



THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council

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NEW BUNGALOWS ON THE DENE . . . SOMETIME

Several people have enquired when the scheme to build a small group of two-bedroomed bungalows on the land on the Dene (next to the Falcon Centre) is to go ahead.

The present position is that negotiations have been taking place between the District Council (who want to build the bungalows), the County Council (who own the land) and the Trustees of the late C. J. W. Blakett, who originally gave the site to the County Council in 1949.

It is understood that these negotiations should be finalised shortly, and the District Council Architect will then prepare a detailed design layout.

As this is a prominent and important site alongside the approach road leading to the Council Estate and the Dene Estate, the Parish Council has asked the District Council to make the draft plans available so that local residents can see what is proposed—in the same way that the layout for the waste ground between the Dene and Jackson Road was displayed and public comment invited.

However, even if there are no further delays, it is unlikely that any work will start until later NEXT year (at the earliest).

WYLAM-CRAWCROOK BUS SERVICES SAVED

The Northern General Transport Company recently proposed a reduction on their Greenside-Crawcrook-Wylam bus service from seven journeys to three morning journeys on Mondays to Fridays only.

However, following objections, discussions were held between the United Bus Company, Northern, Tyne and Wear Transport and the County Council, as a result of which United have agreed to operate hourly journeys on Monday to Friday afternoons and on Saturday mornings, on the Wylam-Crawcrook-Newcastle route.

Northern will maintain their Wylam-Greenside morning journeys.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Following complaints that streets in the village were not being regularly swept, the Parish Council has complained to the County Council Divisional Surveyor.

He has confirmed that in accordance with approved County Council policy, streets in Wylam should be swept once every two weeks (no—it's not a misprint!) However he did admit that he had been unable to meet this standard recently due to changes, and shortages of staff.

Of course if some folks didn't drop litter—there would be little necessity to pay others to sweep it up!

HAGG BANK—ALIVE AND KICKING

Regarded by some people as Wylam's outpost, Hagg Bank is in fact nearer to the centre of the village than many other parts of the parish. The first cottages at Hagg Bank were built nearly a century ago by the North East Railway Company and all the other cottages were completed before 1900.

Earlier this century most of the cottages were occupied by railwaymen or miners, but in recent years many of the cottages have been improved, and new families have moved into the hamlet.

The closure of the North Wylam railway line, and improvements to the path along the track and into the village, have made it easier for Hagg Bank residents to come into Wylam and the young children now tend to come to the Wylam school instead of going to Prudhoe.

Although only a small community, efforts are being made by the residents to provide a small informal play area for the younger children, and the Parish Council have recently agreed to try and help the residents to obtain a suitable piece of land for this playground. The Parish Council have also asked the County Council to advise on improving the street lighting at Hagg Bank.



OLD WYLAM

Photographs of scenes at local collieries are hard to find, but this picture was taken at North Wylam Colliery (at the far end of Falcon Terrace, near Bythorne Farm) in about 1921. It shows Mr. Mills, the colliery blacksmith who sank the shaft for this colliery after the First World War. The miner on the right is a Mr. Foggan.

This photograph was kindly lent by Mrs. E. Mills of Hedley Road.

If anyone has other photographs of local colliery scenes, we should like to see them—please contact Mrs. Roan, Clerk to the Parish Council, at 88 Dene Road.

WHY DID THEY CHOOSE THAT NAME?

Notes on Local Street Names

It is not unusual these days to see reports in local newspapers of disagreement between local councils, developers and residents, on the choice of names for roads on new estates.

Names seem to fall into several categories, e.g. those leading to a particular place or building or associated with a local feature, those commemorating a local person, or those with no obvious local association at all.

Fortunately there are few streets in Wylam which fall into this last category, most local street names seem to have been chosen with at least a little thought!

Church Road, Ovingham Road, Chapel Lane, Station Road and Holeyn Hall Road are all examples of the first group, but the most interesting, and often the most puzzling are those named after local people.

In Wylam those named in this way are the various terraces built between about 1880-1914 and the roads on the Council Estate built since 1949.

The names of the terraces are almost all associated with the Blackett family.

Algernon Terrace:

Algernon was the christian name of Capt. E. A. Blackett who was local squire from 1856-1873.

Burgoyne Terrace:

Elizabeth Burgoyne was the maiden name of the wife of Christopher Blackett IV, the Wylam squire from 1829-1847.

Ingham Terrace:

Robert Ingham was related to the Blackett family—a nephew of Christopher Blackett III. He was the first M.P. for South Shields, and the Ingham Infirmary in that town commemorates him.

Stephenson Terrace: (No explanation necessary!)

Woodcroft Road:

The manor of Woodcroft near Stanhope, Co. Durham was owned by ancestors of the Blackett family in the fourteenth century.

Thanks to the former Hexham Rural District Council each of the five roads on the council estate is named after men who have featured in Wylam history.

Bell Road:

Bell Brothers, who became an important firm of Iron-founders on Teesside, leased Wylam Ironworks from 1844 until its closure in 1864.

Hackworth Gardens and Hedley Road:

Timothy Hackworth and William Hedley were two of Wylam's famous railway pioneers.

Jackson Road:

Isaac Jackson was a local clockmaker in the nineteenth century. Robert Stephenson commissioned him to make a clock on one of his visits to Wylam.

Parson Road:

Named after Sir Charles Parsons, the world famous inventor of the steam turbine who lived at Holeyn Hall.

For some unexplained reason this road is always shown on maps, electors lists, and on the street name plates as Parson Road, whereas in fact it should be Parsons' Road. It's about time this error was corrected, for historical accuracy, and the missing 's' added to the name of the road.

Three street names where there is no obvious reason for their choice of names are—**Falcon Terrace, Acomb Drive and Woodvale Gardens.**

At one time it was thought that the falcon was associated with the crest of the Blacketts, but this theory is now disputed.

As for Acomb Drive, was 'Acomb' the name of the builder or had he associations with the village of Acomb?

A free copy of "Wylam and its Railway Pioneers" book to anyone who can give a sound explanation to the origin of "Falcon Terrace," "Acomb Drive" and "Woodvale Gardens. All ideas welcome—please send them to Mrs. Roan at 88 Dene Road.

SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

From Mr. E. Ford, Headmaster:

"Because of the number of activities held in Wylam over the summer months it was necessary for the school to change from a Summer Fayre to an Autumn Fayre. This was held on Saturday 24th September and proved a great success. There were the usual stalls with home-made cakes again proving a great success. A number of games were arranged with the Donkey Derby winning by a short head. A profit of £130 was made on the day for School Funds. I would like to thank all those who helped us in any way, quite a few of whom had no connection with the school.

People often hear of School Fund and wonder why a school needs to raise so much money each year. Well, it is needed to pay for the many extra activities and equipment which the County capitation allowance (the amount allowed for school materials for each child) does not cover. Last year for example we spent on books and equipment £154, Christmas £63, rental of colour T.V. £100, Jubilee celebrations £140, visits £60. So even at today's prices we need to raise £500 per year to maintain our present level of activities.

A number of events are organised throughout the year by the P.T.A. and the school, some of which are for fund raising while others are of a purely social nature.

These events are not restricted to the parents of children at school but are usually open to anyone who would like to come.

Further events arranged for the next two months include:
Thursday, November 3rd
Film Club—"Pied Piper of Hamelin" New Time of 5.00 p.m.
Admission 20p.

Friday, November 18th
Book Shop 3.00 p.m.—4.00 p.m.

Friday, November 18th
P.T.A. meeting "Wine and Folk Evening." A talk on wine by a representative of Peter Dominic, including wine tasting and entertainment by the Bowdens. Tickets £1.00 from the P.T.A. committee or the school.

Wednesday, November 30th
Film Club. "Hansel and Gretel" and "Puss in Boots" at 5.00 p.m.

May I refer to an article in the last issue of the Globe concerning dogs. A number of people are using the school field on which to exercise their dogs. I would like to point out that the school grounds are private and not only are they trespassing, but the dirt that is left behind is unpleasant for the children, especially when playing football.
So please no dogs to be brought onto school premises.

NEW WATERWORKS OPENING

The new water-treatment plant at Horsley was officially opened last month by local M.P. Geoffrey Rippon. The stone-clad pumping station buildings on the Wylam-Ovingham road are of high quality and design and include a viewing-platform above the water extraction point on the edge of the river.

The Water Company are also to be congratulated on the restoration work they have carried out on the old Wylam Waterworks, including the repair of the chimney and re-roofing part of the original engine-house gutted by fire two years ago.



News from the Falcon Centre

YOUTH CLUB

Andy Moore writes:—

"Hello from Wylam Youth Club! We are a thriving youth club who meet at the Falcon Centre on Monday and Friday evenings from 7—10 p.m. The members are at present converting part of the premises from stark bare school accommodation into a warm friendly youth club under the able leadership of Mike Montague.

With the help of a generous grant from Wylam Parish Council, we are busy converting the old school kitchen into a lounge area, following the recent removal of various pipes and old kitchen fittings. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind help and hope that soon we will have pleasing end results for all to see.

The club membership is active and the table tennis team recently came second in a competitive local league and table tennis coaching is available on Tuesday evenings from 7.30—10 p.m. Other activities include Discos and trips to the Ice Rink, Blackpool and other places. There are opportunities to join in five-a-side football, rounders, netball and six-a-side hockey organised in the Tynedale area. It is hoped to be able to arrange classes in fishing instruction soon for local youngsters.

You'll realise there's plenty happening in the Youth Club and anyone in the 12+ age range is welcome to come along—we'll be more than glad to see you, and any adult interested, and willing to lend a hand, will be doubly welcome!" (Andy Moore can be contacted at 998 32998).

VEHICLES & MOTORCYCLES PROHIBITED

There have been fewer complaints this summer about misuse of the walkway along the old railway track, and motorcyclists seem to have got the message that it is for walkers, cyclists or horse riders but not for powered vehicles. Gates have recently been erected at two strategic points across the track to discourage anyone from using it as a race-track. With the gradual spread of vegetation from the side of the track it is becoming a more attractive walkway.

VILLAGE DIARY—November - December

October

25 The Battle of Flodden—
Illustrated Talk, 8 p.m., Institute.

November

5—12 COMMUNITY WEEK

- 9 Shelter Barn Dance—Close House, 8 p.m.
- 9 Madrigal Group—St. Oswin's Church, 8 p.m.
- 18 1976 Olympic Film Show, Wylam Institute.
- 24 Royal National Lifeboat Institution Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning 10.30 a.m.—12 noon at Mrs. Stephenson's, West Mews, Ovingham Road.
- 26 W.I. Chrysanthemum Fair—Institute, 2.30 p.m.
- 26 Children's Book Group—Wild West Party, 3—5p.m., Parish Church Hall.
- 29 The Story of a Northumberland Farm—Talk, 8 p.m., Institute.

December

- 6 Friends of Wylam—Christmas Lunch.
- 9 Shelter "Ceiledh"—Close House.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mrs. Joy Brown, the Tynedale Area Librarian, has kindly provided the following details of local library activities:

During August the 1,144 readers registered at Wylam Library borrowed 3,553 books. New readers are always welcome, and should call at the library and see Mrs. Lonsdale, the branch librarian.

Local History books continue to be very popular and the pamphlet produced by Wylam Local History Society, "A Walk around Wylam" is well used by local children and tourists.

Nancy Ridley's "Portrait of Northumberland" was published in a new edition this year and continues to be well used, as do Hunter Davies' "A walk along the wall" and Leslie Turnbull's "Hadrian's Wall."

Recent additions to the Local History section include: Beckensall, S. "Northumberland Field Names." Atkinson, F. "Life and Traditions in Northumberland and Durham." Warn, C.R. "Waggonways and Early Railways of Northumberland."

Catherine Cookson's new novel "The Girl" is set in Allendale.

Some forthcoming displays in the library will include: Work by members of the Wylam Evening Institute Embroidery Class; "Footpaths in Northumberland" staged by the National Park and Countryside Department; Christian Book Week which is held in October will be supported by a display of books.

Wylam Children's Book Group who do so much to keep the library looking bright and interesting are having a display "The Wild West" and a Wild West party on Saturday, 26th November to be held in the Parish Church Hall.

"Fairy Tales and Legends," a collection of paintings by Wylam Play Group and Nursery School will be on display in December.

Gramophone records and cassettes are now available to the residents of Tynedale, in Hexham Library. Anyone able to travel to Hexham to use this new service may join for a subscription of £3.00 per annum of £1.00 per quarter. This entitles members to borrow two records or cassettes at a time. It is hoped to extend this service to other branches in due course when the money becomes available.

MUSEUM PROGRESS

Work on converting the classroom next to the library for use as a small museum has been continuing slowly during the summer. Rewiring and relaying the floor has been completed, and redecoration will be carried out soon.

Some of the display panels should be installed early in the New Year, and the remainder completed in time for opening by next Easter.

Several items of interest have already been offered for display but more are needed. If you have anything old which you would be willing to lend or donate for display (secure showcases are being provided) please contact Mrs. Lonsdale (the Librarian) or Mr. Brooks (Tel. 3520).

SIGNS TO HELP VISITORS

Five years ago the former Hexham Rural District Council provided new street name plates for most of the roads in the village, with the result that there are now few complaints. However, one important sign which wasn't provided then, and which is essential for visitors to houses on the Dene Estate or the Council Estate, is needed at the Fox and Hounds junction.

Tynedale District Council have recently agreed to erect a suitable sign, listing the various roads which lead from Falcon Terrace and The Dene, so that visitors, delivery men etc., will know how to find half the village!

DANGEROUS BUS STOP

The position of the bus stop outside Graham's Wylam Hills Farm, with the buses stopping on the blind bend in the road, has long been a cause for concern, and it is a miracle that there has never been a serious accident.

However, the chances of an accident have increased with children being dropped off at this stop after school, and having to cross the road at this point.

In view of serious local concern at the potential hazards of this arrangement the Parish Council has requested the County Council and the Bus Company to examine the possibilities of moving this Bus Stop to a less dangerous position, away from the bend.

SAFETY BARRIERS ON DENE ESTATE

As a result of a request from local residents, a safety barrier has been erected across the end of the path which runs along the back of Nos. 96 - 99 Dene Road. This path is regularly used by children en-route to school, and the residents request for barriers follows an accident—and several near-misses.

NO BALL GAMES HERE

The small open space at Charlie's Corner in front of the aged persons' flatlets in Blackett Court is not suitable for ball games.

Now that the playing field is in use again that should be quite convenient for the youngsters who previously played on Charlie's Corner.

So please remember that ball games are prohibited on Charlie's Corner.



A scene at the popular Summer Holiday Play Scheme reunion.

VERGE PARKING IN CHAPEL LANE

When Chapel Lane was made up as a tarmac road twenty years ago, much of the cost was borne by the owners of properties fronting the lane. To keep the costs down, the width of the road was reduced to a minimum, and a verge left on the east side of the lane.

In recent years however, the need for parking space in the centre of the village has meant that the verges in Chapel Lane have been used for parking, particularly at the northern end.

In view of the damage caused to this length of verge by vehicles and the fact that parking alongside Barclays Bank would not cause inconvenience to residents, the Parish Council asked the Divisional Surveyor if he would tarmac this length of verge. This has now been done and generally improves its appearance, enabling cars to park off the road, without obstructing other vehicles.

WATCH OUT MAGPIES!

There's still hope for Newcastle United and Sunderland if the enthusiasm of the newly formed Wylam Under 16 Team is a measure of the interest youngsters have in football.

The new team, which plays in the Hexham Junior League (Under-16 section) is organised and coached by Peter Robson of 104 Dehe Road, and John Craven of 35 Tynedale Close, and is run in close conjunction with the local Under 18 Team.

Matches are played on Sunday afternoons (home games on the Jubilee Field) and the team have chosen strips in old gold and black.

Various events are being arranged to raise funds for running the team, and the Parish Council have recently given a grant towards the costs of buying equipment etc.

Members of the team include—

Andrew Robson	Graham Hill
David Craven	Christopher Bell
Michael Gray	Joseph Fletcher
David Robinson	Mark Bradley
Jonathan Joures	Stephen Joures
David Harrison	Stephen Loan
Nicholas Holden	Simon Bell
Robert Fletcher	Neville Morland
Paul Gilling	David Phipps

Fixtures for the next few weeks are—

October 30th

West Division Cup—First Round

Ovingham v Wylam

November 6th

League Cup First Round

Wylam v Hexham

November 13th

Wylam v Haydon Bridge

The team would welcome support at their matches and if anyone is willing to help the team in any way, please contact John Craven (tel. 2529) or Peter Robson (tel. 3568).

Editor's Note:

John and Peter deserve our thanks for organising this team, and filling a gap in our local sports scene—we wish this team, and the Under 18's every success.

LAND BETWEEN JACKSON ROAD & THE DENE

The waste ground between the Dene and Jackson Road which was cleared and levelled earlier in the summer has recently been cultivated and seeded. A variety of trees and shrubs will be planted later around the edge of the site, in accordance with the landscaping scheme which was prepared by the County Planning Officer last year, and put on public display in the village, when the comments of residents were invited.

Many of the shrubs and trees will not be more than two feet high when planted, and because of their small size and the risk of damage (accidental or otherwise) on this site, protective fencing is to be erected around the areas of planting.

It will take several years for the shrubs to make much growth in view of the poor soil conditions on this site, and whilst the fencing may not seem particularly attractive it should help the planting to get established.

If the grass and shrubs are given a chance to grow, this site which has been an eyesore in the village for so many years, should become a most attractive area for general enjoyment.

So please "keep off" during the winter and if you want a play/kickabout area, use the Jubilee Field (now back in use) or the Engine Dene.

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

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