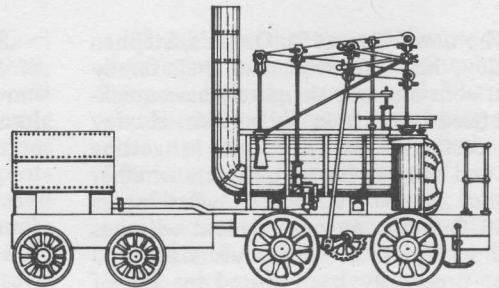


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1987

Number 42

Centenary Festival deserves your support

When you're busy trying to celebrate your 100th birthday is not the most convenient time for a church to have to change vicars—with a gap in between, but the Parochial Church Council, the Churchwardens and congregation at St. Oswin's have taken everything in their stride.

Events to celebrate the Centenary continue unabated—an enjoyable and well-supported concert was given by the Camerata Singers, assisted by local singers on 15th May, and a major Flower and Garden Festival, which promises to be one of the highlights of Centenary Year is being held on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June.

St. Oswin's will be the setting for a series of spectacular floral arrangements illustrating various aspects of village life in Wylam. Many fine and unusual flowers have been promised for these displays which should fill the church with colour and scent.

While the church will be housing the Flower Festival, a local exhibition about the church and village, including some of the Church's 'treasures' and other local memorabilia will be displayed in the Church Hall.

For those who like to dine out, on Saturday lunchtime a ploughman's lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

The Flower Festival and the exhibition will be open from 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Saturday and 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on the Sunday.

However, the highlight of the Sunday afternoon (1.30 p.m.—5 p.m.) will be a unique opportunity to visit five of the finest gardens in the village, and to call at George Stephenson's birthplace (courtesy of the National Trust and Mr. Graham Brewis, the new tenant), all for the sum of only £1. (Tickets purchased at the Church).

Those who have very kindly agreed to open their gardens for this occasion include Dr. and Mrs. Spriggs of 'River House', Mr. and Mrs. Phillips of Wylam Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy, 2 The Orchard, Mr. and Mrs. Rubery of The Coach

House and Dr. and Mrs. Dewar, Mr. and Mrs. Firth, Mr. and Mrs. Furniss and Miss Coburn, all of Wylam Hall.

Cream teas will be available in the Church Hall on Sunday afternoon between 3 p.m.—5 p.m., and light refreshments will be on sale throughout the weekend.

For the modest sum of £5, you will have your name included in a list of subscribers and sponsors printed in all copies of the book, and you will receive your own copy of the book specially signed by Colin Tyson on publication.

All members of the Church and many other local residents will want to support



We don't have a photograph of the present residents of Wylam Hall enjoying themselves in their grounds, but this fine picture shows the elegantly dressed members of the Clayton Atkinson family relaxing in their front garden back in 1873. You will have your chance to inspect the Hall gardens on Sunday 21st June.

The Flower and Garden Festival has taken a great deal of organising—and is something you must not miss, so please make sure that you support it and make it a success.

The story of St. Oswin and his associations with Wylam, and much more of the history of the Parish is told in a fascinating illustrated book 'The History of the Church and Parish of St. Oswin's, Wylam' researched and written by local historian and ex-churchwarden, Colin Tyson. His authorship is a certain guarantee of its accuracy and interest.

However, in view of the high costs of publication, the Church is looking for support from local residents willing to act as subscribers, and to support the project in advance.

this very special Centenary publication, into which Colin has put so much time and effort and which will be the first significant history of the Church and Parish of Wylam ever written.

If you are willing to support the publication by subscribing £5, please contact either:—

Ken John, Bowmont, Ovingham Road, Tel. 3355 or

Don Harrison, 22 Falcon Terrace, Tel. 3271.

(There will be an opportunity to 'sign up' as subscribers in the Church Hall on 20th and 21st June).

IMPORTANT: Everyone willing to be a subscriber **MUST** let Ken John or Don Harrison know **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 1st JULY** to ensure that their names are included in the book.

Welcome to the new faces—thanks to those “retiring”

The new Vicar at St. Oswin's, Stephen Huxley, his wife Jean, and their family (four sons and one daughter) have quickly settled into life in Wylam. Mr. Huxley has certainly lost no time in getting out and visiting his parishioners whether or not they are regular worshippers at St. Oswin's. As one resident who has lived in Wylam for many years but had never previously been visited by any of Mr. Huxley's predecessors commented, 'He's already reached parts of the village that some other vicars never knew existed!' He clearly gives high priority to his pastoral duties, but admits that attending church committees is not his favourite occupation.

Apart from the fairly obvious social and geographic differences between Wylam and their previous parish of Percy Main (between Wallsend and North Shields), one thing which has impressed the Huxleys has been the intense interest in local elections here, compared with Percy Main and other parishes where they have lived.

Stephen and Jean Huxley have made a favourable impression during the three months they have been in the village—we welcome them and hope that they have a long and happy stay in Wylam. We also congratulate them on the recent arrival of their first grand-child, although Wylam cannot claim any credit for that happy event!

Extra lights agreed

Inadequate street lighting in Tyne View and West View has worried local residents for many years, but the County Council has never been able to find money to improve it, and seems unlikely to have funds to do so in the foreseeable future. Because of this, and in response to recent requests, the Parish Council has now agreed to pay for a lamp to be provided outside No. 1 Tyne View and another behind the houses in West View. Both of these lamps will be fixed to existing electricity poles, which will keep the installation costs down. Hopefully, these extra lamps should help to shed more light on what goes on in Tyne View and West View!

Scouting for help

The 1st Wylam Scout Group, which includes Cubs (8-11 years), Scouts (11-15 years) and Venture Scouts (15-21 years) are active and expanding very rapidly.

The present leaders of the group are now urgently in need of extra help. If you have any time to spare and can help on a regular basis, please contact Frank Phillips (Tel. 3589).

No previous Scouting experience is necessary, all you need is enthusiasm, patience and a sense of humour. (There must be some people who possess those qualities!)

Since our last issue, Miss Irene Goalen of Stephenson's Cottage has retired and moved to Melrose to live near her sister. Irene was the first tenant to occupy the cottage after the National Trust decided to open it to the public in 1979. She was always a good ambassador for the Trust, and for Wylam, and willing to help and welcome visitors to the cottage. We wish her a happy retirement in Scotland.

The new tenant is Mr. Graham Brewis, who works for the National Trust at Scots Gap, and used to live in Laburnum Terrace. He is keen to try and attract more visitors to the cottage—perhaps he should start with some of the Wylam residents who have never been inside the birthplace of Wylam's most famous son! It's open between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons until October, so you've really no excuses!

Check your hedges

Now is the time of year to check whether any hedges or trees in your garden, which adjoin a road or pavement, are causing any obstruction. Several recent complaints have been made about hedges and bushes overhanging footpaths, and causing a nuisance to pedestrians. Please go out and walk along any pavement or road which runs next to your garden, and cut back anything which could cause a nuisance—or an accident, to someone using the highway.

Councillor moves

Our local County Councillor, Peter Glasspool, has recently moved to Amble by the Sea to a new job running a Sub-Post Office. He can be contacted at his new address: 48 Queen Street, Amble by the Sea, NE65 0BN. Telephone Alnwick (0665) 710330.

You're past it at 40!

Wylam and District Round Table are a small group of a dozen men from local villages who come from all walks of life and enjoy a wide range of interests. They meet together once a fortnight for a drink and a meal at the Highlander Inn, Ovington. Their aim is to enjoy themselves whilst at the same time helping those less fortunate than themselves and their local community.

If you are under 40 and interested, why not contact one of the local Tablers—David Barnes (Tel. 3596) Rob Donagain (3580), Eric Brown (3587) and Norman Stromsoy (3980) who would be happy to give you more information.

Maureen Gillis, the Parish Clerk since 1978, retired at the end of April, and at the Annual Parish Meeting, both the present Chairman, Alan Jones, and Philip Brooks, who took over as Chairman shortly after Maureen's appointment, paid tribute to her devoted work as Clerk. She has, of course, subsequently been elected as a Parish Councillor. Replacing her as Parish Clerk is Mrs. Sheila Vincent of Briardene, Wylam Wood Road, South Wylam. Sheila and her husband Allen, and sons Christopher, Michael and David have lived in Wylam for 13 years, and in future please contact her (Tel. 2457) or one of the members of the Parish Council about Parish Council problems.

Institute News

The Institute has achieved the main objective of its 1983 major redevelopment scheme with many new activities increasing the usage of the improved facilities, particularly over the last 12 months. In addition to the long established groups—Friends of Wylam, Nursery School, W.I., Horticultural Society, Photographic Society, Badminton and Drama, popular new weekly classes now include Children's Dancing, Thursday Dance Night, Flower Arranging, Indoor Bowls, Yoga, Music Class, Keep Fit, Youth Theatre and Venture Scouts, alongside a variety of charitable fund raising functions and private parties.

For some time the responsibilities of the Institute's volunteer officials have been increasing and to relieve this, to provide closer co-operation with all the groups using the Institute and maintain more effective control of the services available, organisational changes are to be introduced in early September.

This will involve the employment of two part-time administrators who will attend to all booking arrangements, membership, supervise the services, storage, security etc. They will work alongside the enlarged Management Committee on which all organisations are represented and a small executive body. The administrators will operate from an office in the Institute between 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. each weekday morning, with each person working a maximum of nine hours per week. Mrs. Georgina Peel and Mrs. Edna Beattie will continue as General Secretary and Booking Secretary respectively for the time being until the new arrangements are introduced.

Further information about the two new posts of administrators can be obtained from Mrs. Peel, 18 Stephenson Terrace (Tel. 3278) to whom applications must be submitted by 31st July.

Ambitious plans for Methodist Church

It's more than 100 years (1876) since the last major addition was made to the Methodist Chapel. At that time the present chapel was built as an extension to the original smaller chapel which had been erected in 1834. The original chapel was then converted into the present schoolroom—where many people now appreciate a cup of coffee on Saturday mornings.

Members of the Church have recognised for some time that the premises need to be improved and extended to provide better accommodation for worship and other existing activities and enable new ones to be developed to respond to the challenge of the 1990s and the 21st century. A scheme has been prepared which will involve refurbishing

the existing chapel and schoolroom buildings and constructing a new hall, together with a link building which will provide new kitchen, toilets, meeting rooms and vestry. The extended premises will enable the church to develop its work to meet the needs of the village and the surrounding area. This will be a major project—certainly the largest tackled by the Methodist Church in Wylam—since the present Chapel was built a century ago. Whether or not you ever attend services at the Chapel, your help and support in this project would be welcomed. The Rev. Malcolm Adams, 17 Stephenson Terrace (Tel. 2143) will be happy to provide further information on what is planned to anyone interested.



Getting bigger and bigger—the area of erosion in the river bank immediately below the access into the Station car park and next to the bridge. British Rail have now promised that repairs will be carried out this year . . . a stitch in time?

Great new play project for Jubilee Park

They say that great minds think alike. Well earlier this year members of Wylam and District Round Table and the Playing Fields Association came to the same conclusion (but separately)—that the old timber play equipment on the Jubilee Field had come to the end of its useful life.

Both groups felt that new and exciting equipment was needed which could be used throughout the year, with special emphasis on the needs of young children.

The result of the combined efforts of both the Playing Field Association and the Round Table is that a safe new adventure playground is being provided

which will certainly be a great asset to Wylam.

The total cost of the scheme will be almost £6000, with the Playing Field Association and the Round Table sharing most of the cost, but with the hope of getting some grant-aid from the District Council.

On behalf of the whole village, the Parish Council would like to express its gratitude to both the Round Table and to the Playing Field Association for their generous contributions in money, time and effort in fund raising and planning this project which should be a credit to the village as well as providing many hours of pleasure for young children in the years to come.

No to “No Overtaking”

Thanks to the County Surveyor for resurfacing the pavements on Stephenson Terrace, Falcon Terrace and The Crescent recently. However, resurfacing roads does not always please everybody, and following the resurfacing of Station Road (after British Gas had dug it up last year)—some people have been heard to complain that traffic goes much faster! Whether you can blame the cars for going faster (any more than you can blame dogs for fouling footpaths and open spaces) is debatable, but even before the road was resurfaced several accidents occurred on the length of road between the level crossing and the Elm Bank junction, because of drivers overtaking. The Parish Council therefore asked the County Surveyor if double white lines could be put down on this section of Station Road, to prohibit overtaking, but he has now advised that the use of double white lines is not permissible within a 30 m.p.h. speed limit area, so another means of solving the problem will have to be found.

B.R. promise repairs

Those who use the Station Car Park and have been worried that one day the entrance to the car park might collapse into the river (how would you get your car out of the car park then?) can rest in peace, since British Rail have promised the Parish Council that work will be carried out this year to repair and stabilise the length of river bank below the car park where serious erosion has been taking place for several years.

Glad to be back

It is common knowledge that many people are reluctant to move away from Wylam once they have settled here, and several of those who have to leave try and find an excuse to come back again. One who left but is glad she came back is Carole Milbank who was one of the first residents to occupy the new flats at Stephenson Court. Carole Shield (as she then was) lived at ‘Craiglands’ on Wylam Wood Road in the 1950s and after getting married (1959 at St. Oswin’s) moved down south. Last year, on a visit back to Wylam, she saw the new flats being built and decided that as there was nothing to keep her in London, now that her two sons had left home, she would like to come back to Wylam. So she sold up, obtained a job locally and is now well settled again here. Incidentally, there was a good photograph of Carole in the Tyne Valley Post a few weeks ago. Nice to have you back Carole! (P.S. Ironically, Carole’s mother, Marion, now lives at the other end of the country—in Cornwall!)

Excellent turnout to elect new Councillors

Well, the election fever which has gripped (or bored) the nation over recent months has now cooled, and we have elected our new Member of Parliament, and our District and Parish Councillors for the next four years.

Philip Brooks (20 Bluebell Close, Tel. 3520) was re-elected as one of our District Councillors, with Austin Rubery (The Coach House, Wylam Hall, Tel. 3586) newly elected as the other.

We take this opportunity to thank Charles Heslop for the work he has done for the village as a District Councillor over the past four years, and the other candidates who stood for the District Council this year—Alan Jones, Stephen Graham and Ian Young.

In the Parish Council elections there were a record 18 candidates and the eight elected were:—

Philip Brooks, 20 Bluebell Close. Tel. 3520.

Austin Rubery, The Coach House, Wylam Hall. Tel. 3586.

Maureen Gillis, 27 Dene Road. Tel. 2503.

Alan Jones, 19 Tynedale Close. Tel. 2556.

Judith Furniss, 3 Wylam Hall Flats. Tel. 2341.

Angela Craven, 2 Florist Hall Cottages. Tel. 2529.

Charles Heslop, 2 Ingham Terrace. Tel. 2259.

Lynne Petrie, 8 Stephenson Terrace. Tel. 2577.

Our thanks also to Carol Moore, Clive Morphet, Felicity Reed and Joyce Wynne for their contribution to the work of the Parish Council and to the other candidates who stood in the election, and helped to generate such interest.

Although the official turnout was about 75%, with 1258 people voting out of 1662 on the electoral register of voting age on 7th May, closer inspection of the official list of those who did not vote reveals that many of these were either people who had left the village, were on holiday or students away from home, and who hadn't arranged for a postal vote.

The actual proportion of people who were in the village on polling day and went to vote was almost 90%—an amazing figure and a great credit to the community to achieve such a high level of interest in local elections. The turnout can scarcely have been any higher for the General Election.

At the first meeting of the new Parish Council, Alan Jones and Lynne Petrie were unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year.



This Edwardian postcard is wrongly captioned since it doesn't actually depict Bradley Mill itself, however it does show (on the right) the little footbridge crossing the ford at Stanley Burn, which is now in need of major repairs.

—Fine weather booked for Summer Fair

Splendid weather and plenty to do and see was the successful recipe for last year's Summer Fair, and the Playing Field Committee are hoping that a repeat mixture will be equally popular this year when the Fair is being held on Saturday 27th June.

The Fair will commence at 1.30 p.m. with the traditional children's fancy dress parade—this year's theme is 'Children's T.V. Programmes' which gives plenty of scope for a wide range of costumes.

The Ovington Silver Band has been booked to provide the musical entertainment for the afternoon, and one of the highlights (apart from the band) will be the race for the Swindale Trophy which has become a regular feature of the Fair.

A wide range of stalls, selling almost anything or testing your skill (or luck) will help you to part with your money.

Those of you who pride yourselves on managing your finances effectively will want to buy your admission pro-

grammes in advance at the special discount price of 40p (it will cost you 50p at the gate). Children are half price.

If you are involved with a local organisation or business and would like a stall please contact David Lamb, 10 Dene Road (Tel. 2688) for details.

After a great day at the Fair why not continue your enjoyment at the popular Barbeque and Dance in the evening, held in the Institute. Tickets only £3.

Don't forget the Playing Field Association spends a lot of time and effort, voluntarily, in planning the Fair, and in maintaining the Playing Field throughout the year. Please support their effort by coming to the Fair and Barbeque on the 27th—and most importantly, enjoy yourselves.

Incidentally anyone willing to help with the sale of programmes and tickets, or distributing leaflets, is asked to contact David Lamb as soon as possible.

It's falling down

The little timber footbridge which spans the County boundary at Stanley Burn near the junction between Station Road and Wylam Wood Road showed signs of its age recently and is having to be removed after parts of the decking collapsed. We hope that a simple replacement can be provided shortly.

The date when the bridge was first built is uncertain—but we do know that it was constructed to enable residents to cross the ford which then existed where the Stanley Burn flowed across the Wylam—Crawcrook road. The ford was a popular spot with local photographers—as the accompanying picture shows. It was one of the last fords on a busy road in the County to be bridged, and Dr. Tom Brown of 12 The Dene, who was a County Alderman and District Councillor in the 1960s and early 1970s was largely responsible for getting Station Road realigned and the bridge built across the Stanley Burn in 1972. The new road by-passed the ford but the little footbridge has been kept as part of the network of local footpaths.

Thanks Richard

Our thanks to Richard Petrie who is repairing and re-erecting the Parish Noticeboard on Station Road.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. S. Vincent, The Clerk to the Parish Council, Briardene, Wylam Wood Road. (Tel. 2457). Printed for Wylam Parish Council by The Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA