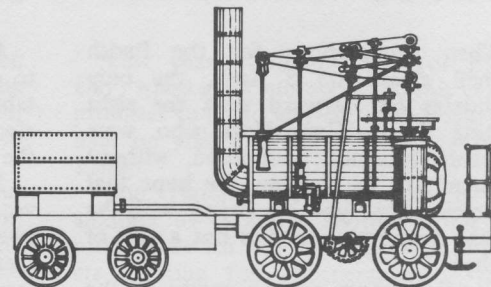


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



May 1991

Number 50

Pressure for action against dog-fouling

The Parish Council is again receiving bitter and justified complaints about the extent of dog-fouling in the village, particularly in those areas set aside for childrens' play. It is highly anti-social and putting children's health at risk to allow a dog to foul the green areas on the Dene Estate, Jackson Road and the Dene, the car park, Engine Dene or the Hedley Road playgrounds. Other areas particularly affected are Cherry Tree Lane, the "cut" from Falcon Terrace to Hedley Road and the "Doctor's path" from Woodcroft Road.

The Jubilee Playing Field is not under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council, but the Playing Field Association have put notices on each gate to say that dogs are not allowed – the field is for people to play in – but there is plenty of rough land beyond the field where dogs can be exercised.

The Parish Council has tried to tackle the problem by asking dog owners to be responsible, but this has had limited effect. If persistent offenders are named

to the Clerk to the Parish Council they will be approached individually.

Poop scoops are available from most pet shops at modest prices (or, cheaper still, use an old polythene bag and a sheet of kitchen towel). It is essential that dogs are wormed every six months – ask the

vet for advice.

The Parish Council is not anti-dog, but it is pro-children.

There is plenty of space in and around the village where dogs can be exercised without choosing areas where people play – and risking children's health.



Great help for Romania

Back on 26 January many Wylam organisations planned and held a "Winter Carnival" to raise funds for the "Newcastle Police Aid to Romanian Children" and the "Blue Peter Appeal for Romanian Children".

The Guides ran a creche, and childrens face painting and mask stall. They also decorated the Post Office and the Hall, in the theme of a Winter Carnival. A busy tombola stall and nearly new stall were run by the Brownies.

The Scouts washed 20 cars in the Chapel car park on a freezing day – and also ran a hot-dog stall, to warm themselves up!

Playgroup had a nearly new childrens

Flashback to January – and snow in the Institute garden, where a group of the organisers, helpers and competition winners of the Winter Carnival look pleased with themselves – as they had every right to do, having raised a fantastic £1100 to help children in Romania.

clothes stall, while the Toddler Group had a toy stall.

A bran-tub and childrens painting competition were organised by the P.T.A. with David Morrison judging the competition. The Newcastle Police offered to take the childrens paintings to Romania.

Womens organisations helped with a cake stall and refreshments during the day, and all the shops and pubs donated 24 prizes for the raffle.

Alan and Derek Sleightholme took photographs, and Margaret Halfpenny and Daniel Parker acted as treasurers.

Ann Hardy thanks everyone for working so hard to help raise the fantastic sum of £1,110; Cheques for £550 have been given to each of the two charities, both of which have been most grateful for these generous donations.

EDITORS NOTE:

Congratulations to Ann and all those who planned and organised events on the day, and those who supported the Carnival – another excellent example of community support for a worthwhile cause.

Councillors re-elected

When nominations for the Parish Council closed on 5 April, the only candidates put forward were the eight existing Parish Councillors who were therefore returned unopposed, without the need for an election. We hope that this means that you are happy with the present members — and is not a sign of apathy!

Certainly there was no apathy in the contest for the two places on the District Council. The five candidates produced plenty of election leaflets and canvassed actively. The 70% turnout in the village on 2 May was again the highest poll in Tyndale, and resulted in the two existing Councillors, Philip Brooks and Austin Rubery both being re-elected.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of all our District and Parish Councillors are unchanged from those listed in the current (green) issue of the village Information Card.

Please note however that Judith Furniss has been appointed the new Chairman of the Parish Council (in place of Lynne Petrie) with Maureen Gillis as the Vice Chairman.

Anyone for tennis?

Did you know that the second oldest lawn tennis club in Northumberland is right on your doorstep. Wylam Lawn Tennis Club was formed 85 years ago and is still going strong.

Club Secretary, Margaret Mitcham comments "We hope this season will be as successful as last, when several of the club's Junior boys went for County coaching and played for Northumberland Junior Teams".

New members would be very welcome and anyone interested in joining the club should contact Margaret Mitcham (Tel.: 852128).

Bushes need trimming

Trees and bushes which overhang and obstruct footpaths and pavements in the village are a frequent cause of complaints. They are often a nuisance and could result in injury to someone's face and eyes.

Would those residents who live in houses with bushes, hedges or trees adjoining a pavement or footpath — please check them in the next few weeks, and cut back anything which overhangs, up to a height of about 7 feet from ground level — and keep them trimmed back during the summer.

Anyone not doing this may receive a polite letter from the Parish Council requesting them to do so!

Rent-free allotments

Many gardens in Wylam are too small to allow much space for growing vegetables, which is one reason why there has always been a demand for allotments in the village.

However there are at present several vacant plots on the riverside allotments (west of the playing field) and the Allotment Association, who lease the land from the Parish Council are offering plots rent-free this year, to anyone who takes on a new allotment.

If you're interested, and would like to grow your own vegetables (or would just like somewhere to escape to occasionally!) then please contact Ted Gordon, the Allotment Association Secretary at 6 Woodcroft Road. (Tel.: 853531).

Child minders wanted

Mr. Eric Ford, the Headteacher of Wylam First School writes seeking information about local child minders.

"As Headteacher of the First School, I am often asked by prospective parents, about the availability of child minders. To assist these enquiries I would like to assemble a list of people willing and able to be child minders. If you would like to be included on this list, please send me the following information as soon as possible. Your Name, Address, Telephone Number. Age of children you will accept. Times for children, e.g. before school, after school etc. Are you registered as a child minder? Any other relevant information".

Wimpey Appeal Inquiry

The Public Inquiry into the appeal by Wimpey's into the District Council's refusal to grant permission for their proposed development at the north end of Engine Dene is due to be held in the Institute on Tuesday 11 June. It would be helpful if residents who are opposed to this development, as proposed by Wimpey's, could book the date and arrange to attend the Inquiry.

P.S. There is a possibility that the Inquiry will be postponed — if so, local residents will be informed by the Tyndale Planning Department.

Collectors call early

If you're calling at houses in the village to collect jumble (or anything else) please try and call early in the evening, before it gets dark. Older residents are particularly wary of opening their doors at night, and it would be preferable if collectors could collect from pensioners houses during daylight.

Nursery school welcomed

The news that the County Council has agreed to provide a nursery attached to the village First School has been widely welcomed.

Details are still being discussed but those local residents who have campaigned for these facilities deserve congratulations for their efforts — as do the County Council for realising the local need, and responding quickly and positively.

Thank you — Bowes family

Blackett House Stores can never be quite the same, without the Bowes family, who ran the business since 1958. They provided a splendid service for the village — a centre for local news as well as good-value groceries. We wish Billy and Betty a pleasant and well-deserved retirement, and Paul, all the best for the future.

Items in brief

Many congratulations to Andrew Soward of Elm Bank Road who has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)

Congratulations also to Dr. Alan Reece of The Crescent, whose Stocksfield-based firm Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd. has been given the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. A fine achievement, and a suitable reward for their initiative, skill and effort.

Last year Dr. and Mrs. Swinburn asked us to express their very grateful thanks for the gifts and kind wishes they received on Dr. Swinburn's retirement. Unfortunately this was omitted from the Autumn issue of the Globe — but we're happy to pass on their thanks now, with apologies for the delay.

Many congratulations to the Football Club on their promotion to the First Division after only one year in the Second. Well done.

Children are reminded that the open space on Dene Road, in front of the "Town Houses" is not intended as a play-area for those older than First-School age. If you're over 9, please use the areas in Engine Dene, Jackson Road or the Playing Field.

The Friends of Wylam Autumn Bazaar which was held last September was so successful that the Committee has decided to make this a bi-annual event, with the next one being in 1992. This autumn however, the Friends will be having a Grand Coffee morning and Bring and Buy Sale on Saturday September 28th. They look forward to your continued support, so please book the date.

Concern at condition of Ship Inn Lane

The condition of the lane behind the Ship Inn has been a source of complaint for many years, and the potholes have been getting larger and deeper.

Unfortunately this is not an adopted public highway, so the County Council do not accept any responsibility for its repair and maintenance. However as this is a popular public short-cut, well-used by elderly residents, and by people going to and from the Institute, the Parish Council has been in discussion with Newcastle Breweries (who own much of the property across the lane) and with

Northern Electric (who have a sub-station there) on the desirability of repairing the lane to make it safer and easier to use. The Institute and Institute garden also front part of the lane.

At present various rumours are circulating about the future of the Ship Inn, and the possibility of redeveloping the outbuildings and yard on the north side of the lane.

The Parish Council are seeking clarification from the Brewery Company on their future plans for their property.



Cars parking "as intended" on the new tarmac strip in Chapel Lane – avoiding obstructing the movement of traffic along the Lane.

Summer Fair – 22 June

Last year's Summer Fair (or Field Day) was a great success – and this year's promises to be so as well, – so book the date on your calendar – Saturday June 22nd.

The Playing Field Committee are anxious to promote another attractive programme for the Fair this year – and are looking for photographs of past events on the field which could be included. Several old pictures were found last year, but there must be others in photo albums, or slide-boxes around the village – please see what you can find, and pass them to David Lamb (Tel.: 852688).

Chapel Lane parking

No, the narrow strip of new tarmac on the edge of Post Office Green, next to Chapel Lane, is not intended as an alternative footpath, but has been provided by the County Surveyor following complaints from the Parish Council and local residents, that the edge of the Green was being churned-up by car drivers, parking with two wheels on the grass. The new strip of tarmac should allow drivers to park slightly off the road without spoiling the Green and without obstructing Chapel Lane. Time will tell whether drivers can use it sensibly!

Motorists parking further down Chapel Lane are asked to be careful not to obstruct the flow of traffic along the lane, nor to block the entrances to the Back Lane, to the Chapel car park or to the Appleby's driveway. Please make sure you park considerately.

Incidentally local residents are welcome to park in the chapel car park at their own risk, and when not in use by the chapel.

St. Oswin's planning Summer Festival weekend

Those residents who enjoyed the splendid Flower and Garden Festival organised for the Parish Church Centenary celebrations in 1987 will be delighted that a similar Festival is planned at St. Oswin's for 28-30 June.

The programme of events is as follows:

Friday 28th June

Friday 28th June

GRAND OPENING

- 7 p.m. The Wylam Bellingers
- Preview of Flower Arrangements – Tickets £3.50 to include:
Concert by Musica Johannis 7.30 p.m. in the Church, followed by Wine and Cheese in the Church Hall.
- Exhibition of Paintings in the Church Hall by local artist David Morrison.

Saturday 29th June

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- Flower Arrangements in Church.
- Exhibition of Paintings in Church Hall.
- Concert by Members of the Bach Choir 7.30 p.m. in the Church.
Tickets £2.00 Children & Senior Citizens £1.50.

Sunday 30th June

- Parish Communion 9.45 a.m.
- Flower Arrangements and Paintings Exhibition open from 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Beautiful local gardens open to view (Advance tickets including map £1.50 Tel.: 853254, or purchase on the spot.) between 2 p.m.–5.30 p.m.
- Festal Evensong in St. Oswin's (no sermon) 6.30 p.m.

Reserve the dates in your diaries now. We can't tell you yet which gardens will be open to view, but the whole Festival should be well worth supporting.

Speed kills – slow down

Speeding motorists on The Dene and Dene Road have caused the deaths of several pet animals – which causes heartache for their owners. Please drive carefully and slowly through the village – the next tragedy – pet animal or small child, could affect you.

A good friend of Wylam

The many Wylam residents who knew Alan Jones were deeply saddened by his untimely death in March. He served as a member of the Parish Council for eleven years and was Chairman from 1985–88 when the family moved from the village. His professional experience as a Civil Engineer, combined with practical skills, common sense and a pleasant, modest manner made him a great asset, not only to the Council, but also to the many village organisations in which he took an active part.

The extent of the respect and affection in which he was held by individuals and organisations, was reflected in the great number who filled the Parish Church for the Service of Thanksgiving.

We are deeply grateful for his contribution to the community life of Wylam, and offer our sympathy to Enid, Sarah, Michael, Judith and Ruth, and all members of his family.

To commemorate Alan's special interest in sport and the Jubilee Field, a group of 50 trees (one for each year of his life) have been planted in the North West corner of the Jubilee Field.

New arrangements for recycling more waste-materials

Used motor oil can now be taken to Wylam Garage for recycling, but under no circumstances should it be poured down the drain or into the ground. Unfortunately the garage is NOT able to take old car batteries.

If you have to dispose of an old fridge or freezer that is no longer usable, please

contact the Environmental Services Department at Tynedale Council (Tel.: 0434 604011) who will arrange collection and safe disposal of the environmentally damaging chemical C.F.C.'s contained in fridges and freezers.

However if your old fridge or freezer is still working and usable, Community

Transport (Tel.: 091 265 6660) would be interested – and may be able to make use of it.

Incidentally there is now somewhere in Newcastle which can recycle plastic, e.g. bottles for washing-up liquid, squash, shampoo etc. Could anyone take on the collection of plastic in the village? The bottles can be flattened (just by standing on them or softened with hot water) which makes them less bulky. Although there is no immediate profit in collecting plastic, it is hoped this will change within a couple of years and having a local arrangement for collecting plastic will enable it to be recycled.

We shall soon need to find a new individual (or organisation) in the village willing to collect aluminium cans (which can be sold for a small profit!). Anyone – or any group, interested in doing this is asked to contact Lynne Petrie (Tel.: 852577).

There are also "Save-a-Can" skips in the car parks at the Co-op store in Prudhoe and at Wentworth Hexham for any types of metal can, whether made of aluminium or tin/steel.

Wylam's recycling efforts have been achieving national and international fame – recently a letter was received from Yugoslavia enquiring about the village recycling scheme!



Although the roadworks and temporary traffic lights have effectively reduced the speed of traffic on Holeyn Hall Road over recent weeks, most residents will be pleased that work is nearing completion.

Improvements to Council-estate lighting

With the improved lighting which many people now have in their own homes, and exists in shops, offices and public buildings, everyone also expects a higher standard of street-lighting, to improve safety and security.

Although most of the lanterns have been updated with energy-efficient sodium lamps, the County Council who are responsible for most highway-lighting have not had sufficient funds to provide all the extra street-lights requested by local communities. There is unfortunately no County Council money for a light on Back Stephenson Terrace, nor at several other locations around the village where

lights have been requested. However residents on Parsons Road and Bell Road have been more fortunate since Tynedale Council have, as a policy allocated some money in recent years for helping to improve the lighting on Council estates. Following requests from our District Councillors and from the Parish Council, Tynedale have agreed to pay for several additional lanterns on Bell Road and Parsons Road this year, with improvements on Jackson Road in future. The County Council will be carrying out improvements to the other existing lanterns which have not yet been modernised on the Council estate.

Australians tracing their Wylam ancestors

Thanks to quick-thinking by David Craven when an Australian couple visited his shop recently we now have links with the descendants of the Walker family who owned the Town Farm, which existed in the centre of the village in the 18th and 19th centuries. David suggested that the couple who were on a short visit to the U.K., contact local historian, Philip Brooks, who was able to supply them with information about the family land-holdings – which included the land

at Charlies Corner, the paddock where Blackett Cottages are built, together with the Institute garden, as well as riverside land leading to Stephenson's Cottage.

One branch of the Walker family emigrated to Australia in the Victorian era, and modern members of the family have been undertaking research into the family history – including their ancestors links with Wylam.

Slow down for safety

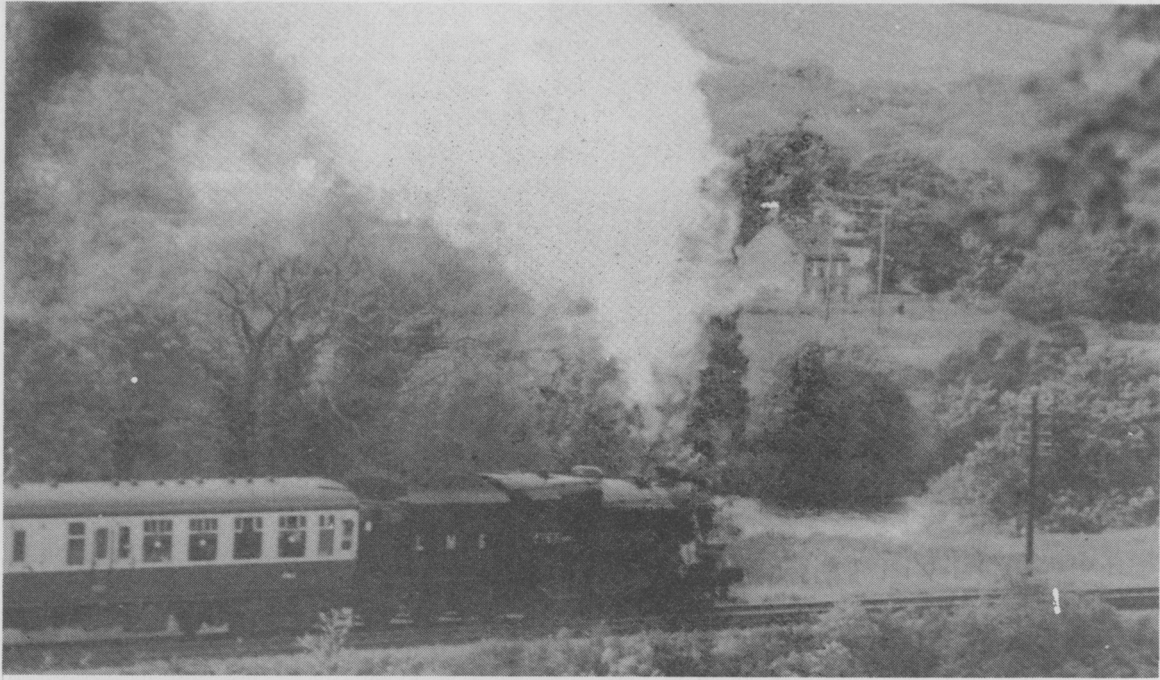
The work recently carried out on Holeyn Hall Road is intended to make this section of road safer for motorists and pedestrians. Experimental signs are also proposed on the road leading into the village to give drivers clear advance warning that they are entering a built-up area, and should reduce speed.

We trust that the motorists who frequently exceed the speed limit on Holeyn Hall Road (many of them regrettably are local residents!) will heed the warnings and observe the 30 mph restriction.

No cycling on footpaths

Complaints have been received that children (and some adults) are cycling on pavements in the centre of the village and in housing areas, causing nuisance and potential danger to pedestrians. The Highway Code bans cycling on footpaths or pavements, unless it is specifically authorised, and whilst no one is likely to object to very small children, accompanied by an adult, using the pavement, older children on cycles should keep to the edge of the road.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. L. Parker, The Clerk to the Parish Council, The Haven, Elm Bank Road (Tel. 852575) Printed for Wylam Parish Council by The Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA



Steam locomotive "George Stephenson" hauled trips along the Tyne Valley line to celebrate the Stephenson Bicentenary in June 1981

The Wylam Globe—50th edition 1973 – 1991

Observant readers will have spotted that this is the 50th edition of this newsletter. The first-issue was produced almost 18 years ago in July 1973 – one of several new ideas generated by a new Parish Council elected earlier that year. The name "Globe" was chosen, because the Blackett family who were Squires of Wylam for nearly 300 years, from 1679 to 1971, were closely associated with a famous 19th century newspaper of that name.

During the early 1970's far more changes were taking place in the village, than have happened in the 1980's. The Dene Estate was being completed, and there were numerous "teething troubles" before things began to settle down. The old North Wylam railway which had finally closed in 1969 was bought by the County Council; and following the death of the late Mr. Blackett in 1971 various areas of waste ground in the village were acquired by the Parish Council and landscaped.

The following items have been selected from the last 50 issues – to show new residents (and remind older ones) of some of the changes that have taken place since 1973.

1973

- During the year the village still had 3 Councillors on Hexham R.D.C. (which went out of existence in April 1974) and one on the new Tynedale D.C.
- No-waiting restriction introduced outside the Ship Inn and on Falcon Terrace, by the Fox and Hounds.
- Hexham R.D.C. agreed to build more lock-up garages on Hedley Road.
- Pressure for village library in old school, once new school on Bell Road completed.

1974

- County Council completed purchase of the derelict North Wylam railway from B.R. to create Country Walkway between Hagg Bank and Newburn.



Part of the Carnival procession to the Playing Field, to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

- A69 Heddon – Horsley by pass under construction.
 - New sewers laid through village.
 - New First School on Bell Road opened.
 - Construction of Ovingham Middle School commenced.
 - Local branch of Round-Table set up.
 - Brewery House/Blackett Court flats started.
 - Parish Council buy waste-ground on The Dene/Jackson Road.
 - 50th anniversary of Dr. Swindale coming to Wylam.
 - Holiday play-scheme begun.
 - Road widening at Butchers Bridge completed.
 - Original (1902) tree guards removed from trees on Ingham Row.
- 1975
- First edition of Local Information Card produced.
 - Parish Council agreed to purchase riverside allotments.
 - Scheme to level the Playing Fields and create play-area commenced. Anticipated cost £11,500.
- Grand celebrations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Stockton and Darlington Railway.
 - "Wylam and its Railway Pioneers" published by the Parish Council – free copy given to every house in village.
 - "Bumbler box" bridge under repair.
- 1976
- Blackett Court flats opened.
 - Library opened in the former school (Falcon Centre).
 - Roads in Tyne View and West View made-up.
 - Following local pressure, village given two District Councillors instead of only one.
- 1977
- Official reopening of Playing Field by Dr. Swindale to celebrate Queen's Silver Jubilee. Free Jubilee tea for all village children under 13.
 - Station platform raised in height.
 - Road improvements at Waterworks to create a footpath and improve safety.
 - Football Club restarted.



Swindale Cottages under construction in 1981. Several years earlier it had been used for temporary classrooms for the school.

- Parish Council bought waste-ground between Engine Dene and Woodvale Gardens, for public open space.

1978

- Debate about where public toilets should be built – on the playing field or the old station yard car park.
- New play equipment provided on the Jubilee Field.
- Guide to “Country Walks in East Tynedale” published jointly by local Parish Councils.
- Hagg Bank residents decide they don’t want local streets made-up.
- Miss Goalen becomes first new tenant at Stephenson’s Cottage for 30 years.

1979

- Parish Council construct bus-shelter at Charlies Corner.
- District Council build toilets at entrance to Playing Field.
- Ovingham road closed for over a year because of falling rocks from the Scar.
- Parish magazine professionally printed.
- European, Parliamentary, District and Parish elections all held in May.

1980

- Play area provided by Parish Council at Hagg Bank.
- Village litter-clearance campaign started.
- Advance planning for Stephenson Bicentenary celebrations. for 1981.

1981

- Trust set up to administer money left to local villages by the late C. J. W. Blackett.
- Distinctive “Puffing Billy” boundary signs erected at entrances to the village.
- Special celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wylam’s most famous resident.
- Special Stephenson Carnival held on Jubilee Field. Village rail museum opened in Falcon Centre and oak trees planted outside Stephenson’s Cottage.
- Steam locomotive “George Stephenson” ran “Birthday-special” trips along Tyne Valley line.

1982

- New bungalows for the elderly, completed by Tynedale Council – named after late Dr. Swindale.

- The Vicar Canon Boddy retires to Hexham.
- New Vicarage built.
- Extensive modernisation of Institute commenced.
- Woodcroft Road doctors convert "Riversdale" into modern surgery.

1983

- Laws close the bakery and shop at Wylam Mill. Mill building subsequently converted into flats.
- New vicar David Wood and new Methodist Minister Malcolm Adams, appointed.

1984

- Parish Council agree to give travel tokens to local pensioners, to supplement those given by the District Council.

1985

- Special celebrations in June to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first section of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway.
- Historic station house and outbuildings converted into office accommodation.
- Venture Scouts formed.
- Gilroy's shop changed ownership.
- Public inquiry into proposal to develop field at end of Engine Dene.
- Dr. and Mrs. McCallum leave Wylam.

1986

- Fierce opposition to B.R. plans to replace the full level crossing barriers, with automatic half-barriers.
- Argument over whether replacement phone kiosk should be coin or card operated.
- 200th Anniversary of birth of railway pioneer Timothy Hackworth commemorated. Plaque erected on Wormald House.
- Celebrations to mark the Centenary of St. Oswin's Parish Church commence.
- Stephenson Court flats built on site of Tyre factory and Garage.

1987

- Church Centenary continues with major Flower and Garden Festival, and publication of a history of St. Oswin's Church and Parish.
- New vicar Stephen Huxley arrives.
- More new play equipment planned for Jubilee Field.
- Jack Donkey, Wylam resident for over 20 years and friend of many, dies.

1988

- Strong local support for the recycling of waste materials encouraged Parish Council to purchase a bottle-bank for the village.
- Threat that Guides and Brownies might have to disband averted when new leaders came forward.
- New faces at the Post Office - the Voases take over from the Gillies's.

1989

- Work on major building project for Methodist Church commences, to provide new hall and link building with the refurbishment of the existing chapel.
- Parish Council launches "Good Dog" campaign in response to continuing complaints about the fouling of open spaces and footpaths.
- St. Oswin's Parish Hall modernised and extension built for Guides and Scouts equipment.
- Strong campaign for a pre-school state nursery at Wylam school.

1990

- In an attempt to brighten the centre of the village the Parish Council purchase a quantity of hanging baskets.
- Village football team have a very successful season.
- Impressive new Chapel premises opened.
- Dr. Ralph Swinburn, local G.P. for 36 years retires.
- County Council promise action to try and reduce speed of traffic and risk of accidents on Holeyn Hall Road.
- National Trust complete refurbishment of the room where Stephenson was born.

*Supplement to Wylam Globe
Issue 50, 1991*