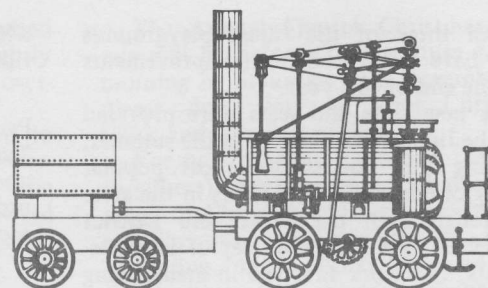


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1989

Number 47

It's a great week's programme—So enjoy yourself

One of the best things about Wylam, which most people discover when they come here, is its great sense of community, with a good 'mix' of residents, almost all of whom are friendly, and willing to take an active part in, or support local events.

Community Week is a practical demonstration of this, when many societies and groups arrange activities for the enjoyment of others (as well as themselves) — and at the same time help to raise money to look after the Institute — one of the main centres for village events.

This will be the 29th Annual Community Week — but still the Institute Committee and the Societies involved manage to devise an interesting programme — with a mixture of some of the popular and well-tryed events, but also introducing new activities which should have wide appeal, with something for most age-groups and interests.

The first day (Saturday 4th) starts with a Craft Fair (always worth a visit, particularly if you're trying to find an interesting gift). This remains open until 4 p.m., with Ploughmans Lunches (12 - 2) and afternoon teas (3 - 4) available for those who like to dine out (you'll not find better value anywhere?)

Highlight of the evening will be the Village Bonfire and Firework display on the Jubilee Field — starting at 6.30 p.m. (please note the earlier time). The bonfire is being organised by the Playing Field Association who would welcome contributions of wood etc.) and help in building the bonfire on the Saturday morning (please contact David Lamb on 852688). It is hoped to have refreshments on sale at the bonfire, but assistance in providing and serving them would be much appreciated. Please contact Georgina Peel (Tel.: 853278) if you can help.

The Community Week Service this year will be held in the Methodist Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening — everyone is welcome to come — coffee and biscuits served afterwards.

On Monday evening a Cookery Demonstration by British Gas will start at 7.30 p.m. — always popular, so don't miss it.

Tuesday (7th) has its successful traditional mix with the Friends of Wylam Coffee morning — and one of the enjoyable evening slide shows by the indefatigable Alan Sleightholme, on behalf of the Photographic Society. This year's subject will be "The Four Seasons".

Institute. Contact Yvonne Athey, 74 Dene Road for details.

Something different again on Friday evening when the Dramatic Society are presenting "Costumes through the Ages" — in which they will display costumes, and tell something of their history. It sounds like another enjoyable evening.



Church Road, outside the Institute is rarely as quiet as this — certainly not during Community Week. This photograph, taken about 40 years ago shows on the right, the paddock where Blackett Cottages were built. The old ash tree on the left is still there.

Sounding like one of the "not to be missed" events this year is the "Northumbrian Evening" planned by the W.I. on Wednesday night. Starting at 7.30 p.m. you are promised a full evening's entertainment and supper for just £2. Hurry to get your tickets now before they're all sold.

Gateshead Garden Festival is getting widespread publicity and on Thursday evening you will be able to see a slide show, showing what is involved in the planning and design of the Festival. Alternatively you might prefer to join a sponsored Keep Fit at 8 p.m. in the

The final Saturday (11th) includes the popular Coffee morning, with bring and buy, cake and produce stalls, followed in the afternoon by a Carpet Bowls Inter-Club tournament, organised by the Carpet Bowls Club.

The splendid selection of activities planned during the week should provide something of interest to everyone — please support as many events as you can, you'll enjoy them, and the Institute will benefit enabling further improvements to be made to the building and the facilities available.

All village playgrounds being improved

All three of the village playgrounds will have benefitted from improvements by the end of this year.

A new slide and seats were provided on the Jubilee Field earlier in the summer, making this one of the most popular playgrounds and sports fields in the area. Although both the Parish and District Councils help with the cost of improvements, the work involved in maintaining the field, its pavilion and equipment is carried out by members of the Community Playing Field Association – for

whose voluntary work the rest of the village is most grateful.

On the Hedley Road playground, the Parish Council, with grant aid from Tynedale, has replaced the hard-surface under the swings with bark, which will provide a safer, cushioned surface, if an accident occurs.

Some of the timber items of play equipment on the toddlers play area at Hagg Bank, provided by the Parish Council are also being replaced shortly.



The new slide erected on the Jubilee Field earlier this summer, in a rare quiet moment. Several improvements to this playground and those at Hedley Road and Hagg Bank have, or will shortly be carried out.

Society welcomes new talent and support

Before you fill-up every evening in early December, reserve Friday 8th or Saturday 9th December for the Dramatic Society's Christmas production - "The Heartless Princess". Described as a "fantastic fantasy which will appeal to both adults and children" - it promises to be well-worth seeing. In addition to the evening performances at 7.30 p.m. there will be a Saturday Matinee at 2.30 p.m.

Tickets at £1.80 (adults) and £1.20 (children and O.A.P's) will be obtainable from Vera Walton, Rose Cottages, Ovingham Road (Tel.: 852325).

Incidentally the Dramatic Society is always pleased to welcome new members.

You don't have to be one of those extrovert characters who is only interested in "treading the boards". Help is always needed for those equally important jobs behind the scenes - making costumes, building sets, lighting, prompting and many other tasks essential to ensure that things go smoothly and successfully.

Meetings are held at 8 p.m. in the Institute every Monday evening and you are welcome to drop in at any of these sessions, or alternatively please contact Sue Nicholson at 1 Stephenson Terrace (Tel.: 853315), who is the Society Secretary.

Use the Village Diary to avoid clashes

Several years ago the Clerk to the Parish Council used to keep a Village Diary, and all local organisations booking or planning events were asked to notify the Clerk, so that clashes where different groups were arranging events at the same time were avoided. Unfortunately this arrangement lapsed, but Lorraine Parker, Secretary to the Institute, has kindly offered to keep a Village Diary in the Institute office, in which events organised locally could be registered, whether or not they were to be held in the Institute.

By checking with the Village Diary, before making definite arrangements for their own events, local societies and organisations can avoid clashes with other peoples' events.

So all secretaries of local groups are asked to let Lorraine have details of events they have already planned and to check with her (and the Village Diary) before fixing new ones.

She can be contacted at the Institute office (Tel.: 852498) between 9.30 - 12.30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

A team to be proud of

Even those residents with little interest in football will have been pleased to see the frequent reports in the Hexham Courant recording the achievements of the village football team so far this season.

The success of a local team engenders pride whether it is the First-Division of the Football League, or in the Newcastle and District Welfare League, and Wylam is pleased and proud of its football team – we offer congratulations to everyone involved, and hope the success continues.

Items in brief

The interior of St. Oswin's Church Hall has been transformed by the recent scheme of redecoration and refurbishment, which has greatly improved the facilities and made the building much more attractive. Congratulations to all concerned.

If your organisation is interested in raising money by collecting aluminium cans (particularly drinks cans) please contact Lynne Petrie (852577) as she has an information pack about it. Flattening the cans will save storage space. Each can is worth approximately 1p and there is a market for them on Tyneside.

Belated thanks to Ossie Milner who retired at the end of July, having served ten years as caretaker of the Falcon Centre. We wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement.

Many thanks to Mrs. Warren for kindly donating several old photographs of the village for our local collection. Offers of items of local interest are always appreciated and will be preserved for future generations. If you have anything, please contact Sheila Vincent (852457) or any member of the Parish Council.

The last issue of the 'Globe' was distributed shortly before the County Council elections in May – and as most of you know our new County Councillor is Solicitor, Peter Pescod, who lives at Ovington Cottage, Ovington (Tel.: 32358).

Mrs. Britten of 4 Burgoyne Terrace will again be pleased to receive your old Christmas and greeting cards after Christmas – but only in January or February. Please don't deliver them to her at other times of the year!

The Friends of Wylam Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 6th. All Wylam residents over 60 are invited. Please ensure that Judith Furniss (852341) or Joyce Howe (852436) know if you want to come.

Bigger and better bank for your bottles

Hopefully the embarrassment caused to the Parish Council by the success of the village's first bottle-bank is now a thing of the past, with the recent arrival of the "new, larger model" which should take longer to fill!

When the first bottle-bank was ordered at the end of last year no one had anticipated the quantity of bottles which people are now bringing, but in recent months it has been filled to capacity once every ten days, and proving expensive, since the costs of emptying it were greater than the value of the glass.

In future a close watch will be kept to

ensure that the new container is emptied just before it is full - avoiding unsightly piles of bottles surrounding an overflowing bottle-bank!

On a positive note - in addition to receiving an award in the Shell Better-Britain Recycling Award Scheme, the Parish Council has also received an award from the national women's magazine "Prima".

Chairman, Lynne Petrie recently received the Prima Green Star award, on behalf of the Parish Council, in recognition of the council's "contribution towards a safer and cleaner environment".



Hopefully a scene of the past, with bottles stacked around an overflowing bottle-bank. The Parish Council hopes that the new larger container will solve these problems.

A "Tyne Valley" guidebook to enjoy

It's always encouraging when someone produces a new local guidebook which is attractively designed, written in an informative and interesting style, and illustrated with a different selection of photographs from those which usually appear in local guidebooks.

Such a guidebook, bearing the title "Exploring the Tyne Valley by Train" was launched by British Rail a few weeks ago.

It is full of fascinating snippets of history about the Tyne Valley, suggesting places to see and things to do. Former "Punch" writer Rosemary Burton, who researched and wrote the guide has achieved a very readable style and is certainly to be congratulated - not only for the text, but also for the photographs, all of which she took herself.

She is very complimentary about Wylam (which is always appreciated!) and the guide is certainly well worth having, whether or not you travel by rail.

Modestly priced at only £1.50, copies are obtainable now from the Library in the Falcon Centre, and would make a nice little Christmas gift for a friend.

Congratulations to B.R. for initiating this delightful guidebook, which is a worthy addition to local publications; we hope it will encourage more people to use the train to explore the attractions of the Tyne Valley.

Wylam's own "B + B"

Although Wylam has always attracted tourists, especially for its Stephenson and railway associations, there has not been anywhere in the village where visitors could stay. Things have changed now, with the Laburnum House Restaurant (Tel. 852185) offering "Bed and Breakfast" accommodation in their premises on the Main Street.

So if you have friends or relatives visiting in future whom you cannot accommodate in your own home - you now have opportunity to book them into a "B & B" in the village if you wish.

Christmas Card Sale

The Annual Charity Christmas Card sale will be held in the Institute on the morning of Saturday 18th November, so please don't buy all your Christmas Cards and gifts before then.

For new residents (and as a reminder to others) the intention is that a wide range of Charities and local groups who sell Christmas Cards and gifts as a means of raising funds, display their wares in the Institute that morning, giving local residents an ideal opportunity to do their shopping for Christmas Cards and small gifts.

Institute improvements

Substantial improvements are being carried out to the Institute this year, with new storage cupboards and new lower and better sound-proofed ceilings in the ground floor rooms. Upstairs in the Munro Hall major expenditure is being incurred on new curtaining and multi-purpose lighting, before redecoration takes place in the spring.

With grant assistance from the County Council being cut to only 25% of last years level, and hire charges contributing less than two-thirds of running costs, which are still under £200 per week, the Institute will depend on village support during Community Week, more than ever.

Help for local groups

The grant-aid scheme funded by Tyne-dale Leisure and Tourism Committee has proved to be a most successful means of helping voluntary organisations throughout the district. Many Wylam organisations have benefitted over the years and this year, the Playing Field Association, Scouts and Guides, the Institute Committee, the Methodist Church as well as the Parish Council have all received grants towards local projects they have undertaken.

Voluntary organisations wanting a grant next year must submit an application by no later than 12th January, 1990.

Any local group needing more information or advice should contact Mr. Leslie Carr at Tynedale District Council (Tel.: 0434 4011). Councillor Philip Brooks is currently Chairman of the Leisure and Tourism Committee, and is happy to assist any local organisation needing help. (Tel. 853520).

Secretaries or Treasurers of groups wanting to submit grant applications, please make certain that you do so before the closing dates - demand for the money available increases each year, and there is not likely to be much left for any latecomers.

Guides and Scouts close to their Building Fund target

With their fund now exceeding £6740, including receipts from a 100 Club Scheme, the Guides and Scouts Building Appeal Fund Committee are near to reaching their target to pay for the building and fitting out of their new store extension to the Church Hall. Generous grant assistance of £1500 was

provided by Tynedale District Council, with £500 from the Parish Council and equally generous contributions of over £2700 from Charitable Trusts. Many kind donations have increased the amount which has been raised by the hardworking committee to more than £2000.

The response from the village has been greatly appreciated demonstrating the strength of feeling and support for the leaders of the organisations — whose combined membership exceeds 120.

At times additional assistance and help is required by all groups. So if you feel you would like to help, please contact Frank Phillips (853589) or Brenda Rutherford (852010).

Incidentally an "official" opening of the new store will take place after Christmas.



A mile of coins? Not quite, but the Cubs raised a useful sum towards the cost of their equipment store in this fund-raising event in September. It was just coincidence that it ended outside the Black Bull!

Speeding drivers — pressure for action

Do you pay lip service to the desirability of "other people" not speeding through Wylam? Many of us do, yet it is clear that a high proportion of drivers coming down Holeyn Hall Road exceed the speed limit — it's so easy to do without realising it, but this has been the cause of an increasing number of accidents in recent years, many of them involving young drivers, and several being tragically fatal.

In view of the growing concern about the accident record on this busy approach road into the village, a meeting has recently been held involving local residents,

our County Councillor and representatives of the Parish Council, with staff of the County Surveyor's department. Arrangements have been made to monitor the speed and volume of traffic, and when the survey results have been analysed, the County Surveyor will advise on what action might be taken to help persuade motorists to drive more carefully.

Additional signs warning of the dangers of speeding, and making the existing 30 m.p.h. signs more prominent are two ideas already suggested by local residents and the Parish Council.

Strong support for Nursery Campaign

Wylam wants a state-nursery, or so it seems following a packed public meeting organised by the Wylam Campaign for a State Nursery, earlier this month.

Admirably chaired by experienced T.V. personality Sheila Matheson, speakers included a pre-school nursery teacher from Newcastle who spoke very enthusiastically about the many advantages of nursery education and the Chairman of the County Education Committee who explained the County Council policy on nursery school provision.

Whilst there was no argument about the value of pre-school nurseries — the

criteria for getting one seems to be dependant on how one defines "areas of greatest need".

Many of those parents present argued that as the local catchment area extends along the north bank of the river from Heddon through to beyond Ovington — a large area which includes some very rural and isolated places, there was a genuine need for a local state nursery.

The advice from both Sheila Matheson and the County Council representatives to the local campaigners was to put forward the best case you can, and continue "lobbying" as effectively as possible.

Will you remember them?

Remembrance Day this year is on Sunday 12th November and will be marked with a special service in St. Oswin's at 10 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 invited to join these services.

Fund raising successes

It's amazing — two Jumble Sales in the village in less than a month — one for Shelter and the other for the Friends of Wylam and both raising around £500.

Between the two Jumble Sales, the North of England Cancer Research Campaign held a Coffee Morning and raised a magnificent £556.

The organisers of all these events are most grateful to everyone who helped to make them so successful.

Don't encourage magpies

The problems caused by increased numbers of magpies and jackdaws, piercing milk-bottle tops and spreading the risk of disease, were widely publicised earlier this year. Now local resident Marjorie Britten of Burgoyne Terrace, points out that well-meaning residents who continue putting out large quantities of food for birds long after the winter has ended, may also be attracting more magpies and jackdaws.

Mrs. Britten is concerned that they often frighten smaller garden birds at nesting times, and kill their fledglings.

There are enough hazards for the smaller garden birds like wrens, and blue-tits, from local cats, without encouraging other predators like jackdaws and magpies — so please don't put out food for the birds when they don't need it.

*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.*