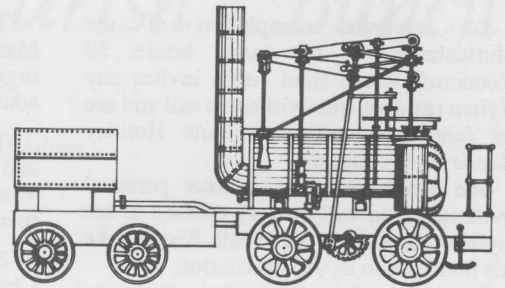


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1993

Number 53

Summer Fair Entertainment on 26 June

Magic moments or even a whole afternoon are on the programme for this year's Wylam Summer Fair to be held on Saturday, 26th June starting at 1.30 p.m.

Another full programme of events is planned for the afternoon offering a wide range of attractions including the Ovington Tynedale Band and the Tynedale Morrismen. Many of the now familiar local organisations and trade stalls will be there plus lots of new faces and plenty of fun.

Attractions for children include performances by Martin the Magician (from ITV's 'Gimme 5') and the chance to meet Fireman Sam and his mates aboard the Northumberland County Fire Engine. Helping to keep the youngsters occupied during the afternoon will be donkey and fairground rides, a bouncy castle, face painting and children's races. The races are for pre-school and First School children with mini rosettes for all participants and prizes for children of different ages. For those who need resuscitation there will be tea, soft drinks and cakes available at the pavilion, plus loads of opportunities to stock up with ice creams, sweets and snacks from stalls on the field.

Muircroft homes have agreed to sponsor the Wylam Fun Race for a second year. Fun runners are welcome to join the three mile Race or the shorter Junior Race, (entry forms from Alison Malcolm). All entrants will receive medals, prizes are awarded for different classes and the Swindale Trophy is presented to the overall winner.

Gates open at 1.30 p.m. Entry Programmes are still only 60p and by popular demand children paying half price entry charge will receive the 'Summer Fair Badge'.

If you survive the 'Egg Hoying' and other eggciting events 'part two' continues in the evening with a barbecue, dance and disco. Music provided by the Geoff High Band and the Northumbrian Youth Jazz Band. Tickets are £5 each.

Last year's Summer Fair raised over £2000 for the Wylam Playing Fields Association, a registered charity and volunteer organisation who maintain the field and organize the fair. The money raised in 1992 contributed towards the £11,000 it cost to improve changing room facilities and provide new shower rooms.

The Association would like to thank the Sports Council, The Foundation for Sport and the Arts, The Rothley Trust, the Sir James Knott 1990 Trust, The Joicey Trust, The Percy Hedley Trust and The Smith

(Haltwhistle & District) Charitable Trust who also supported the project.

Further information from Alan French on 852567 or Kevin Webster on 853619.



Founder of the Prudhoe Gleemen, Tom Leathard was also choirmaster at Wylam Methodist Chapel. This picture of a chapel choir outing almost 90 years ago shows him (centre left) with his son Arnold kneeling beside him. What splendid hats - and everybody wearing one!

Flower Festival to mark 90th Anniversary

Ninety years ago, in 1903, a group of eight men met and sang together in Wylam Methodist Church. These men were later joined by others from Prudhoe Methodist Church, and from this nucleus the male voice choir which became known as The Prudhoe Gleemen, was formed.

The first conductor was the Wylam butcher Tom Leathard of Wormald House, and over the years many men from Wylam and district have enjoyed making music together. Among the present members of the choir who live in the village are the conductor (Colin Smith) and the deputy conductor (Graeme Gilmore).

The Gleemen have travelled far and wide entertaining audiences and supporting organisations not only in the Tyne Valley,

but north to Edinburgh and as far south as Mity-Mory in France, Prudhoe's twin-town.

To celebrate this special 90th Anniversary the Gleemen Ladies Committee will be holding a Flower Festival on Saturday, 19 June and Sunday 20th June in Wylam Methodist Church. Attractive flower arrangements will depict some of the Gleemen's favourite songs. Many of the songs can be heard in a concert to be given by the Gleemen in the Church Hall on the Saturday evening, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets for the concert are available, price £1.50, from Colin Smith, 137 Dene Road. Tel: 852692.

Enid invites you

To celebrate completion of the refurbishment of her "new" house, 39 Woodcroft Road, Enid Jones invites any Wylam resident who wishes, to call and see her (and the house) on Bank Holiday Monday - 30 August.

She won't be able to issue personal invitations, but will be very pleased to see anyone who would like to call. Kindly take this notification as your invitation.

In special celebration and thanksgiving Enid has also arranged for the church bells to be rung during the day.

Well supported 'sweep'

The Annual "Litter Sweep" at the end of March was again well supported by organisations and individuals, children and adults.

Thank you to everyone who took part and to the County Council Country Park Warden service and Tynedale Council for their help and support.

Special thanks to the group of Football Club members, who moved heavy farm rubbish dumped over the years in the old quarry at Hagg Bank.

For new residents

The recession and the slump in the property market has resulted in fewer than usual new residents moving into the village over the past year - but there have been several newcomers, and the Parish Council welcome anyone who is new to Wylam. The village has a good reputation as a friendly community and we hope you enjoy living here.

If you've not had a copy of the pink Village Information Card issued last year please contact Parish Clerk, Lorraine Parker on 852575.



The improvements to the Wylam Garage premises are now almost complete. This picture shows the large crane used to erect steelwork for the new glazed showroom at the back of the main building which began life a century ago as the Mill stables. In addition to improving the buildings there will be better car parking for customers and improved screening of the storage area next to the fields.



Pictures of Wylam in the 1940's and 1950's are very difficult to find. Can you help? If you have any photos of the village from this period, please let the Parish Council copy them for the village photo collection.

This picture dates from the late 1950's when The Bird Inn was still open under landlord Horatio John Rhodes. The well-polished Ford Prefect outside has Reg. No. GVK 152. Did it belong to a "Bird Inn regular"?

"Buy a Spike" Appeal launched by Institute

With the slogan "Buy a Spike" the Institute Committee are launching an appeal to raise money to help replace or repair the damaged railings around the Institute garden.

The garden is beautifully maintained by Mr. & Mrs. Fittes, but several sections of the railings, particularly along the back lane are badly corroded and need to be replaced.

This expenditure is in addition to the normal running costs of the Institute, and all friends and users of the Institute are being asked to help. Donations of £10 will enable one railing to be replaced. If you are willing to help, please send your donation to Fred

Parker, the Institute Association President, The Haven, Elm Bank Road, Wylam. He can be contacted on Wylam 852575.

Celebrations to mark the Centenary of the present Institute Building are to be delayed.

Instead of commemorating the start of construction of building, which began in 1894, it is now intended to arrange events to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the official opening in 1896. That gives everyone a little more time to plan suitable celebrations! (Perhaps the railings will be repaired by then?)

Bus service request

Following a request from residents of Blackett Cottages the Parish Council is to approach the Public Transport Officer to see if Northumbria Bus Company could be persuaded to continue the Crawcrook - to - Wylam War Memorial bus service up the village to Charlie's Corner.

The climb-up from the War Memorial to Blackett Cottages is quite an effort particularly for the elderly, carrying a load of shopping.

It may not be possible to extend the service, but the Parish Council has agreed to ask if it can be done.

From Malcolm & Tricia – to Richard & Joyce

After serving a record ten years - longer than any previous Methodist Minister based in Wylam. Rev. Malcolm Adams and his wife Tricia will be leaving in August and moving to Bridgewater in Somerset to what will be his last appointment before retirement.

With responsibility for five Methodist Churches at the eastern end of the Hexham Circuit, Malcolm has had wider duties than just ministering in Wylam.

Both he and Tricia confess to having thoroughly enjoyed living in Wylam, and will miss the many friends they have made, and the fine Northumberland scenery.

The fact that Malcolm has been asked to stay for as long as ten years in Wylam (few Methodist Ministers are invited to stay so

long in one place!) is evidence of his "popularity".

The extension and major refurbishment of the Methodist Church, to create an impressive centre, must rank as the major achievement during Malcolm's period as minister.

We thank both Malcolm and Tricia for their work in Wylam and wish them continuing happiness in Bridgewater and beyond.

The new Minister will be the Rev. Richard Firth from the Gateshead and Jarrow Circuit. He and his wife Joyce live in Low Fell, but will be moving to the manse in Stephenson Terrace by early September. We welcome them to the village.



Traffic controls were necessary on Church Road when the old ash tree was felled. The fine copper-beech (right) can now be seen in full glory.

Information sought on Isaac Jackson

To the Editor,

I am researching the life and works of Isaac Jackson, who was born in Wylam in 1796 and died in 1862 at the age of 66 years. Judging by the obelisk erected in his memory in Ovingham churchyard, he was a very much respected and loved man in the village but, in spite of extensive enquiries throughout the area, I have been unable to discover any of his personal details.

For those of your readers who are not familiar with Isaac Jackson, he was famous for the making of elaborate clocks and also for his involvement in the improvement in the working of steam engines. Perhaps the best known examples of the latter are the locomotives "Wylam Dilly" and "Puffing Billy", both of which incorporated Isaac Jackson's four eccentrics, a tremendously important innovation which allowed the locomotives to operate in reverse.

I appeal to any of your readers who may be able to assist with my research, for any details, however minor or tenuous, of Isaac Jackson's life and work. For example, was he married and where did he live? In

addition, I should be most interested to learn if anyone has a Jackson clock in their possession.

Should anyone be able to help, I should very much appreciate a letter or telephone call, either via the Editor, Philip Brooks (Tel: 853520) or to myself direct on (091) 252 0933 or to 8 Farringdon Road, Cullercoats, Tyne & Wear NE30 3EP.

Yours hopefully,
J. K. Dunn

Traffic at school

More parents seem to be taking their children to the First School by car, which is causing congestion and potential safety hazards particularly on Bell Road.

Several "near misses" have been reported. We know that everything can be rather hectic - getting children to school, yourself or your spouse to work etc. in early morning, - but please drive carefully.

New Councillor elected

The local County Council electoral division, which includes Bywell, Horsley, Ovingham and Ovington, as well as Wylam has always been marginal in recent elections and this year followed the general national trend against the government.

Robina Jacobson (Labour) defeated former Conservative County Councillor Peter Pescod and Philip Appleby (Liberal-Democrat) in a closely fought contest which produced the highest turnout (57%) in any of the Northumberland County elections this year.

We congratulate Robina on her success and wish her well in her work as a County Councillor over the next four years.

At the same time we thank Peter for his achievements on behalf of Wylam and its residents during his four years as a Councillor.

Wanting new skills?

Thinking of trying to return to work; to learn new skills or to improve your job satisfaction - then perhaps Open Learning might help you. It is a system which is flexible to suit your learning needs. If you want to study then your age, work experience and qualifications are unimportant.

With Open Learning you can learn new skills or update existing knowledge.

A wide selection of Open Learning packs are available from Prudhoe Library, and can be borrowed just like library books. The library staff will be happy to help and advise on selection and use of learning materials and arrangements can be made for further guidance if necessary.

Why not call into Prudhoe Library and find out more. The library is open every weekday except Wednesday. You can contact them on 832540.

Books wanted for Fair

The secondhand bookstall at the village Summer Fair (26 June) provides many local residents with a good choice of reading material for their holidays.

Demand for books of all types seems to increase year by year, and there is a great need for more fresh stock this year.

Please look through your cupboards and bookshelves and see if you can find some books which you no longer require. Books for children, adults, fiction or non-fiction, paperback or hardback are all welcome.

It would be most helpful if you could deliver them to the Methodist Church Centre on Saturday morning 19 June, between 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. or on the evening of Friday, 25 June when they will be gratefully received.

If you cannot deliver them please contact Brian Japes (Tel: 852151) or Philip Brooks (Tel: 853520) who will be happy to arrange to collect them from you.

A problem we all need to help to solve

Reading the banner headline "A Village in Terror" in the issue of the Hexham Courant at the end of April, not many residents would have anticipated that the village referred to was Wylam!

The headline was an exaggeration but the article was based on a lively discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Sergeant Andrew Walsh from Prudhoe Police Station attended the meeting at the request of the Parish Council to talk about policing and crime in the area, and to answer questions from residents.

Discussion soon focussed on the nuisance and offence caused in the village by the activities of a small number of youths, a handful of whom live in Wylam.

Sergeant Walsh confirmed that similar problems were being experienced in other towns and villages in the area, and that the police were doing all they could with the resources they have, to tackle the problems where laws were being broken.

It was acknowledged that boredom and frustration among several youngsters was the cause of some of the problems, but that was not an excuse for mindless vandalism, nuisance and abuse.

It was generally felt that Wylam had a reasonable selection of facilities available for young people, for a village of its size, and that other attractions were normally accessible at Prudhoe or other centres.

Since the Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council has had preliminary discussions with a member of the Community and Youth Service staff at Prudhoe High School and a meeting is also being arranged with representatives of other villages in the Tyne Valley where similar difficulties are being experienced, to discuss the problems and possible solutions which might help several communities.

Views and ideas from local residents (of any age) would be welcomed by the Parish Council - if you have any suggestions please drop a line to the Clerk to the Parish Council or speak to any Parish Councillor (names and addresses are on the pink Village Information Card).

(A separate letter about this problem accompanies this newsletter).

No more paper thanks

Sadly the collection of paper for recycling has had to be abandoned, following repeated vandalism, with the containers in the War Memorial car park being set on fire.

When the recycling scheme was extended two years ago, to include waste paper, it was known that the risk of vandalism might be a problem; regrettably this has proved to be so.

The cost of replacing the bins, and the Fire Brigade call-out charges, mean that it is no longer viable to continue with the collection of paper.

Residents are therefore asked NOT to take waste paper to the car park.

However the bottle banks and can banks will remain - so please continue to take your empty cans and bottles there.

Trees brought down

The January gales brought down two of Wylam's oldest beech trees, on the driveway into Wylam Hall. Although they fell across the garden of the Leaks house in the Orchard, they fortunately did little damage to the house itself.

It is thought that these trees were well over 150 years old. When another decaying beech tree, at the entrance to the Orchard had to be felled, Peter Clarke, the village tree warden calculated (by counting the bark rings) that it had been planted in the 1880's.

Not quite so old was the ash tree growing in the verge on Church Road. This probably started life in the early years of the present century. Although a loss, the removal of this tree has revealed the very attractive copper beech tree behind.

Always keen to see new trees planted in suitable locations around the village, the Parish Council is negotiating with Mr. Proud of Daniel Farm to plant some extra trees on the top of Coldwell Hill in South Wylam.



Too close for comfort! The two old beech trees which blew down into the garden of the Leak's house in The Orchard just damaged the guttering. A lucky escape.

Congratulations both

Our congratulations to two Wylam residents who are serving as Civic Leaders on different Councils this year.

Councillor Austin Rubery has been elected as Chairman of Tynedale Council, and Sharon Lamb is the Lady Mayoress of Newcastle City Council, where mother-in-law Councillor Joan Lamb is the new Lord Mayor. Sharon has been Deputy Lady Mayoress for the past year - which is why one of the City Council's black limousines is often seen on Woodcroft Road! It is likely to be seen more frequently this year.

Tynedale Council has no official car for its Chairman - so Austin will still be travelling in his ageing Volvo!

Holey Hall traffic

Plans to introduce an experimental method of trying to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village down Holeyn Hall Road have had to be dropped following discussions between the County Council and the Department of Transport.

The Parish Council has expressed its disappointment at this decision (and the long delay in reaching it) and asked the County Council what alternative action it proposes to try and reduce the speed of traffic.

Although the reconstruction of the road two years ago has made it somewhat safer for drivers many still travel at speeds far in excess of the speed limit, creating a real risk of an accident.

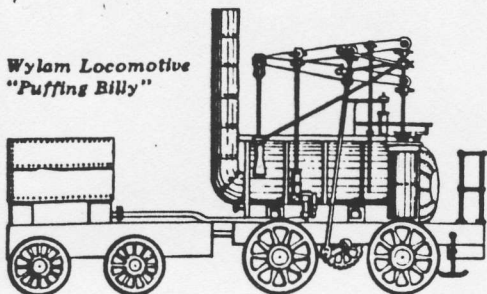
Business must move

Earlier this year, and following a Public Inquiry held last September the Secretary of State for the Environment has backed Tynedale Council taking enforcement action against the unauthorised business run by Mr. Dawson at Bythorne Farm.

The decision means that Mr. Dawson must cease his business selling secondhand timber etc. from Bythorne early next year.

He has been given permission to use another site for his business, on the Low Prudhoe Industrial Estate.

Wylam Locomotive
"Puffing Billy"



Wylam Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. L. Parker,
The Haven, Elm Bank Road, Wylam,
Northumberland NE41 8HS.
Telephone: (0661) 852575

TO ALL WYLAM RESIDENTS

Dear resident(s)

Wylam is a good place in which to live. It must be otherwise people wouldn't be so eager to stay once they arrive. It isn't just the attractive countryside and the easy access to Newcastle which appeal. The core of Wylam's attraction is in its caring people and healthy community spirit.

Just lately though, we have been getting some bad press. We have all seen it "YOUTHS TERRORISE VILLAGE CENTRE". Of course this is an exaggeration, but there is no smoke without fire. The fact is that a small number of local teenagers have started to congregate in the village centre in the evenings, and at night, making a lot of noise, throwing their litter into gardens and generally behaving in an altogether intimidating and anti-social manner. This in its turn has attracted young people from outside Wylam and is now making life very unpleasant for people living in the centre of the village.

Amongst some of the damage done recently has been the burning of four paper banks which has cost £1000 plus the cost of calling out the fire brigade. It is clearly not sensible to replace them again, which is a great pity as they were well used and brought a small but steady income to the village.

Our first reaction is to say that it is a matter for the police - nothing to do with me! - but think about it! Isn't it primarily our problem as parents or grandparents and members of the village community. The police are ready to assist whenever they can but they are over-stretched, and each time we call them out to discipline our children we are taking them away from more serious matters. (Anyway hasn't Wylam got a lot more to offer its young people than dismissing them as "a police problem")?

It has been said that there is nothing for young people to do in Wylam, and so the Parish Council felt it would be a good idea to list some of the activities and groups in the village which are aimed at young people, or who would encourage them to join.

The following clubs are operating within the village and details are printed on the village information card:

Youth Club	Guides and Brownies	Scouts and Cubs
Football	Cricket	Tennis
Indoor Bowls	Martial Arts	Badminton
Dramatic Society	Fishing.....	

There is also the excellent new swimming pool at Prudhoe which offers a whole range of facilities.

We would also welcome constructive comment from young people themselves, and their parents, as well as the older members of the village on how we can best tackle this problem together.

We hope we can resolve this problem and Wylam can again become a place where we are all pleased to be.

Any response to this letter should be addressed to me via the Parish Clerk address above.

Yours faithfully,

Judith Furniss
Chairman Wylam Parish Council

