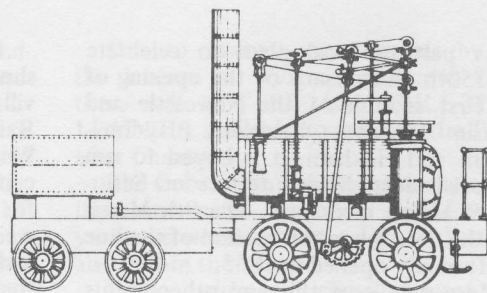


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



October 1984

Number 37

“Something for everyone” in Community Week

The annual Community Week has now established itself as the highlight of village life during the autumn and winter months, as well as providing a major source of funds for maintaining the Institute premises.

Last year over 30% of the income of the Institute general fund was raised during Community Week with a further 40% coming from the hire and use of the premises. Whilst subscriptions from various affiliated organisations totalled some 16% of the income, individual subscriptions produced a very modest £154—less than 4%.

During recent weeks members of the Institute Committee have been calling on village residents inviting us all to become members of the Institute, to boost income and maintain interest in the village Community Centre. The annual membership fee is only £1 for individuals, £2 for families and we hope that many people will support the Institute Committee by taking out membership this year.

The Committee is proposing to maintain the hire-charges at their present level—despite increased costs, and to do this will necessitate raising money in other ways, e.g. from subscriptions and during Community Week.

During the summer painting of the outside of the Institute was carried out and the garden improved. Repointing the exterior stonework may be a major expense next year and new curtains in the main hall will have to be considered in the future.

Unfortunately the main contractor, who carried out the extensive building improvements in 1982/83 went into liquidation earlier this year and this is delaying final settlement of the accounts.

There have been several changes in membership of the Committee during the year. After serving on the Committee in differing capacities, Mrs. Jean McCallum has been elected President, in succession to Mr. John Stephenson. Mrs. Lorraine Parker as secretary, and Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Gilroy and Mrs. Hibbert have all retired from the Committee after collectively more than 60 years loyal service. We thank them all for their work in helping to sustain the Institute—often in difficult times.

Institute activities have increased during the year with weekly dancing classes for both the young, and not so young, being added to the existing organisations, along with the regular dances, wedding receptions, parties etc.

10 a.m.—12 noon. Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning and Cake/Produce Stall.

7.45 p.m. ‘Wylam ’84’—a slide show by Wylam Photographic Society.



The scene at the unveiling of the village war memorial in 1923. This year, for the first time for more than ten years, there will be a service at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

This year's Community Week is from 3–10 November and looks like maintaining the high standard and wide variety of previous years, and will start with a new firework display at the bonfire.

(All events are being held in the Institute unless otherwise stated).

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER

2 p.m. Jumble Sale.

7.30 p.m. Grand Firworks display and bonfire on Jubilee Field.

SUNDAY 4

6 p.m. Community Week Service in St. Oswin's.

MONDAY 5

3.30 p.m. Puppets Galore—organised by the Book Group for 4–9 year olds in Falcon Centre.

8.00 p.m. Folk Concert by High Level Ranters.

TUESDAY 6

10 a.m.—6 p.m. Exhibition of Northumbrian Crafts and Cookery organised by the W.I. and Art Exhibition by Wylam Art Group (also on Wednesday).

WEDNESDAY 7

2 p.m. Whist Drive organised by Friends of Wylam.

8 p.m. Fashion Show presented by Busy Bees.

THURSDAY 8

6.30 p.m. Children's Community Week Concert.

FRIDAY 9

7 p.m.—8.30 p.m. Junior Disco (under 12's).

8.45 p.m.—10.30 p.m. Junior Disco (over 12's).

SATURDAY 10

10.30 a.m. Village Coffee Morning organised by the Horticultural Society, with Bring and Buy, Produce Stalls.

8 p.m. 50:50 Community Knees-up with the Blue Monk Disco.

This variety of entertainment should provide something of interest to everyone—please support as many events as you can—you'll enjoy them and the Institute will benefit.

Steam train for NCR 150? Testing those new tents

In brief . . .

As part of local plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first section of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, between Blaydon—Wylam and Hexham, it is hoped to run a special steam-hauled service on Saturday 9 March next year. The 9th March was the date when this section of the line was formally opened in 1835.

More details of this and other events to mark this important railway anniversary will be available early next year.

Tip for your rubbish

A reminder that if you have any large items of household rubbish which you can't persuade the District Council refuse collection men to take when they empty the dustbins (although they seem to take most things), you can always take it yourself to the tip on Broomhouse Road, West Wylam. For anyone who has not been there before, take the back road up to West Wylam past Hagg Bank and turn right opposite Eastwood Park, along Broomhouse Road. The access to the tip is on the right just beyond the school.

On behalf of the 1st Wylam Guides I should like to thank everyone in the village who supported our various Fund Raising activities during the last year. With the money raised and grants received we were able to buy new tents for our Summer Camp. We had a superb week at Chipchase Mill in the North Tyne Valley, and 24 girls put the new tents to good use. The only aspect of the tents that we are not really sure about is their waterproofness—we had scarcely a drop of rain during the whole week!

We are already thinking about and looking forward to next year's camp!
Lucy Monroe, Guide Leader.

Several residents have expressed concern at the large dead elms on Wylam Wood Road, Station Road and Ovingham Road. Although the Parish Council cannot take action to require owners of dead trees to cut them down, we would urge anyone who has dead or dying trees in their gardens, to have them felled. The cost involved will be small compared with the damage caused if they fell onto a house, or injured a child.

Our thanks and best wishes to David and Anne Thomson who are soon moving to Boston Spa near Wetherby. David has given considerable time and effort to the Playing Fields Association activities and Anne has contributed to the work of the Parish Council since her election last year.

Can anyone shed any light on the whereabouts of the following equipment belonging to the Playing Fields Association—complete Croquet Set, Clock Golf, Putting clubs and hole cutting tool which has not been found since the Institute alterations. Any clues please? Telephone Wylam 3598.

Don't forget to buy your Charity Christmas cards/gifts at the Coffee Morning in the Institute on Saturday 17th November. A wide selection of cards and gifts will be available from various charities.

Mrs. Kathleen Beale has recently retired after almost ten years service at the village library. We offer our good wishes and thanks for her help.

A 100 years ago — Hagg Colliery closes and schoolmasters change

A Century ago

For anyone wanting to learn about events in the village in the Victorian era one of the best sources of information is the school log-book, kept by successive schoolmasters. Many of the entries are inevitably routine, but others give valuable information about the village.

The following entries appear for 1884 and I have added (in italics) occasional notes of explanation. John Craig, a 29 years old Scot, was master at the start of 1884. He had been appointed in 1876, when 21, was a bachelor and lived with a younger sister in the schoolhouse on Woodcroft Road.

1884

January 9

The children returned at 4 o'clock for their tea and a Christmas tree given to them through the liberality and kindness of Mrs. R. Clayton. It is such acts as these which leaven school life. There were 230 there. *(The Claytons lived at Wylam Hall for over 30 years and were generous benefactors to the village).*

January 25

Several families at the Hagg are very unsettled owing to the Hagg Pit closing. *(The colliery at the Hagg had a life of only about 20 years. The pit shaft and the colliery cottages lay on the elevated ground behind Hagg Farm. The last remaining landmark, a prominent chimney, was demolished in the 1970's).*

February 22

The Rev. Charles James visited the school. *(He was the curate at Ovingham).*

March 18

Attendance not so good, although I am paying personal visits to some of the homes and inducing the parents to send their children more frequently.

March 23

Several of the parents have asked me to give the afternoon to their children as the sale of the Hagg material takes place today so I complied.

April 25

I am sorry the Hagg children have left us they were nearly all clean, tidy and bright, besides being very mannerly. *(There were 22 cottages in two rows at Hagg Colliery. The colliery manager was John Peel, an active Methodist Local Preacher).*

July 11

Today I received notice from the correspondent that the managers desire to get a man stronger in health. On October 11 I leave.

(John Craig suffered several illnesses during his eight years as master, and was off for 13 weeks early in 1883).

July 14

I dismissed at 12 o'clock to go and see the Stannington Endowed School which has been offered to me by R. Clayton Esq. and D. P. Pennethore Esq.

(Stannington was a much smaller school than Wylam—and the village had a more pleasant climate without the polluted atmosphere of Wylam at that time. However as far as can be ascertained Craig did not move to Stannington).

July 16

Five weeks vacation.

August 29

Our drawing report came on Wednesday and is a very good one.

September 5

Mr. Jordan, our male assistant, has been offered a situation similar to this but at a much larger salary. *(William Jordan commenced as Assistant Master in April 1882. The logbook also records that he went to Edinburgh in May 1883 to sit an examination to join the Civil Service).*

September 12

Today is my last day in charge of this school. I beg to record here the unwavering and consistent kindness I have received from Mr. & Mrs. R. Clayton and the other managers since I have taken charge of this school over eight years ago. John Craig, British School, Wylam on Tyne.

October 17

On Monday October 13th 1884, I, Ralph Brady, began my duties as master of this school. There are 220 on the books. My only help was Miss Pickett a monitor. *(Ralph Brady stayed as master of Wylam School for 38 years until 1922 any many present residents were taught by him).*

October 31

School Staff increased by the addition of two assistants, Miss Rutherford taking Standards II and III, and Mrs. Brady, the Infants. *(Even with this increase—there were only three teachers for more than 200 children—standards of staffing have certainly improved since then!)*

Tynedale may give more tokens to elderly

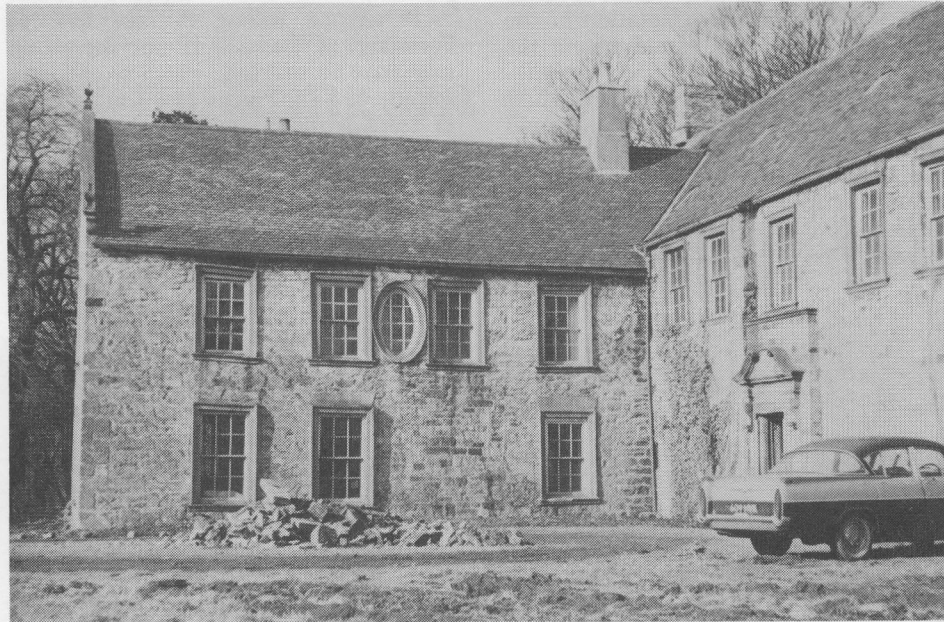
This year the Parish Council has helped local pensioners by offering £5 worth of extra travel tokens to supplement the £9 tokens provided by the District Council—an amount which has remained unchanged since the scheme was introduced in 1978.

However the District Council has recently reviewed its present policy on travel tokens, and agreed to scrap the 'three mile limit' restriction by which all pensioners living within three miles of

the centres of Hexham, Prudhoe and Haltwhistle received only £9, and those outside the three-mile limit received £12.

It is now intended that all pensioners living outside the parishes of Hexham, Haltwhistle and Prudhoe—and this includes Wylam—are likely to get £13 worth of tokens next year.

The Parish Council will be reviewing the travel-token help it has given pensioners this year when it considers its budget for 1985/86.



This fine wing on the south front of Wylam Hall was destroyed by fire when conversion of the hall was in progress in 1964. The elegant doorway (on right) still exists, but is thought to have originally been positioned beneath the oval window in the now-demolished wing. (Photo by courtesy of Austin Rubery).

Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER

- 1 Wylam Pre-School Playgroup Coffee Morning. Cakes/Home Produce Stall. 10–11.30 a.m. Falcon Centre.
- 1 Housewives' Discussion Group. 'Drug Abuse', a talk by Sgt. Robert Stephenson, Northumbria Drug Squad, 8 p.m., 'Glenridding', Elm Bank Road.
- 3–10 COMMUNITY WEEK.
- 13 Wylam Photographic Society 'Swindale Shield'. Open competition, 8 p.m., Institute.
- 17 Charity Card Sale, Institute.
- 24 Embroidery Class Coffee Morning. Embroidery display and demonstration. Gift Stall, 10 a.m.—12 noon at the Falcon Centre.

DECEMBER

- 4 Wylam Book Group Christmas Evening. Details will be publicised later.
- 4 Wylam Photographic Society. Alisdair Gilchrist presents 'Egypt ...'.
- 5 Housewives' Discussion Group. Christmas Ideas by Sarah May, 8 p.m., 8 Stephenson Terrace.
- 7 Wylam School P.T.A. Christmas Fayre at School, 6 p.m.

Gardeners offer help

We are pleased to report that following our plea for assistance in looking after the 'garden areas' on open spaces in the village two more residents have kindly agreed to help.

Denise Morphet whose own house overlooks Swindale Cottages has offered to ensure that the planted areas in front of the cottages are kept tidy and free from weeds.

Jimmy Thompson who moved into No. 2 Blakett Cottages during the summer is willing to look after the rose bushes in front of Blakett Cottages, as well as doing his own new job as Institute caretaker.

The attractive flowers around the War Memorial have been provided and planted by Judith and Brian Furniss.

The detached Institute garden still presents a problem. The W.I. has kindly helped, but they are likely to need more helpers to bring the borders under complete control. Any offers of help or suggestions please?

Our thanks to all who are helping to keep the village tidy, and make it more attractive.

Leader-crisis for Cubs?

Due to various commitments by all the leaders of Wylam Cub Scout Pack there will NOT BE ANY FULL-TIME LEADERS available to manage the Pack after Christmas.

The Cubs are run on Scout Association lines and cater for boys aged 8½–10 years, at which age they go to Scouts, also within the village.

If no volunteers come forward between now and mid-December the Cub pack will have to disband, through lack of leadership. There are at present 20–24 boys in the Cub Scout Pack.

If anyone feels they can take on this commitment please contact Mrs. Lorraine Parker, The Haven, Elm Bank Road, Tel. 2575 or Mrs. Sheila Vincent, Briardene, The Crescent, Tel. 2547 before the end of November.

Editor's Note: It would be a great pity if the Cubs had to disband through lack of a leader—we hope someone will be willing to take on the job. Our thanks to Lorraine and Sheila for all the work they have put in as Akela and Baloo.

"Lest we forget"

For the first time for many years a short service of remembrance will take place at the village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday 11 November.

Shortly after their arrival in Wylam last year the Vicar, David Wood and Methodist Minister Malcolm Adams, both expressed a wish that a service of remembrance should be held at the War Memorial and this proposal has been supported by the Parish Council, who are responsible for maintaining the Memorial.

All residents are invited to join the Remembrance Day service at 10 o'clock in St. Oswin's followed by one at 10.50 a.m. at the War Memorial—when tribute will be paid to those who gave their lives in war.

Care for those terraces

Concern has been expressed by several residents at some of the changes which have taken place to one or two houses in the stone terraces which are such pleasant features in the village.

These terraces were often designed and built as complete architectural units and their attractiveness relies on this. Regrettably relaxations in planning control by the Government have meant that many alterations which could spoil a terrace, no longer require planning permission. It is therefore all the more important that house owners, living in attractive terraces should consider what effect alterations would have on the appearance of the complete terrace as well as their own house.

Parish Council support barn conversion

A scheme to convert an old stone barn at Bradley Mill Farm into a dwelling-house has been supported by the Parish Council, although the building is actually in Gateshead Borough.

Bradley Mill itself, a watermill which ground corn until the turn of the century, became derelict and was regrettably demolished in 1930/31 although some of the stone was used in the retaining wall of the bungalow 'Gracot' on the Main Street. The barn however still stands close to the former farmhouse, although now in poor condition.

Whilst the barn is not of special architectural or historic interest the building adds character to the pleasant entrance into the village from Craw-crook.

Although ideally the building should be renovated and continue to be used as a barn a local architect has prepared a scheme to convert it into a dwelling for the owner Mrs. Vallally, involving limited alteration to the outside walls.

However the barn stands on the east side of Bradley Burn, just outside Wylam Parish, and within Gateshead, who have refused planning permission for its conversion.

Mrs. Vallally has appealed against that decision and the Parish Council feels that the careful adaptation of the barn into a dwelling would ensure the attractive building was conserved, without creating any precedent for new housing development on the other land east of Station Road—something which the Parish Council has always opposed.



View of the barn at Bradley Mill Farm—from the south.

(Photo by courtesy of Peter Miller).

Playing field vandalism delays improvements

As the users of the Playing Field will have noticed, the Community Playing Field Association has continued the programme of pavilion improvements over the summer months. Two improved changing rooms have now been provided, together with new doors and windows with shutters and on completion of the plumbing work new showers and toilets will be available.

As everyone will realise, the cost of these improvements and other field maintenance work can only be met in part by Local Authority and other grants with the rest coming from the two fundraising events held during the year.

The biggest drain on these resources is VANDALISM, which has included the following damage:—

Main gate—replaced because of broken frame.

Children's swings—seat belts removed.

Chains cut from play equipment.

Main electricity box doors torn off (already replaced once).

Tennis court wire netting cut.

Boundary ropes around seeded ground pulled down and area cycled over.

Mr. Curley Memorial Seat carved with a knife within hours of being erected.

It is impossible for the P.F.A. to use funds to improve facilities when time and money is wasted trying to maintain the present equipment which has been needlessly damaged.

Please assist the Playing Field Association and community by reporting any offenders to members of the Playing Field Committee. At least some of the offenders are from Wylam.

The Playing Field Association A.G.M. is to be held in The Ship at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 31st October, 1984. All welcome.

Oxfam branch needs help

Oxfam's 21st birthday celebrations on 7th June were a great success, enjoyed by those who attended, and producing a grand total of £270 for Oxfam funds. In addition Muriel Money raised £75 by sponsorship on her run in the Great North Run on 9th June. Muriel has recently moved to Morpeth to live and has had to resign as the local Oxfam secretary. We thank her for her work in Wylam, but her departure following so soon after that of Joan Taylor, leaves a gap in the ranks of Wylam's Oxfam.

Is anyone willing to take over as Secretary of Oxfam? If not the group may have to disband, which would be a tragedy at a time when frequent disasters in Third World countries make the help provided by Oxfam of increasing importance. There must be someone among the 1600 adults in Wylam who'll help, isn't there?

From Heddon to Wylam?

Several residents of Heddon Parish may shortly become residents of Wylam—without having to move house!

When they were built a century ago, the row of four cottages at Streethouses, (east of Stephenson's Cottage) were constructed across the Wylam-Heddon boundary, resulting in one cottage being in Wylam, and the other three in Heddon.

Although somewhat isolated the cottages have closer links with Wylam than with Heddon, and when the Local Government Boundaries Commission began their review of District and Parish Boundaries in 1979 the Parish Council consulted with Heddon Parish Council and agreed to suggest to the Commission that the boundary should be changed slightly to include all four cottages in Wylam.

The Commission has recently agreed to back the Parish Council's suggestion and it is likely that the boundary will be changed and the anomaly which has existed for a century will disappear, and the population of Wylam will increase by about ten people!

These 18 aren't "Lone" now!

The First Wylam Rangers Company was formed in April this year and now has a total of 18 members. Rangers form part of the Guide Movement and is for girls between 14—19 years of age.

Meetings are mostly informal and usually involve some sort of activity. So far these have included Archery, Canoeing, Sailing, as well as going on night hikes and barbecues.

Any girls interested in joining please contact either Hilary Broomfield, Tel. 2533 or Christa Harrison, Tel. 3271.

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

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