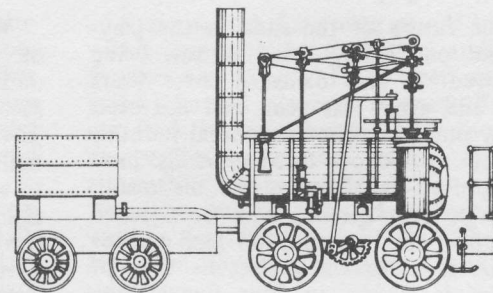


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



May 1982

Number 32

## Great improvements—but more necessary

The new decorations have certainly improved the appearance of the Institute but the cost of nearly £2000 has severely depleted the Institute Committee funds, and regrettably this is not the only major item of expenditure with which the Committee are faced.

The severe winter weather resulted in burst pipes and damage to the Institute flat which will need to be redecorated. The gas fires in the main hall will also have to be replaced before next winter. An even more important and more expensive requirement is the provision of fire-doors and a separate fire escape from the upper floors.

This expenditure is of course in addition to the normal annual running expenses of the Institute which are some £3500, towards which almost £1000 is raised during Community Week.

Whilst grants may be available from the Parish, District and County Councils towards some of these costs, it will clearly be necessary to seek further help from local groups and individuals in the near future to raise money to carry out these essential improvements. Many

villages much smaller than Wylam have raised funds for bigger projects, and we hope that when the Institute Committee appeal for funds and help in local efforts, all village residents will contribute.

One group who has already offered its help is the Girl Guides, with a kind offer to keep the flower and shrub borders in the Institute garden tidy, as part of their Community Service.

The Parish Council who have now accepted overall responsibility for looking after this garden are most grateful to Maggie McLester, Pauline Elliott and the Guides for this generous offer of practical help. One welcome improvement recently carried out in this garden has been the repair of the dangerous boundary wall. The damaged railings on the Church Road frontage should be replaced soon.



*A very fine photograph of W. Strachan's team of 13 men and boys (plus dog), posing proudly in front of No. 21 Stephenson Terrace, under construction on 20th September, 1905. Does anyone recognise any of these men as being former Wylam residents?*

## Portrait presented

Many of his friends and several organisations gave donations to the Institute in memory of the late Dr. Swindale, and some of this money has now been used to commission a portrait of him.

The portrait, in pastel, is by Ms. G. M. Price of Alvaston, Derby, who has previously undertaken similar work for Edward Swindale and at a ceremony on the evening of 7 May Edward presented the portrait of his father to the Institute Committee and it now hangs in a particularly appropriate position in the entrance hall, where he can observe all who use the premises!

The presentation ceremony was followed by a special Memorial Concert given by the Prudhoe Gleemen.

## Search for photos

Saved—by chance! This fascinating photograph was among several old photographs of Wylam and other parts of the county, belonging to an elderly former resident which were recently saved from possible destruction. There is probably no other print of this photograph in existence.

This emphasises the importance of having extra copies made of old photographs which are likely to be of public interest to present and future residents.

Mrs. Ellen Jacobson has kindly lent another photograph of local men who served in the First World War which appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you have any photographs taken in Wylam, which show local events, buildings or groups of residents during the

period from 1900-1970, please consider allowing us to make copies of them so that we can build up a collection of photographs showing the village, and its personalities in the past. The original photographs will be returned to you safely.

Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, (Mrs. Gillis, Tel. 2503) or any Council member if you have photographs which you think may be of interest.

Don't delay—do it now, if someone else has to sort through your possessions later, they may not realise that old photographs are of local interest.

If we get a good response to this appeal we will put on a special display later in the year—perhaps during Community Week.

## Future of the slide

The future of the slide in the playground on Hedley Road is now being reviewed. It was damaged three years ago, and again last year, and has been taken out of action for several months. Repairs carried out three years ago have not proved satisfactory and the manufacturers (Wicksteeds) have been asked to report on its condition and cost of repair. If as seems likely, the cost of repairs is nearly in four figures, the Parish Council may decide to replace it with another piece of different play equipment either at Hedley Road or on the Jubilee Field. A safer slide for small children was of course one of the new items of equipment provided on the Jubilee Field last year.



*Remember the severe weather of last January? Who could forget it! This picture by David Petrie shows the Tyne completely frozen, just below Stephenson's Cottage.*

## New Vicarage soon

Detailed plans for the new vicarage which is to be built in the grounds of the existing vicarage, were approved in December. We understand that it is hoped to start work during the summer.

It will be in stone, with a slate roof and should be an impressive building. It is being carefully positioned south west of the present vicarage so as to preserve most of the trees growing on the site.

## C. J. W. Blackett Trust

The offer of a £10 Christmas gift to pensioners in Wylam, Ovingham, Ovington and Horsley was widely appreciated, and some 300 of the 320 of Wylam residents eligible took advantage of the offer. Those who did not wish to have their £10 agreed to leave the money in the Blackett Trust funds for future use.

The Trustees are still seeking suggestions as to how the funds can best be used to benefit present and future elderly residents and ideas will be welcomed.

## Who built them?

W. Strachan of Haltwhistle built many of the houses constructed in Wylam during the early years of this century. Most of those on Wylam Wood Road, The Crescent and Elm Bank Road were built by him but there is uncertainty as to who built many of those on the north side of the river. Strachan constructed at least four (Nos. 19-22) on Stephenson Terrace, and probably more. Falcon Terrace was erected between about 1906-1910, but who built Algernon Terrace and the other houses built in the village at the end of the 19th century, and in the period up to the 1920's?

Can anyone help with more information on who built what? Please let us know.

## Play area pressures

The use of 'The Square', the open space in front of the three-storey town houses and shops is causing problems again, with a growing number of children using it to play football, causing damage to the gardens of the surrounding houses, and to the space itself.

Better areas for such games are either Engine Dene, or the land between Jackson Road and The Dene, which is larger than 'The Square', and more suitable for informal ball games, since there are no houses or gardens adjoining this open space.

We suggest therefore that some of the children (particularly those who do not live in the town houses) might like to transfer to the land on Jackson Road for their games. It is only the other side of the shops, bigger than 'The Square', and you won't have to cross a road to get there. By spreading the pressures in this way, the problems on individual areas should be reduced.

## Museum opening times

If you have visitors staying with you this summer who haven't been to Wylam before, don't forget to take them to the Museum (open during library hours, i.e. Tuesday and Thursday 2-5 p.m. and 5.30-7.30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon throughout the year), as well as to Stephenson's Cottage.

## Hagg Bank car park

The County Council's National Park and Countryside Committee are hoping to be able to open the small car park on the west side of Eastwoods Road during the Summer. At the same time a traffic regulation is to be made restricting access and parking in Hagg Bank and on the road to Hagg Farm.

The planning permission for the car park is for an initial period of five years and its capacity is restricted to 15 cars.

## Fit for a Queen?

Anyone who has not yet been to Queens Hall, Hexham since it was reopened last November, is missing a treat.

The restoration being carried out by the County Council, with help from Tynedale, is most impressive.

The building is a great asset and amenity for use by all residents of Tynedale—not just Hexham—and a wide range of musical and literary events are being held there.

Among those planned during May are: 4-29. Exhibition and Craft Demonstration by Northumbrian craftsmen. 22. Orchestral Concert by the Corelli Ensemble at 7.30 p.m.

Why not support some of them? Tickets for concerts are on sale at Hexham Library.

## County Offices move

As from 1st June, the County Council Education, Social Services and Architect's Departments will move from the Regent Centre, Gosforth, to County Hall, Morpeth, to join the Secretary's, Finance, Highways, Planning and Estates departments who are already there. The telephone number of ALL these County Council departments will be 995 514343.

## New play equipment

The equipment for the new play area at Hagg Bank was erected at the end of March—in time for the Parish Council to claim the grant from Tynedale towards the cost.

Several volunteers helped to fix the equipment—Alan Jones, Mike Helm and Brian Urwin deserve special thanks for their efforts.

The new equipment seems to be popular and we hope local children will make good use of it.



## Support the Summer Fair on 5 June

Wylam Playing Field Association will be holding the Wylam Summer Fair on the Jubilee Field on Saturday, 5th June starting at 1.30 p.m. It is hoped to maintain the traditional mixture of side shows, stalls and exhibitions with entertainment in the afternoon.

The children's races, the inter-pub tug of war, and the road race will be open to all fit volunteers from the village.

The evening will continue with a barbecue and barn dance, this year with

music by Stanley Accrington. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for villagers to get together and have a good time whilst helping the Playing Field Association to raise the finance to continue maintaining and improving facilities.

If anyone or any society or group wishes to join in by running a stall, a sideshow or putting on a display, please contact Tony Mitcham on Wylam 2128 or Alan Jones on 2556.



Welcome home! A photograph taken in the garden of West House, Ovingham Road, showing some of the local men who served in the First World War, being entertained following their return. (Kindly lent by Mrs. Ellen Jacobson).

## Village Playscheme—Rethink necessary?

Georgina Peel, Secretary of the Playscheme, writes:

Playscheme 1981 attracted approximately 453 children to join in four weeks of activities ranging from a cycle ride to Ovingham via the riverside path, a treasure hunt round Close House, a walk to Ryton Park, with a welcome dip in the open air baths on a roasting summer day, to the usual Hexham baths and Ice Rink trips. Once again a successful playscheme, one might say—or was it?

The previous year 670 children took part and although the price of bus trips was not increased in line with increased costs, we lost money on all baths trips and on one of the Ice Rink trips through lack of support. Perhaps it was just as well that two of the Wednesday trips were local and didn't involve the use of transport!

What to do this year? Perhaps we should have a re-think? Why not come to the annual meeting in May and air your views? The date will be circulated through the school nearer the date.

Anyone unable to get to the A.G.M. should let Georgina have their views. Tel.: 3278.

## Diary of Events

### MAY

Thursday 13th

Housewives' Discussion Group—'Moral Issues in Medicine' at 8 Stephenson Terrace.

Friday 14th

Wylam P.T.A. 50/50 Dance. Wylam School.

Saturday 15th

Prudhoe High School Spring Fayre at 1 p.m.

Thu./Fri./Sat. 20th, 21st, 22nd

Amateur Dramatic Society production, 'Blythe Spirit'.

Tuesday 25th

Annual Parish Meeting. Institute, 7.30 p.m.

### JUNE

Saturday 5th

W.P.F.A. Summer Fair, Jubilee Field, at 1.30 p.m.

Saturday 12th

Tennis Club Jumble Sale, Institute.

Saturday 19th

St. Oswin's Church Garden Fete.

Saturday 26th

Oxfam Summer Fair, Charlie's Corner.

### JULY

Friday 9th

Wylam First School, Family Games Evening.

Saturday 10th

Wylam and District Labour Party Jumble Sale, Institute, 2 p.m.

## Brownies multiplying

Organisations for young people in the village continue to thrive. In addition to the new Scout Troop (see report below) formed last year, a second Brownie Pack has now been set up (not in competition with the existing pack—although there's bound to be some friendly rivalry!) but to reduce the waiting list! Mrs. Barbara Burnish and Mrs. Jean Heyes are in charge of the new pack.

Mrs. Alison Malcolm and Mrs. Enid Jones are now in charge of the first Brownie Pack, special thanks to Mrs. Yvonne Davies—retiring 'Brown Owl'.

They, and everyone who gives practical help with running organisations for young people in Wylam deserve our thanks.

## Scouting progress

Whilst the village has enjoyed a Cub Scout Pack for at least 15 years, due mainly to the efforts of Tom Gallon of Heddon, it is only in the last few months that a Scout Troop has been established. Frank Phillips and Peter Short with Mrs. Billie Turnbull and others have already created a lot of enthusiasm, high morale, and have set a high standard.

In a busy programme plans are being prepared for their first summer camp near Barnard Castle in July, despite the lack of essential equipment. Much can be borrowed, but local efforts and help will be necessary to provide their basic needs. A well supported coffee morning just before Christmas gave the troop a lot of encouragement as did the Jumble Sale held in March. A Grand Spring Draw and a Wine and Cheese Evening are to be organised, to involve more village interest.

This year the National Scout Movement celebrates its 75th anniversary. It has many supporters now throughout the world and a great future. An active and successful troop will be beneficial to Wylam and deserves support from young and old.

(Thanks to those Scouts who helped plant trees on the Dene Estate recently).

## Graveyard survey

The Spring issue of 'Tyne and Tweed', the journal of the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies, includes a most interesting article by Mandy Haggith, based on a survey of Ovingham graveyard which she carried out as a school project at Dame Allen's. In addition to the results of the survey, Mandy has collected information from other sources about many of the people concerned and it provides an article well worth reading.

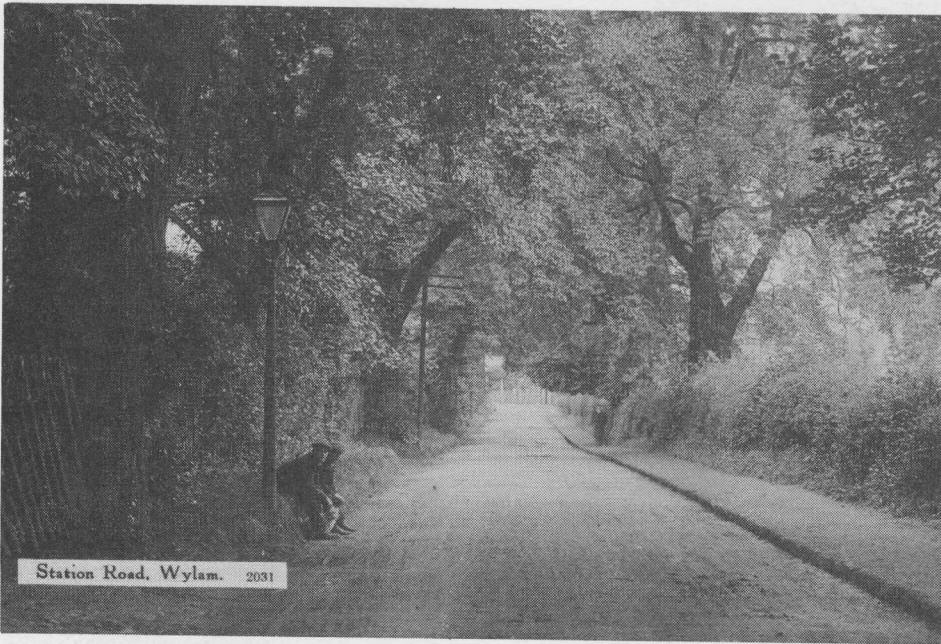
Anyone interested in local history is recommended to read it—copies of 'Tyne and Tweed' are on sale at the Post Office.

## Bythorne Appeal decision announced

We reported in the last issue that Mr. Dawson had appealed against the decision by Tynedale District Council requiring him to clear the open storage/sales area for secondhand timber etc. at Bythorne Farm by the end of April this year.

The Ministry Inspector has recently dismissed the appeal, stating that while Mr. Dawson provides a useful service,

Bythorne Farm is not a suitable place on which to base such activities, situated as it is in an area of great landscape beauty, within the Green Belt. The Inspector states, 'I believe that it is essential that the special beauty of the Tyne Valley should be conserved and protected from generally non-essential types of development'.



Scarcely recognisable today—Station Road as it was in 1910. Many of the hedgerow trees have long since gone. Only recently the diseased elm trees along Mr. Coates' frontage have had to be felled.

## Litter collected ... but rubbish dumped

Bigger than ever this year. More than 120 adults and children from 16 different organisations helped in the litter clearance campaign, held on a fine Saturday morning at the beginning of April.

With this excellent support, groups were able to clear rubbish from almost the whole of the village and over 80 sacks of rubbish were collected.

Everyone who took part deserves the thanks of the village. The Girl Guides and the two Brownie Packs provided particularly good support with 52 children and adults. Other smaller organisations also provided excellent help.

The Parish Council has given small contributions to each of the organisations who took part, in appreciation of their efforts.

It is now up to everyone else to try and keep the village tidy—well, we can but hope!

## Warning Notices

Following several tragedies or near-tragedies in the Tyne in recent years, the Parish Council has recommended to Tynedale District Council that suitable warning notices should be put up at strategic points on the river.

People involved in the recent litter clearance campaign who had to clear rubbish from the sides of the old railway track (now walkway) behind Ingham Terrace and Woodcroft Road, noticed that not all residents are as tidy as they should be.

Two or three instances were spotted where rubbish had been thrown over the back fence down the embankment or dumped on the sides of the track.

One particularly bad example where garden rubbish has been tipped is on the embankment alongside the 'Doctor's Path' and behind the Mowbray's back fence (No. 49 Woodcroft Road). Maurice Mowbray assures us he is not responsible—but will whoever is doing it—please stop now.

Such action is selfish, untidy and illegal—punishable by a heavy fine. It is also quite unnecessary since the District Council will take away such rubbish when they clear the dustbins.

Please—whatever you do, don't dump rubbish on the public open spaces, amenity areas and verges in the village. A lot of money and effort has been spent in improving the appearance of the village in recent years—don't let a few people spoil it.

## Book the date now Tuesday 25 May

The Parish Meeting this year is being held very soon, on 25 May, and this is your opportunity to express your views on what is being done in the village, and what you think needs to be done. In recent years between 50 and 100 residents have packed the Institute to hear the annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, and to make suggestions as to how the village might be improved.

Although we can't promise to be able to solve all the problems that you have we do our best, and always welcome constructive suggestions, so don't forget to come to the Institute at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 25 May and join in what should be an enjoyable and informative meeting. You will be able to get a cup of coffee—something new at Annual Parish Meetings.

## Swindale Cottages

The severe winter weather delayed completion of the Swindale Cottages but the tenants were able to move in at the end of March, and are now happily settled, in what are by all accounts well-equipped and convenient bungalows.

The layout of the site, with the bungalows set back in a crescent and the landscaped open area in front, is particularly attractive, and is a feature which the Parish Council were anxious to achieve. Tynedale District Council deserves congratulations for creating an attractive layout on a difficult site.

A special ceremony at which the new bungalows were officially named 'Swindale Cottages' was held on Friday 7 May. Members of the late Dr. Swindale's family were present, accompanied by representatives of the Parish and District Councils, together with the tenants of the cottages and other local residents, some representing organisations with which the doctor was closely associated.

## Wylam Bridge tokens

When sorting through his father's possessions, Edward Swindale came across one of the Wylam Bridge Company pass-tokens, which he has kindly given for future display in the village museum.

It would be interesting to know how many of these brass tokens still survive. We know of three or four others, but if you have one please write and tell us.

Were these issued free to certain people or did they have to be purchased?

What were the tolls charged for pedestrians and vehicles when the bridge was freed from tolls in 1936? Letters on this will be welcome.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. M. Gillis, The Clerk to the Parish Council, 27 Dene Road, Wylam. (Tel.: 2503).  
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