CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 106 Sept 2021



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Front Cover By - Pamela Fowler

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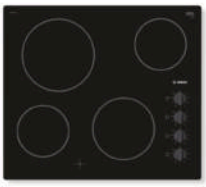

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Welcome Bonny Lads and Lasses,

September, it's back to school month. So if you're a student, a teacher, a school staff member, or a parent we wish you all the best for this new academic year. We know it's been particularly difficult for everyone over the last 18 months, but we hope with the new school year beginning, everyone can try to get a sense of complete normality returning.

The front cover for this month is a fantastic shot by Pamela Fowler. I'm sure you'll agree with us, her photograph is a colourful masterpiece.

We're always on the look out for images giving an original perspective of Consett life.So, if you'd like your photograph to be on the front cover next month, just email your high quality photos to editor@consettmagazine.com.

In this edition, you'll find lot of positive local news and images including those from the Consett Corona Photo Project on pages four and five, Fusion for Business aims to create more local jobs on page six, Donald Johnson looks back over his life from the grand age of 80 on page seven, Lorraine Weightman covers the story about a new eco-friendly business started last September on page nine, "Say No to Consett Incinerator" campaigners tell their story and how you can get involved on page eleven, Consett Street Friends by Joyce Shaw is on page thirteen, and Ian Hall provides a Consett Steelworks inspired poem on page fifteen.

We absolutely love to hear from people like you! Share your story, article, photograph, art, business, event, charity, music, video, or poetry with the people of Consett.

Best regards,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, and
Everyone who makes the magazine possible.

*It'll always be free, contrary to rumours that we are to begin charging for the magazine.

Thank you!

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by Pamela Fowler.
Send any drawings or photographs to:
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Consett Corona Photo Project - Sept 2021

TThis month we are showcasing Churches and Religion across our area as they have all been affected by restrictions and closures during the various stages of Government restrictions. **If you wish to be part of the project or have suggestions, please contact us at: consettcoronaphoto**@gmail.com



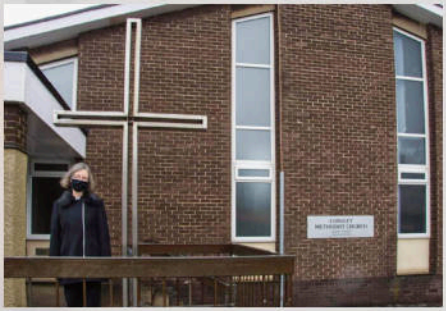
1. Churches were closed during the first Lockdown, which not only prevented the congregation but also the Vicars from entering. In May 2020 we photographed Canon Geoff Smith of St John's Church Shotley, Snods Edge. No one could enter the Church and the Canon had to rely on Telephone contact with his congregation as Wi-Fi was not always fast enough for Zoom meeting. He had erected tree outside the gates of the church so that rural members of his congregation could leave messages or dedications on it for inclusion in the telephone service - (Image: George Ledger)



3. In September 2020 during Tier 3 restrictions, we visited Father John Bagnall, St Patrick 's Church in Consett. The church was open, but numbers were greatly restricted. Father Bagnall had introduced a 'one way system' around the church, taped off 3 in 4 rows of pews. Signage had also been placed around the Church to remind the congregation what they could not do during Tier 3 restrictions. - (Image: George Ledger)

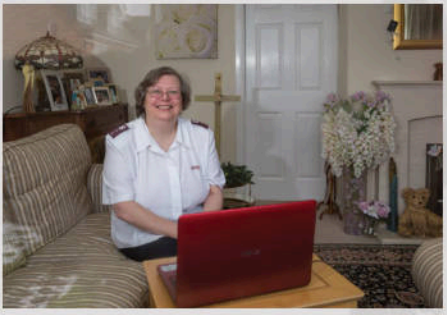


2. We also visited and photographed The Revd. Martin Jackson. St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside during the Lockdown in May 2020. His Churches at Benfieldside and Castleside were also closed but he used Zoom meetings and YouTube recordings to allow his congregation to see and take part in services.
- (Image: George Ledger)

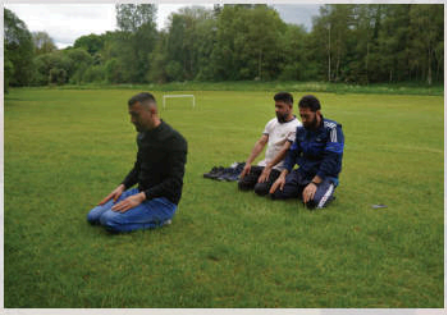


4. In February we photographed The Rev. Anne Jefferey, Minister for the Consett Methodists, who had all her churches closed but continued to look after her congregation as effectively as she could. It's not easy when you can't see anyone, expect at a distance, but hopefully this may change soon as we head towards the end of the 3rd Lockdown. - (Image: Chris Bruce)

The Consett Corona Photo Project started in March 2020 and has continued to document the effects of Covid-19 upon the people, volunteer groups and businesses of Consett area. All images have been photographed within the Government guidelines. We are currently holding our first exhibition at Willow Burn Hospice Garden area and arranging further exhibitions in the area, these have and will be announced on our Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/ConsettCoronaPhotoProject



5. Also in February we captured Amanda Smethurst, the Salvation Army Captain from Leadgate. She had remained in touch with her congregation by using Zoom meetings, on- line services, weekly newsletters and personal telephone calls and visits. This did not stop the excellent work that they have been doing in the community including regular Food collections for the Consett Food Bank and collecting used stamps for the RNIB. More recently the Army Hall reopened fully to the congregation and hopefully in the coming weeks once more the sound of the Army Band and Worship Group singers will be heard. - (Image: George Ledger)



7. During lockdown a lot of Muslims were unable to attend mosque due to closure and travel restrictions. However, to devout Muslims this could not disrupts their routine of praying 5 times a day, they can pray anywhere so long as it is clean and there are facilities to wash their hands and feet. Some have been praying at home, at work and even when they are out and about. The staff at Pizza Corner in Stanley have worked all through the pandemic, however by May 2021 they could resume their get together and outdoor BBQs. They all bring meat, salad and bread and contribute to preparing and cooking it then chat and catch up before cleaning the area thoroughly and whilst there they could also pray. (Image: Debbie Todd)



6. On Sunday 23rd May, Church goers and the general public heard the sound of Church bells for the first time in full at St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside. They had been stopped at the start of lockdown and except for the occasional solo bell ringing they had stayed quiet for over a year. St Cuthbert's recommenced ringing all 6 bells together again ahead of the church service on Sunday 23rd May as they benefitted from having 2 families with 3 ringers from each which meant that social distancing was easier in the very confined area of the bell tower. St Cuthbert's also benefitted from having particularly good ventilation with two opening windows, a balcony door opening into the body of the church and the staircase providing a through draft of fresh air. (Image: George Ledger)



8. Mark Jackson, from Crookhall converted to Islam many years ago, now known as Khadim he lives in Newcastle but regularly returns to Consett to see his family and friends. Newcastle's Central Mosque plays a central part in the Islamic communities of our area, not only providing a place for prayer but also in the collection and distribution of food aid to those in need. Prayer is a large part of a Muslim's day with 'Salat' or obligatory prayers performed five times each day. However, many Muslims cannot get to Newcastle each day to pray because of work, but they all try and make sure they can attend for the most important prayer of the week 'Jumah,'or Friday prayers. Once the mosque was allowed to reopen, numbers were agreed with the Council, and restricted to about 150, because normally there would be 500+ people in attendance. Hand sanitising and face coverings are mandatory, and the hall is marked with lines where worshippers can place their prayer mats. Shoes must be removed before entering and during Covid they are now placed in carrier bags and kept by the person throughout their visit. (Image: George Ledger)

Fusion for Business pledges to create up to 50 new jobs by the end of 2022.

Locally based energy and procurement specialist Fusion for Business has outlined ambitious expansion plans that will see the company employ 50 additional staff over the next 12 months providing Consett with a major jobs boost.

Fusion for Business is on the search for talented people within the local area to help them achieve their missions to defend the earth from energy and carbon waste by challenging the outdated energy supply chain and the way buildings are managed. The company, which launched in January 2020 after winning a grant from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, already employs 20 residents having successfully expanded after helping thousands of UK businesses save on their energy costs. This expansion will help the company scale its existing sales department as well as grow its Community Ambassador Programme, supported by Newcastle Falcons and Consett Football Club, which helps local sports clubs across the UK gain access to new revenue streams and sponsorship.

Local resident and company CEO Christopher Charlton said: "Having lived in the local area for a long time I have always wanted to create opportunities to help support the local community. I know that many people must commute for hours daily outside of Consett for work. I used to face a 2-hour commute through traffic each day and ultimately this create an unequal work life balance."



Within 12 months Fusion for Business has helped over 1000 businesses with their business energy needs and this expansion plan will allow them to reach even more.

Samuel Lind operations director at Fusion for Business adds: "Businesses up and down the country are still feeling the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This makes Fusion for Businesses proposition set of helping customers save on today's, tomorrows, and yesterday's energy costs more important than ever and we need more people to help us reach as many customers as possible.

This expansion will also help protect the wild habitats within the local area as Fusion for Business through their partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust protect 1 acre of land for every customer that they help. Currently Fusion for Business sponsors and protects over 200 acres of land at Rabbitbank Wood.

If you would like to know about the opportunities available then please visit fussionforbusiness.co.uk

The Life and Times of a Redundant Steelworker

Born in 1941 when the Germans were trying to bomb our cities to rubble Sitting in the damp tin Anson shelter during one of the raids a cow was killed in Bridgehill less than a mile away.

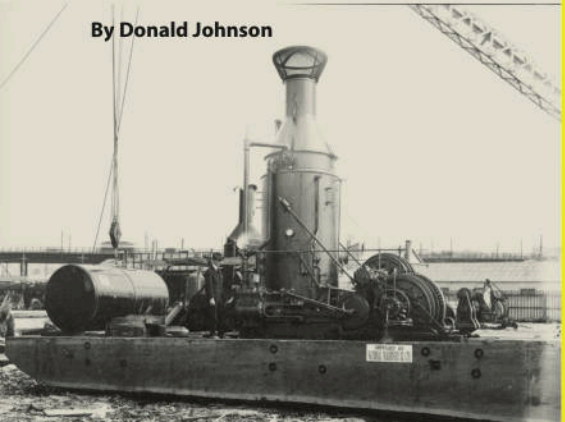
Then the war was over and I attended the street party aged 4, had my first taste of ice cream in a silver bucket courtesy of the local milkman "Britain's". Left school age 15 years became a building apprentice where I remained until I was 28 years old then moved on as a labourer in the Steel plant where we devoured blast metal and scrap turning it into steel in 35 minutes.

Stayed there for 11years until the common market said that British Steel was too big and despite us making cheaper steel than Germany we were closed down in 1979. By then I was the main Union leader in the steel plant with 200 members all made redundant I was lucky I went on to Durham University and obtained a degree I then moved onto Hull University where I obtained two qualifications in Social Work 1984.

Aged 43 years I moved to Southampton and took up a offered position as a probation officer for the next 22 years retiring in 2007. Stayed in Southampton until 2015 when asked by my neighbour (Southampton) why I was moving back to Consett I suggested I was moving back to "gods country."

Now 80 years of age I'm living in Blackhill about half a mile from where I was born and brought up, never regretted moving back to my roots and the local people who are the salt of the Earth.

By Donald Johnson



We need volunteers!!

Anyone over 18 (no upper age limit!) would be very welcome to join the team of volunteers who go out into the streets of Consett to help and befriend anyone who needs us…

What can we do?

just having a word, helping get a taxi, giving water or flip flop slippers where needed, or even a foil blanket if hypothermia threatens (we don't give first aid but would call expert help if possible).

Why do we do it?

If your son/daughter, friend or neighbour was in danger or lonely, when a good night out developed problems, then you would be thankful that there was someone to help them. We work in small teams, (never alone) we keep contact with other helpers and we look after each other too, with support from the police and other workers in the night time economy.

What is the reward?

It is NOT financial! We don't get paid, but we do get encouragement as we are recognised by the revellers and we see the difference that our presence makes during the night time duty.

We are trained, and we mentor new volunteers so why not give it a try? The hours and dates are of your choosing, ...come out when you can! You will surprise yourself as to how much fun it is as you help the community….and Consett has gained a good reputation in caring.

New Venture

Covid has highlighted the anxiety, fear and loneliness which exists in our society, and so Street Friends are venturing out into the main shopping areas during day time to show a friendly smile or share a chat with anyone who greets us. We have contacts for agencies which are out there to help anyone feeling lonely, fearful or anxious as we try to get back to normal, despite the consequences of job loss, debt, or hopelessness for the future. Sharing and caring is a good step towards facing the next day and our team would like to be there for anyone who needs us. We need volunteers to help boost the team numbers…why not give it a try?

Contact 505027 for more information Look at Facebook Consett Street Friends.



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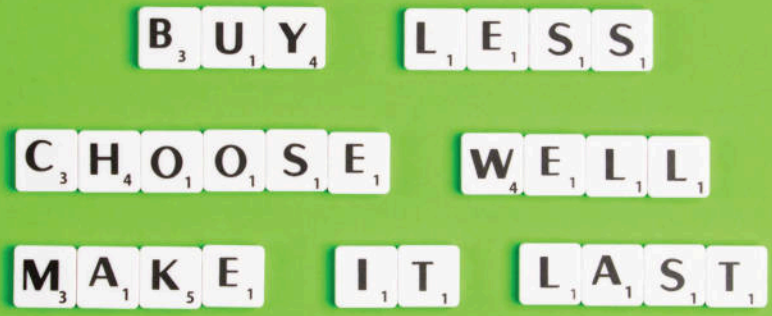
GreenKeepers By Lorraine Weightman



GreenKeepers opened it's doors on 26th September 2020 making Vicky Parker's dream a very welcome reality. Vicky along with her husband Neil and childhood best friend Donna are providing Consett with it's first Eco Home and Refill Store.

Vicky and her family had been trying to reduce single use plastics at home for some time and noticed that the recycling bin was constantly filling up with cleaning containers, despite their best efforts. This made her think seriously about change. Already familiar with using refill stores she thought having one close to home would be ideal, as it was sometimes inconvenient having to travel quite a distance to use them.

With this in mind Vicky, who had been swapping her shampoo bottles for a bar while travelling was making considerate choices with her beauty products.
Vicky, in her own words said,

'I wanted to open a store which would make refill shopping easier for the people of Consett but I didn't quite have the confidence to take that leap, or the time, since both myself and Neil worked full time.'

As Lockdown began, even though Neil continued to work full time in food production, Vicky's work as a dental hygienist ceased overnight.

Vicky seized this as an opportunity to research and plan, believing that she now had the time to invest in making her dream come true. She spent countless hours sourcing suppliers and once this was done started looking for a location; which is a challenge for anyone in the best of times, as we were in a pandemic.

Vicky, her husband, family and friends felt that luck had turned their way when a unit became free in Gladstone House in Consett, and with the help of two exceptionally supportive landlords, GreenKeepers was born!

Starting with a range of just 50 products, they soon reached the 300 mark and are still growing. They have a wide variety of popular refillable items, from household cleaning to hair and body care, also deodorants and much much more.

There is an option to bring your own containers or buy the beautiful glass bottles on sale to use again and again.

There are dried foods & spices available and the most delicious coffee beans, which they will grind to your own specification - my favourite being the Costa Rica blend. It's also a great place to stock up on store cupboard essentials. Vicky and her team are also proud to include goods from many local producers.
She stated,

'The feedback and support we have received from the local community has been amazing, it's really blown us away.'

Furthermore they have recently been granted a licence to have seating outside, so after shopping, customers can relax outside with a coffee - remember to bring your own cup - catch up with friends and watch the world go by.

A final word from Vicky,

'So many people have really taken this way of shopping into their hearts, we are so grateful to each and every one of them.'

I would highly recommend a visit to GreenKeepers, it's packed full of delights and has provided Consett with just what it needs. It seems that dreams really can come true. So I'd like to wish GreenKeepers a very Happy 1st Birthday.

Do you need to brush up on your ICT skills?
Then a Digital Skills for All course could be for you.

The Durham County Council Adult Learning and Skills Service offer short, fun, and interactive learning sessions that will support you to improve your IT skills.

Previous learner, Michelle Young, signed up with the Adult Learning and Skills Service after becoming unemployed, and was looking for courses to boost her confidence as well as her skills.

"I visited the job centre to ask if I could get some help with my CV, they mentioned the Adult Learning and Skills Service courses and I took it from there. I have found the computer courses really useful. I would definitely like to do another course."

The next local Digital Skills for All course starts on 13 September and runs from 1pm-3pm at Glenroyd House, Consett, DH8 5HL.

There is a range of courses that can support you whether you are a beginner or already have existing qualifications you would like to build on.

There is also a range of distance learning courses available if you are unable to attend face to face.

To find out more visit durham.gov.uk/ALLS-our-courses, call us on 03000 266 115 or email alss@durham.gov.uk

Adult Learning & Skills Service

The Durham County Council Adult Learning and Skills Service offer short, fun, and interactive learning sessions.



Digital Skills for All

course starts on 13 September and runs from 1pm-3pm at Glenroyd House, Consett, DH8 5HL

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Find your perfect course at:
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Durham County Council

Fighting for a Brighter Future for Consett

Say No to Consett Incinerator

Consett - Past and Present

Who could have envisioned 40 years ago, when the infamous red dust of the steelworks was consigned to the dustbin of industrial heritage, that the beauty of the Derwent Valley would bathe the town of Consett? Who would have believed that such a town would become a secret gem? A beautiful place to live, enveloped by panoramic views, with an abundance of flora and fauna.

A New Threat

Unfortunately, this fabulous return to Consett's natural beauty is now under threat. Not by the industrialists of the old steel works. There is no return to the sense of pride that the people of Consett had when the steel they produced was used to build beautiful and significant structures across the globe. No, the new concept of industrialisation for Consett is to burn industrial waste.

Burning Industrial Waste

Why would anyone want the remnants and particles of industrial waste soiling the air and contaminating the town? Who would have such a dream for their town? This living nightmare of a prospect is now at the planning stage based on a submission linked to Project Genesis. Project Genesis, a name chosen with Biblical connotations. Their vision for the town of Consett would be a land filled with a new sense of hope to compensate for the closure of the Steelworks. A fair assumption would be that the people involved in such a project would want the very best for the town.

Project Genesis – Their Mission

According to the Charity Commission website, here are the mission statements created by the Project Genesis Trust to ensure the town of Consett rises from the red dust of industrialisation:

"All such objects for the benefit of the district of Derwentside or its inhabitants or otherwise connected with the district of Derwentside as are charitable including (but without detracting from the general nature of the charitable trust) any of the following:

***1.** Providing or assisting in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation.*
***2.** Providing or assisting in the provision of facilities to encourage the study appreciation and enjoyment of the arts (including but not limited to an arts centre).*
***3.** Encouraging the understanding and appreciation of local history and other matters of historic artistic architectural or scientific interest (including but not limited to providing or assisting in the provision of a heritage centre): and*
***4.** The conservation protection and improvement of amenity land and its flora and fauna."*

Who could argue with such a bold and bright future envisioned for our town?

Project Genesis – Their REAL MISSION?

Unfortunately, their ambition for the town has been brought into question. Are we getting fabulous new technological businesses? Are we encouraging the high-tech companies that are in abundance across the north east to come to Consett? How about leisure facilities? There are hundreds of new houses on a variety of new housing estates. Are they building new facilities like cinemas, bowling alleys, pubs, and restaurants to ensure the people of the town spend their money in the town? Are they providing new amenities like doctors, dentists, and vets? NO! What is being planned for our town by the Project Genesis, the bastions of the town of Consett's health and happiness? Their plan for our town – an incinerator.

An Incinerator

In a recent questions and answer session with Delves Lane councillors. Mark Short admitted he had been researching incinerators for 7 years, including visits to Holland. In the meantime, hundreds of houses have been built, where the homeowners have been oblivious to such plans. These residents now face the prospect of having an incinerator as their neighbour. For some residents, this is 300 metres from their houses. Houses they bought in good faith. Houses they would not have bought, if they had known this was the plan for Hownsgill Park.

Clean Air Day Protest

On Clean Air Day, the fabulous people of Consett went to the proposed site for the Consett Incinerator to make a very clear point. We want the air in Consett to stay clean. We SAY NO!

What can YOU do?

There is still time to do something to stop this - join our cause:

- Please watch and share our campaign film: https://youtu.be/nJYO1eq7C8c
- Write to planning planning@durham.gov.uk and quote: DM/20/03267/WAS. We have over 3,000 objections on the portal, and we need even more!
- Join our Facebook Page: Say No to Consett Incinerator , we have over 6,300 members. Find out what to include in your complaint, or sign one of our objection letters at one of the many hubs around Consett.
- Get your children to take part in our Feed the Monster summer activity.
- Sign our petition
- Put up our campaign banners and posters
- Plus, look out for new events coming up. We still have lots planned.
- Go to our website for full details: Say No To Consett Incinerator

We deserve and demand a better and brighter future for Consett – "Say No to Consett Incinerator!"

By Christine Thomas on behalf of the Say No to Consett Incinerator Campaign.

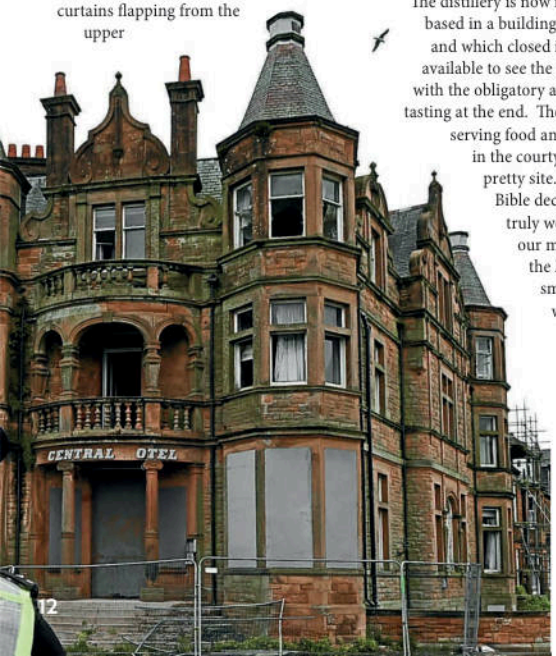




Annan, Dumfries & Galloway

Annan is the first authentic Scottish town beyond the border. You can get a real sense of being "abroad" in an authentic Scottish town, which now has its own distillery producing again after a gap of around 100 years. Split your ticket at Newcastle, from where there is a £24 off-peak day return. From Chester-le-Street it's £53.70 which you can cut in half by splitting.

The initial welcome to Annan can be quite disconcerting. Coming out of the station and heading straight ahead north into the town, you come across an abandoned, but Category C listed, derelict edifice, formerly known as the Central Hotel. When I arrived in Annan on 2 June there were birds flying in and out of the broken first floor windows and curtains flapping from the upper stories in a spooky scene reminiscent of Disney's Phantom Manor. Any child with an active imagination would be mightily impressed. No wonder the town council want the building, which is probably past restoration, taken down.



The rest of the town is much more attractive, with plenty of red brick buildings and plenty of interesting architectural details. The distillery, a mile north, is reached by keeping to the right of the hotel and continuing ahead, crossing over the High Street to pick up the B722 north out of the town. After passing the town football club and crossing over the bridge with the A75 bypass way below, then look for the brown signs left to the distillery.

The distillery is now in full production, based in a building first used as a distillery and which closed in 1918. Tours are available to see the production process, with the obligatory and very welcome tasting at the end. There's a pleasant café serving food and the opportunity to sit in the courtyard and enjoy the pretty site. Jim Murray's Whisky Bible declares that "we have a truly world class distillery in our midst", which produces the Man O'Sword, the smoulderingly smoky whisky named after Robert the Bruce, and the Man O'Words, Robert Burns. I enjoyed my visit, and was pleased to learn that the owners of the distillery have a new project also related to the Bard, Robert Burns, in Dumfries, where they have been refurbishing the Globe Inn, which was the Scottish National poet's favourite howff (meeting place/pub). An opportunity for an overnight visit to Dumfries some other time, I think.

Retracing my steps into town, I reached the Galabank, the Annan Athletic Football Club ground. There's a path which goes round the back of the stadium and winds its way down to the riverside and is a very scenic way to get back to the town centre via the Ever Holm Park. Annan's High Street has a variety of shops and there are plenty of places to eat and drink. However, allow time to see the Annan Museum which is normally open 11am to 4pm, but sometimes closes for half an hour at 1pm for staff lunch breaks.

Annan Museum is in a renovated former library, with permanent and temporary exhibition spaces located on the ground and first floors. Artists represented include George Wright (1851–1916) and William Ewart Lockhart (1846–1900). Lockhart is most famous for the painting commissioned by Queen Victoria entitled "The Jubilee Celebration in Westminster Abbey, June 21 1887, which took him three years to complete and is now in the Royal Collection. Finally, Annan's innovative railway turntable can be seen in the National Rail Museum in York.

Get a free map of the area from streetmap.co.uk using the postcode DG12 6AW.

alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk

www.nationalrail.com

ANNANDALE DISTILLERY

www.annandaledistillery.com



Where are my Pyjamas?
By Joyce Shaw

Why do I need to ask this question?
In 2013, a lady from a church in Delves Lane, had a vision that the young folk of Consett needed help when they went out enjoying themselves at night!! Talking to her friends she soon found that others, including myself, had the same concern. I would not want any child or grandchild of mine to be in danger, and getting drunk was a situation which could create danger..unable to take care of themselves, to get home safely or being left alone late at night in the cold. With great support and encouragement from the police, we formed a team called Street Friends based at Consett Methodist Church and other local churches… all the team having the beliefs and values of the Christian faith but not all church attendees.

We spend our night wandering the streets in small groups, keeping radio contact with each other and the police, and popping in and out of the pubs and clubs around Consett. Our high visibility vests for the summer nights, were soon replaced with thick padded hi vis jackets for the cold, and added into the rucksack were foil blankets for those needing protection against hypothermia…we became famous for the flip flops and slippers we gave out to girls who no longer could manage their stilettos, and these certainly stopped the cut feet which resulted in contact with broken glass from glasses and bottles on the pavements!

What do we do?
What we **don't** do is first aid, but we give out water and help to get a taxi when needed, and talk to anyone who strikes up a conversation. We'll look out for anyone left alone, keep an eye out for those in need of water or flip/flop slippers, or talk to the doormen. It is wonderful to be recognised and greeted by the regulars as they enjoy their night out.

The support has been fantastic as the project grew… we were given donations for buying water and flip flops, we were congratulated on the efforts we made, and other areas, as far afield as Norfolk, became interested in the work, wanting to know how to start similar work in their area.

I mentioned interesting conversations……most young people were amazed at our age, (we're all at least 50+VAT!) as we patrolled in the small hours of the morning.

Do you work for the police? Do you get paid? (more amazement when the answers were No!!)
They couldn't believe that we volunteered because we were concerned about their welfare, and we were always treated with respect and gratitude.

Every time I was out, I was always met with ex pupils who recognised me and couldn't believe I was wandering the streets so late at night!!! My response was that I should have been looking for
my pyjamas to go to bed, not my overcoat at 11pm when we began our patrols!!

Covid soon stopped all the revelry in Consett, but life is now starting to return to normal and the night time economy will be back.

The team's average age is very high and we are all nearly 2 years older since we last ventured out! We need to find like-minded people who would follow in our footsteps, giving a very worthwhile time of volunteering to the community. The reward lies in knowing that we have hopefully helped someone who could have faced a very serious crisis….(in fact some parents have personally thanked us for helping their young ones.)

We need more help for our teams! There is no age limit above 18 years and everyone is trained and mentored before they officially work the streets. There is no obligation to fulfil a certain number of hours and we all look after each other. We are now hoping to begin a day-time Street Friends patrol where we can spend time mingling with shoppers, particularly in Middle Street, as the Covid crisis has highlighted loneliness and anxiety in our everyday living.

Volunteers are needed for this project too!
Both day and night time projects can be very rewarding and purposeful so why not give it a try?

There are no medals or financial gain in this, but each team member can honestly recommend the well spent time we give. It has put Consett on the map as a caring community.

Have a look at the website Consett Street Friends, ring the contact numbers Come and join us!!!
Joyce Shaw - Contact numbers: 505027 and 502556.

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

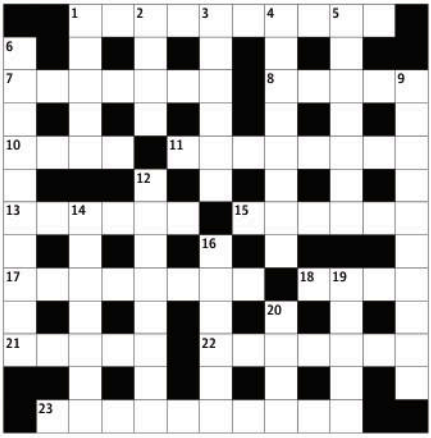
Fireworks

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)

www.princebishopvets.co.uk

Puzzle Corner September 2021



Across

1. Unfairly treated (4,4,2)
7. Snubs (7)
8. Veracity (5)
10. Eyelid problem (4)
11. Brothers (8)
13. Removal of abuses (6)
15. Solemn promise (6)
17. Uncivilised (8)
18. Wife of Jupiter (4)
21. On the way out (5)
22. Cajole (7)
23. Reddish star in Orion(10)

Down

1. Bird — eg birdwatching (5)
2. Prevalent (4)
3. Barren area (6)
4. By no means (3,2,3)
5. Hazy (7)
6. Forbidden (10)
9. Transferred (6,4)
12. Integral (anag) — figure (8)
14. Productive (7)
16. Important person (6)
19. Lacking justification (5)
20. Dandy — lover (4)

Answers for August



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

Lockdown Lines - By Lorraine Weightman

Lorraine Weightman found herself writing poems during lockdown in early 2020. She began documenting her thoughts and feelings about the situation she and the rest of us found ourselves in. Some lines are sad and reflective, while others are humorous and amusing; all in all, revealing a very a human account of how life was changing and the ways in which we all tried to adapt.

Lorraine has now shared her poems in a book, which is a charity publication sponsored by Consett Rotary Club and small local business's in Consett.

Profits from this book will go to local Consett Rotary Charities

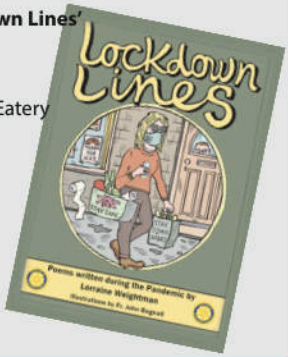
'Lockdown Lines' published by Firefly New Media UK and with amazing illustrations by Fr John Bagnall will be officially launched alongside an exhibition of the Consett Corona Photo Project at St Patrick's Church Hall from Friday September 10th until Sunday September 12th. All are welcome and books will be on sale there with extra giveaways.

Treat yourself to a copy and perhaps buy another for a friend. Why not bring them along to the launch and have them signed by Lorraine and Fr John.

The books are available to buy now in shops and venues in Consett * and can be purchased online for £4.99 + £1.00 p&p in the UK. To request your copies - email: lorraine7556@gmail.com PayPal Link paypal.me/lorraineweightman and Lockdown Lines will be delivered to your door.

Places that stock 'Lockdown Lines'

GreenKeepers
Edward's Coffee Shop and Eatery
Specsure
Thackery's
St Patrick's Church Consett
St Pius Church Moorside
Brooms Church Leadgate
Consett Library



Richard Holden MP - Jabs and Jobs

A month ago the Prime Minister made a speech on levelling up. Steadfast in our vaccine program, willing to change tack in the face of facts, we finally unlocked on the 19th of July and the data, keeping steady, continues to look positive. Hearing the Prime Minister after 18 months talk at length about something other than Covid was strange.

To remember that like all of us, the Government had plans, ambitions and that like all of us it had put them on hold. The Government had not come to office in a pandemic, the Prime Minister, my colleagues and myself had come to office with a clear promise, to level up. With Covid a worry but no longer an immediate threat, it is time to focus on building back better from covid and delivering on the levelling up programme I was elected on.

Over August, I have been on my summer tour of our constituency. I have heard from shopkeepers and restaurants and traders and hospitality about their confidence post Covid. Confidence is key to our levelled-up recovery and so I was delighted to have toured Nissan with the Business Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, and the Prime Minister, hearing about new jobs and long term investment in the North East. Better still, not long after I welcomed the Business Secretary to the The Grey Horse and the Consett Ale Works as our crucial hospitality sector re-opens. Nissan is good news, it makes the headlines but I wanted to show how businesses in our towns and villages were opening up, looking forward to the summer and get the voices of our small businesses heard at the heart of Government. I also took the chance to lobby for levelling up funding for our area as well as for my campaign on lower beer duty for draught beer!

Talking with him, one of the things we have both heard many times was the shortage of staff. We can only recover as quickly as we can hire. So, hosted by Derwentside College, I look forward to opening my first 'jobs jobs jobs' fair. On September 17th dozens of employers, both local and national, will come to Consett. I invited them all, as I invite anyone looking for a first job or a new job now, to come along. To me, at the heart of it, levelling up means ensuring that wherever you live you've got access to good opportunities and decent jobs. That's what I'll continue to argue for on our behalf in Parliament and that's what I'll keep fighting to deliver, especially for our young people, here in North West Durham.

With my very best wishes,
Richard Holden MP

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