

# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council

July 1977

Quarterly

Number Seventeen

## FIT FOR A QUEEN

Saturday 28th May, when the village celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee, will long be remembered with pleasure by everyone locally; the grand fancy dress procession, the wide selection of events, displays and side shows on the field; the childrens' "free tea"—followed by an excellent barbecue and dance in the evening, and all on the hottest day for weeks, helped to make it a memorable occasion.

Events started with the Tyneside Boys' Band parading through the village to join the elegant "Kings and Queens of England" (and others) regally sporting themselves along Algernon Terrace. From here at 1.30 p.m. the procession of bandsmen, Kings and Queens, Guides and Cubs, and supporters made their way along Main Street and into the Playing Field.

On the field the official re-opening ceremony (following recent improvements) was performed by Dr. Swindale, (who has been closely associated with the history of the field over the last 50 years) and Douglas Hamilton, Chairman of the Wylam Playing Fields Association who with his colleagues has worked so hard to achieve the recent improvements to the field and safeguard its future. David Batteb of the Northumberland Playing Fields Association presented a cheque for £1,500 towards the cost of providing the multi-purpose hard play area in the corner of the field.

The splendid fancy dress entries presented the judges (Jim Robinson and Ellen Jacobson) with a difficult task, but the eventual winners they selected were:—

### Children

1. Heralds—Charlotte Johnson, Claire Brewis, Ann Leslie.  
(A Nursery School entry.)
2. Black Prince—Antony Anderson.
3. Queen Victoria—Rachel Craggs.  
Queen Elizabeth I—Fiona Kelly.  
The Princes in the Tower—Victoria and Joanna Mitcham.  
Boadicea—Julia Fairnell.

### Adults

1. Ann Boleyn—Muriel Money.
2. Henry VIII—John Mathews.
3. Merlin—Richard Tomlin.

The results of the competition for the best decorated houses (which had been judged earlier in the morning by Philip Brooks) were announced. More than 60 houses, shops and pubs had been decorated with flags, portraits, posters and banners, and as it was impossible to select outright winners, prizes were awarded to the following:—

Blackett Court; 27, 125, 126, 127, 128 Dene Road; 1 Jackson Road; 1 Parson Road; 17 Stephenson Terrace "Hillside," "Talland House" and "Meadowfield," Wylam Wood Road, the Post Office and Stobo's shop.

Among the "live" events taking place during the afternoon the Dog Handling Competition by Mrs. Cass and the Wylam Dog Handling Group, Puppet Shows given by the Children's Book Group, the demonstration of music and dancing by the Lindsey Monaghan Dancers and the display by the ladies of the Stocksfield Keep Fit Club—dressed in red, white and blue, were all greatly enjoyed.

The wide variety of side-shows, stalls and static displays ensured that there was plenty of entertainment for everyone.

The future gold medallists had their chance to shine in the Children's Sports which started at 3.30 p.m.

The only team event—the Tug of War Competition between teams from the four Public Houses in the village was won by the Black Bull, who were suitably rewarded. Must be a good advertisement for S & N!

Perhaps the highlight of the afternoon for many took place at 4.30 p.m. when 490 children from the village sat down at huge tables (about 100 at each) to enjoy their Jubilee teas. The idea of giving each child an identical tea, packed in a paper bag was clearly a good one and avoided any riots.

In the evening the day's festivities were most successfully rounded off with a Royal Barbecue and Dance—making use of the marquees and with dancing to the Rainbow disco and cabarets provided by the Sallyport Dancers.



Wylam Jubilee Day, 28th May

Photo—Courtesy of Newcastle Chronicle and Journal Ltd.

So ended what must go down in Wylam's history as one of the most successful village celebrations—certainly within the lifetime of those now living in the village.

To achieve this success many individuals and groups within the village participated or gave help in many ways—and the Parish Council, on behalf of the whole village, would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way to make the 28th May such a memorable day.

Those who worked hard in the preparations and on the day will have already received their reward in seeing everyone enjoying themselves, and in the knowledge that their efforts resulted in a worthy celebration, and that the profits on the day (approximately £570) will be used to purchase children's play equipment to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977.

As a further reminder, the Playing Fields Association has asked that in future the field should once again be known as "The Jubilee Field."



## THAT BUILDING IN THE OLD STATION YARD

The small stone building under construction alongside the track in the old station yard car park is a "governor-house" for the Gas Corporation, required to control gas supply pressure in the village.

It is not (as someone quipped at the Annual Parish Meeting) a house for the Governor of the Gas Board—a comment which produced a reply—"that with their substantial profits the Gas Corporation would build something more elaborate for their 'Governor'!"

## KEEPING EVERYONE HAPPY

Seventy residents crowded into the Institute on 23rd May to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman gave a detailed progress report on what had been achieved during the year and after a few comments from the audience it seemed as though everyone was satisfied and the meeting would finish early. However, that proved to be a lull before the storm—and the problems of dogs fouling paths and open spaces, litter, vandalism to trees and children playing in the roads were subsequently debated at length.

*A separate article on the problem of dogs is included elsewhere in this newsletter.*

It was decided that the village should not enter the Best-Kept-Village Competition this year, but that consideration should be given to making a special effort to improve the village and enter next year.

## FAULTY LAMPS AGAIN

In our last issue we suggested that you should report any faulty street lamps to the County Lighting Officer at the County Council Offices in Newcastle—however he has now advised us that it is quicker for faults or complaints to be sent direct to the Divisional Street Lighting depot in Burn Lane, Hexham (Tel. Hexham (0434) 2246) where the lighting maintenance team are based.

Telephoning or writing direct to the Hexham depot (rather than to the Newcastle headquarters) should save time.

## BEST TOMATOES—PRIZE CABBAGES

The Horticultural Society will be holding a Flower and Vegetable Show in the Institute on Saturday, 17th September, and hope that this will be well supported with exhibits from new allotment holders and others who are now cultivating their gardens with one eye on the price of vegetables!

The Society welcomes new members of all ages and particularly a few under 40!

The show in September should provide an excellent opportunity for potential new members to meet existing members (without actually joining first) and learn something about its activities.

Anyone wanting further information about the Society is invited to contact Dr. J. D. Gilchrist (Tel. 2323.)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Cultivation of allotments seems to be a leisure activity involving all members of the family—and certainly it is no longer a wholly male occupation. With the time and effort being spent on the riverside allotments there should be some prize winning vegetables produced this year, so why not enter them in the Horticultural Society Show?*

## TIN FOIL FOR THE BLIND—

### Change in Arrangements

Tricia Hawley, who has been collecting foil on behalf of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association over the last year, is leaving Wylam shortly and has asked us to thank everyone who has supplied her with foil.

Now, because of Tricia's departure, Linda Richardson, 17 Dene Road (Tel. 2578) has kindly agreed to take over the collection of the foil. Everyone in the village can help this worthy cause (at no cost to themselves) so please do so—just collect those old milk bottle tops, etc., and take them to 17 Dene Road.

## FOR THE UNDER 5's AND THEIR MUMS

The village is always changing—with on average about one new family coming to live here each week—so to help newcomers (as well as those who have lived in Wylam all their lives) we produced the Local Information Card. In addition we also try and include short articles to keep you all informed about local societies and organisations.

This month it's the turn of the Wylam Playgroup, and Cicely Iliffe (1 Dene Road), the Chairperson has written this short article.

"The Playgroup is a member of the P.P.A. (Pre-School Playgroups Association) and meets on four mornings a week in St. Oswin's Church Hall.

A wide range of equipment and activities is provided, aimed at stimulating a child's imagination, aiding his (or her) concentration and developing motor skills. The relaxed and informal atmosphere encourages spontaneous play and through this a child can learn to socialize and co-operate with others and this is of enormous help to him when commencing school life. Parents are encouraged to stay and help if they wish and all parents are eligible for places on the committee.

In summertime we are lucky to have the use of a walled garden with sandpit, climbing frame and other outdoor toys.

The Playgroup meets at the following times:—

Monday	9.15—11.45 a.m.
Wednesday	9.30—11.30 a.m.
Thursday	9.30—11.30 a.m.
Friday	9.15—11.45 a.m.

If you would like further details, please contact: Mrs. Jo Goodwin, 84 Dene Road. (Tel. 2668)"

For babies and toddlers up to three years old the Mother and Toddlers' Group meets on Wednesday afternoons (2.00—3.30 p.m.) at the Playgroup premises (St. Oswin's Church Hall.)

This is as much an opportunity for mothers to meet and chat together as for babies and toddlers to play together, and new mothers or new arrivals to the village are especially welcome. It's quite informal—just call at the Church Hall any Wednesday afternoon during school terms (restarts in September.)

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR RE-ELECTED

In the elections held on 5th May, Christopher d'Ambrumenil was re-elected as the County Councillor for the Bywell Division for the next four years.

He had a majority of 512 over Jean McCallum.

## IT JUST GROWS . . . AND GROWS

Following pressure from the Parish Council and others over several years agreement has now been reached between District Council and County Council to rationalise arrangements for grasscutting in the village. In future the District Council (instead of the County Council) will cut all the highway verges within the built-up area of the village at the same time as they cut the other open spaces and play areas.

This arrangement should eliminate the wasteful duplication which occurred previously.

Unfortunately the County Council will only pay for cutting the grass verges once every six weeks, whereas the District Council open spaces are cut once every 10-14 days, and to ensure that all public grassed areas throughout the village are maintained to the same standard the Parish Council have agreed to contribute to the District Council the extra cost of giving the highway verges the same number of cuts as the open spaces.

Sounds complicated doesn't it—but it is now a much simpler arrangement than in the past—and should result in an improvement in grasscutting in the village.

Wylam is one of the first parishes in the County where the District, County and Parish Councils are co-operating in this way.



## DON'T BLAME FIDO—BLAME HIS OWNER

Eighteen months ago we included an article about the problems caused by uncontrolled dogs and their lazy owners—complaints were made recently at the Annual Parish Meeting about the disgusting condition of fouled footpaths and grassed areas—resulting in potential health hazards, particularly to children.

It should not be necessary to have to have bye-laws relating to the control of dogs on every square yard of land in the village—there is ample space for dogs to be exercised properly—without using the known play areas and maintained open spaces.

The following message is for the benefit of ALL DOGS and THEIR OWNERS.

We know your dog needs exercise and has to have somewhere to perform—so why not take him (or her) to one of the following places?

<b>Yes</b>	Please Exercise Your Dog HERE	➔	Riverside ( <i>away from the paths</i> )
			Old railway track ( <i>Sides of the track</i> )
			Alongside rural paths ( <i>away from housing areas</i> )

There is plenty of space in these areas—away from the paths where people walk, where dogs can roam and “perform” without causing a nuisance.

But please do not allow your dog to foul the areas listed below:—

<b>No</b>	Do NOT Let Your Dog Foul These Places	➔	Play Areas*	*(These are the areas where the grass is regularly cut)
			Open Spaces*	
			Grass Verges*	
			Footpaths and Pavements	

If properly trained and controlled by their owners there is no reason why a few dogs need spoil the enjoyment of the village for the majority of residents.

So please, all dog owners, don't just put your dog out, but take him out and exercise him on one of the places we have suggested.

Don't let him roam around the village unattended all day! And if he does foul a footpath why not take a shovel and remove the dirt yourself?—to avoid someone walking in it.

## WYLAM JUBILEE DAY—A Child's Eye View

On 28th May Wylam had its Jubilee Day. It was a very sunny day. First of all there was a fancy dress parade led by a band, not everyone dressed up. The parade started from Algernon Terrace and ended at the playing field. At the playing field the prizes were given. The stalls were all open. There was a cake stall and a coconut shy and many others. There was a puppet show called Sir Gawain and the loathly damsel. It was on quite a few times. There was a dog show and the dogs had to jump over obstacles. They then made one of the dogs a queen. She sat on a cushion and wore a crown and then another dog had to find the Union Jack and give it to the queen dog. In the biggest tent there was some dancing and tap dancing. There was racing; first of all it was the races for the little ones and then it was the bigger ones' race. There was a running race and an obstacle race. On one stall there was lots of pots and jars and you had three balls to throw in and if you got one in you got a goldfish. There was a Brownie stall and they sold sweets and biscuits. There was an ice cream stall and a lucky dip and there was a book stall. Then there was a tea for the children. You got a paper bag and a cup with some orange juice in. The bag had a sausage roll, a jam tart, a packet of crisps, two biscuits and a wagon wheel. After everything was sold people helped to tidy up and then they went home.

Victoria Mitcham (age 9),  
"Meadowfield," Wylam Wood Road.

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

A very close result in the by-election to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council gave Alan Jones a majority of 13 votes over Lynne Petrie.

## DAMAGE TO PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

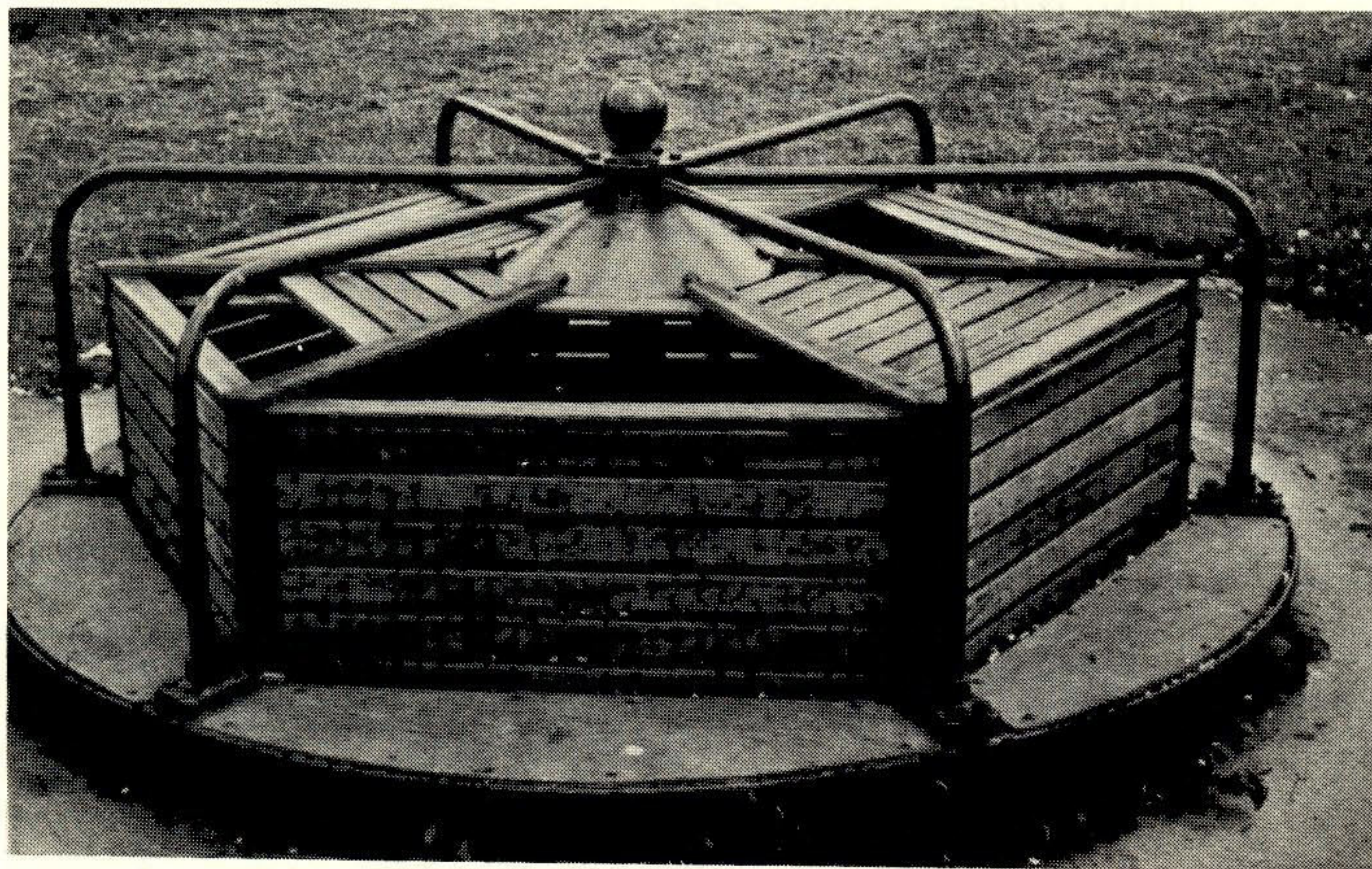
Anyone visiting the children's playground in Hedley Road recently will have noticed the damage to the roundabout.

Regrettably this is a most stupid and dangerous act of vandalism.

It appears that one of the timber slats on the casing was broken and within a few days a dozen or more others were deliberately pulled off.

Apart from the expense of having this damage repaired—there is the real risk that a child might have been seriously injured.

In future if you notice that any equipment in the playground needs to be repaired, please contact Mrs. Roan (Tel. 3669) immediately.



The roundabout in the Hedley Road playground showing the damage done.

## BURNING RIVERBANK

Last summer several fires on the riverbank and alongside the old railway track destroyed groups of small trees and plants, and there has already been one fire this year on the bank near Stephenson's cottage.

It takes years for replacement trees to grow, so please take care—particularly in dry weather, and don't drop matches or cigarette ends which might easily start a fire.

The trees in and around the village already have a hard job trying to survive the attacks of vandals, and diseases like Dutch Elm disease so don't make their survival more difficult by starting fires!

## MAFXO—WILL YOU HELP?

No—not a misprint—just Oxfam written backwards, and an attempt to make you read this plea.

Oxfam receive many more requests for aid than they can possibly meet and are always seeking ways of raising more funds.

One of the most successful collection schemes is by “Pledged Gifts” where individuals agree to donate a small gift (about 10p - 20p) each month to Oxfam and these are collected by a “Pledged Gift” collector.

There are already several “Pledged Gift” collectors in Wylam who can call on about ten people a month to collect their donation.

“Pledged Gift” collecting is an easy job, taking very little time—yet helping a worthwhile charity.

Would you be willing to help to do this—or to help the Wylam branch of Oxfam in some other way?

If so, please contact the local branch Chairman, Mrs. Joan Taylor, Thornwood, Elm Bank Road. (Tel. 3194.)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Joan Taylor tells me that Oxfam is having an Autumn Fair on Saturday, 15th October, in the Institute—so book the date in your diary now in case the next (October) issue of the Globe does not appear until after that date!



## ONE UP FOR WYLAM

We have pleasure in congratulating Peter Bennett, our "Senior" District Councillor on his recent election as Chairman of Tynedale District Council. This is an honour for the village, and undoubtedly reflects the high regard his fellow Councillors have for him as an "independent minded" Conservative who tries to put the interests of the village and the district before any personal or party interest.

He assures us that while he will have extra responsibilities as Chairman he will still have time to deal with local problems. He and fellow District Councillor Alan Butterfield are always willing to make themselves available to discuss anything which concerns the District Council.

## WHO'S ON WHAT

At the Annual Parish Council meeting on 31st May the present Chairman (Jim Robinson) and Vice-Chairman (Philip Brooks) were both re-elected.

Harry Helm and Dr. Monica Rowbotham were appointed to the Joint Burial Board, and the Parish Council representatives on the Wylam First School Managers will be Philip Brooks and Alan Jones (both have children at the school.)

Ellen Jacobson was appointed to the Playing Fields Association and Alan Butterfield to the Blakett and Gregson Trustees.



*The derelict site on Jackson Road (formerly the Ironworks tip) has recently been cleared and levelled.*

## EXTENSION TO LAWS' STORES

The extension on the east side of Laws' Stores is to accommodate a fire escape staircase from the upper floor of the building.

When asked for its comments on the planning application the Parish Council supported the need for the fire escape but suggested that the design might be modified to reduce the extent of the projection out from the existing building—to make it less prominent.

However the District Council did not support these suggestions and the extension is now going ahead as originally proposed.

We just hope it looks all right when it's finished.

## FOOTBALLERS WANTED

The Wylam Football Club will be back in the village this season—starting in August.

Bob Davison is appealing for helpers and players for the new season so if you would like to join in helping the Club in any way, please contact him at 1 Parson Road.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

The recent house to house collection in the village raised £48 for the Save the Children Fund. Local organisers Sheila Prowse and Ann Harrington would like to thank everyone who helped to raise this amount.

## PLAYING ON THE FIELD

Greg Smith, the Secretary of the Playing Field Association, has written the following article about future arrangements for use of the field.

"Most people would agree that Wylam's playing field is at long last looking really fine. Although the grassed area isn't quite ready for heavy use yet, the hard-play area has for some time been serving one of its purposes as a place to kick a ball about. But there are many more things to do than this, as people saw on Wylam's Jubilee Day, when the new recreation equipment was put on show. In addition, the children's play equipment will soon be erected on the field—financed partly from the money raised on Jubilee Day and partly from Playing Field Association Funds.

Most people should be interested in at least one of the activities, which are now catered for on the field. These include—Clock Golf; Croquet; Football; Netball; Rounders; Cricket; Five-a-side Football; Golf (driving practice nets); Putting; Volleyball.

As equipment is expensive it has to be stored safely; some of the items are heavy and it would be very difficult to think of suitable arrangements for letting individuals take out and use equipment (tennis posts and nets, for example) by themselves. The P.F.A. is therefore relying on people interested in using particular pieces of equipment to get together into formal or informal clubs. These clubs can then be directly responsible for getting out the equipment they use, and for its safety and return. In the case of football and cricket, of course, well established clubs already exist. In the case of tennis, the Tennis Club has its own courts, and it is only casual players who are likely to want to use the hard court on the field. The P.F.A. put up the tennis net on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturdays (weather permitting) so that people can go along and play as they wish. Although there are no "booking" arrangements to start with, players on court should not keep others waiting for more than half an hour. If you would like to join in with activities other than tennis, the people to contact are as follows:—

Clock Golf and Croquet—Miss N. Rogerson, 2 West View. (Tel. 2788)

Cricket—Jim Miller, 8 Welburn Close, Ovingham. (Tel. 998-32686)

Five-a-side Football and Golf Practice—Alan Power, 75 Dene Road. (Tel. 3759)

Football (Junior and Senior)—Bob Davison, 1 Parson Road.

Netball & Rounders—Mrs. A. Bell, 2 Hackworth Gardens.

Volleyball—Roy Bradley, 92 Dene Road. (Tel. 2438)

No charge will be made for the use of the field's facilities this summer, but keeping them in good repair is expensive, and a small charge may be necessary at a later date.

The Playing Field Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th October at 8 p.m. in the Institute. People wanting a say in the way the fields' facilities are organised should come along then."

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*A lot of work has gone into improving the playing field and creating a fine facility for the benefit of the village. It's now up to you who are lucky enough to live in Wylam, to make use of the equipment which is being provided—there's something for everyone's taste. If you want further information about the arrangements for use of equipment, please contact Greg Smith. (Tel. 3695)*

## THE WYLAM SCHOOL JUBILEE DAY

A poem by Jonathan Caudle (age 8), 16 Stephenson Terrace.

On Wednesday it's the Jubilee,  
And the school is having a tea.  
At the end we'll get a mug,  
Then we'll get a great big hug.  
The flags are flying all around,  
And when it's finished we're homeward bound.

*All correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. M. Roan, The Clerk of the Parish Council, 88 Dene Road, Wylam.*

Printed for Wylam Parish Council by  
The Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring.