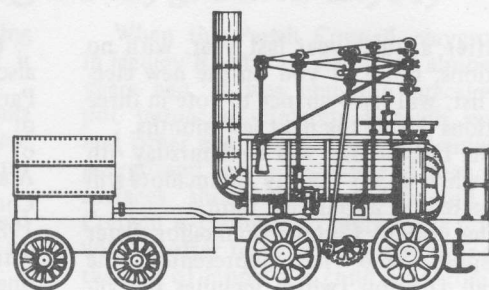


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



May 1989

Number 46

## Largest-ever local Chapel project starts

After several years of planning and fundraising, work began in March on what is probably the largest project ever undertaken by the Methodists in Wylam.

In the 18th century, during the lifetime of John Wesley there is no record of there having been a purpose-built chapel in the village and many early groups of Wesleyans met in private houses.

By 1810 an "official" Wesleyan society was worshipping in Wylam, but the first chapel-building, about which anything is known is the northerly part of the present chapel. This was built in 1834, and contained ten 6-person pews - i.e. a capacity of 60. Stone for that building came from a quarry at Heddon.

In the 1870's this building was becoming inadequate and in 1875-76 the existing chapel was constructed; incorporating the 1834 chapel as a Sunday School room.

A cottage for the chapel caretaker was put-up in 1889. In the early 1930's a group of outbuildings was added, but apart from this no additions to the chapel premises have been made since Victorian times.

The project now under construction will add a new hall, small meeting room, vestry, kitchen, store and toilets, and involve refurbishing the existing chapel and schoolroom to make the whole premises more attractive, and better suited to the needs of the 1990's and the 21st century.

Comparison of the costs is frightening - in 1876 the bill for building and equipping the new chapel, and converting the old chapel to a schoolroom came to a grand total of £883 4s. 6d. and that the cost of adding the caretakers cottage exactly 100 years ago was less than £90!

Today the total costs of the new project are likely to be more than £210,000.

Whilst most of the money has been raised several thousands are still needed.

Fund raising events will therefore continue in the coming months to try and ensure that there is no debt outstanding when the work is completed next Spring.

A regular cake-stall will be held on the second Saturday in each month (13 May, 10 June, 8 July) in the chapel school-room between 10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. offers of produce to sell - and people willing to buy, would be welcome.

The second-hand bookstall will also be held on the Playing Field, as part of the Summer Fair, arranged for June 24th. Please keep your surplus books for that event. If you would like them to be collected now, please contact Brian Japes (Tel.: 852151) or callers will come round in mid-June. Profits will be used towards peoples equipment for the new chapel-hall.



*Work in progress to demolish the former caretaker's cottage, the vestry and outbuildings adjoining the Methodist Chapel. Construction of the new building is now underway.*

## Parish Council launches "Good Dog Campaign"

Delivered with this newsletter every house in Wylam will also receive a leaflet produced by the Parish Council explaining its "Good Dog Campaign".

A public meeting was held in the village in the Autumn and recent T.V. programmes and press articles have highlighted the potential health hazards which dog faeces create, particularly for children.

The advice and guidelines given in the attached leaflet are sound common-sense, which many dog owners already follow - like NOT allowing your dog onto children's play areas and avoiding it fouling

open areas where the grass is regularly cut.

The guidelines and advice are set down on the leaflet - if you have your own dog - or exercise someone else's dog, please make sure that you observe these.

The Parish Council believe that if this advice is followed it may not be necessary to introduce more bye-laws to control dogs, however if dog-owners fail to follow the guidelines, and the problem of dog-fouling continues, then there may be no alternative but to restrict those areas where dogs can be exercised.

Please help to make this scheme work.

# Parish bye-elections to be held with County election on 4 May

After a quiet year last year, with no elections, those of you on the new electors list, will have chance to vote in three elections during the next few months.

The busiest day will be Thursday 4th May when all 66 County Councillors will be elected for a four-year term.

The present County Councillor, Peter Glasspool who has represented the Bywell Division (which includes the villages of Bywell, Horsley, Ovingham and Ovington, as well as Wylam) now lives in Amble, and is not standing for re-election. We thank him for his work on behalf of the village.

The three candidates contesting the County Council Election in the Bywell division are;

Paul Kelly of Laburnum House, Ovington. (Labour).

Peter Richard Pescod of Ovington Cottage, Ovington. (Conservative).

Austin Rubery of The Coach House, Wylam Hall. (Social and Liberal Democrat).

## Courses of interest?

The W.E.A. (Workers Educational Association) which has organised various courses in the village for many years, is currently carrying out some customer research to establish what subjects would be of special interest to local residents when new courses are being planned for the Autumn.

A leaflet produced by the W.E.A. is being delivered with this newsletter inviting you to complete a short questionnaire indicating whether you would be interested in attending new W.E.A. courses in subjects such as music, science, religion - or what particular subjects would interest you.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it to Grace Gilroy, the W.E.A. Secretary, at 1 Burgoyne Terrace, or to the Library or the Institute Office.

By returning the questionnaire you will help the W.E.A. to ensure that the courses they organise in the Autumn, are what the people of Wylam want, and will support.

## Tourist information

Although the variety of tourist attractions in Wylam is insufficient to justify a Tourist Information Centre, the number of local tourists is increasing, many of whom come to see Stephenson's birthplace, to call at the Railway Museum in the Falcon Centre, or walk through the riverside Country Park.

To help visitors as well as residents a new noticeboard is being provided in the foyer to the library, on which information on places of interest to visit in and around Wylam and this part of Northumberland can be displayed.

On the same day a bye-election will also be held to fill two vacancies on the Parish Council caused by the resignations of Alan Jones and Charles Heslop, both of whom have moved out of the village. Alan was first elected in 1977, and was Chairman of the Parish Council from 1985-88. He has had wide interests in various activities around the village, and one of his practical achievements was the improvement of the paths crossing Engine Dene. Charles served on the District Council from 1983 - 87, when he was elected to the Parish Council. During his period in Wylam, Charles too, represented local interests. We thank them both for their periods of public service, and wish them well.



*End of an era - Senior Chapel Stewards Brian Fulthorpe and Ann Featonby, with Rev. Malcolm Adams outside the Methodist Chapel vestry, the day before demolition began. The 1834 datestone from the earlier Chapel is misleading since the vestry itself was not built until 1876.*

## Church Hall improved

The Parochial Church Council has carried out regular improvements to St. Oswin's over recent years, ensuring that the church is maintained in fine condition. This year efforts have been concentrated on modernising and improving the church hall, providing better toilet and kitchen facilities, and making the premises more attractive. This work has been completed, except for the construction of the store for the Scouts and Guides.

It is pleasing to see several local residents keen to join the Parish Council, and the following four candidates are contesting the election.

Since not all the candidates will be known to all the voters, we have asked each candidate to provide a few details about themselves. These are set out below;

**EDNA BEATTIE**, 24 Woodvale Gardens.

"Born in Crawcrook and came to live in Wylam in 1959. For 13 years worked in the village Post Office. Has been involved with the work of Wylam Institute for many years - is now a Committee member. Has great interest in Church work and a member of St. Oswin's Parochial Church Council."

**ROBERT CHURTON**, The Old Vicarage, Church Road.

"Family man with wife and 2 teenage boys. In touch with life! Runs business in the village. Believes in preservation of village life. Takes part in many village activities/clubs. Governor of two local schools including Wylam First School. Will seek views to see well-being of village is given top priority."

**ROBERT DAVISON**, 1 Parsons Road.

"I am a retired postman and have lived in the village for 32 years, and taken an interest in all aspects of village life. Founder of Football Club and a founder member of the Playing Fields. If elected I feel I could serve to improve village life."

**DIANA MCFETRICH**, 7 Stephenson Terrace.

"Mother of 2. Has lived in Wylam for 9 years and has taken an active part in village life, including being Secretary and Chairman of Children's Book Group and of First School P.T.A.; Chairman of Wylam Riverside Neighbourhood Watch; Secretary of W.I. and member of Tyndale Crime Prevention Panel."

Don't forget you can vote for 2 of the candidates listed above..

Turnout in the U.K. for elections to the European Parliament, has always tended to be low - but perhaps this year interest will be greater, with the increased publicity being given to the E.E.C., and the growing impact of E.E.C. policies on Britain.

In any event the European Assembly elections are to be held on Thursday, 15 June, when we elect our Euro M.P. for the massive Northumbria Constituency.

Wylam has always had an excellent record of achieving one of the highest turnouts at elections in the Country - let's try and maintain that record by turning out to vote on May 4 and June 15.

## Success of bottle bank – and waste saving

Success can often create its own problems - and the village's new bottle bank is a classic example.

Installed in the Country Park car park shortly before Christmas the bottle bank has been so heavily used that it has had to be emptied every two weeks.

Predicting the level of local support for this and other "waste-saving" campaigns was always going to be difficult but when deciding on the size of container to order the Parish Council clearly didn't bargain for the enthusiasm with which local residents would use it.

The Parish Council is now exploring the possibility of obtaining a larger bottle

-bank - or of ensuring that the existing one can be regularly emptied before it overflows.

In Globe 44, last May, we gave details of various "waste" items which are collected by local charities and groups, and put to good use.

This list has now been updated and produced as a separate leaflet, a copy of which is enclosed.

Please keep the leaflet (pin it to your kitchen notice-board, or put it with your Village Information Card) and save your old newspapers, silver foil, old spectacles etc. etc. and take them to the local collector named on the leaflet.



*Felled elms and other timber awaiting collection on the edge of the wood on Bluebell Lane. Once all the timber has been removed re-planting is due to take place.*

## Scouting for help

Wylam has been very well served in the Scouting movement for many years - and numerous children (and adults!) have enjoyed being part of the village community.

Success has bred success, and meant that more voluntary help is now needed to support the organisation and maintain momentum. Successes have included the cubs football team, the swimming gala and the third place won in the County competition for the Thirlwell Shield.

Assistance would be welcome at all levels, from people willing to make just a little time available, to those able to devote more time to serving on the Executive Committee or assisting in the Cub and Scout meetings and activities.

The response for helpers has already been good, but if you would like to volunteer your help and support please contact Frank Phillips (Tel.: 853589) Maurice MacNicholas (852308) or Kevan Carrick (852218).

Incidentally the major project to provide a new storage area at the Church Hall is mentioned elsewhere. Your financial help for that would be much appreciated!

## Popular Park events

A series of events being held at the Low Prudhoe Centre, Tyne Riverside Country Park in the next few weeks, may be of interest to local residents.

- May 7th – Great Bike Daye – Bike challenge, cycle trail.
- May 13th – An introduction to canoeing for the over 18's.
- May 19/20 – Rock climbing for beginners.
- May 29th – Prudhoe Town Fair.
- June 3rd – Fun Run in aid of "Tynedale Crossroads".

Leaflets available in the Library or contact the Country Park Centre (Tel: 34135) for detailed information on times, bookings etc.

## No golf balls please

Whilst careful use of golf 'practice' balls on the Engine Dene open space may not cause problems, driving with hard golf balls in this area is dangerous and should be avoided. Please do not practice with hard golf balls on Engine Dene.

## Playground safety

When the Parish Council playground in Hedley Road was established almost 20 years ago, it was common practice to put tarmac or concrete beneath swings and other equipment. Now guidelines on playground safety recommend that hard surfaces should be avoided and the Council is planning to replace the tarmac with a softer form of surfacing to reduce the risk of injury if a child falls from the play equipment.

## Tree surgery planned

Wylam Angling Club have asked, and been given permission to cut back several areas of scrub, and remove some of the split and damaged branches of willows on the sections of riverbank owned by the Parish Council. The club have promised that this work will be done carefully, and it should help to maintain the willows in sound and healthy condition.

## Extra road signs

At the request of the Parish Council the County Surveyor has arranged to have SLOW signs painted on the main road outside Ingham Row, and on the bridge, to warn motorists to reduce speed when approaching the bend by the War Memorial.

## Calling new residents

If you have recently moved into the village we hope the previous occupants of your house left you a copy of the invaluable Village Information Card (the latest edition is pink). If you haven't got one please contact Clerk to the Parish Council Sheila Vincent (Tel.: 852457) – she'll be pleased to let you have one.

## Friends of Wylam–

The aim of the Friends of Wylam, set up over 25 years ago, is to provide social activities and entertainment for our senior citizens. There is a regular coffee morning each alternate Tuesday, Bingo and slide shows in the winter and a variety of outings in the summer. In December there is a christmas lunch. All this is largely funded by our Jumble Sale in September.

The Friends of Wylam Committee is now looking for two or three more residents interested in joining the Committee and who would be willing to help in the organisation and running of events.

Anyone interested, in helping should contact Judith Furniss, the Secretary at 3 Wylam Hall (Tel.: 852341)

## Scouts and Guides raising funds to build new store

The difficulties of finding sufficient suitable space in which to store everything we want to keep, is a problem many of us have to face.

Faced with just this difficulty the Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs decided that the only solution was to join forces to provide one store for their equipment, which they could all share, instead of many unsatisfactory, separate facilities as at present.

With the co-operation of the Parochial Church Council they are planning to build a permanent store as an extension to the Church Hall. The total cost is likely to be almost £7,000 and fund-raising has been in progress for several months. The Jumble Sale in February made a magnificent £700 and grants have been promised by the Parish Council, the District Council and the Hedley Trust. More fund raising activities will be held

during the summer.

Please do whatever you can to support this project. Offers of help, donations etc. please to Ken John, Bowmont, Ovingham Road, (Tel.: 853355) or to any of the Scout, Guide, Cub or Brownie leaders.

## W.I. 70th Anniversary

Congratulations to the members of the W.I. who recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Wylam group, back in 1919.

Many of you will have seen the excellent photograph of Mrs. Betsy Hibbert and Mrs. Doris Brider which appeared in both the "Hexham Courant" and the "Tyne Valley Times" last month.

Although like any organisation the W.I. has had its "ups and downs" over the years, the local group and its members continue to thrive, and to make a positive contribution to community life in the village. Long may it flourish.

## Don't abuse play areas

Several years ago the Parish Council issued suggested guidelines for the use of the grassed open spaces within the Dene Estate.

For the benefit of new residents it might be helpful to restate these.

Whilst children of First School age might play informal games on the open space on the area in front of the 3-storey town houses, children of Middle School age (9/10 years) and older should not use these areas, but play on the Engine Dene, or Jackson Road open spaces.

This arrangement minimises the risk of damage to the gardens of adjoining houses, and avoids problems of nuisance to neighbours.

Please follow this advice, (or make sure your children do) — which will help to achieve good neighbourliness between families.

## Thanks litter pickers

Very many thanks to all the organisations and individuals who kindly took part in the Annual Litter clearance on Saturday 1 April. It's not always a pleasant task, but your support is much appreciated by the Parish Council, and by the majority of local residents who like to see the village looking tidy.

Our thanks too, to the Country Park staff who co-operate and help each year with this event.

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



When the surface-water outfall on Stephenson Terrace was replaced earlier this year, the riverbank was also strengthened with boulders to reduce future erosion. Trees have now been planted on the banktop.

## New housing and school events a century ago

The gradual process of developing or redeveloping parts of the village, started in the 1880's as many of the cottages formerly occupied by miners and ironworkers, were no longer required and fell into decay.

In 1887/88, the old properties lying between the mill and the river were cleared and John Phillips, Innkeeper of the Bird Inn, leased the land from Col. E. U. Blackett, and built the houses in Tyne View.

Burgoyne Terrace was also built in 1888, replacing back to back cottages which formerly stood on the site. Similarly Rock House, Tyne House and Wormald House were built during this period.

Market Gardener, Matthew Maughan leased the site of "Priorsdale" in Woodcroft Road in May 1888, and the same month, Newcastle timber merchant, Musgrave Ridley took a 21 year lease on Wylam Cottage from E. U. Blackett. The following year, a prominent family moved into the village when Tyneside lead merchant, Norman Cookson leased Oakwood House and cottages from Col. Blackett.

The School log book, often an interesting source of local information has little of special interest to say about 1889.

The main events recorded by headmaster Ralph Brady were as follows:

*February 9* The scholars gave their annual entertainment to a very large audience on Saturday last. The programme consisted of "Dick Whittington" by the scholars and "Turn Him Out" by members of the choir.

*April 24* Half holiday today because of Miss Bull's marriage (Miss Bull was the sister of Mrs. Emily Clayton of Wylam Hall).

*May 1* This afternoon the scholars of the Day and Sunday Schools were entertained to tea by Mrs. Bull, as a fitting means of commemorating Miss Bull's marriage - 230 were present! (always a good attendance when free food was offered!)

*May 29* Only one scholar out of 22 who attend school from the Hagg was present today, owing to the boat having been prevented from crossing. (A rowing boat ferry operated from what is now the small car park at Howdene, and the Hagg Farm on the south side of the river. It was much quicker to get to school from the Hagg Cottages, which stood above Hagg Farm, using the ferry, and walking to the school (now the Wylam Assembly) than to go via South Wylam, and Wylam Toll Bridge.