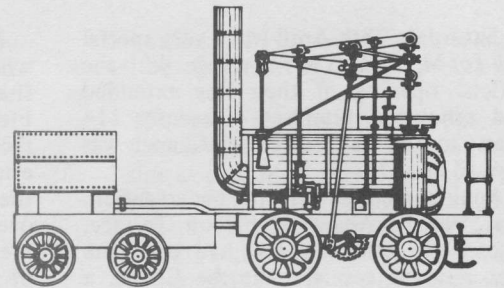


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1990

Number 48

New hanging-baskets to brighten village

Perhaps not surprisingly, the attractive floral displays which have been provided in Crawcrook and Ryton in recent years, have encouraged some local residents to ask if Wylam might have improved displays.

The main problem in Wylam has been the difficulty of finding people willing to regularly maintain (either voluntarily or for modest payment) any flower beds or public garden areas.

The village has been fortunate that Mr. & Mrs. Fittes of Woodvale Gardens have very kindly, and successfully, been looking after the Institute garden, but the Parish Council has been unable to find other

residents willing to accept similar responsibility for other areas.

However in a special effort to brighten the village this summer, the Parish Council has purchased a number of hanging baskets which, with the ready co-operation of local businesses, will be displayed on shops and pubs throughout the village. The traders have kindly agreed to water

the baskets during the season.

We hope that this new arrangement will work well, and add a splash of attractive colour to the centre of the village.

Incidentally if anyone is willing to help look after small areas of flowers or shrubs in the village please contact the Parish Clerk, Sheila Vincent.

Rangers win awards

Congratulations to the Wylam Rangers for their success in achieving 3 silver and 9 bronze awards in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The Rangers and their leaders, Christa Harrison and Hilary Broomfield, worked hard to achieve these awards, and we hope that some will be able to progress to higher awards over the next few years to achieve their Gold Awards. The Rangers are always happy to welcome new members and anyone interested can obtain further information from either Hilary Broomfield (Tel: 852533) or Denise Bergstrand.



(Back Row) Rangers, Rachel Wheelwright, Alison Turner, Charlotte Johnson, Jane Marr, Janet Rusby, Melanie Wood, Jackie Hill and Clare Brewis who won Bronze awards. (Front Row) County Adviser Ros Fairless, Silver award winners Rebecca Brooks and Katie Elliott with Leader, Hilary Broomfield.

Popular Summer Fair planned for 23 June deserves your support

The village's ever-popular Summer Fair this year will be held on Saturday 23rd June, starting at 1.30 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by the Ovington Tynedale Silver Band, the Benfieldside Morrismen and probably the Cricket Club with their egg-throwing competition.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the award of the Swindale Trophy to the winner of the Wylam Fun Race and the organisers would like to make this a special race and invite all those who have taken part in this race since its launch in 1980, to enter again this year.

The route is 3 miles for seniors and 1½ miles for juniors (under 11) – all ages and sexes are welcome – the more the merrier! Generous prizes are offered in all classes. Special races are also being organised for young children.

A wide range of stalls, including trade and village society stalls will be offering various wares and side-shows. Any local group wanting a stall should contact David Lamb (Tel: 852688).

For those with enough energy, a barbeque and dance will be held in the Institute and garden in the evening. An added attraction (?) is the promise of an

appearance of the fabled "Jock and the Strapettes" with more slanderous verses of a decade ago. The Playing Field Committee advise you to brief your lawyers now! – or David Lamb – who doubles as a lawyer and chairman of the Committee will protect your interest (for a fee towards Playing Field Committee funds!).

We hope that as many people as possible will support the Summer Fair, and help raise money towards the costs of looking after and improving the facilities on the Playing Field.

New Chapel premises

Saturday, 28th April was a very special day for Methodists in the village, with the official opening of their fine extended and renovated premises — exactly 114 years to the day since the Chapel was opened in 1876.

Senior member of the congregation, Mrs. Florrie Alvey of Falcon Terrace, whose late mother-in-law had been the first resident caretaker at the Chapel a century ago, performed the opening ceremony, which was followed by a special service of thanksgiving and rededication conducted by the Rev. Malcolm Adams. Guests included representatives of several of the trusts and organisations who contributed to the project, as well as members and friends of the Church.

Local residents are welcome to inspect the attractive new facilities which have been provided, to meet the anticipated needs of the 1990s — and beyond. Why not call in one Saturday morning and have a cup of coffee at the same time.

Souvenir mugs, specially produced to commemorate the opening of the new Church premises, are available from Julia Pearson, 27 Tynedale Close.

Please report vandals

Vandalism, like theft, is a crime, whether it involves public or private property, and the youths who damaged the clothes posts belonging to the elderly residents of Swindale Cottages, or the fence behind the Dene Estate shops, or break road signs or litter bins are costing all of us — as poll tax payers — extra expense.

So if you see people damaging public or private property, or acting suspiciously, please contact the police immediately — Dial 999.

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 23rd June, and will be run by the Methodist Church Youth Group.

Books for the sale can be left in advance in the Chapel schoolroom 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.

Bonfire needs helpers

The Institute Committee is considering whether or not to continue with the bonfire and fireworks display on the Jubilee Field as part of Community Week. Although they would be sorry to see a long established village tradition dropped, there has been a great deal of concern over the rough element that has been present in recent years, and the number of young people, many with alcohol, who get on to the field without paying the nominal charge. On the other hand, it is a safe and enjoyable occasion for people who do not wish to leave the village to see a fireworks display.

Perhaps you can help? More people are needed to help on the night — particularly able bodied men! If the Institute can get enough firm commitments to help for a couple of hours on Bonfire Night, 3rd November, it will go ahead and order the fireworks — they need to order by early June to get a 10% discount, so please phone the Institute office (Tel.: 852498 mornings only) now!

Country Park events

A variety of activities are being organised at the Park Centre of the Tyne Riverside Country Park, Low Prudhoe during the summer and some of these may be of interest to local residents. We have included most of them here, but a detailed leaflet is available at Wylam Library or in the Park Centre itself.

16th JUNE

An introduction to canoeing — for 12-16 year olds. Booking only (Tel: 34135).

20th JUNE

“Toddlers Trundle” — A special 2 hour session for toddlers and teddy bears!

29th & 30th JUNE

Rock Climbing for beginners — Over 18 year olds. Two day session. Booking only (Tel: 34135). Course repeated on 14th and 15th September.

2nd & 22nd AUGUST

Morning walks — starting at 10 a.m. from the Three Tuns Inn Car Park at Heddon. 3 hours.

29th & 30th SEPTEMBER

National Canoe Slalom on Tyne Riverside — a great spectacle to watch.

Well picked pickers

Thank you to the many individuals and groups who took part in the Litter Clearance Campaign this year. There is never any shortage of litter to collect, and the village always looks better afterwards.

Thanks also to Country Park Wardens, Les and Hilary, for their help.

A special plea — please don't remove the liners in the litter bins around the village — they are very expensive to replace!

A column of congratulations!

In our Autumn issue we congratulated the village football team on its fine start to the season — and we're delighted now to congratulate them on becoming Champions of the Newcastle and District Welfare League and winners of the Challenge Shield.

Well done to everyone who has helped to make the team so successful this year.

(We wanted to include a photo of the successful team, but couldn't obtain one).

Many congratulations to Tom and Charlotte Whitfield of Bell Road on their success in winning the Jackpot in the Journal's Cross the Ball contest. As many local residents have said — “The money couldn't have gone to a nicer couple”. We hope they enjoy spending it.

Congratulations to Bob Greenley of Dene Road who was among those chosen for the honour of receiving the Royal Maundy from Her Majesty the Queen when she came to Newcastle Cathedral on 12th April.

An impressive ceremony according to those who were privileged to attend — certainly one to remember, especially so for Bob and his wife, Gladys, who also celebrate their golden wedding this year.

Congratulations to St. Oswin's P.C.C. for landscaping the neglected area behind the Church Hall. Although quite secluded, it will be nice to have the area well-maintained in future.

It follows completion of the great improvements to the Church Hall itself, with its new store-room for the camping and other equipment belonging to the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. The new store was officially opened at a pleasant ceremony on 24th January.

We're delighted that people have come forward to help run the local Scouts, after earlier fears that the troop might have to disband. Thanks to all who take on the tasks of running youth organisations and other village societies.

Congratulations to Ken John of Ovingham Road on his recent appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Northumberland. Ken will join the Tynedale Magistrates at Hexham. Wylam already has two other active magistrates among its residents. Noel Hair of Elm Bank Road and Harry Helm of Hedley Road, both of whom are on the Newcastle upon Tyne bench. We also have several retired magistrates including, Marjorie Britten of Burgoyne Terrace, who was formerly on the Hexham bench, Harvey Heaton of Tynedale Close, previously a member of the Newcastle bench and Dr. Connie Grey of Woodcroft Road a past member of the Gateshead bench.

Update on Waste-Recycling Leaflet

Last year the Parish Council produced and circulated a leaflet on Waste Recycling (appropriately printed on "Green" paper).

Hopefully some of you will still have kept this leaflet. If so, please make the following additions and amendments.

FURNITURE, HOUSEWARES, BEDDING, FRIDGES, COOKERS

for people on low incomes & setting up first home. Please phone Community Transport (091 265 6660) to discuss collection arrangements.

MAIL ORDER CATALOGUES

delete Nursery School, Institute, but the Playgroup, Falcon Centre still want them.

GENERAL PAPER BAGS

delete Peter's, Dene Estate

GREETINGS CARDS

Mrs. Britten – January and February only please.

NEWSPAPERS, TEL. DIRECTORIES, COMPUTER PAPER

despite rumours to the contrary, still to Mrs. Warne on Elm Bank Road.

CHILDREN'S SHOES IN GOOD CONDITION

for children in need, at home or abroad per Dinah Matthews, 14 Bluebell Close.

ALUMINIUM DRINKS CANS

for Methodist Church Building Fund or Mambilina Hospital in Africa per Paul Featonby, 5 The Dene.

Aluminium cans are the ones that are not attracted to a magnet – test on the magnetic strip round the fridge door. or ask Paul for a magnet. All other (non-aluminium) cans can go in the skip in Blaydon car park. We are still trying to get our own can bank in Wylam, but progress is slow.

Problem areas

The misuse of two areas in the village seems to be causing some problems again.

– The yard in front of the Falcon Centre (Library) is not intended for use as a football pitch or as a late-night haunt for youngsters and others. The Deputy Head (Community) at Prudhoe High School is responsible for the use of the Youth Club and the yard at the Falcon Centre.

– The open spaces on the Dene Estate – particularly the small areas and the square in front of the "Town Houses" are only intended as informal play-areas for small children. Certainly those who have left First-school should use the Engine Dene or Jackson Road areas, or the Playing Field.

Wherever you play – please try and ensure that you don't annoy nearby residents, or damage plants or trees.

Thank you.



This view shows the neat extension built onto the Church Hall, providing the store for the Scouts and Guides equipment.

Successful Tennis Club offers coaching

The junior members of Wylam Lawn Tennis Club have been going from strength to strength.

Last year the junior boys finished top of their division in the Northumberland and Durham League. John Golding, Daniel Nicholson, Adam Baines, Paul Snowdon and Jamie Elliott made up the team.

This year already they have had great successes in the Northumberland County Closed Tournament:

John Golding

Under 18 Singles Finalist

Under 16 Singles Finalist

Under 18 Doubles Semi-Finalist

Under 16 Doubles Winner

Daniel Nicholson

Under 16 Singles Semi-Finalist

Under 16 Doubles Finalist

Adam Baines

Under 14 Singles Winner

Under 14 Doubles Winner

Jonathan Nicholson

Under 12 Singles Finalist

Well done to these and other members who took part.

The Club provides tennis for those of all ages and standards at its courts at the top of Elm Bank Road – a real sun trap. As the season goes on there are many coaching courses both for the young and not so young. If you are new to Wylam you may not have discovered the club so why not come up one Tuesday or Thursday evening to find out more.

The club committee is wondering if there would be much local support for a beginners session – possibly one morning each week, for ladies in the village. Coaching could be provided, if there was sufficient demand. If you are interested please contact Margaret Mitcham, Tel: 852128.

Bazaar to raise funds

For many years the Friends of Wylam have held a Jumble Sale in order to raise funds. This year we have decided to make a change, and instead are having a BAZAAR on Saturday 29th September in the Institute.

The village has always proved very supportive, and we hope we can rely on you this year to help provide goods for our stalls, and also to come along with your friends and have a cup of coffee and do some early Christmas shopping.

We are planning a large variety of stalls including dried flowers, cakes and preserves, handicrafts and woodwork, books and records, white elephant, jewellery and china. We shall also have some special greetings cards on sale! – so please bear us in mind.

Judith Furniss, Secretary

Table Top Sale

Although it is still 5 months from the start of Community Week we've been asked to give you early warning that a Table Top Sale (or indoor Car Boot Sale!) is being planned on Saturday 3rd November.

Any local resident or society is welcome to hire a stall and sell whatever you like (within the law!) – a chance to clear your cupboards of bric-a-brac etc. – or sell things to raise money for your organisation.

If you think you might be interested let the Institute Office know (Tel: 852498) as soon as you can so that they have an idea of what the demand is going to be, and calculate charges.

Subsidence-hit cottage rebuilt

Perhaps not surprisingly for a village in which mining was for centuries the main industry, Wylam has a few houses which suffer from subsidence.

One of the worst, on Dene Terrace West, was demolished earlier in the year and a new house has now risen on the site, matching as far as possible the design and materials of the remaining original houses in the row.

Whilst the new house is larger and no doubt much better fitted than its predecessor, comparison of the prices in 1895 when the original terrace was built (by George Lamb, the village grocer and draper — who also built Laburnum Terrace) — and today's prices are staggering.

The original houses in Dene Terrace cost approx £50 each — the new house is on offer at £90,000.

On a happy note, we are pleased to welcome Winnie Holt, who lived in No. 1 for many years, back in the village, now living in neighbouring Dene Terrace East.

Wall needing repair

Following concern at the deteriorating condition of the old stone wall on the west side of Cherry Tree Lane and the risk that someone might be hurt by falling masonry, the Parish Council have asked the owners (the Blackett Estate) if they would arrange to carry out repairs.



Number 1 Dene Terrace West under construction earlier in the year. Many of the original bricks and slates were reused during rebuilding. The house is now complete, and for sale.

Protest at B.R. cuts

The Parish District and County Councils have all protested to both British Rail and the Government about the recent cut-backs in services on the Tyne Valley line.

The immediate cause is said to be the shortage of reliable rolling stock due to difficulties in obtaining spare parts for the unreliable Pacer units. Lack of adequate funding by the Government is also suggested as part of BR's problems, but whatever the reasons, the loss of services, particularly the late evening trains, will cause serious inconvenience and tend to encourage potential passengers to seek alternative means of transport — to the long-term detriment of the railway.

Road safety measures

All local residents — and especially those living in Holeyn Hall Road — will be very pleased to see that the County Council are proposing to carry out a package of remedial measures to try and improve the bad accident record of this main approach road into the village.

Reducing the speed of vehicles will be one of the main priorities — and measures to do this will involve improved sign-posting and new surface-treatment for parts of the road.

A G.P.'s job well done

The Parish Council would like to express its special thanks to Dr. Ralph Swinburne who has just retired after 36 years as a general practitioner in the village.

He has spent most of his working life in Wylam, having qualified in 1948 and joined the late Dr. Alfred Swindale as a partner in 1954.

His generally cheerful manner and friendly smile — as well as his medical skills — will be greatly missed by his patients — although we're pleased to hear that he and his wife Sheila have no intention of leaving Wylam. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Mrs. Swinburne Senior, who lives in Algernon Terrace, must at 95 be the oldest, or near-oldest resident in the village.

Byker Grove, Wylam?

The arrival of TV crews in Bluebell Close recently caused some surprises, but when the new BBC series "Byker Grove" is shown careful viewers will see that the "Warners" house bears a very close similarity to one of the bungalows in Bluebell Close!

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. S. Vincent.

*The Clerk to the Parish Council,
Briardene, Wylam Wood Road (Tel. 852457).
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Birthplace renovated

Work at Stephenson's Cottage to restore the room where the Stephenson family lived to something more like its original condition has taken rather longer to complete than anticipated — partly because the National Trust have had to transfer their workmen to carry out urgent repairs to other Trust buildings, following gale damage in the Spring.

Restoration has involved removal of the modern and late Victorian fittings, returning the room to a more basic and primitive style, as it would have been originally when the Stephenson's were there, 200 years ago.

Tenant, Bill Jackson, hopes that work will be completed to allow the cottage to be re-opened to visitors again by mid-June. If you're wanting to take friends to see the cottage, please check opening times with Bill (Tel: 853457).

Local bequests welcome

Both the Institute and the Friends of Wylam are very pleased to have been given £200 each from the estate of the late Mr. William Brown of Woodcroft Road.

Bequests of this type are a great help to local organisations — and very much appreciated. It is a pity that more people, when making their wills, don't include modest bequests to local organisations, in recognition and appreciation.

Travel tokens issued

The Parish Council once again made special arrangements in early April to distribute travel tokens to pensioners in the village (£15 from Tynedale and £5 from the Parish Council). Anyone who is eligible but has not yet collected them will now have to collect their Tynedale tokens from the District Council offices.