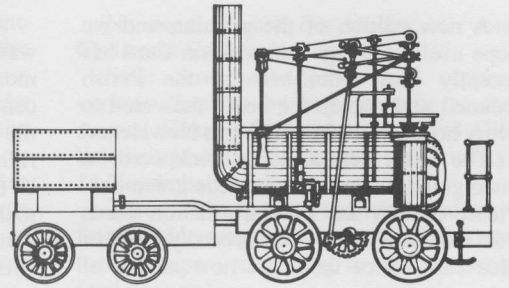


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1992

Number 52

This year's Community Week extended

Community Week has been held each year for the past 31 years - and almost always to the same formula - a busy programme of activities concentrated in one week at the end of October/beginning of November.

This year the Institute Committee have decided to break with tradition - and to spread the activities (many of which are arranged by individual societies) over a period of several weeks or months.

This should reduce the pressure on the people involved in organising several events, and will hopefully improve the support at individual events.

Events until the end of the year include

November

- Sunday 1st Community Service 6 p.m. in the Methodist Church.
- Wednesday 4th Catholic Mass at St. Agnes Church, Crawcrook, followed by a Social Evening in St. Oswin's Church Hall 7-9 p.m.
- Friday 6th Community Concert by the Amateur Dramatic Society.
- Saturday 7th Horticultural Society Coffee Morning.
- Saturday 7th Wine and Wisdom Evening, Institute.
- Sunday 8th Remembrance Day Service at 10 a.m. in St. Oswin's. 11 a.m. at the War Memorial.
- Tuesday 10th Coffee Morning by Friends of Wylam.

Wednesday 18th W. I. Cookery Demonstration.

Saturday 21st Bowls Tournament.

December

Saturday 5th Camera Club Exhibition and Coffee Morning.

The proceeds from many of these activities will go to Institute funds to help maintain and improve the facilities and standard of decoration in the Institute, so please support as many of the events as you can.



Chaos in a good cause! Contractors busy resurfacing the road junction by the Institute garden - part of the scheme to create a greatly improved surface to Church Road. The next question is which company will be the first to dig it up - gas, electricity, water/sewer or telephone?

“Much improved” – but more help needed to smarten village

One former Wylam resident who came back to the village during the Summer was very impressed with the new tubs of flowers and hanging baskets, and felt the general appearance of the village had improved.

Recent resurfacing of the back lane and car park behind the Ship Inn has also tidied up the worst blackspot in the centre of the village.

Although good progress has been made with improvements there are still a lot of small jobs, involving painting, fence repairs, grass trimming, tree and hedge pruning and planting, rubbish removal etc. which need to be done around the village.

Much of this can be done more quickly and cheaply by volunteers than by the Councils, and although we have several

volunteers already, we could do with more! If you would be willing to give a little of your time in practical help to improve the village, perhaps just an hour or two each month that would be much appreciated. Please contact Judith Furness, Chairman of the Parish Council (Tel.: 852341), Peter Clarke, Village Tree Warden (Tel.: 852297) or any Parish Councillor.

New Information Card

A new edition of the popular, and we hope useful, Village Information Card has recently been published by the Parish Council and copies are being delivered to every house in Wylam with this Newsletter.

The latest version is on pink card, to distinguish it from the previous green one. Please destroy any old Information Cards you may still have – on green, yellow or blue card, since these are now all out of date.

If you move away from Wylam, please leave the Information Card, it will be useful for the next people who occupy your house.

Warning to Cyclists

An accident in which a local resident was knocked down by a youth riding a mountain bike on the pavement in the centre of the village, has prompted a call for the law to be better publicised and that the riding of cycles in pedestrian areas should be banned. The Parish Council have written to the County Council who are the Highway Authority asking for clarification of existing laws and suggesting that signs might be displayed where cycling is causing a nuisance and danger to pedestrians.

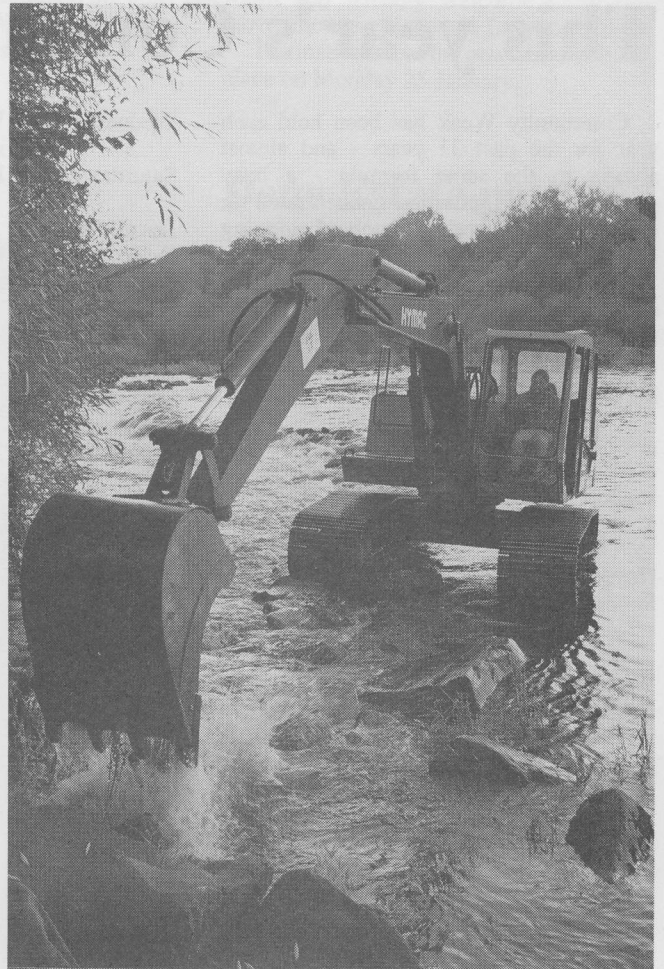
An end for Xmas trees?

Getting rid of the Christmas tree after the twelfth night (or when it becomes a serious nuisance shedding pine needles) is sometimes a problem. The dustbin men will take small trees, but as an alternative this Christmas arrangements have been made with Tynedale Council to have a Shredder/chipper available in the War Memorial car park for a day early in the New Year. So you can have your tree "chipped" while you wait.

The date when the chipper will be available will be publicised on village noticeboards.



Concern has been expressed at the condition of this old ash tree growing in the verge on Church Road, in front of Blackett Cottages which is showing serious signs of decay. It may have to be felled.



Work has recently been carried out by Northumbrian Water to create a partial dam to raise the level of water immediately downstream of the bridge. All in a good cause—to help the fish proceed up river.

Important to check condition of old trees

Robert Graham of Wylam Hills Farm set a good example to others by arranging to have most of the dead trees on the farm estate felled a few months ago.

Both Tynedale and the Parish Council will also be having several dead trees in their ownership, felled or the dying branches removed during the winter.

There are several dead or dying trees in private gardens and grounds around the village. Anyone with large old trees is asked to check their condition and to seek expert advice if in doubt! Peter Clarke

(Tel.: 852297) the village tree warden can give you the names of people who can advise.

Incidentally where old trees have to be felled we hope owners will plant young trees to replace them, but beware not to plant them too close to any buildings where they could cause damage to foundations.

Two attractive 20-year old ash trees are having to be felled on Tynedale Close because they were planted less than ten feet from a bungalow and could cause damage.

"Fire & Brimstone" soon

Wylam's short-lived Victorian iron industry will feature in a new travelling exhibition being prepared by the Museum Service for early next year. Entitled "Fire and Brimstone" the exhibition will depict the history of the iron industry in Northumberland. Arrangements have been made for it to be displayed in the library and museum in April/May 1993.

The venue will be particularly appropriate since the Falcon Centre (formerly the village school from 1910 - 1974) stands on the site of what was once the Wylam ironworks.

Sewer replacement may cause disruption

Advance warning of some disruption in the village next Spring and Summer. Northumbrian Water are having to replace several sections of the main sewer, running from the western edge of the playing field for about 300 yards, under the path to the north of the allotments.

This work will involve heavy excavating and lifting equipment and Northumbrian Water are liaising closely with the Parish Council and the Playing Field Association to try to find the most suitable access for the

contractor. Unfortunately there is no obvious easy route which can take the machinery needed, without some disruption, but all possible options will be examined, and discussions held with the Allotment Association members.

Why corrosion has only occurred on this length of pipe is not clear, but one suggestion is that chemicals in the soil in the vicinity of the old colliery workings may be part of the cause.

Christmas Card sale

No need to rush out to buy all your Christmas Cards and gifts just yet.

Save time and petrol, and support various charities by buying some at the Annual Charity Christmas Card and Gift Sale being held in the Institute on Saturday, 14 November.

There is always an excellent selection - from a wide range of national charities and local groups - something to suit all tastes (and pockets).

Donations received by many charities have been hit by the recession, so they would welcome support from local people willing to buy cards and gifts from the stalls on 14 November.

Grants help Institute

Improvements to the kitchen in the Institute to comply with the latest Health and Food Hygiene Regulations were carried out in September. A generous grant from the C. J. W. Blakett Villages Trust together with a contribution from the Parish Council have helped the Institute Committee to meet the costs.

Old furniture needed

If you have any surplus furniture or household equipment in reasonable condition which you would be willing to give to someone in need, there are now two charitable organisations whom you can contact.

One is on Tyneside (Tel.: 091 224 0555) and the other is in Hexham (Tel.: 0434 606759).

Either will arrange to collect the furniture from you, and will make sure it goes to someone who is in genuine need.

Local Walks Guide

Several copies of the popular footpaths guide "Country Walks in East Tynedale" which was published back in 1979 and been long out-of-print have recently been discovered in a cupboard in Heddon.

These are now available (while stocks last) from Wylam library. They are still at their published price of 70p and even though remaining copies are slightly damaged, that price now seems ridiculously cheap!

Quilt raises £1,000

Congratulations to the "Patchwork" Group of local ladies who skillfully produced a very attractive quilt which was raffled recently and raised over £1,000 for the Yellow Brick Road Appeal. Well done.

Improvements delayed?

The latest clampdown on Council expenditure looks likely to delay proposals which the County Council have for renovating and repainting the former railway bridge which carries the Riverside Country Park walkway over the Tyne at Hagg Bank. Improvements to the Country Park Car Park by the War Memorial were also planned, but may now be similarly delayed.



The new bridge carrying the Hagg Bank - West Wylam road over the Prudhoe By-pass. This is the last major structure to be completed. The new bridge is now open to traffic and construction of the section of by-pass beneath it is in progress.

Grace's family – over a century in Wylam

Philip Brooks article in the last issue about Wylam 100 years ago—as recorded in the Census of 1891, generated quite a lot of interest.

Grace Gilroy of Burgoyne Terrace was thrilled to see mention of her great grandfather and great grandmother, Ralph and Catherine Thompson who lived in one of the cottages at Oakwood, which were newly built at the time of the Census.

Ralph was born at Akeld in North Northumberland and his wife came from the Scottish side of the Border. After working in the Chillingham area the family moved to Newcastle and then, in about 1877 came to Wylam.

By 1881, at the age of 34, Catherine Thompson had had at least eight children, and by 1891 another four, making a total of 12—four boys and eight girls, one of whom was Grace Gilroy's grandmother.

Ralph (senior) was coachman at Oakwood and the three eldest boys were already employed as grooms in 1891. Fortunately not more than seven children lived at home at any one time, otherwise the cottage would have been somewhat overcrowded.

Grace's grandmother who was born in 1869 married a young gardener, Mathew Dixon at the age of 19 and they moved to the Isle of Man for ten years where Grace's mother was born. They returned to Wylam where Matthew became head gardener and coachman to Sir Charles Parsons, the turbine engineer who lived at Holeyn Hall. The Dixons later went to Ray, Kirkwhelpington, as farm manager, when the Parsons moved there to live.

Grace recalls that her grandmother often told her of how, when she lived at home at Oakwood in the 1880's, she used to enjoy baking days. Apparently on those days the younger members of the family who were at school (the Colliery School on Woodcroft Road) used to walk up the village at lunch-time into the little dene off Blue Bell Lane, while one of the older children who was at home met them with hot soup and freshly baked bread for a picnic lunch. Some of them would be reluctant to return to school for the afternoon lessons!

Can anyone trace their ancestors who lived in Wylam back earlier than 1877? Please let us know.

Men's meetings popular

The popularity of the "Men at Home" meetings held on the first Wednesday morning of each month in the attractive foyer of the Methodist Church Centre, is shown by the growing number of men who regularly attend.

The new programme for 1992-93 contains a distinguished selection of speakers, talking on an interesting variety of subjects. The meetings start at 10.30 a.m. and also provide opportunity for a chat over a cup of coffee. The forthcoming talk on 4 November will be about "800 years of Stained Glass" and that on 2 December on "Tyne Bridges".

Men of all ages are very welcome to come along. If you'd like more information, or a copy of the programme please contact Malcolm Adams (Tel.: 852143) or Peter Isaac (Tel.: 853174).

From Stephen & Jean - to Richard, Barbara & Co.

The farewell party held in the Institute at the end of June, to mark Stephen and Jean Huxley's retirement will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to be present.

Churchwarden Nigel Robson gave a widely acclaimed speech, paying tribute to the work of Stephen and Jean in the parishes in which they served, and especially to their achievements in Wylam.

Few vicars and their wives can have generated such loyalty and so much genuine affection in the comparatively short period of four years.

We're delighted that the first of Stephen's two operations seems to have been a success and the second, on the other hip, is due in November. We hope and pray that that too will be successful.

The pattern of Vicars of Wylam coming to the village from the urban areas of North Tyneside continues—all five Vicars since the Second World War have done so.

The new Vicar, Richard Bryant has been Vicar of Earsdon and Backworth for the past ten years. His wife Barbara teaches at the North Tyneside hospital, Rake Lane, North Shields, and they have two teenage children, Stephen and Nicola.

Richard apparently possesses most of the qualities which the Parochial Church Council felt they wanted in Wylam's new incumbent (so the Bishop must have done a good "matching" job). We're sure that Richard and his family will be given a very warm and friendly welcome when they move into the village in a few weeks time.

The institution of the new Vicar will take place on Monday 25 January.



It'll never be the same again! Work in progress by Tynedale on behalf of the Parish Council to complete the resurfacing of Ship Inn Lane. This is probably the first time that it has ever had a proper road surface.

Ship Inn Lane Completed

By the time this Newsletter is published work on resurfacing the unadopted back lane behind the Ship Inn, should be completed.

Discussions on legal aspects, consultations with owners, raising funds etc. has taken much time, but the result - Ship Inn Lane properly and attractively surfaced for the first time ever, has been worth all the effort.

Thanks are due to the Newcastle Brewery, Tynedale Council, North Eastern Electricity and Mr. Geoff Hancocks for their assistance, contributions and advice.

Although the Parish Council has made a significant contribution towards the cost of the repair work to the two end sections of the lane, it does not accept any future liability for their maintenance.

Exhibition opens

Although never providing much employment in Wylam, fishing has always provided an occupation and income for a few local residents over the centuries. One meaning of the name "Wylam" is thought to be "the village with a Wile" - meaning a village with a trap - thought to refer to a fish-trap on the river.

Anticipating that some of today's residents might be interested in the history of Northumberland's fishing ports, one of the existing travelling exhibitions "Creed and Barrel" will be displayed in the library and museum from 3 November for three weeks.

Even if you've never lived on the coast the old photographs in this exhibition, are well worth seeing. So don't forget to call at the library between 3 - 24 November.

Dene Estate paths

Parish Councillors have met with the County Council Divisional Surveyor and an official from Tynedale Council to discuss the neglected condition of many of the tarmac footpaths and cobbled areas on the Dene Estate.

It was accepted by the officials that maintenance and repairs were long overdue and a modest start has since been made during the Summer.

The County Council Surveyor has been asked to try and ensure that a regular annual programme of repairs are carried out to reduce the present backlog.

New map of Wylam

What seems likely to become a fascinating new project for the village is about to start - the production of a needlework map which will illustrate many of the distinctive and special features of Wylam - its past and present.

An open meeting was held in September and a small group appointed to make detailed proposals.

This is a community project and everyone (female or male) interested in needlework is very welcome to become involved. The intention is that the completed map would be framed and hang in the Institute.

If you'd like to know more about this project please contact any of the following, Grace Gilroy (Tel.: 852708), Valerie Jervis Read (Tel.: 852418), Diana McFetrich (Tel.: 852325) or Lynne Petrie (Tel.: 852577).

Some funds may have to be raised to buy materials so please give your support to any fund-raising events (probably coffee mornings) when the time comes.