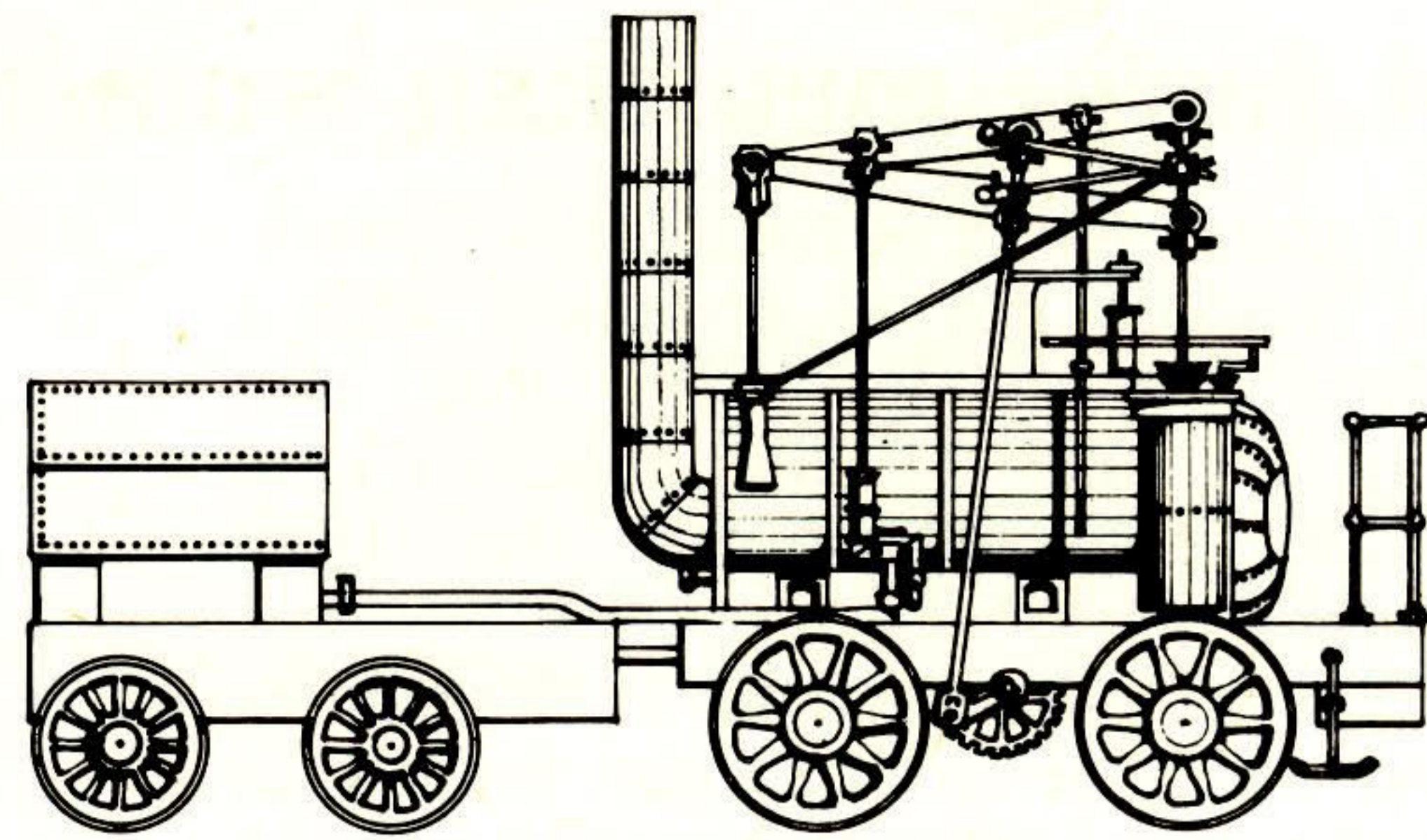


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



January 1978

Quarterly

Number 19

Parish Rate to be cut by half, next year

There aren't likely to be more than a handful of Councils actually REDUCING rates next year, but at its last meeting the Parish Council agreed a budget which should enable the Parish Rate to be reduced from 2p to 1p in the £1, for the financial year 1978/79.

This is possible because many of the matters in the village which have required attention, have been dealt with, in the last two or three years, either by the Parish Council or by other authorities.

During the next few months it is hoped to carry out various improvements to several small areas of rough ground

in the village and to undertake more tree planting on open spaces, and on the riverside. Work on treeplanting and protective fencing on the levelled site between Jackson Road and the Dene should be completed before the Spring.

Among the new items for which the Parish Council has made provision in its budget for the forthcoming year are:—

Two additional street lamps at Hagg Bank.

A lamp on the path which crosses Engine Dene, between Woodvale Gardens and Dene Road.

Provision of a children's play area at Hagg Bank (if a suitable site can be found).

It is planned to continue the successful arrangements made with the District Council last summer for improved grass-cutting, and to which the Parish Council contribute. A revised edition of the local information card will be produced this year, as well as the quarterly issues of this newsletter. Continued help will also be given to the Playing Fields Association towards the cost of maintaining the Jubilee Field.

No stopping heavy lorry traffic yet

Despite efforts by our County Councillor, Christopher d'Ambrunil, to persuade the County Highways Committee to reduce the size and number of heavy lorries passing through the village by introducing a weight restriction order, the Committee decided not to take such action at present, but to review the situation when the new Styford link road scheme has been completed. This project on the A68 will provide a by-pass to Riding Mill and a new bridge over the Tyne linking the A68 to the new Corbridge—Hexham by-pass. It is hoped that this new road will be used by some of the heavy vehicles which at present cross the river at Wylam.

Although the Parish Council support the idea of a weight-restriction on through traffic, the proposal has been opposed by Tynedale District Council and by the Tyne and Wear County Council—both of whom are concerned

about the impact such a restriction would have on other roads in the area—outside Wylam.

Possession of a sound strong bridge (with no weight restriction) seems to be something of a disadvantage!



No sign of any problem with heavy lorries in the village 50 years ago!

Rise in burglaries

Resulting from widespread concern at the large number of burglaries which have occurred in the village during the past year, the Parish Council have made representations to the Association of Local Councils expressing serious concern about the effectiveness of police services in rural areas.

Tynedale District Council have also discussed this problem recently.

Global Improvements—Your ideas wanted

Several improvements to the printing layout have been introduced in this, the first issue of the Globe for 1978, to make it more attractive. The new heading incorporates a fine illustration of the Wylam Locomotive "Puffing Billy," expertly drawn for the Parish Council by

Martin Orchard.

Suggestions and any new ideas on articles and information which you would like to see in future issues, are always welcome, please contact the Editor (Tel. 3520) or the Clerk, Mrs. Roan, 88 Dene Road.

More boys than girls in 1971— but fewer men than women

At about the same time as the Government decided not to go ahead with a National Census in 1976, they also published some of the detailed local statistics collected during the 1971 census.

Although these relate to Wylam as it was nearly seven years ago, the details of population, age-structure and housing are of interest, and are still the most accurate information available.

In April, 1971, the population of Wylam was 2,107 persons (1,002 males and 1,105 females).

Although the numbers of male and females was reasonably equally balanced overall, the table below shows that in several of the five-year age groups, there were significant differences.

In the children under 5 years old, there were 4 boys to every 3 girls.

Of young adults aged between 25 and 30 years there were 3 women to every 2 men and there is a similar ratio in those between 60 - 65 years.

But it is in those in the over 75 age group that the men were most dramatically out-numbered by more than 2 : 1! (70 women and 27 men).

One third of the village's population were under 20, and one sixth over 60—the other half were between 20 - 60 in 1971.

Further information (based on a 10% sample of the local population) was obtained on travel to work patterns, and housing.

Ages	Males	Females
0 - 5 years	128	91
5 - 10	91	107
10 - 15	79	71
15 - 20	54	60
20 - 25	52	52
25 - 30	69	102
30 - 35	84	84
35 - 40	67	63
40 - 45	58	58
45 - 50	64	70
50 - 55	71	69
55 - 60	47	58
60 - 65	38	62
65 - 70	38	52
70 - 75	35	36
75 and over	27	70
Totals	1002	1105

50% of Wylam residents travelled to work by car, 30% by train 5% by bus and 15% by other means.

There were 768 dwellings in the village in 1971, of which 46 were vacant at the time of survey. 519 were owner occupied, 91 council houses, and 95 privately rented. 15 households were also vacant at the time of survey.

The next census is not until 1981, and it will be several years later before the detailed information gathered will be published.

In the meantime the population of the village has increased from 2,100 in 1971 to almost 2,500 today.

At your service

We don't claim to be able to solve all your personal problems, but if you have any complaints or suggestions about what is (or is not) being done in the village—please don't hesitate to contact any of your Parish Councillors (names and addresses and telephone numbers listed below) who will do his or her best to help, or put you in contact with someone else who can assist.

P. R. B. Brooks,
20 Bluebell Close. Tel. 3520.
A. Butterfield,
Elton, Elm Bank Road. Tel. 3122.
H. Helm, B.E.M.,
11 Hedley Road. Tel. 2548.
Mrs. M. E. Jacobson,
14 Algernon Terrace. Tel. 3598.
A. W. Jones,
19 Tynedale Close. Tel. 2556.
J. B. Robinson,
Haverbrack, Elm Bank Road. Tel. 2493.
Dr. M. Rowbotham,
Fairholme, Elm Bank Road. Tel. 3247.
J. S. Stephenson,
West Mews, Ovingham Road. Tel. 2197.

Council reports

The Minutes (reports) of meetings of the County Council, the District Council and the Parish Council are all regularly available for inspection in the local library—for those who are interested in studying the detailed actions of Council Committees and their decisions.

We try to select the more important and interesting items of Parish Council news for inclusion in this newsletter—but if you want to inspect the "formal" minutes, call at the Library.

Book group goes wild— and west

Cathy Taylor (Tel. 3644) is the new Secretary of the Book Group and has provided this report on the Group's activities:—

Sixty children came to the Book Group's Wild West Party in the Church Hall on Saturday 26th November. Dressed in cowboy and indian gear, they listened to stories about the Wild West, played cowboy games and consumed a "bangers and beans" tea.

In December, we were very sorry to say good-bye to Pat McChesney who helped to set up the group in 1974 and has since worked extremely hard as Secretary. We hope Pat and her family will be very happy in Sedgefield.

Forthcoming activities will include an evening meeting on 25th January when Mr. Peter Maybank will talk about books for children of middle school age. Everyone is welcome to come to that meeting.

New secretary for Shelter

Jane Tomlin of 20 Tynedale Close (Tel. 3688) has taken over as Secretary of the local Shelter Group. Please make the necessary alteration to your pink Information Card.

VILLAGE DIARY

The following events are from the diary—

- January 30— Talk and film by Mr. Todd, St. Paul's School, Newcastle. 8 p.m. at School.
- February 28— "Recent Excavations on the Roman Wall". Illustrated talk by C. M. Daniels—8 p.m., Institute.
- March 9— Walt Disney film "The Gnome Mobile"—5 p.m. at School.
- March 10— Playing Fields Association Dance at Institute.
- April 21— P.T.A. Ceilidh Dance 8.30—12 at School. Tickets now available.

FOOTBALLERS RAISE FUNDS

The Under 16 and Under 18 football squads joined forces in a 16 mile sponsored walk at the end of November, which raised more than £200 for the team's funds. Congratulations on a fine effort.

BACK COPIES AVAILABLE

Spare copies of most of the previous issues of the "Globe" are still available—so if you want to complete your "set", please contact Mrs. Roan, 88 Dene Road.

Several residents send copies to friends who have moved from the village and if you would like "extra" copies for this purpose just let Mrs. Roan know.

TREES IN ENGINE DENE

Arrangements are to be made in the Spring to replace some of the young trees which were planted in Engine Dene two years ago, but which have since died. The replacement trees will be planted in the corners of the dene, leaving the central area clear for ball games and recreation. This should ensure that the trees do not obstruct games, and are not used as convenient goal posts or wickets!

BOOST TO LIFEBOAT FUNDS

A coffee morning and bring and buy sale held at West Mews before Christmas raised £128 for R.N.L.I funds and Mrs. Stephenson thanks all those who helped to achieve this success.

New bus service

A new bus service has recently been introduced between Wylam and Newcastle (Marlborough Crescent) via Crawcrook, Ryton, and Scotswood Road. Run by United and numbered 605, the first bus leaves Charlie's Corner in the centre of the village at 9.03 a.m. and subsequent buses run at 1.03 p.m., 2.03, 3.03, 4.03, 5.03, 6.03 and 7.03 p.m. The buses stop at Wylam Station three minutes later.

On Saturday mornings additional buses are run at 10.03, 11.03 and 12.03.

The 607 service now runs up to Greenside at 8.20 a.m., 9.20 a.m. and 12.20 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

There is no Sunday service on either the 605 or 607.

Copies of the timetable for this service are available in the local library.

New riverside warden wanted

The County Council are looking for a new warden to patrol the Wylam-Heddon walkway and riverside land. This is a part-time seasonal appointment which could suit an active Wylam resident. Further particulars about the job can be obtained from the National Park Officer, National Park and Countryside Department, Bede House, All Saints Centre, Newcastle—and anyone interested should contact him.

Plea to Parents

Would parents of children who will be five years old between 1st September 1978 and 31st August 1979, and would like them to attend Wylam First School, please contact the school by phone (Tel. 2771) or letter, as soon as possible, giving details of the name and date of birth of the child, and home address.

Developments at Wylam Garage and at Tyre Factory

Several recent planning applications for development in the village have caused some local controversy.

These included a scheme by Mr. A. Conley to build a new workshop for Wylam Garage and the use of land at Riverside Nurseries, Stephenson Terrace, for the storage of tyres for the Regent Tyre Factory.

As both these applications provoked opposition from several nearby residents—but were subsequently approved by the District Council, it might be of interest for us to outline the views of the Parish Council.

The proposal by Mr. Conley is to erect a new repair workshop on land previously owned by Stobgates Joinery Ltd. at the end of West View and which had been used by them for open storage of builders materials, and an old timber shed.

The view of the Parish Council is that

Street lighting—Your duty now

Unfortunately not everyone seems to be aware yet of the present arrangements for inspecting, reporting and replacing faulty street lamps.

Responsibility for reporting faulty street lamps is now YOURS—the local residents. There are now NO regular inspections by County Council staff to check whether street lamps are on or off.

The County Council lighting maintenance teams rely almost entirely on local residents to tell them about lamp failures.

So if you see that a street lamp needs attention, please don't wait for your neighbour or someone else to report it, but do so yourself by:—

- a. Telephoning Hexham (0434) 2246.
- or
- b. Obtaining a free pre-paid postcard

from the Post Office or Library and sending this to the County Lighting Maintenance Depot, Burn Lane, Hexham. (It costs you nothing!)

Whether you phone or write, don't forget to give an accurate description of the position of the faulty lamp you're reporting!

Riverside paths

The improvements to the riverside footpath to Stephenson's Cottage and along the bottom of the Jubilee Field which were started twelve months ago by the team of youngsters employed by the Parish Council under the Job Creation Scheme, have recently been completed by the County Council's National Park and Countryside department.

A fine catch!—1926 style



This group of Wylam anglers look pleased with themselves in this photograph taken in 1926. From left to right:— M. Appleby, P. Irwin, W. Leadbitter, O. Wilkinson, S. Appleby, G. Wild and J. Appleby. (Photograph kindly lent by Mrs. J. Appleby).

the Garage provides a useful local service which is used by a number of Wylam motorists. However, it is situated very close to houses in West View, and the interests and amenity of these residents must be safeguarded as far as reasonably possible. It was agreed to suggest to the District Council that in making their decision on the application they should take note of the views of nearby residents, but that if it decided to grant planning permission—then a condition be imposed restricting the hours of working to "normal working hours," excluding night working.

The application for the Tyre Factory at the end of Stephenson Terrace was for permission to use an area of land to the east of the existing works, for the open storage of large tyres prior to treatment in the factory. The Parish Council expressed the view that whilst accepting

the industrial use of the existing premises, its location makes it generally unsuitable for greater industrial expansion.

However, the Parish Council have been advised that the Company are not intending to increase the scale of their industrial activities in Wylam, and that the proposal to store tyres on land adjacent to the factory is intended to achieve great efficiency and will not generate extra traffic along Stephenson Terrace. The site is to be screened by a fence.

Although reports of the discussion at the Tynedale Planning Committee meeting implied that jobs might be lost if permission for these developments was refused, it is uncertain whether this was a real threat or not, and would probably be difficult to prove!

Local names—from streets to fields

The article about local street names, and their origins in our last issue was of interest to many people, including "Hextol" who included the article in his column in the Hexham Courant in November.

Unfortunately no one has yet provided us with information about how "Falcon Terrace" and "Acomb Drive" were named. A "reward" is still on offer—suggestions please to the Editor at 20 Bluebell Close, or Mrs. Roan at 88 Dene Road. Our third mystery name, Woodvale Gardens, is one apparently chosen by the builder—Mr. Grady, for many of his developments.

Another fascinating study—about which several books have been written, is the origin of field-names. Mr. S. Beckensall has recently produced a book "Northumberland Field Names" based on a study of field names in several parishes in Northumberland. Wylam was not part of his studies and as far as we are aware no one has ever investigated local field names in detail.

Fortunately several old maps of Wylam have been preserved in the Black-

ett collection of documents now in the Northumberland County Record Office at Melton Park, Gosforth. One of these dated 1766 shows the names of all fields in the parish.

Among more interesting names are four on the Holeyn Hall Road. The field now occupied by the houses on the right was known as "Turnip Field", and the one opposite on the west side of the road was known as "Topperlaws". The field to the north of "Topperlaws" was "Alices Lee"—an unusual choice of name. The field where Acomb Drive has been built was "Good Luck Close".

Has anyone any ideas on how these names might have originated?

Off Bluebell Lane the field east of Bluebell Close was "Wheat Field" and the one between the Dene Estate and Rift Dene was "Horse Pasture"—both named after the crop and stock for which they were normally used.

Incidentally a copy of Mr. Beckensall's book is available in the local library for anyone interested in exploring this subject in greater detail.

Silver Jubilee— Appeal response

The village has made a generous response to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund. The house to house collection organized by the Royal British Legion and the collection at the combined Church Jubilee Service raised £140. The Parish Council has made a donation of £50 to the Fund on behalf of the village.

Tickets amounting to £175 were sold locally for the Prize Draw organised by the District Council. In addition several people have made private donations.

The Appeal Fund will remain open until the end of March, and anyone wishing to make a further gift can send this to the Treasurer, Tynedale District Council, Hexham. Further contributions would be gratefully received.

Distributions from the Fund have already started to youth organisations in the County, who help the community.

New tenant soon for famous local cottage



The National Trust have recently been interviewing potential tenants for Wylam's most famous residence—High Street House, where George Stephenson was born in 1781.

In Stephenson's day the cottage was occupied by four families, but by today's standards it is regarded as rather small—even for one family.

However, the attraction of living in a traditional Northumbrian cottage, with such famous historic associations, and situated in a pleasant semi-rural location seems to have generated interest and the National Trust have had several enquiries from prospective tenants.

With the Centenary of Stephenson's birth only three years ahead, in 1981, it is clearly important that the cottage is occupied, and in good repair in time for that important event.

Council buys land in Engine Dene

One of the aims of the Parish Council in recent years has been to ensure that the various areas of neglected waste ground which existed in parts of the village were acquired for improvement and future preservation as attractive open spaces for public enjoyment.

In the last three years the Parish Council have acquired land in Jackson Road, and the old pit heap and riverside (including the allotments). Recently the scrubland lying between the end of Woodvale Gardens and the Dene Estate has been purchased from the Trustees of the Blackett Estate.

Now that this scrubground is in the ownership of the Parish Council, action will be taken to clear the rubbish which has been dumped by thoughtless residents over many years. Once this has been done

it is intended to retain most of the bushes, trees and brambles and to leave the area as a natural "adventure" playground or jungle.

It adjoins the grassed play area in Engine Dene and its acquisition will provide a fine "official" play area.

Incidentally once the existing rubbish has been removed the Parish Council will if necessary take action against anyone who subsequently dumps rubbish on the site. So we suggest that any nearby residents who use this area for tipping rubbish at present should either put their rubbish in plastic sacks, (and allow the District Council refuse collection team to collect it) or alternatively take it yourself to the public tip in Broomhill Road, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

Welcome gifts

The Parish Council have been pleased to receive a further kind gift of daffodil bulbs from Mr. and Mrs. Lempriere of Jersey (Mrs. Mills' daughter and son-in-law), and another tree, generously donated by the Housewives' Discussion Group.

Regular users of the library in the Falcon Centre will almost certainly have noticed on the wall the very attractive embellished verse, hand-written by Michael Yelder (whose father and mother live in Woodcroft Road) and kindly presented by him to the Parish Council. Michael now lives in Shetland.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. M. Roan, The Clerk of the Parish Council, 88 Dene Road, Wylam. (Tel. 3669).

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