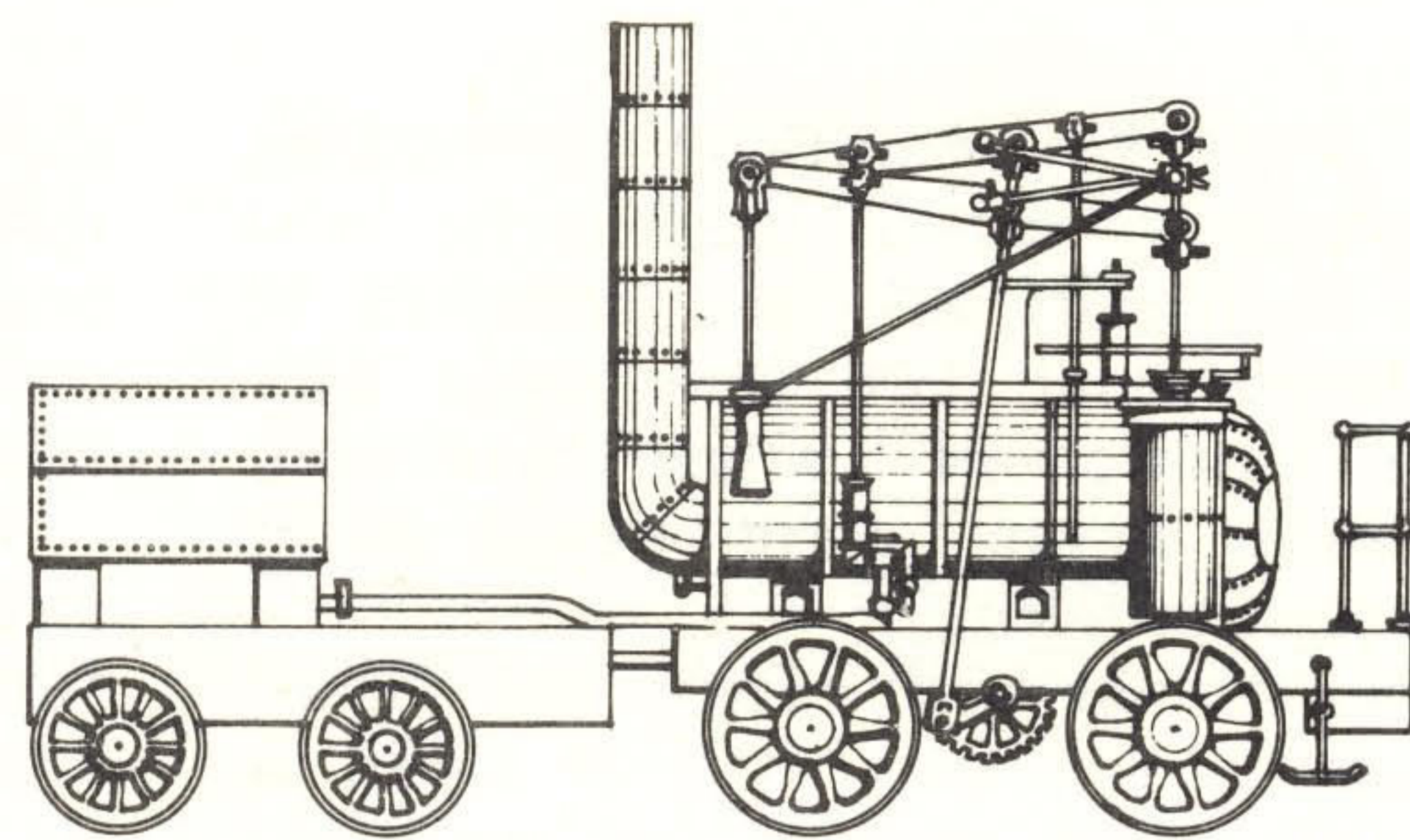


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1978

Quarterly

Number 22

## Your Institute needs you – Support Community Week

Hopefully, you should receive this newsletter before the start of Community Week on Saturday 4th November—if so we hope that every reader will join in at least one of the activities arranged for the week. Twice a year, in Community Week and at the Mid-summer Fair, the village gets together and entertainment is provided for all the family to enjoy.

Both these events have another purpose—that of fund raising, to help maintain the Institute and the Jubilee Field.

One only has to look around the Institute to realise that it is an expensive building to heat, light and generally maintain. Last year, 1977/78 £3,200 was spent on running the Institute and more than one third of this was on heating and lighting.

With costs of this magnitude, how do the Institute Committee raise money to meet expenditure?

About one third of the income comes from members of the Institute, donations and from hire charges to societies etc., a small grant is made by the County Council, but another third—over £1,000 is raised in Community Week.

This emphasises the importance of Community Week, as a fund-raising, as well as a social event in the Institute calendar.

The problems of raising funds to meet the normal running costs is hard enough, but redecoration, repairs and unexpected items of maintenance cause special problems.

This summer, part of the roof had to be repaired at a cost of £150. Two years ago the exterior woodwork was repainted, which cost £370. Last year £450 had to be spent in extending the stage in the main hall.

Later this year part of the interior will be redecorated and the boundary retaining wall of the Institute garden, fronting onto the Main Street rebuilt by youngsters under the Job Creation Scheme. The cost of materials alone for this work will be more than £400.

These figures give an indication of the costs of maintaining the Institute.

Because the Parish Council recognise the importance of the Institute as a centre for the community activities, it has recently agreed to assist the Institute Association by making a grant of £100 towards the running costs for this year, together with a capital grant of £250 towards the substantial repairs and maintenance works which have been undertaken recently or are proposed.

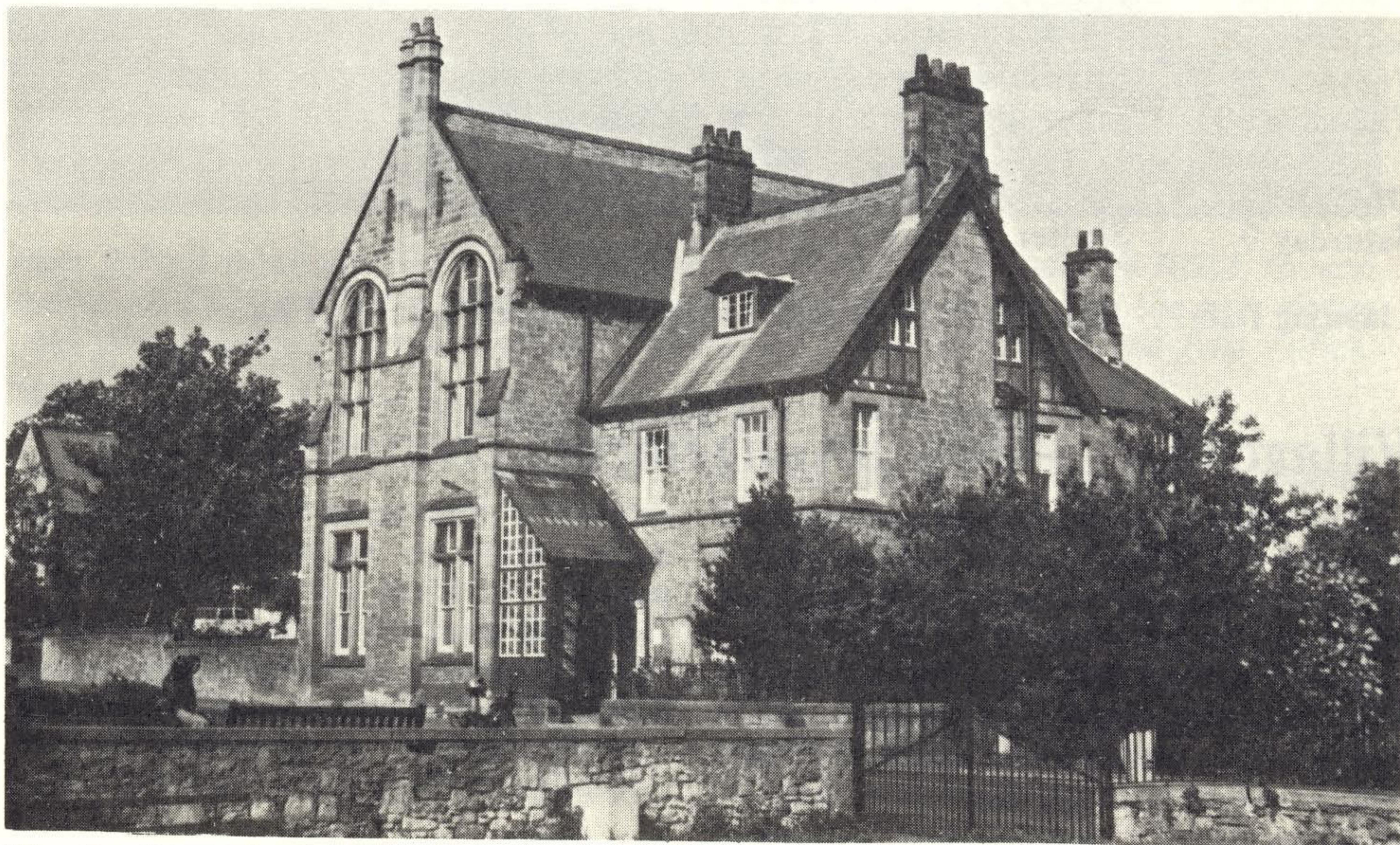
Very commendably the Institute Association are anxious not to let the Institute become a burden on the rates, and they

would like to raise more funds through Community Week activities, or by encouraging more residents to become members of the Institute.

If you're invited to support the Institute, please do so—it only costs 50 pence—little less than one penny a week!

And remember—join in Community Week events—they're arranged for your enjoyment—and there is sufficient variety to meet all tastes.

See you there!



*The Institute, built in 1895 and now the centre of Community Week activities in early November each year.*

### *Congratulations to two young Wylamites*

Since the last issue of the 'Globe' appeared, two young residents have, in different ways, helped to put Wylam on the map.

Six years old Kirsty Leighton of Holeyn Hall Road got her picture in most national and local newspapers after being selected from more than 28,000 entries, as Miss Pears for 1978.

Anyone who knows Kirsty will realise that the judges made the right decision!

We doubt if there were as many entries (although the competition would have certainly been as severe), for the B.B.C.'s

"Young Scientists of the Year" Award which was won by Alastair Wolf of Wylam Wood Farm and a friend, Paul Brown, both pupils of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, who produced a design for a hovercraft.

After winning the "Young Scientist" award, Alastair and Paul went on to win a similar contest, defeating entries from all over Europe!

Congratulations to both Kirsty and Alastair. They proved what we know already—that Wylam has plenty of young talent of all types.

## Some ideas for Christmas gifts

If you're having difficulty in thinking of suitable Christmas presents for relations or friends who are interested in Northumberland, two new books with "local connections" which have been published within recent weeks might solve your problem.

"Northumberland: Then and Now" published by Robert Hale at £4.80 is the fifth book written by the well-known writer and Wylam resident, Nancy Ridley, about her native county.

Miss Ridley has a very personal and distinctive style, which has wide appeal. Her books are always easy to read and enjoyable—and this one is no exception. Wylam is mentioned several times although there are no special references to aspects of Wylam's history in this volume.

Undoubtedly a book which most Northumbrians would be delighted to receive at Christmas or any other time.

"Northumberland Yesteryear" is an album of more than 100 photographs—

showing life in Northumberland early this century. These photographs have been collected from all parts of the county, including Wylam and other villages in the Tyne Valley.

Published by Frank Graham in association with the Northumberland Local History Society, this book is attractively produced and reasonably priced at £1.50. An ideal Christmas stocking-filler, copies of this book are now available from Mr. Gillies at Wylam Post Office.

The book "Wylam and its Railway Pioneers" which was first published in 1975 is now out of print and in view of the continuing, and likely future demand, is now being revised and reprinted. The new edition to be titled "Where Railways were born", will include several extra early railway photographs and posters of local interest which have been discovered since the first edition was printed.

The revised edition should be available before Christmas.

## Thank you Friends

The Friends of Wylam raised £390 at their Jumble Sale on 30th September, and the Committee would like to thank all those who helped to reach this splendid total, especially the Guides who assisted in collecting the Jumble.

This is the only appeal the Friends make during the year and the money raised is used to pay for summer outings, which have included visits to Windermere, Pickering and Flamingo Park, Whitley Bay and Alnwick Castle, this year.

The annual Christmas lunch and entertainment is being held on December 6th and all retired over 60's are invited.

## New lamp lit

The new street lamp which the Parish Council agreed to provide alongside the footpath crossing Engine Dene, from Woodvale Gardens to Dene Road, has recently been erected.

This path is a very popular short-cut and the lamp should make it easier for people to use it at night.

## DIARY OF LOCAL EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

Thursday 2	Film Show "The Littlest Warrior" at School.
Saturday 4-11	Community Week events.
Saturday 18	Charity Christmas Card Sale, Institute.
Friday 24	Conservative Film Show, Southlands, Wylam Wood Road.
Saturday 25	P.T.A. Christmas Fayre, at School.
Tuesday 28	"Battle of Otterburn" demonstration and talk, 8 p.m. Institute.
Thursday 30	Public Footpaths Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Institute.

### DECEMBER

Saturday 9	Shelter "Ceilidh," Institute.
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**Claiming Date:** June 9th 1979, Wylam Methodist Church Summer Fete.

## Village diary – new arrangements proposed

The diary of village events and society meetings has been kept for several years by Mrs. Heather Hurd, and our thanks are due to her for her work.

However, she reports that recently very few organisers and society secretaries have bothered to notify her of events and as a result there is a danger of unnecessary "clashes" and "double bookings".

To try and encourage more people to use the village diary—and to check it BEFORE arranging events, the diary will in future be held by Mrs. Maureen Gillis, the Parish Clerk, instead of Mrs. Hurd.

All society and club secretaries are now requested to let her have details (in writing please) of all meetings and events, which have already been arranged, and where they are being held. (A copy of society programmes would be most useful).

In future, before fixing the date for events, please check the diary with Mrs. Gillis (Tel. 2503), to ensure that your society is not clashing with another

event on the same day. "Claiming" dates should be made as far ahead as possible.

If you want events mentioned in the "Globe", please tell Mrs. Gillis or the Editor (Tel. 3520) in advance.

## Hagg Bank Play Area

Following requests from some of the residents at Hagg Bank to provide a small play area for local children, the Parish Council recently approached the Duke of Northumberland's Estate Office to enquire whether a suitable allotment was vacant which might be used as a play area.

A disused allotment has now been offered to the Parish Council, and subject to the views of the residents of Hagg Bank on its suitability, arrangements will be made in due course to have it cleared and grassed.

## Church Self-Help

The Parish Church is fortunate at present in having an active group of members willing to carry out work themselves to maintain and improve the Church premises.

The latest example of their do-it-yourself-and-save-money activities is the installation of a new gas fired central heating system in the Church Hall, with the benefit of expert local advice. The hall should now be a more comfortable home for those organisations who use it.

For many Churches and similar institutions with large premises and grounds to maintain, and small income self-help is the only solution, and the improvements to the Churchyard and Church Hall in recent years have been commendable.

## Riverside path improved

Work on re-aligning the riverside footpath past the allotments has now been completed, and a crushed stone surface laid.

The dangerous lengths of the old path near the pit heap which had been eroded by the river have now been closed—and the new, safer path opened away from the overhanging riverbank.

However, it is not possible to carry out satisfactory improvements to the path where it climbs the side of the pit-heap, facing the river. This stretch is slippery and unstable, and everyone is recommended to follow the perimeter of the old pit-heap, rejoining the riverside path alongside the Jubilee Field.

## Bargain improvements

Most people like to get a bargain when they can, and the opportunities for community organisations to have work carried out under the Job Creation Project (JCP)—for little more than the cost of materials, shouldn't be missed.

But don't be misled, the main aim of the scheme is not to carry out jobs 'on the cheap', but to provide employment for young people, where possible giving them opportunities to gain skills and experience.

Anyone who has seen some of the wide range of projects carried out in the North East under the JCP will realise that many of them have involved real skill and care.

To help local organisations to take advantage of the opportunities to tackle work which they might not otherwise be able to do, and to give more youngsters a chance of a job, the Parish Council has actively encouraged organisations to put forward projects, and has co-ordinated the submission of schemes from the village, to the Manpower Services Commission.

Among the projects which it is hoped to carry out in Wylam during the next twelve months are:—

Rebuilding damaged wall of the Institute garden (fronting Main Road); Interior decorating in the Institute; Repairs and redecoration of the Methodist Chapel Hut; Redecoration of Wylam Assembly, Woodcroft Road; Reconstruction and setting back part of wall at Charlie's Corner; Construction of stone plinths for the village boundary signs to be erected on Station Road and Ovingham Road; Relaying path outside the Parish Church Hall.

## A Safer route

At the request of the Parish Council, the National Park Officer has opened up a short path from Falcon Terrace, opposite the end of the Dene, onto the walkway.

Part of the intention of this is to try and encourage small children going to the play-equipment in the Jubilee Field, to use the track and subway, under the main road, rather than crossing the road outside the Fox and Hounds. This is a stretch of road where many motorists drive fast and with the combination of motorists breaking the speed limit and children not observing the Green Cross Code, an accident could occur.

So why not impress on your child the need to use the subway—it's much safer even if it's not quite so convenient.

## No sliding please!

The slide in the playground in Hedley Road is temporarily out of action and should not be used at present.

Arrangements have been made for the manufacturers to carry out necessary repairs as soon as possible.

## Help to find those missing local paths

In our last issue we referred to the review of public rights of way which the County Council has recently commenced.

This will provide an opportunity to add any rights of way which were forgotten when the last definitive map was prepared or which were not included because there was then insufficient evidence.

As part of the official procedure all Parish Councils have to arrange a special Public Meeting to consider whether there are any changes which they wish to propose to the definitive map.

This meeting will be held in the WYLAM INSTITUTE at 7.30 p.m. on THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER.

A copy of a map showing all the official public rights of way in the village is now on display in the Library in the Falcon Centre.

There may be paths not shown on the official map which older residents consider should be marked as public rights of way.

Please check the present map in the library, and if you think you know a path which is a public right of way, (but is not shown on the map), and you have some evidence to prove it, come to the meeting on 30th November.

Even if you're not certain that you've got conclusive proof, please come to the meeting because by using the knowledge and recollections of several people we may be able to assemble sufficient evidence to confirm that several more rights of way should be added to the official map.

Don't forget to come to the Institute at 7.30 p.m. on 30th November.



*Wylam School in about 1909 shortly before the move from Woodcroft Road, to new premises on Falcon Terrace. This photograph, enlarged, is included in the new album of old photographs "Northumberland Yesteryear", now on sale at the Post Office.*

## Changes to be introduced in bus services

Substantial losses made on two United bus services has necessitated changes being introduced.

The 684/685 service which runs from Newcastle to Carlisle, with a stop at Holeyn Hall crossroads, lost approximately £33,000 last year, and the 686/687 from Newcastle to Hexham, which passes through Wylam, lost almost £25,000.

Faced with the problem of trying to reduce the losses made on these services the County and District Councils have considered with the Bus Company, how savings could be made.

It has now been agreed that by making several modifications to the two services, the combined losses can be reduced substantially.

The most significant change affects the 686/687 service, where the frequency of services will be reduced, although these will be matched as closely as possible to the needs of passengers.

Although this reduction in the service may inconvenience a small number of people, the size of the savings is such that these changes have to be made.

Full details of the new timetables for these services will be displayed in the library and the post office in advance of the revised services being introduced.

Incidentally, unless more people use the bus service up to Crawcrook, it is rumoured that this may not last much longer.

## It's the W.C.C.C.C.

The Cricket Club is making strenuous efforts to ensure they can return to the Jubilee Field for the 1979 season.

They are attempting to raise funds in various ways and are holding a Christmas Ceilidh on December 22nd, in the Institute.

Tickets will cost £1.50, and will be available from early November, and in case of difficulty in obtaining them, contact Bernard Paton, the Secretary of the Club, Tel. 2612.

# How should the money be used?

It is now several years since the death of the late C. J. W. Blackett and during this period members of the Parish Council have had occasional enquiries from local residents about what action has been taken to carry out the terms of his will, in which money was left to be used for the benefit of elderly residents of Wylam and adjoining villages.

The present position is that the Parish Councils of Wylam, Ovingham, Ovington and Horsley have been invited by the Trustees to put forward suggestions as to how the funds might best be spent in providing something of permanent benefit.

This has proved a difficult task, but two ideas are being examined in greater detail, before any recommendations are made to the Trustees.

One suggestion is that an attractive day-centre might be provided in Wylam, where older residents could enjoy company in attractive, comfortable accommodation where they can watch television, play games, do craftwork, hobbies

and other chosen activities. The possibilities of converting part of the Institute or of the Falcon Centre for this purpose, or of providing a new building for this purpose, are being explored.

Another suggestion is that a minibus should be purchased, and be used for taking elderly residents from local villages to doctors' surgeries, on shopping trips and social outings etc.

These and other suggestions are being examined and the problems and advantages considered.

Anyone who has views on these ideas or any of their own as to how the money might be used to provide something which would be of lasting benefit to the older residents of the village, should contact Mrs. Gillis, Clerk to the Parish Council, as soon as possible.

It must be stressed that the final decision on how the money is used will be made by the Trustees but that they have invited the Parish Councils to put forward their views on possible schemes.

# Hagg Bank Car Park

Although there has been general support for the proposal by the County Council to extend the riverside recreational area westwards from Hagg Bank to Ovingham Bridge—residents of Hagg Bank and the Parish Council have expressed serious reservations about the intention to provide a car park and picnic area alongside the very narrow road between Hagg Bank and West Wylam.

The possibility that a car park and picnic area in this position would encourage more motorists to use the back lane between South Wylam-Hagg Bank-West Wylam, or try to penetrate past the cottages at Hagg Bank to the riverside near Hagg Farm, could create additional serious traffic hazards.

Because of these potential dangers and nuisance, and doubts as to whether the proposed car park is necessary since there is the existing car park in the former North Wylam Station Yard and a new car park is to be provided at Ovingham Bridge, the Parish Council have asked the County Council not to proceed with a car park at Hagg Bank, but to wait until the extended recreational area has been opened and been in public use for several years, and then to review the situation again, in the light of the experience gained.

# Re-live the battle

As a result of the popularity of a talk and "action" demonstration of the Battle of Flodden given by Mr. C. F. Wesenraft of Ponteland to the Local History Society last year—he has been invited to come to Wylam again on Tuesday November 28th, to re-enact another famous local battle, the Battle of Otterburn at which the famous Hotspur (one of the sons of the Duke of Northumberland) was captured by the Scots. With the help of model soldiers and a large table top battlefield Mr. Wesenraft conveys the tremendous atmosphere of a battle, and explains the tactics and manoeuvres of the opposing armies.

Everyone interested, not only History Society members, is invited to come to the Institute at 8 p.m. on 28th November. Definitely an evening not to miss.

# New Information Card

The popular Local Information Card last issued two years ago has been revised and updated to October, 1978, and a copy of the new "blue" edition is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please destroy the previous "pink" card (if you still have it) since this is now out of date.

*Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. M. Gillis, The Clerk of the Parish Council, 27 Dene Road, Wylam. (Tel.: 2503).*  
Printed for Wylam Parish Council by The Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear.



*Victim of the September gales—this old ash tree was blown down in one of Robert Graham's field on Bluebell Lane.*

# Local Pre-School Playgroup flourishing

Ann Stone, Chairman of the Pre-School Playgroup, writes:—

Wylam Pre-School Playgroup is held in St. Oswin's Church Hall on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

The Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Playgroup Association and is registered in accordance with the Child Minders Act 1969, and the Department of Education and Science has registered the group as an official charity.

The work of running the playgroup is the responsibility of all mothers of children on the register but for convenience a committee is elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. During each session there are usually four supervisors in attendance, a head supervisor and three regular supervisors. There is a Mothers' Duty Rota and mothers are asked to spare one or two mornings a term to assist at playgroup sessions

Children will be eligible to attend playgroup from age 2 years 9 months up to school age. We have recently had to raise the starting age from 2½ years to 2 years 9 months for a number of reasons. There is a Mother and Toddler Group for smaller children which meets every Wednesday afternoon in the Church Hall.

The aim of playgroup is to allow the child a period of spontaneous play with his (or her) contemporaries away from home, before he has to take the bigger step of starting school. The equipment provided is intended to stimulate a child's imagination and aid concentration.

For further information about the playgroup, contact Ann Stone, or the Secretary, Ingrid Phillips, 53 Woodcroft Road. (Tel.: 2546)