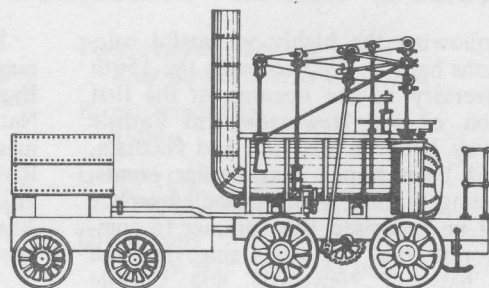


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



June 1988

Number 44

Guides and Brownies may have to disband

Unless offers of help are forthcoming very soon, two important young people's groups – the Guides and the Brownies, may be forced to disband.

In our last issue, we included an appeal by Lucy Monroe, leader of the Wylam Guide Unit, for assistance from September. After six years, she and Julia Koerner would like a break. By making the appeal last year, they hoped that by this time two or three people would have come forward, offering help in running the Unit, and being able to take over in September. Unfortunately no one has offered to do so yet.

Regrettably, this means that unless leaders can be found quickly the Guide Unit will have to close at the end of July. The Guide Unit provides very valuable training and experience for girls – and is the essential link between the younger Brownies and the older Rangers.

Whilst some village organisations can lie dormant for a few years without causing any problems, the lack of a local Guide Unit would be a great loss to the village, and could also affect interest in the Rangers.

Similar problems also exist with the 1st Brownie pack, where Alison Malcolm the present leader, is finding that other commitments will prevent her from continuing. Whilst the 2nd Brownie pack, run by Karen Webster, is thriving, there are more than enough children wanting to become Brownies to justify two packs.

Alison is desperately looking for someone willing to take responsibility for running her pack, but unless help is forthcoming that too may have to disband, restricting the number of young girls able to become Brownies in Wylam.

Lucy and Alison are very disappointed that no one has yet offered assistance. Both are full of praise for the co-operation and support they get from the parents of Guides and Brownies, but it is now necessary for two or three adults to consider whether they could take on some additional responsibility in running one of these two groups.

Wylam has prided itself over many years for the variety and quality of its community life and village societies, and it would be a blow to our pride if these two groups for young people were to fold through lack of adult support when there is such interest among the children themselves.

There may be someone who has moved into the village recently, or some-

one who had previously not considered helping, but would now be willing and able to do so!

If you think you could help with either the Guides or the Brownies, please contact Lucy Monroe (23 Dene Road, Tel. 852657) or Alison Malcolm (12 Dene Road, Tel. 853328) as soon as possible.



We hope that similar pictures can be taken next year – of Brownies and of Guides helping in the Village Litter Campaign and in other events – but they won't be able to unless adults are willing to take over the running of these groups. Can you help?

Council planning to tackle dog-problem

Following numerous complaints over many years, the Parish Council is planning to try and use new legislation to ban dogs from several areas of the village where they are a pest, and potential health hazard – especially from children's play areas.

In a number of other areas dogs may only be allowed if kept on a lead. There will, however, still be plenty of space

where dogs can be exercised without restriction, but all dog owners are asked to try and train their animals not to foul those areas where people walk. Rough grass at the side of the walkway may be acceptable, but not on footpaths or mown areas of grass open spaces.

More information about new bye-laws concerning dogs should be available later in the year.

Sorry no celebrations

Following the highly successful celebrations held in 1985 to mark the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the first section of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway between Blaydon and Hexham, it had been hoped that similar events, including running a steam hauled service could be organised this summer to commemorate the 150 years since the full line between Newcastle and Carlisle was opened on 18th June 1838.

British Rail ran the steam service and co-operated fully in many of the other events arranged in 1985, but, sadly, as a result of changes in policy, attitude and personalities, particularly at BR Headquarters, BR have been unwilling to run a steam service to mark the special anniversary this summer themselves, and the hire charges and conditions they intended to impose if a private group were wanting to run a special service, were considered exorbitant.

In view of this, ideas of having a steam service have had to be abandoned, and no other celebrations are planned.

However, a few copies of the attractive philatelic cover and the fine souvenir map commissioned by the Parish Council in 1985 are still available – and can be purchased from Sheila Vincent, the Parish Clerk, or at the Library in the Falcon Centre.

Extra help for the Institute welcomed

Faced with increased costs over the past year, the Institute Committee has approached the Parish Council requesting a regular grant towards the expenses of running the Institute.

Very few village halls or institutes throughout the country are self-financing and most have to seek help from their local councils.

The County Council occasionally gives small grants towards the running costs, the District Council allows reductions in the rates, and a number of Parish Councils in Tynedale already support their local village hall or Community Centre with grants.

In view of the importance of the Institute as the main Community Centre in the village, the Parish Council agreed to make a grant in 1987/88 and 1988/89 and to review the position each year in future.

The more organisations who use the Institute and the more residents who support the Institute Association, the less need there will be for the Association to seek grants from the local authorities.

The task of trying to keep the Institute solvent is not made any easier when items of furniture and equipment go missing (believed stolen) – like the china reported in our last issue. The Institute Committee has now replaced this – and has (at the time of writing) – 100 new cups, saucers and plates. They are available for hire in the village, as well as in the Institute itself, so when you have

Country Park events

By popular demand an increasing number of the Discovery Walks and Events organised by the Northumberland National Park and Countryside Department are now starting from the Tyne Riverside Country Park Centre at Low Prudhoe, where wardens Les Hewitt and Andrew Miller are doing a good job in encouraging interest in the park.

Among the events which will start from the Park Centre during June, the following should be of interest to some Wylam residents:–

Sunday 12th and Thursday 16th June

Sunday 17th and Thursday 21st July

'Moths and Butterflies'. A short informal course. (Booking necessary).

Saturday 18th June

'Beginners Canoeing – Family Event'. An introduction to canoeing for anyone over nine years of age and able to swim. Basic one-day course. (Booking necessary).

Sunday 26th June

'Orienteering' around the Country Park. Start at 10 a.m. Two hours. Open to all.

For more information about these or any other events based in the Country Park – contact the Park Office. Tel. 34135.

your next large party, or grand coffee morning, why not think about hiring your china from the Institute? Contact the Institute Office (Tel. 852498) any weekday morning for more information.

Another service now available from the Institute is that you can purchase tickets for all future Drama Society productions.

Everyone who has passed the Institute garden recently will have noticed the improvement in the appearance of the borders. Most of this work has been done by Mr. and Mrs. Fittes of 10 Woodvale Gardens, who have kindly spent several hours of their retirement leisure in helping to tidy up the garden. Having made such a good start, it would be nice to maintain the improvement, and the Fittes would welcome assistance with the task, anyone willing to help, or who can offer any colourful perennial plants which could be used in the Institute garden, is asked to contact Mr. Fittes direct.

Both the Institute Committee and the Parish Council are most grateful to the Fittes for their help.

Incidentally, the Parish Council is, of course, always pleased to have offers of assistance from any residents willing to help keep the village clean and tidy, and make it more attractive. It would certainly be a great help if householders removed weeds and litter from the footpaths outside their own property, and cut hedges and bushes back.

Bewick Centre opening

The achievements of another of Tynedale's famous figures from the past, Thomas Bewick, the wood engraver, should become better known later this summer with the opening to the public of his birthplace, Cherryburn, in Mickley.

Restoration of the property and grounds is now almost complete, and it will be officially opened on 28th June by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, a frequent visitor to the North East. She will also be opening the Tyne Riverside Country Park Centre at Newburn on the following day.

So if you want somewhere to take visitors in future you can now add Cherryburn to the list of places to visit. Full details of opening times, etc. will be publicised in the press.

Action on Speeding

Following the fatal accident on Holeyn Hall Road last year the Parish Council asked both the Chief Constable and the County Surveyor to consider what action could be taken to reduce the speed of motorists entering the village from Holeyn Hall and make them aware of the dangers of this stretch of road.

Occasional speed traps have been introduced by the police (although not as frequently as the Parish Council feels is necessary) and the County Surveyor is now proposing to erect 'road bends' signs, in an attempt to persuade motorists to drive more carefully.

Complaints have also been received of lorries with unsafe loads and items falling off as they go through the village. If you witness this happening take the registration number of the vehicle and report immediately to the Police. Prompt action is essential.

Top Class tennis

The Tennis Club is another village organisation which has done very well in raising money to carry out improvements to their premises. All three courts on Elm Bank Road have now been re-laid with an all-weather surface.

The Club has a thriving membership and runs coaching sessions for junior and senior members when required.

An Open Day is being held on Sunday, 10th July, when anyone interested in playing tennis and joining the Club is welcome to call and meet Club members and see the facilities available.

Other Tennis Club dates for your Diary:–

Saturday, 11th June – Barbecue and Disco.

Sunday, 26th June – Ploughman's Lunch and tennis afternoon.

For any further information, contact Margaret Mitcham (Tel. 852128).

Information Changes

The latest (pink) edition of the Village Information Card was published in February and copies distributed to every house in the village.

If you have moved here since February and haven't been left a copy of the Card, please contact Sheila Vincent, Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel. 852547).

Incidentally, two changes to the card are already necessary — the Citizens' Advice Bureau at Prudhoe has moved from the Library to the Prudhoe Community Workshop in Holyoake Street, next to the Police Station. C.A.B. Sessions are held there from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Local Liberal Party contacts are now Geoff and Vanessa Hammond, Wingrove, Wylam Wood Road. Tel. 853435.

Books wanted for Fair

Please look out those old books and magazines which are cluttering up your cupboards and bookshelves, and which you no longer want. A mammoth second-hand bookstall is planned at the Village Field Day on 25th June, and will be run by the Methodist Church Youth Group (successor to the Boys' Brigade, who have run the stall in previous years).

Books for the sale can be left in advance in the Methodist Chapel school-room any Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. — or if you would like them collected from your home, please contact Brian Japes (Tel. 852151) or Philip Brooks (Tel. 853520), who will arrange collection.

Profits from the bookstall will be shared between the Chapel building project and the Playing Field Association.

Bank staying open

Because rumours were circulating a few months ago that Barclays were proposing to close their branch in the village, the Parish Council wrote to the Branch Manager at Prudhoe, Mr. B. E. A. Morgan, who has replied that 'I welcome the opportunity of being able to emphasise that the Bank has no plans at all to close our sub branch at Wylam'.

For that special meal

Not yet in the Egon Ronay guide but developing a fine reputation for its quality cuisine, the Laburnum House Restaurant has lost no time in establishing itself since it first opened in December.

We wish Kenn Elliott and Rowan Mahon who are running the restaurant every success. If you've not been there yet for a meal why not treat yourself for that special occasion?

Stephenson's Cottage

Building work being carried out to instal a traditional range, and to cure a recurrent dampness problem has delayed the opening of Stephenson's Cottage this year.

A new custodian will take over later in the summer, but due to these staffing changes and the building work, the National Trust has decided not to re-open the Birthplace until the new tenant arrives. However, any groups wishing to visit can do so by prior arrangement with the National Trust Office (Tel. 0670 74691).



An unusual view—with reflections—taken from the carriage window of a train crossing the bridge at Hagg Bank in 1952. (Photo by the late J.W. Armstrong).

Changing faces

Several changes in the control of Wylam businesses have taken place in recent months, and another generation of the Stobo family has taken over the running of Wylam's specialist greengrocery.

Sandy and Mollie Stobo who took over the business in 1956, decided to take early retirement and have handed over to Roddy and Marion. We're sure they will continue the fine tradition of good quality, friendly service which the shop has always achieved. Everyone will join us in thanking Sandy and Mollie, and wish them a long and happy retirement.

21st Birthday Party

Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless, is 21 this year. The Wylam Shelter Group is holding a birthday celebration in the Institute Garden (inside if wet) on Saturday July 2nd, 10.30—12.30. Come along and enjoy tea, strawberry jam, scones and cream with games for the children — all are welcome.

New Tourist leaflet

With the support of several local shops and businesses, the Parish Council has recently published a leaflet designed to help visitors. It tells why Wylam has a special claim to fame with its important links with railway history and describes some of the features of interest which visitors should see in the village.

The leaflet is intended for visitors rather than existing residents, and will be available at Information Centres and other centres elsewhere in Tynedale and on Tyneside.

Well picked pickers

This year's Litter Clearance Campaign on 16th April was again well supported by many village societies and organisations and by a number of individual residents.

Since the event several people have said they didn't know when it was due to take place — otherwise they would have helped. To make sure everyone in the village knows of the date of next year's litter campaign, we promise to give you all ample advance notice!

Our thanks to everyone who helped this year — including the Country Park staff whose assistance was again much appreciated.

LATE NEWS—IN BRIEF

Lynne Petrie has been elected the new Chairman of the Parish Council, succeeding Alan Jones. Judith Furniss is the new Vice-Chairman.

£569 was raised at the Cancer Campaign barbeque on 22 May. Grateful thanks to all who supported the event. Next Barn Dance on 1 October. Tickets from Linda Mason (853666).

Think before you throw them away—Charities could benefit

How often have you thought when you put things in the dustbin, 'It seems a waste to throw this away'?

Well, to try and help you find a good home for some of the things you might otherwise throw away the Parish Council has prepared a list of charities and people who would welcome some of the things you put in your dustin!

Mail Order Catalogues

Playgroup, Falcon Centre (Mon., Tue., and Fri. mornings).
Nursery School, Institute (Tue., Wed. and Thurs. mornings).

Newspapers, Computer Paper, Telephone Directories

Action Aid, c/o Dr. Warn, 'Dalry', Elm Bank Road. (Tel. 853135).

Illustrated coloured magazines

Patients at Prudhoe Hospital, c/o Brenda Robinson, 'Haverbrack', Elm Bank Road. (Tel. 852493).

Clean Foil

Guide Dogs for the Blind, c/o Barclays Bank, Wylam (Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.)

Used Stamps

Leprosy Relief, c/o Anne Featonby, (Tel. 853552).

Ring pulls from drink cans

Kidney Dialysis Unit, c/o The Wine Lodge, Dene Estate.

Medicine and tablet bottles, ointment jars

Hadrian Chemist, Main Road.
Hilary Ross (Vet.), car park on Tue. a.m., Thurs. p.m. and Sun. a.m.

Plastic carrier bags, egg boxes

Billy Bowes, Maries or Stobos.

Brown paper bags

Stobos.

General paper bags

Maries (Dene Estate).

Drinks cans

Special skip in the car park at Blaydon Shopping Centre.

Bottles and jars

Bottle Bank in the car park, Front Street, Prudhoe (next to West Wylam Garage).

The Parish Council is hoping to be able to provide a small bottle bank in the village — in the car park next to the War Memorial. This will make it easier than ever to dispose of your empty bottles to a 'good cause'.

Why not also make sure that you save the other items which we have listed and take them to the individuals or groups mentioned, who will be very pleased to have them?

Anyone knowing of someone wanting 'used Christmas cards' — or has other ideas on 'things to save' — please contact Lynne Petrie (Tel. 852577).

All change at the P.O.

Since our last issue it has been 'all change' at the Post Office, with Len and Flora Gillies retiring after many years of helpful service to the village — we thank them belatedly for the work they have done, and wish them every happiness in their well-deserved retirement.

Their successors, Fred and Rosa Voase, are no strangers to Northumberland, having both been born and bred in Berwick. We welcome them to Wylam.

Fred served as an engineer in the Royal Navy for 28 years — ending his career on nuclear submarines in Plymouth for the past 12 years. Rosa is a nurse — having trained at the Ingham Infirmary, South Shields. They have two children, Susan, completing a Business Studies degree at the Thames Polytechnic, and Kenneth, who is at Hendon Police College with the Metropolitan Police.

After having lived in different parts of the UK, they were both keen to return to the North East, and are very pleased with their choice of Wylam, a village they never knew before.

Fred is an enthusiastic golfer, and can't believe the number of courses within easy reach of Wylam.

Although new to their career with the Post Office, they are gaining in confidence and are grateful for the patience local residents have shown. They are delighted with their move to Wylam and hope to be here for many years to come.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Voases apologise for the mess created by the alterations they are having made to the Post Office which should be completed by the time you receive this!



Not really a very interesting postcard of Wylam — but one you could have bought in the 1920's. The Ovingham Road is slightly wider now, and the cars go faster — and there is still a seat in this position, if anyone dares to use it!

Keep field "Fair" for humans—NO DOGS

David Lamb and Kevin Webster, the Chairman and the Secretary of the Playing Field Association, write:—

'The Playing Field Association needs your support again this year for the Summer Fair being held on 25th June. The usual, and popular, attractions will include a fancy dress parade on the theme of Nursery Rhymes, a three-mile race, and the evening Disco and Barbeque in the Institute. Unfortunately, one of the four sets of barbeque equipment has 'gone missing' — if anyone knows of its whereabouts, please tell a member of the P.F.A. Committee — it will be needed for 25th June.

If you have a business or are associated with a local organisation which would like to have a stall or take part in the Summer Fair, please contact Kevin Webster at 121 Dene Road (Tel. 853619).

The new play equipment on the field has been very popular but its use is being spoilt by a small number of dog owners who allow their dogs to foul, not only the areas of grass on the field, but also the play equipment itself.

In the interests of health and hygiene, the Playing Fields Association has been left with no alternative but to ban all dogs from the Jubilee Field. Notices to this effect are being erected, and all dog owners are asked to co-operate.

It is unfortunate that this action is having to be taken, but unless the problem with dogs is solved many parents will be unwilling to allow their children to use the play equipment. There are, of course, other areas around the village where dogs can be exercised.

A plea also to golfers — please replace your divots!

—but donkeys welcome!

Jack is dead — long live Guinness and Monty. Having mourned the death of Jack last year we're delighted that the Hendricks family has brought two more donkeys, Guinness and Monty, a father and son, to live in their paddock on Ovingham Road — continuing a Wylam tradition.

Great support for Chapel project in Wesley Anniversary year

Our illustration shows the Methodist Chapel as it is now — but, hopefully, within a month or two work will have commenced on the scheme to demolish the clutter of small buildings to the west of the Chapel itself, and replace them with a new hall and a link-building providing a new vestry, kitchen, toilets, meeting room and store.

In last summer's issue, we included an article describing the ambitious plans which members of the Methodist Church had to extend and improve the facilities at the Chapel.

Few people (including members of the Church itself) anticipated that their fund-raising efforts would have been so successful so quickly. Some £137,000 has already been raised or promised, but another £16,000 or so is still needed.

One of the first landmarks to disappear when work starts will be the famous (or infamous) timber hut. Built in the early 1930s for use by the Boys' Brigade, thriving then under the leadership of the late Dr. Swindale. During the war it was used by the YMCA as a canteen for soldiers billeted in the village

and staffed by ladies of the Chapel. After the war the hut was used for clinic sessions until 1976 when the clinic was transferred to the Falcon Centre. Built as a temporary home for the B.B. it has lasted over 50 years!

To help raise the last £16,000 or so for the new building project, several fund-raising events are planned. The first will be a second-hand bookstall at the village Summer Fair/Field Day on the playing field on Saturday, 25th June.

Your help in giving any books and magazines would be welcome. (See separate item on loose sheet for details).

Incidentally it is particularly appropriate that work on this major extension to the Chapel should start this year—the 250th anniversary of the conversion of John and Charles Wesley—the Founders of Methodism.

Although John Wesley does not mention Wylam in his diaries, he came to Horsley at least nine times during his visits to the North East, and it is likely that many residents of Wylam would have heard him preach at Horsley.



The Methodist Chapel as it is today. If everything goes to plan, the assorted out-buildings to the west of the Chapel should be demolished and work started on the new buildings later in the summer.

Chinese firm offer steam locos to Museum

As the Honorary Curator of the little Railway Museum in the Falcon Centre, Philip Brooks receives various letters from unusual places — often asking about Wylam's railway history, or from people claiming to be descendants of George Stephenson, William Hedley or other local worthies.

One of the most surprising arrived last month from Beijing (Peking) — only taking three days to get here from China!

'To the President of Wylam Railway Museum,
Dear Sir,

I am writing to enquire if your museum collects kinds of locomotives and puts them on display.

Our Company, the China Railway Foreign Service Corporation, can manage to provide you with steam locomotives made in China.

If you need any, please write us the type, a new one or an old one, and offer relevant price.

Thank you for a favourable reply at your earliest convenience'.

The Company deserves congratulations on their initiative and marketing — no U.K. organisation has yet tried to sell the Parish Council a locomotive!

Unfortunately the cost of purchase, and especially the cost of transport from Beijing to Wylam is likely to be prohibitive!

What we should really like to have for the museum would be a full-size replica of one of the two original Wylam locomotives, 'Puffing Billy' or 'Wylam Dilly'. Both engines are preserved, one in London and the other in Edinburgh, so accurate drawings shouldn't be a problem — but we need to find someone who would be willing to finance the construction of a replica. Any offers or ideas — or is the hope just a dream?

"Down Wylam Way"

Those of you who listen to the BBC Radio 4 'Down Your Way' series at 5.02 p.m. on Sunday afternoons may like to know that they are broadcasting a series of three programmes based on the River Tyne on 12th, 19th and 26th June. Cliff Morgan (of Welsh rugby fame) is the interviewer, and the programme on 19th or 26th June includes a short visit to Wylam.

Boundary Changes?

Several years ago, the Local Government Boundary Commission reviewed the boundaries of the Districts and Parishes of Northumberland, and the Parish Council was able to convince the Commission of the desirability of including all four of the terrace of houses at Streethouses (east of Stephenson's Cottage) within the Parish of Wylam.

The Commission is now looking at the boundaries between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear — including that between Wylam and the Gateshead Metropolitan Authority in the vicinity of Bradley Mill Farm.

At present the boundary follows an old course of the Stanley Burn, with the former Bradley Mill farmhouse, part of Morag Vallally's Riding School, and the neighbouring houses to the south as well as the Castle Hill Convalescent Home (soon to be closed) being within Gateshead.

The Parish Council considers that parts of this area have closer links with Wylam, and that some limited alterations in this length of the county boundary would be sensible. An approach is being made to the residents of the houses involved to ascertain their views before the Parish Council decides whether to make a definite proposal to the Boundary Commission.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. S. Vincent, The Clerk to the Parish Council, Briardene, Wylam Wood Road (Tel. 852457). Printed for Wylam Parish Council by The Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA