from you.

We aim to build on the positive feedback received from the first issue by increasing page numbers and circulation, while continuing to provide interesting and relevant news stories. Other factors we hope to promote include jobs, culture, community interests and local businesses. We can only do this with the help of you, the readers of Consett Magazine!

Issue 2 contains a whole new batch of interesting reads; ranging from recent plans for Consett FC's new sports ground to a piece on local rap star Ego Trip.



Ivan J. Laidler

Editor-in-chief



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

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

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The Parking Problem

by Chris Brown



As many of you will know, shiny shoed parking enforcement officers are alive and well in Consett. Until January of this year Consett had no system in place for fining motorists for their dubious parking practices. This sort of system has been in place for a number of years in city centres around the UK but until now Consett has escaped the clutch of the civil enforcement officers allowing motorists to park with freedom and choice around the area. This is no longer the case as parking fines have become a genuine reality in Consett, adding to the mounting costs of motoring.

There are numerous legal parking facilities in and around Consett where you can park your car safe in the knowledge that you won't receive a fixed penalty notice. Behind Middle Street and by Consett bus station there are the two largest car parks in the town but by 9 am finding a spot to leave your vehicle becomes almost impossible. This leaves people with a predicament; do you keep circling the car parks in the hope that somebody leaves their space or do you risk parking somewhere considered illegal but is generally safe, not obstructing traffic flow and the footpaths?

In Taylor Street, residents often can't find a space outside their houses due to other people parking there to avoiding a parking fine. The people who live in the area are becoming increasingly frustrated with the situation and the lack of available parking in the town centre is the contributing factor. A new car park near K2 Nightclub on John Street has recently opened up charging £1 an hour or up to £5 for a day but will people be willing to spend even more money on motoring and the privilege to park their cars here in Consett?

How many of you have left your car for five minutes outside of Argos whilst picking up a large item only to come back and find a yellow and black fixed penalty notice lovingly left under your windscreen wipers? No doubt a number of you have been inflicted with the dreaded fixed penalty notice and the statistics on the number of tickets given out in 2011 need to be seen to be believed. Across the UK, over 6.8 million parking tickets were issued across the UK totalling £234m in parking fine revenues. That equates to a parking fine being filed once every 4.6 seconds in the UK.

From January 3rd to July 27th parking enforcement officers issued 1177 fixed penalty notices in Consett totalling revenue of £24,394. This sum of money being generated in Consett is then being received by Durham County Council to be reinvested in the area.

Only time will tell what sort of gains Consett will see from this locally generated pot of money. If you have a story about parking or would like to comment on this article please visit: consettmagazine.com



Local Artist Spotlight - Ego Trip

by Ivan Laidler



Ego Trip is a name you may have heard of recently. Hailing from Consett, this talented rapper is making waves across the UK scene with his thoughtful approach to rap music whilst keeping his feet firmly on the ground.

Even with this success, Ego Trip hasn't grown too big for his boots as his namesake suggests, seeming somewhat overwhelmed by the level of success he is having. He has recently signed a distribution deal with Hip Hop heavyweights Def Jam Records and things are going upwards. When asked about how the Def Jam deal came about he replied, "I had some tracks we were just going to put out for free and my management put it out to some email addresses. Then someone was ringing me up telling me we had a distribution deal with Def Jam. I thought it was all a joke because they are massive."

A family man at heart, he is currently living in Cardiff recording his debut album with his team supporting him all the way. This is the first time he has had such a support network in place and it's making a big difference. "It's like, loads of different ideas flying around and it takes some of the weight off my shoulders if I'm honest. "
When talking about rap music in general, Ego seemed to have certain distaste for the current trend in rap lyrics. His influences range widely from the brass section of the Salvation Army band in which he played in his younger years to more contemporary artists, with Jay-Z being particularly important; "A lot of Jay-Z stuff. He's not all about the drugs and stuff and it's kind of the same music. I work with a few singers so it isn't all bassy drum heavy hip hop and there are some catchy songs in there too."

It's great to hear that someone in the hip hop scene isn't following the trends and trying to be a positive role model for young, up and coming artists. The rap world needs this sort of ambassador to highlight the positive aspects of this artistically rich music.

With his love of rap stemming from an early interest in poetry, the artistic merit of Ego-Trip's work is right up there with the greats of the genre. It's fantastic to see someone from our local area making it big in such a competitive field whilst keeping his roots firmly in his home town. Keep your eyes peeled for Ego-Trip's debut album dropping next year by following him on Twitter at @ThisIsEgo

For a look at the full interview check out consettmagazine.com for exclusive web content.

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How Banks Create Money Out of Thin Air

by B. Kirkham

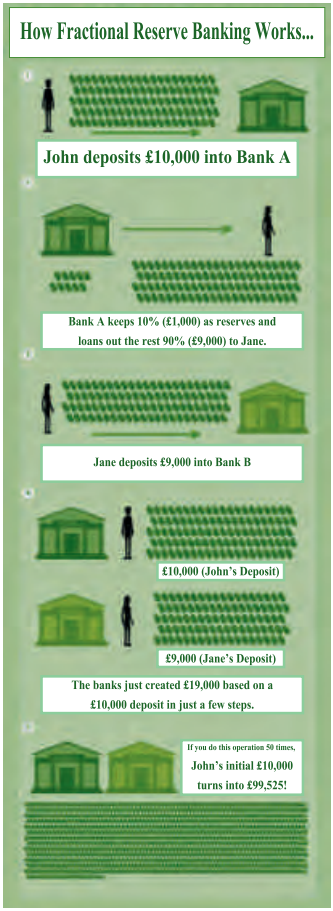
In the current economic downturn, banks seem to be the biggest target of scorn and hate from the public. It seems that all the worlds' money worries are down to the banks' suspect practices and gambling with money which isn't theirs, and may not even exist at all.

Who or what is to blame here; greed? The banking executives? The system? The government?

The current system used by banks across the western world is known as "fractional reserve banking". This system was originally created by Dutch gold merchants when a trend of issuing IOU notes as currency rather than using the gold in reserve became commonplace. This is where the modern bank note was conceived as people started trading using these IOU notes. This system means that the banks themselves do not need to hold the full amount of money held in their accounts in reserve which means some money can be invested to make a profit. It is amazing how this system works but as most people will never remove more than a fraction of their funds at any given time, the risk of failure is thought to be unlikely. This, however, is not the case.
Here is a simplified example of how the fractional reserve system works, consider a scenario with just one bank; a reserve fraction of 10%, and an initial money supply of £1000 cash which has been deposited at this bank. This can effectively be turned into £9954 through 50 successive loans and redeposits. This money creation is achieved as follows: only 10% of the original £1000 is required to be held as reserve for the deposit, and so the remaining £900 can be loaned out to a customer who will most likely spend it on goods or services. That person who recieves the money will most likely in turn redeposit it in another account within our bank. As only 10% of this new deposit must be held in reserve, the remaining £810 may then be loaned out again and subsequently redeposited, and so on and so forth. If we end the series after 50 iterations, we find that we have £9954 now in existence within the money supply from the initial £1000.

Effectively banks are able to create money out of thin air.

The financial crash gives us an indication of how insecure the current system truly is with many people leaving traditional high street banks in favour of building societies and more economically ethical establishments like the Co-Operative Bank. But the questions remain: will the banks learn a lesson from what has been going on since the start of this recession? Will they take their bailout funds and just repeat the same mistakes over and over again? It's already happened on multiple occasions throughout the last century and there is no indication that they will change their ways. With lucrative profits available to the investment sector, the temptation may be too much for the banks to handle.



Power to The People

by Ivan Laidler

The proposed Berry Edge wind farm has the local community in uproar with the Fairways residents group leading the charge against the installation of the giant turbines on our beautiful landscape in such a close vicinity to residential areas. This isn't the first wind farm to appear on the Consett countryside as Kiln Pit Hill wind farm is now fully operational. The proposed site at Berry Edge would have significant effects on the residents in the area and the patrons of the local Consett Golf Club.

Wind turbines do have their advantages as they are a great way to generate electricity through a means which isn't harmful to the environment. Traditional methods of generating electricity using fossil fuels have been shown to have a negative effect on our environment being linked to the phenomenon of global warming, whilst nuclear power, although clean, produces toxic by-products and can be highly dangerous if there are any failures. Are wind farms as economically viable as we think?

Each turbine costs on average one million pounds but revenue from each turbine is only estimated at around £80,000 to £120,000 a year. At this rate, a single turbine has to be in operation for over 12 years before it pays for its own manufacture, installation and running costs. Even though the power provided from these turbines is clean and green, the amount provided will not be sufficient to supply the whole Consett area.

The plans for the Berry Edge wind farm are being disputed by local residents mainly due to the proposed location being only 350 metres from residential properties. Speculation around the effects of wind farms located near residential property has provided the opposing party with more ammunition for their fight. Research supported by the British Medical Journal highlights that problems such as sleep disturbance, nausea, tinnitus and migraines are commonly suffered by people who live close to operational wind turbines. These health effects are currently being considered by the Government who are looking to implicate a law forcing a minimum distance of 1500 metres between wind turbines and residential housing in December of this year.

The problem here is that due to the proposed Government bill, companies are quickly scrambling to get planning permission to build wind farms which could be approved before the new laws come into effect. Will the Berry Edge site get the go ahead before this legislation comes into place against the will of the local residents, or will they manage to put a stop to the proposed development?

Keep a look out for any further developments on our website at www.consettmagazine.com

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Consett Park: Then and Now

by Brian Harrison



I was very lucky recently to come across a fantastic book on our area entitled "North Country Sketches" by George Neasham and thought I would share its fantastic description of the park only 2 years after its opening:

"What was once all ugliness and barrenness has been, by the expenditure of much money, transformed into a scene of fertile beauty. Those who have been absent from the place will look in vain for the famous "Blue Mountains" of Berry Edge. The heaps of scoria, the unsightly deposits from the town, the remains of the old Tin Mill Pit, all have disappeared, and in their place are serpentine walks and a wealth of shrubs and flowers. The Park faces the Derwent Vale, at an altitude of more than 850 ft. above the level of the sea, and commands a fine and extensive view of the surrounding country.

Below it, and sheltered by its overhanging ridge of hills, lies the flourishing town of Blackhill, where not a house but one, that at Blackfine, existed half a century ago. Immediately opposite, and rising with a gradual ascent, are the Northumberland hills, graced here and there with a variety of woodland. In the far distant north, with their summits seemingly saluting the sky, are the Cheviots ; while westward, as far as the eye can reach, the landscape is bounded by wild and rugged heather-clad hills, from which the pure mountain air is wafted as a deodorizer to the fumes from the gigantic Consett Iron Works. Beneath this chain of mountains the eye discovers the river Derwent winding its way through deep enchanting valleys, whose slopes are decorated with hanging woods and scattered enclosures. It is impossible, indeed, to conceive anything
grander in nature than this diversified view of the Derwent as seen from the new park."

The Park is still a place of beauty and in the last few years has re-emerged as a centre of activity for our area, from music events to family fun days as well as being the home of the Consett & District Heritage Initiative. For more information contact us on cdhi@live.co.uk or drop into The Lodge, Blackhill & Consett Park any Wednesday between 10am-4pm.

Engineering Career Success

by Chris Brown

The Number One Industrial Estate in Consett is home to one of the region's most exciting companies, developing products and services for a range of aeronautical customers. CAV Aerospace has a great history of making high quality aircraft parts for projects including unmanned aerial vehicles and the extraordinary Eurofighter Typhoon. In this age of extreme precision and skill, CAV found that it had a significant shortage of skilled CNC (computer numerical control) machine operators.
After a lengthy period, CAV decided to break from the norm and ran an internal recruitment drive to find people who were willing to learn this complex and valuable skill. To start this pilot scheme, 8 trainees were selected by management to go and learn the processes of working with CNC machines.

With support from the local Derwentside College, these eight CAV trainees have gone on to gain an NVQ Level 3 in Engineering. The level of effort and work which these amazing people have been able to achieve has impressed everyone at both CAV and Derwentside College.
Denise Taylor, Senior HR Officer at CAV has said "We expected some teething troubles at the outset of the training; however, all of the trainees went on to surpass our expectations."
This is another triumph for Derwentside College highlighting the recent Ofsted evaluation describing the college's work with employers as "outstanding", showing that their industry ties and training programmes are getting ambitious people into apprenticeships and learning valuable work related skills.
Albert Croney, Principal and Chief Executive of Derwentside College, has extended his congratulations to the 8 trainees on their fantastic achievements both in the workplace and in the classroom.
This new method of recruitment performed by CAV has been praised as a great success and has shown that people are looking to further their careers in the best way possible. Let's hope more companies in the area use CAV Aerospace as an example of what can be achieved through internal recruitment and training during this skill shortage. We here at Consett Magazine would like to wish all the newly qualified trainees the best of luck with their new and exciting careers.



The pilot team of men in CAV Aerospace's innovative training process. Back row (from l-r) Stephen Carr, Philip Burns, Richard Bell, Edward Walton, Andrew Rogan. Front row (from l-r) John Sayers – production manager CAV Aerospace, Darren Alcock, Paul King, Martin Rogan, Jeff Bower – engineering assessor from Derwentside College and Denise Taylor – senior human resource officer CAV Aerospace.



Big Changes for Consett Football Club

by Ivan Laidler



Consett AFC September Fixtures

Sat 1st Sept
FA Vase Home Alnwick Town

Tues 4th Sept
League Away West Auckland Town

Sat 8th Sept
League Home Bishop Auckland

Tues 11th Sept
League Home Shildon

Sat 22nd Sept
League Away Marske United

Mon 24th Sept
League Away Team Northumbria

Sat 29th Sept
League Home Hebburn Town



Consett's very own football club has been with us for over a century; being recognised as an official club since 1899. To this day, Consett AFC is alive and well with their first team playing in the country's second oldest league alongside the likes of Durham City, Sunderland RCA and the recently relegated and reformed Darlington 1883. New chairman Frank Bell has some big plans for Consett AFC which could help take the club and the local sporting community to the next level.

Consett AFC is planning to build a new sports facility and stadium on the playing fields which are currently situated behind the local Tesco supermarket. This is mainly due to major conflicts with the new Consett Academy and their proposed site. The Academy is planned to be built on Belle View Park where Consett AFC is currently based which is prompting the move for the Club.

With a larger capacity than Belle View Park, the new facilities are predicted to be a big hit. With local Councils deciding to get rid of 13 pitches across the north of the country, sports facilities are in need by local communities now more than ever. Playing host to 37 junior teams featuring over 700 children, the reserve team and a ladies team, Consett's footballers need a place to play.

Consett AFC plan to install an all weather 3G pitch which can be split into 4 different playing fields so the younger teams playing 7 and 9 a side can play whatever the weather. Other spaces will be made available so Consett's bustling Sunday League football teams have a secure place to play.

An initial investment from the club of around £80,000 will kick start the project whilst Consett AFC is looking for sponsors to help fund the new development. The planned facilities include a club bar and function room helping the club to become a hub for both a variety of sports along with the local community. Chairman Frank Bell has pledged to be with the club for at least 5 years which fills us with hope that for the foreseeable future Consett AFC is in good hands.

CONSETT EVENT LISTINGS
SEPTEMBER 2012

Thursday 6th September 8.30 PM
Dave and Den / Open Mic
The Grey Horse, Consett

Friday 7th September 9.00 PM
Sticky Fingers LIVE
The Black Horse Consett

Saturday 8th September 8.30 PM
Broadway and Beyond
The Empire, Consett

Thursday 13th September 8.30 PM
Driven Serious and open mic
The Grey Horse

Friday 14th September 8.00 PM
The Dust Town Dogs
The Station Club, Consett

Saturday 15th September at 7:30 PM
Brendan Healy in Concert
The Empire, Consett

Saturday 15th September 8.00 PM
The Colours Red
The Demi, Consett

Thursday 20th September 8.30 PM
Open Mic
The Great Horse, Consett

Friday 21st September 8.00 PM
Toxic LIVE
The Black Horse, Consett

Friday 21st September 9:00 PM
NE/DC Live
The Coach and Horses, Leadgate

Saturday 22nd September 7:30 PM
The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular
The Empire, Consett

Thursday 27th September 8.30 PM
The Rag pickers and guests
The Grey Horse, Consett

Friday 28th September 8:00 PM
The Scandals Live
The Black Horse, Consett

Friday 28th September 7:30 PM
Sport and Physical Activity Awards 2012
The Empire, Consett

Saturday 29th September at 7:30 PM
Rock N Roll Paradise
The Empire, Consett

Saturday 29th September at 7:00 PM
Frank Sinatra Tribute
Blackhill Club

Got an event? Send details to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

Go North East 'M-ticket' Smartphone App

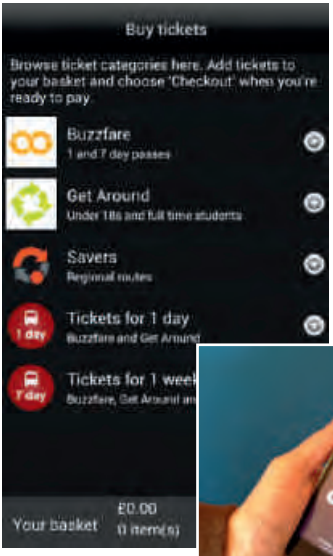
by Peter Wood

Over the past few years, bus users will have noticed an increasingly wide range of bus tickets available, including an almost bewildering selection of tickets which offer unlimited travel on certain routes or within certain zones. This was followed by a new system, introduced by Go North East, offering passengers the option to 'top-up' a new smartcard online called The Key.

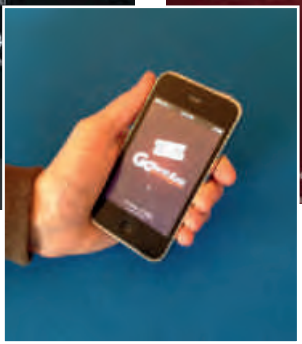
Go North East's latest innovation, however, can turn your smartphone into your bus ticket. Go North East M-Tickets, a free app introduced earlier this year, is available from the iPhone App Store and from Google Play for Android devices. It allows you to purchase tickets through the app using a debit card so you can simply show the bus driver the 'M-Ticket' on your phone screen.

On Android devices, the app works very smoothly. For the most part the app has a user-friendly interface, although it could take a moment to find where the 'stored tickets' are located. It's a very efficient system, giving users the option of buying tickets and storing them on the app, and allowing users to activate tickets only when needed.

The app is limited only by your phone's own battery life, so if you're confident that you won't run out of power between the office and your bus stop, then this app is certainly worth giving a go if you are a regular bus passenger.







All Enquiries Please Call: 01207 438292

The Season Starts: Consett Rugby

by Richard Armitt

As of September 1st Consett rugby club mount their challenge on Durham and Northumberland division 1, against Ponteland. Following an impressive showing last term that included three figure score lines, and resulted in promotion from the second division, the youthful squad are intent on cementing their position in division one. Head coach David Trott backs this "With a squad full of youthful exuberance, now being tempered with some years of experience playing open grade rugby, our young lads have grown into young men , ready to build on the success of last season."

With a squad full of local lads, except for Kiwi's Ben Jones and incoming Dallas Broderson, the club is seeing the fruits of its labour. After years of youth development work, including sending coaches into the schools of Derwentside and extensive youth setup run on Sunday mornings.

So with the club playing an expansive, fast paced, style of play, you will be hard pressed to find a more entertaining way to spend a Saturday afternoon for free in Consett. So get yourself along and have a watch.

Should this give you the urge to join in and have a go, there are three senior teams, junior teams from under-7s to under-18s, and hopefully a ladies team in the future.

If you or a member of your family would like to get involved in rugby please come along and ask at the game.

The games will all start at 3.00pm at Belle vue during September, and refreshments are available.



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