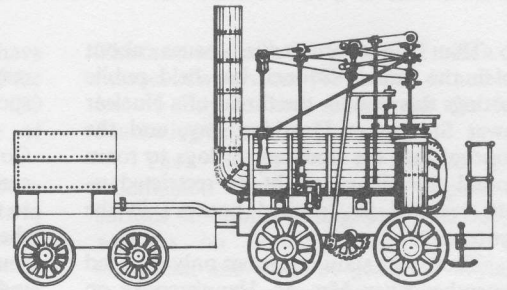


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1988

Number 45

## Something for everyone—including you

The programme of events for this year's Community Week programme from 4th — 12th November is as varied and interesting as ever. Something for everyone — something for you continues to be the Institute Committee's motto in organising the programme.

All residents, whether you've just moved here or have lived in Wylam all your life — if you're 8 or 80 — should find something of interest, and it's a great opportunity to get out to meet people.

Some events are in the day — for those who prefer to stay in during the evening — but for those at work in the day there's a great selection of evening entertainment.

First event (on 31st October) is a Halloween Spook Garden, at the Hendricks, Sycamores, Ovingham Road (start about 6.30 pm.) — very popular last year and organised by the Junior Badminton Club.

You've a few days rest then until the Disco on Friday, 4th November, organised by the Playing Fields Association. Three separate sessions for 5-9 year olds, 9-13 year olds and 13+.

Saturday afternoon sees the return of the Jumble Sale (can there still be jumble left in Wylam?) — a great chance for bargains — and what isn't sold will go to the bonfire on the playing field that evening. This year's fireworks have again been bought by the Parish Council on your behalf and for your enjoyment.

Contributions of wood and help to build the bonfire would be welcome on Saturday morning.

The Community Week service will be held in St. Oswin's at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday evening. Monday evening will offer an opportunity to buy "Seconds" of fashions produced for famous-name stores. Organised by the Dramatic Society.

The ever-popular Tuesday fare will be the Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning, and a programme by Alan Sleightholme and the Photographic Society "Water of Tyne" at 7.45 p.m. (or if you prefer it, a Sponsored Workout 7.30 — 9.00 p.m.)!

Two nice new innovations for Wednesday are a Pram Service — for mothers,

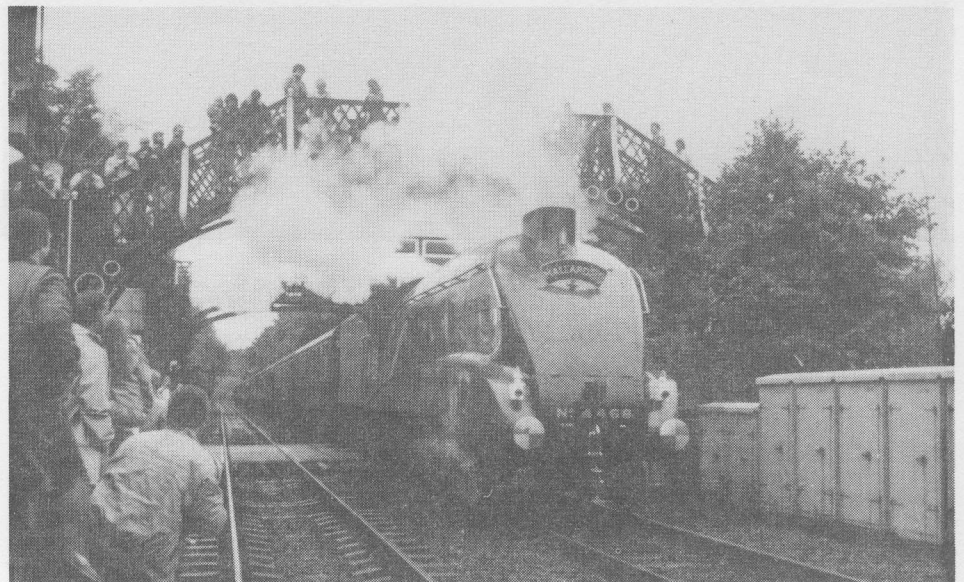
children under 5 (and their prams) — at 10.30 a.m. in St. Oswin's, followed by light refreshments.

In the evening Holy Mass will be conducted by Canon Kearney of Crawcrook in the Parish Church Hall at 7.00 p.m.

On Thursday evening, you have the chance to hear some very good singing at a concert given by the Consett Citizens' Choir, and organised by the W.I.

Your support of these events will be welcomed by the Institute Committee, who are trying to raise money to improve the Institute. Better lighting and decorating of the upstairs hall, more storage space, lowering the ground floor room ceilings and pointing the outside of the building are all jobs that need to be done.

We hope you will all enjoy some of the Community Week activities, and the money raised will enable more work to be done.



*Famous Gresley locomotive 'Mallard' came through Wylam in July on two of the special trips to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of its world speed record-breaking run in 1938.*

Kitchen Fair International (7.45 p.m. on Friday) provides a demonstration of kitchen goods and cookery which can be sampled with coffee.

Coffee will also be on the menu of the Horticultural Society's Coffee, Produce and Bring and Buy morning on Saturday — always a well-supported event.

Carpet Bowls is not yet an Olympic sport, but certainly a popular one, and clubs from all over Northumberland will be taking part in the Carpet Bowls Club Tournament on Saturday afternoon.

### *Time on the move again*

Until recently there was only one clock in the village with a "public" face — the Parish Church Clock. Now another clock has come to life again after many years' silence. Not on a public building, but one which can be seen from a public road.

Do you know where it is?  
(Answer at the bottom of the page 2).

# The Problem of Untrained Dogs—Parish Council to Act

The two controversial issues about which the Parish Council has held public meetings this year — the threat of a Nuclear Power Station at Druridge Bay, and the proposal that the freedom of dogs to roam around the village might be restricted — both resulted in “packed houses” in the Institute.

There was standing-room only on 22nd September when Mrs. M. Hennis spoke on behalf of the charity “PRO-Dog”.

Not surprisingly, there were a few people who argued that dogs could do no right — and others that they did no wrong — but the majority agreed that the bulk of the problem locally results from a very few owners who will not — or cannot — train or effectively control their dogs, allowing them to foul play areas, parks and footpaths.

Fortunately most local dog owners are responsible people, but the few who are not, spoil the village for other residents.

Early in the New Year the Parish Council will start a publicity and education campaign to encourage all local dog-owners to train and control their dogs, pointing out the health risks and nuisance caused by dogs fouling footpaths and children’s play areas indiscriminately. A special leaflet will be produced giving information on dog training and control and advice on where (and where not) to exercise dogs in and around Wylam. The leaflet will be distributed throughout the village, and posters will also be displayed.

At about the same time as this education and publicity campaign is being run in Wylam, Tynedale District Council will be introducing new by-laws to control

dogs in the Sele and Abbey grounds in the centre of Hexham. This will be a pilot scheme and its success will be monitored.

The Parish Council hope that its proposed publicity and education campaign will result in sufficient improvement in the village to avoid the necessity for further by-laws — but if not consideration will have to be given to introducing such controls.

If you have a dog, please make sure that it is properly trained — and does not cause a nuisance to other residents.

Similarly those with horses, should not allow them to foul footpaths and play areas.

## Power Supply Improved

We hope that the problems with their electricity supply which residents in Acomb Drive and Holeyn Hall Road have had cause to complain about for many years will be a thing of the past now that the Electricity Board have reinforced the local supply. After several years of discussion action has been taken, and a new line constructed just north of Acomb Drive. The new line is well positioned and unobtrusive and should solve the difficulties in that part of the village.

## Calling 4 year olds

If you have a child who will be five years old between 1st September, 1989 and 31st August, 1990, and would like the child to attend Wylam First School, it would be appreciated if you could contact the school by letter or telephone (852771) as soon as possible with details of the child.

## Playing Field Ideas

“Dogs” will be just one of the subjects to be discussed at the Playing Field Committee’s AGM on Wednesday, 16th November at 8.00 p.m. in the Institute. If you have views on how the playing field is used — or ideas on how it could be improved — please try and attend this meeting.

## Remembrance Day

This year, Remembrance Day is on Sunday, 13th November and will be marked by a service in St. Oswin’s at 10.00 a.m. followed by one at 10.50 a.m. at the War Memorial, where poppy wreaths will be laid in memory of the fallen. Everyone is welcome to join the services.

## Friends Sale Success

Plenty of bargains were on offer at the Friends of Wylam Jumble Sale on 24th September and a clear profit of £700 was raised at the sale together with generous donations.

Thanks to everyone who gave or bought items — or helped in any way to make the sale a great success.



*Following several complaints the old concrete pipes have been removed from the Hedley Road playground — in the interests of safety.*

## Splendid Gardeners

Congratulations and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fittes of 10, Woodvale Gardens, who have done such a splendid job looking after the Institute Garden this summer. It really has looked beautiful — better than for very many years — and an asset to the centre of the village. It shows what can be done by hard work and tender loving care!

Can we persuade anyone else to look after other public amenity areas, e.g. Charlie’s Corner or the War Memorial green?

## That Clock Face

The Murdoch’s, who have converted the old stable block at Holeyn Hall into an attractive house, have restored the clock which was a feature of the building many years ago. It can be seen from Holeyn Hall Road.

## Charity Card Sale

This year’s Annual Christmas Card and Gift Sale will be held in the Institute on Saturday, 19th November. National and local charities will be displaying selections of cards and potential Christmas gifts, so please don’t buy all your cards and gifts before then.

## Well Done Venturers

Enthusiastically led by Peter Taylor, four local Venture Scouts, Ian Broomfield, Adam Peel, Jacob Stowe and Richard Taylor very kindly carried out repairs recently to a section of the riverside path to Stephenson’s Cottage.

The Parish Council is most grateful to the Venture Scouts for their willingness to do this task for the village.

# Can you help to solve the Holeyn Hall—John Dobson mystery?

Several of you may have visited the fascinating exhibition in the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle last year to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of the famous Tyneside architect, John Dobson, who designed many of the buildings in the city and in the County which we now admire.

Few of you probably realised that Dobson was involved in designing substantial additions to a prominent building on the outskirts of Wylam — Holeyn Hall — and therein lies a mystery which has not yet been solved.

Although one or two architectural historians have described "Holeyn Hall as being a Georgian house with later additions by Dobson", there is no evidence that Holeyn Hall is Georgian and, in fact, it dates from 1850/51 and was a new house started on a new site at that time. All the old maps of

Wylam show the site where the hall now stands as being undeveloped until the first Ordnance Map of 1859, which shows the present Hall.

The 1851 Census returns for the village detail "House in building" at Holeyn Hall. The man who was having the house built was wealthy Newcastle lead merchant, Edward James, who lived with his family at Wylam Hall, which he rented from the Blacketts until his new house at Holeyn Hall was completed, probably in 1852.

During the 18th Century the land which today forms part of the small Holeyn Hall estate was owned by the Simpson family of Bradley Hall, and later passed, by marriage, to the Liddell family, Earls of Ravensworth. Shortly after 1845, it was acquired by Edward James, and he began building his new house circa. 1851.

Although no plans survive of the work done by Dobson, the obituary following his death in 1865 refers to the house being "rebuilt, with entire new front for Edward James, Esq." in 1858.

Given (from the Census) that work on building the house was in progress in March 1851, one would have assumed that it would be completed and occupied by 1858.

It is clear that Dobson was not the architect when the house was started in 1851, but he was employed by James for the major work done in 1858.

The mystery is why was the house on which building started circa. 1851, being rebuilt, with a new front, in 1858 — only 7 years later?

There are several possibilities, including:

- (a) There were serious problems with construction which delayed completion, and that before that was achieved, Edward James decided he wanted to improve the design and recruited Dobson.
- (b) The house of 1851 was completed, say in 1852, but that a fire occurred shortly afterwards, perhaps 1856/57, necessitating rebuilding.
- (c) The house of 1851 was completed to its original design, but James was not happy with it and brought in Dobson in 1858 to do extensions and alterations.

There is no firm evidence for any of these, but they are all possible.

Andrew Greg and Tom Faulkner who produced the Dobson Exhibition and the accompanying book have no answers or solutions to the mystery, neither have the present owners of Holeyn Hall, the Williams' and the Broughs'.

A search through local newspapers, etc. during the 1850s might provide a clue to enable the mystery to be solved — alternatively, our older Wylam residents, or a local architectural historian may have an answer.

Any ideas would be welcome — there's a prize for anyone who can produce the answer to this local mystery!



*This photograph clearly shows the south front of Holeyn Hall by John Dobson in 1858 — but why was this major addition made to the hall which had only been built 5 or 6 years earlier?*

## Don't lose your Vote

Every household in the village should have received an Electoral Registration Form during the past month or so. Most of you will already have completed and returned it to the Electoral Registration Officer, Hexham House, Hexham. If you have not yet sent your completed form in, do so within the next few days. If you have mislaid it, ask for another (Tel: 0434 602813).

Remember that if you fail to complete your form you could find yourself without a vote next year when two important elections will be held. The election of County Councillors will take place in May, and that for Euro-M.P.s in June.

## Conservative Changes

Chairman of Wylam Conservatives is now Stephen Graham, 91 Dene Road (852607) with Gelda Churton, The Old Vicarage (853852) as Secretary.

## High School Parents

On Monday, 28th November, there will be a meeting of parents whose children attend Prudhoe High School. It will be held in the school assembly hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting will consist of two parts:

1. A presentation by teachers, based on the new GCSE examination. First year results will be analysed, procedures explained and questions answered.
2. The Annual Parents' Meeting, at which the new Governing Body will be introduced, and an assessment given of the effects of the 1988 Education Act on the school. Again, questions will be welcome.

All parents of High School pupils are encouraged to attend this meeting — to learn more about the much publicised GCSE examination — and the likely impact of the new Education Act.

## Barn Conversion Best

After a long battle with the Gateshead Council planners, Morag Vallally was finally given planning permission earlier this year to convert the stone barn at Bradley Mill Farm into a cottage for her own occupation. The barn is in Gateshead Metropolitan Borough area, although most of the fields on Station Road associated with her riding school are within Tynedale and Wylam.

A sensitive conversion of the stone barn, preserving the attractive features of the old building, was a much better solution to her problem than building a new house, and the Parish Council welcomes the sensible outcome that has now been achieved — preserving the barn and enabling Morag to live "on site" with her livestock.

# Graham's successfully taking dairy business into the future

We're always happy to report on the success of local residents — particularly where it is of benefit to the village as well — and no one who reads the local press — particularly the farming and business sections — could fail to have seen the praise which Robert and Judith Graham have been given for developing their farm and dairy business at Wylam Hills.

An excellent article in the September issue of *The Journal's* Northern Business magazine describes the story of Robert's success.

Grahams' (Robert's grandparents) have been at Wylam Hills farm since 1910, and the herd of British Friesians, now some 150 strong, has been a welcome feature of Wylam life during those years.

Legislation that introduced producer-processors in 1981 gave Robert the chance to compete with the large dairy companies as suppliers of a range of milk and milk products. Seizing the opportunity, Robert invested heavily in modern equipment necessary for packaging milk and has committed himself wholly to direct marketing.

The farm now sells 850 gallons of milk a day, instead of a previous 180 gallons — and even has to buy in raw milk from the Milk Marketing Board.

The "Happy" — or should it be "Contented" cow logo now appears on cartons in shops throughout Tyneside, as well as on doorsteps in Wylam and elsewhere, and must be good for Wylam's image. The dairy provides welcome local employment — and ensures that fields around the village will continue to be grazed by those contented Friesians — such an integral part of the "Wylam scene".

Congratulations to Robert and Judith and Andrew and all the staff at the Farm on their success — we hope it continues.

(Note: The article in the *Journal* gives much more detailed information for anyone interested).



*Prompt repairs in progress to the damaged bridge on Blue Bell Lane.*

## Prompt Bridge Repairs

The County Surveyor (and the County Council) get criticised occasionally these days for not repairing or improving roads as quickly as motorists would like, but he was complimented recently by the Parish Council for prompt action in arranging for the damaged bridge over the culvert on Blue Bell Lane to be repaired.

The stone wall parapet on one side had been dislodged by a vehicle and was in a dangerous condition; this was noticed by a resident, reported to a local councillor, who got the Parish Council to contact the County Surveyor.

Rebuilding of the damaged parapet and the construction of a new wall on the opposite side of the road, with general repairs, were completed within a few weeks and the bridge is now in better condition than it has been for very many years.

## Our own bottle bank — and a home for old cards

Our plea in the last issue for people to save "waste" items to help local charities has been a success, with many of the people we listed last time reporting an increase in the number of residents saving newspaper, foil, ring pulls, bottles and jars, etc.

Incidentally, the telephone number of Dr. Warnar of Dalry, Elm Bank Road, who collects newspaper, computer paper and telephone directories on behalf of Action Aid, is 853139 (NOT 853135).

Many people dislike throwing Christmas and greetings cards away — and Marjorie Britten of 4, Burgoyne Terrace will be pleased to receive these and pass them on to the Northumberland branch of the Ladies Annuity Society. So when you're taking your cards down after Christmas (only about 8 weeks away), please don't throw them out, but put them in a bag and take them to Mrs. Britten at 4, Burgoyne Terrace (Tel: 852381).

Rotary are keen to collect your old spectacles which can be re-used by Third World countries. If you have any glasses which you no longer use, please take them to 8, Stephenson Terrace or the Selegate Surgery, Hencotes, Hexham.

Thanks to a very generous grant from Shell Better Britain Campaign towards the

cost, the Parish Council has been able to buy a small bottle-bank container, which will be placed near the entrance to the Car Park next to the War Memorial.

Please make use of it and put all your old bottles and jars (whether clear or coloured glass) in this new bottle bank.

Having one in the village will be much more convenient for everyone.

## Not to be Missed?

"When we are Married", J.B. Priestley's farcical comedy, is the next production of the Amateur Dramatic Society on 17th, 18th and 19th November.

Set in Edwardian Yorkshire, this hilarious play is said to offer unexpected enlightenment into inter-marital relationships.

Tickets (£1.50 or £1 for youngsters and OAPs) are available from Vera Walton, Rose Cottage, Ovingham Road (Tel: 852325).

Even if you don't regularly go to Drama Society productions, can you afford to miss this one?

## School Retirements

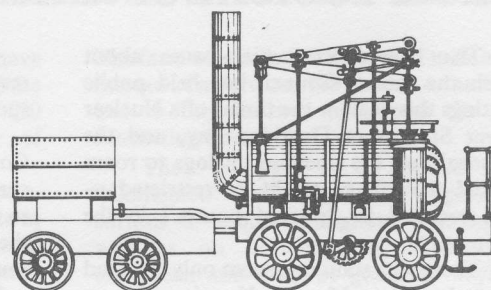
At a time when so many new changes are being made to the education system, schools can ill-afford to lose experienced staff, but Prudhoe High School has just lost two, with the recent retirements of Ann Beresford, long-serving member of staff and deputy head, and headteacher Neil Davis, who has guided the school for the past 14 years, from it being a good Modern School to an even better High School, which now has a very good reputation within Northumberland and further afield.

Their work at the school has been of great benefit to communities like Wylam, within the school's catchment area, and we wish them both a long and happy retirement.

As some of you will know, Ann Beresford's successor as a Deputy Head at the school, Mrs. Jennifer Slater, has wisely chosen to live in Wylam, and she and her husband and family have moved into The Orchard. We welcome them, and all other new residents who have moved into the village recently.

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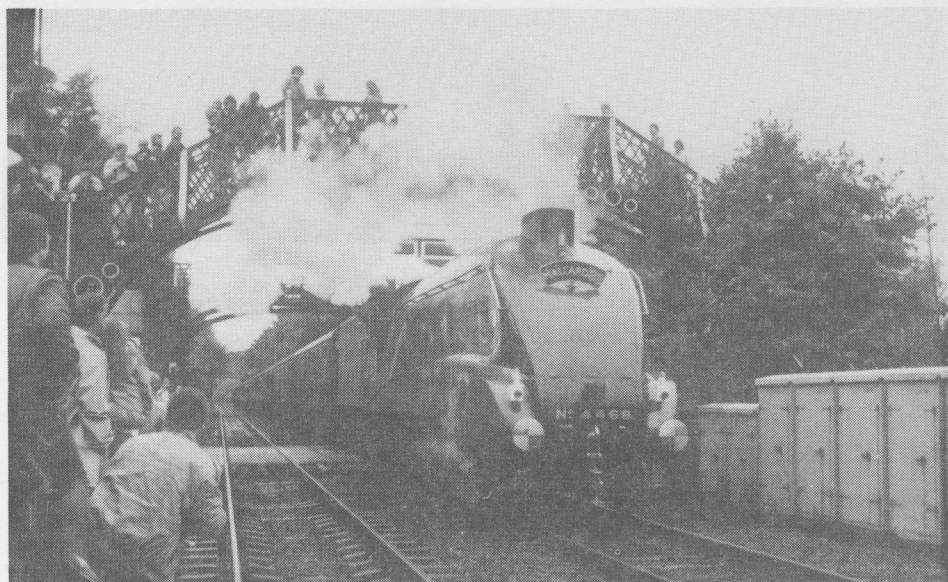
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