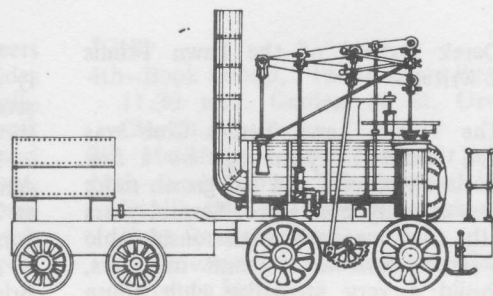


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Spring/Summer 1980

Quarterly

Number 28

## 100 volunteers make Litter Campaign a big success

A freak snowfall and very wet ground conditions necessitated postponement of the litter clearance campaign originally fixed for 29th March.

Fortunately the alternative date, Saturday 26th April, proved more pleasant and more than 100 volunteers representing the Amateur Dramatic Society, Boys Brigade, Brownies, Children's Book Group, Cricket Club, Community Playing Fields Association, Cubs, Girl Guides, Oxfam, P.T.A. Photographic Society, Shelter, Wylam First School and Ovingham Middle School helped to clear rubbish from the village.

A special effort was made to remove the accumulation of litter from several areas of the village. These included the riverside, the walkway, the allotments, the playground and the open spaces in Engine Dene, Jackson Road and the Dene Estate as well as other blackspots within the built-up parts of the village.

Confirmation that some of these areas have not been thoroughly cleared of rubbish for many years was given when, after a period of about two hours, nearly 70 sacks of assorted rubbish were collected by the enthusiastic volunteers, who ranged from five year old children to several grandparents!

The County National Park and Countryside Department kindly provided a warden, together with van and trailer to carry the rubbish up to the tip at West Wylam.

In spite of the excellent response it was not possible to clear all parts of the parish and areas south of the river and several locations to the north of the village, remain to be cleared.

The Parish Council intend to organise a similar campaign in late March or early April next year, before the grass starts to grow—when the task of clearing the backlog of rubbish in the village can be completed.

On behalf of those who didn't take part in last month's clearance campaign, the Parish Council would like to thank those who did—and who have helped to make the village a tidier and more pleasant place.

The message to everyone must be—'please help to keep Wylam tidy'—don't drop your litter, put it in a litter bin, or preferably take it home, and encourage your family and friends to do the same. If you've large items of rubbish

to dispose of, contact the District Council, or take it to the tip at Broomhouse Road, West Wylam where a convenient compound has been provided, for the use of residents disposing of household rubbish.



Front page rubbish! Almost all the rubbish in this picture—taken at the West Wylam tip, was collected during the litter clearance campaign.

## Work on new bungalows may start this year

"There's many a slip twixt cup and lip" goes the old saying, but provided that there are no further severe cut-backs by central Government in local authority housing programmes, it looks as though the scheme to build nine bungalows for the elderly on The Dene, (next to the Falcon Centre) will go ahead this year.

The scheme is now in the District Council's building programme to start in 1980/81.

The bungalows are to be built in a shallow crescent, set well back from the road, with an open green area and trees in front. When the bungalows are completed and the site landscaped it should

prove to be a very attractive development, although cost-limits have prevented the use of stonework in construction.

A tarmac path to the library will be provided, on the line of the existing cinder path.

The District Council do not expect to have any difficulty in letting the bungalows when completed—in fact some people are likely to be disappointed.

Any queries about arrangements for letting should be made to the District Council Housing Officer, or our District Councillors but not please to Parish Councillors who have no direct involvement in the letting of Council houses.

## Anyone for tennis . . . or bridge?

Derek Oxford of the Lawn Tennis Club writes—

The Wylam Lawn Tennis Club was started about 75 years ago by a few enthusiastic players and has grown more or less steadily ever since. Several years ago the Club managed, with considerable help from well-wishers and members, to build a very attractive club house which can be hired for parties and other events.

We know there are many residents of Wylam and district who are not aware that there is a tennis club in the village and we hope that after reading this we will have a lot more people coming along to join. We have five teams, two junior teams and many occasions for general club play. If you would like to join please contact one of the following committee members:—

Derek Oxford, 11 Stephenson Terrace, Wylam. Tel. 3738.

Alan Hurford, 31 Dene Road, Wylam. Tel. 2565.

Mrs. R. Cook, 18 Piper Road, Ovingham. Tel. 998 32709.

## Telephone directories

You will soon be receiving a new telephone directory but please don't throw your old directories away—the Boys Brigade are anxious to have them and your old newspapers. They sell the paper collected to raise money for their funds.

Boys Brigade organisers Evelyn Wilson and Beryl Blanks would be grateful if everyone could take their old directories and newspapers to them at home. Just leave them on the doorstep at either 16 The Dene or 106 Dene Road.

## Motor cyclists + horse riders—please keep off

Greg Smith, Secretary of the Playing Field Association, writes:—

We have recognised for some time that it was going to be difficult to get the field and the various sports equipment used for their full potential, because for the majority of activities no organised club exists. It isn't very easy, for instance, to get together a volleyball team without an existing club for people to join. One of the problems has been putting people who are interested, in touch with others. In previous years, we have tried advertising "contact" names in the Globe for the various possible activities, but this has been effective to only a limited extent. As an alternative, we have now put up a notice board at the Fox and Hounds entrance to the field. On this will be posted information about how to join in the various activities—contact names, regular meeting times, team names (if appropriate), etc. It will also show when certain parts of the field are "booked" by a particular group so that people wishing to play tennis, for example,

The second season has finished recently and it is proposed to hold a third season beginning in September running through until April.

Meetings are held in Wylam Institute, generally on alternate Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. and take the form of a pairs competition.

Anyone interested in joining the Bridge Club for the forthcoming season should contact Roger Turner (Tel. 2582) for further details.

## Blackett Trust delays

Local residents enquire from time to time what is being done to carry out the provisions of the will of the late Mr. Blackett who died in 1972. As previously reported, early in 1979, the Parish Councils in Wylam, Ovingham, Horsley and Ovington submitted schemes to the Trustees, suggesting how some of the money might be used to benefit the area.

The Wylam scheme put forward with the support of the Institute Committee was to build an old persons day centre, linked to the back of the Institute. The Parish Councils are still awaiting decisions on these schemes, and are increasingly concerned at the delays.

## Parish Surgery dates

The successful Parish Councillors' surgeries will continue to be held once a month on Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30 a.m., during May, June and July.

The dates are 31st May, 28th June and 26th July.

don't arrive at a time when five a side football is booked for the hard play area.

Notices on the board will also include a list of Committee Members for people to contact if they have suggestions to make on the maintenance or development of the field's facilities, and the date of WCPFA social events such as 'Field Day' (June 14th).

On a separate topic, we are greatly concerned about the use of the field by horse riders and even motor cyclists. Both these modes of transport are thoroughly unwelcome on the field. They can severely damage the grass surface and detract from the field's attractiveness both for serious players and for the more casual visitor. We also share the Cricket Club's sorrow (and annoyance) at the way people mistreat (play games on, cycle over, ride horses across, etc) the cricket square.

A request from the Committee therefore: would horse riders and motor cyclists keep out of the field, please; and would people in general keep off the cricket square.

## Sporting talents

Wylam's talented teenagers have had notable success in several sporting events.

The Junior Football team came fourth in the Hexham and District Sunday Junior League; they reached the final of the President's Cup—only to be defeated by Hexham Broadway.

It is hoped to keep the team going next season. Training will re-start on the field in August and any boys between the ages of 14 and 18 who are interested should contact Alan Brazewell, 84 Dene Road. (Tel. 2668) or Jim Gibbons, 45 Dene Road (Tel. 3502).

In the Tynedale Festival of Sport the young team of Neal Ferguson, Athene Westlake, David Craven and Tom Mowbray won an exciting heat to go through to the final on 13 June at Hexham High School. In the last game, which had to be won for Wylam to go forward, David Craven came from 17-20 down to win 23-21.

The not-so-junior squash team of Judy Davies, Dave Elliot and Kathy Harris also won through to the final of their section.

In the badminton section, the first event in the festival to be completed, Wylam's team of Vin and Elaine Anderson, Jim and Andrew Priestley, came third out of sixteen in their final.

The Festival Day is on Sunday 6 July at Tynedale Park, Corbridge and if our teams continue in this successful vein Wylam should be well-up the final list of winners.

## Flooding to cease?

Hopefully damage to gardens on Acomb Drive caused by flooding of the Oakwood burn should be a thing of the past. The Parish Council has supported recent representations made by local residents to the County Council and the District Council. Tynedale District Council have now agreed to take remedial action this year which should eliminate this problem.

Incidentally this case was brought to the attention of Parish Councillors at one of the monthly surgeries held in the Falcon Centre.

## New postcards on sale

In view of the demand for cards of George Stephenson's birthplace, an attractive new drawing of the cottage has been printed as both a postcard and as a greetings card.

These together with the range of local history cards and notelets are available from the Post Office.

## Date of next issue

Publication of this issue of the 'Globe' has been unavoidably delayed—not however because of "industrial action" by the Editor or the printers! The next issue will now be the late Summer/early Autumn edition and will appear in late September or early October.

## Citizens Advice Service

The Tynedale Citizens Advice Service—which has until now only been available at the C.A. bureau, at 21 Priestpopple, Hexham (Tel. 0434 605254) from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Monday to Friday, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons is also available at the Council Offices, South Street, Prudhoe, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This may make it more accessible for some residents but others may find it more convenient to use the Newcastle CAB, which is in MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle (Tel. 9 20832), and is open daily from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Citizens Advice Bureau provide a most useful independent and confidential service of help and advice on any sort of problem.



*A small but happy group of the youngsters who helped in the litter campaign. They almost hide the trailer loaded with sacks of rubbish.*

## Decisions on local planning applications

The District Council have given outline planning permission for the erection of two detached houses in the grounds of the vicarage, on land lying between the vicarage and the boundary of the churchyard. The Parish Council asked that care should be taken in siting these two houses to avoid unnecessary felling of trees and that they should be in natural traditional materials to harmonise with the vicarage, the church, and the fronts of houses in Algernon Terrace.

Outline permission has also been granted for houses to be built on the paddock next to Dr. Rowbotham's house on Elm Bank Road.

Access to these houses will be from Elm Bank and not Station Road. The Parish Council have asked that when these houses are built provision is made to allow improvements to visibility across the corner of Elm Bank Road and Station Road, and that allowance should also be made for the future construction of a footpath along the west side of Station Road from the Boathouse Inn to Stanley Burn Con-valescent Home.

## No rubbish on walkway

It was obvious to those volunteers who cleared rubbish from banksides of the former railway cutting (no walkway) behind the houses on Woodcroft Road, that a few residents have allowed rubbish to "slip" down the embankment.

Elsewhere, in the undergrowth alongside the walkway, bundles of rose bush prunings and other garden rubbish were discovered.

Such action by a very small number of residents is selfish and spoils pleasant parts of the village.

The message is clear—and we make no apology for repeating it—put your own rubbish in your own dustbin, or take it to the tip at West Wylam, or burn it in your own garden or allotment. But don't dump it on the walkway or on other areas of public land in the village.

## Village Diary

### JUNE

- 4th—Book Group, "Teddy Bears Picnic", 11.30 a.m. Garden at St. Oswin's Church.
- 7th—Methodist Church, Summer Fair.
- 11th—Book Group, "The work of Roald Dahl", talk by Peter Maybank at 61 Dene Road, 8 p.m.
- 12th—Housewives' Discussion Group, "Visit to Metro".
- 14th—Wylam Community Playing Fields Association, "Field Day", on the Jubilee Field.
- 20th—Prudhoe P.T.A. Dance.
- 21st—St. Oswin's Church, Garden Fete.
- 23rd—Mothers Union evening outing to Simonburn.
- 28th—Ovingham Middle School, Summer Fayre.

### JULY

- 6th—Wylam Lawn Tennis Club, "Open Day" at 2 p.m.
- 19th—Labour Party Garden Fete, 2.30 p.m., Dr. & Mrs. McCallum's garden.

### SEPTEMBER

- 6th—Mothers Union, Corbridge Deanery, Overseas fund raising afternoon, St. Oswin's Church.
- 13th—Oxfam, 'Autumn Fayre', Charlie's Corner.
- 27th—Friends of Wylam, Jumble Sale.

### OCTOBER

- 16th, 17th, 18th—Wylam Amateur Dramatic Society, Autumn production.

## More children welcome

St. Oswin's would like to welcome children to come along to the Sunday School. If your child is interested in drawing, likes listening to stories, acting, and would like to know more about the Christian world, then he/she is welcome to come along. Sunday School takes place in the Church Hall from 9.45 a.m. — 10.45 a.m.

## Trees on riverside

More trees have been planted by the National Park and Countryside Department alongside the walkway in the vicinity of Bythorne Farm and on the riverside near Stephenson's Cottage.

Some planting has also been done along the riverside footpath next to the allotments.

Planting new trees on the riverbank is essential, since many of the existing trees here are decaying, either because of age, or due to erosion of their roots by the river.

Some of the overhanging branches of the riverside willows have been broken by the force of water when the river has been in flood, and the Parish Council are hoping to get these dead and damaged branches cut off during the summer when the level of the river is low.

## New Information Card

The blue "Local Information Card" is to be updated and will be reprinted in the Autumn.

Will all secretaries of local societies and organisations please check the details given on the last card (October 1978) and let the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Maureen Gillis (27 Dene Road, Tel. 2503) have details of any change necessary.

## Date for re-opening of road still in doubt

Although the County Council have agreed to go ahead with the necessary works on Wylam Scar to enable the Wylam-Ovingham road to be re-opened, the problems of getting the dragline and other equipment to the land at the top of the Scar so that the work can be carried out have not (at the time of going to press) been resolved.

The residents of Wylam Hall have been asked to allow an access track to be constructed through part of the woodland at present in their ownership at the eastern end of the Scar, but suitable terms have not yet been agreed.

Care has been taken to select a route for this track which does minimal damage to the trees. Several dead or dying trees will be removed but not more than two or three mature healthy trees will have to be felled.

Replanting will be undertaken to replace trees felled last year further west along the Scar.

Providing that work proceeds according to plan the County Surveyor hopes to have the road re-opened in the autumn.

However if work cannot be started before the end of June, due to problems of getting access or for other reasons then the scheme is likely to be delayed until next year since work cannot be completed during winter months.

The Parish Council has written to the County Council expressing grave concern at the prospect of further delays and emphasising the need to reopen the road as quickly as possible.

Keep your fingers crossed that acceptable terms can be agreed so that work can begin shortly!



*The good old days—or were they? There was little chance of this vehicle speeding through the village in 1920.*  
(Photo kindly lent by the Misses Waller)

## It's those dogs again—and their owners

Dogs, or rather their droppings, have again been the subject of complaints from residents in various parts of the village.

Dog owners are urged to ensure that they keep their dogs under control, and prevent them from fouling footpaths and open spaces and amenity areas, where people walk and children play.

Tynedale District Council have recently passed a byelaw making it an offence for a person being in charge of a dog to allow the dog to foul the footway of any street or public place by depositing its excrement thereon.

The maximum fine is £50.

We hope that those who do not control their dogs properly, and allow them to foul footpaths, and amenity areas, will take note of this warning.

Incidentally, anyone seeing dogs breaking this byelaw should report the offence to the police, and to the Parish Council.

(Remember the Police cannot act unless they have details of the offence).

## Trace Wylam ancestors

Members of the Local History Society Working Group have been busy in recent months studying the detailed Census Returns for Wylam for 1851 and 1871.

Many of today's Wylam residents bear the same surnames as residents of the village a hundred years ago.

What we should like to do is to discover how many of today's Wylam residents had ancestors living in the village in the middle of the last century.

If you know (or think) that your parents, grandparents or great grandparents or other relations lived in Wylam during the period 1850-1875 please contact Mrs. Dorothy Fairless, at 31 Falcon Terrace. (Tel. 2538).

We may be able to help you to trace some of your ancestors!

## Busy Parish Meeting

More than ninety residents packed the small hall of the Institute on 14th May, for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Philip Brooks presented his report on what had taken place in the village during the past year and the activities of the Parish Council. Short reports were also given on behalf of the Institute Community Association and the Playing Field Association.

There was no shortage of comment and the Parish Council agreed to investigate various suggestions and complaints, which ranged from problems with a broken sewer at Hagg Bank, to the idea that financial assistance should be given to elderly residents towards the cost of television licence fees.

A proposal to set up a Working Group to discuss arrangements for celebrating the bicentenary of George Stephenson next year, was also agreed.

This was another very successful Annual Parish Meeting—well supported by local residents, with many useful suggestions and constructive comments being put forward.

## History of local railway

Only two books specifically relating the history of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway have ever been published—the first, written by the late John S. MacLean in 1948, has long been out of print, and the publication at the end of last year of a new history of this line, by G. Whittle, was a welcome addition to the literature on local railways. Mr. Whittle's book also contains much material based on his own researches, and not previously published, and also updates the history of the line and its branches, since MacLean's history was written more than 30 years ago, and before the demise of steam locomotives.

Certain to appeal to all who are interested in local history, the book is published by David and Charles at £6.50, or if you prefer it, there is a copy in the village library.

## Rocket 150—Local pride

Remember in all the press and television publicity which has been given to the "Rocket 150" cavalcade and the anniversary of the famous Rainhill trials, that two of the competitors, the Stephensons and Timothy Hackworth, and one of the judges Nicholas Wood, had close links with Wylam.

Wylam is proud of them!

*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.*