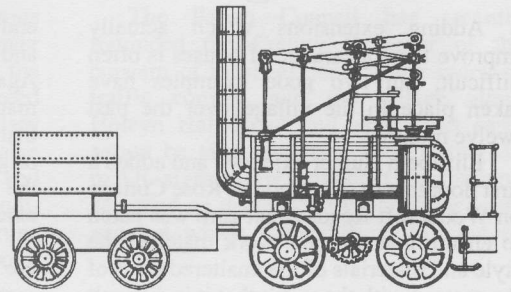


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1994

Number 55

## Enjoy the Summer Fair more in a new T-shirt!

Saturday, 25th June! Where will you be this year? Hopefully on the Jubilee Field enjoying the 1994 Summer Fair organised by the Playing Field Association. As well as being a showcase for village societies, who run many of the stalls, there will also be a wide variety of craft and trade exhibitors.

Entertainment provided by the Hexham Morrismen, the Ovington Tynedale Band and Martin the Magician will complement the more strenuous pastimes of running in the Fun Race, Childrens Races or dodging eggs in the 'Egg Hoying' Competition.

An innovation for 1994 is the Wylam Playing Field T-shirt! A winning design by Christopher and Jonathan Fairless of Elm Bank Road, was selected from 24 entries submitted in a competition for First and Middle school children. T-shirts in children and adult sizes will be available before the Fair, and children wearing their new Playing Field T-shirt will get free entry to the Fair. Please contact Marilyn Harding (Tel: 852618) to place your order.

All the designs submitted for the competition will be on display in the library.

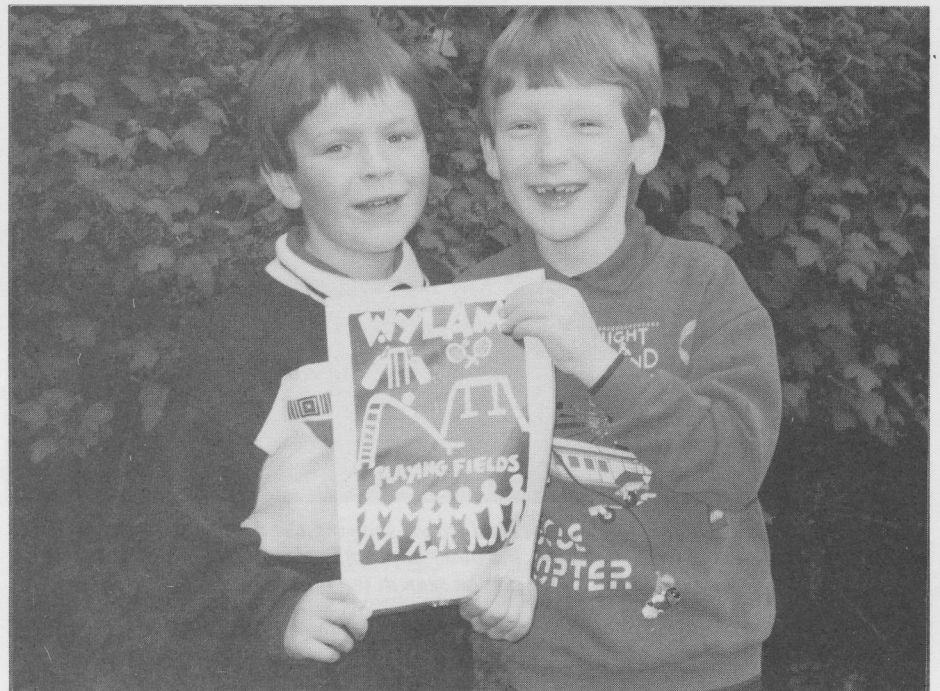
Although the cost of entry to the Fair is going up a little this year (80p adults and 40p children) programmes bought in advance will be 10p cheaper.

All the 'Fun of the Fair' continues into the evening with a barbeque and dance at the Wylam Institute and Garden. Popular North East band "Pukka Lips" backed by the Geoff High disco will supply the music

to dance to, thirsts will be quenched by a Real Ale Bar and hunger satisfied with a steak barbeque (or vegetarian pizza if you prefer - but booked in advance).

Profits from this year's Fair will go into

a fund which the Association has set up to purchase the field from the Boys Brigade. Last year almost £2,000 was raised and largely spent in replacing the tennis court netting.



*Brothers, Christopher (right) and Jonathan Fairless proudly display their winning design for the new Playing Fields Association T-shirt. The T-shirts will be on sale at various local shops or from Marilyn Harding (Tel. 852618) before the Summer Fair.*

*(Photo by Alan French)*

## Little demand for major changes in local Council structure

The review of local government initiated by the Government early last year has so far generated very little interest or enthusiasm among the public nationally.

In Northumberland there has been little demand for change, most people seeming to feel that the existing structure works pretty well. After examining the various alternative options, the County Council and five of the six District Councils (including Tynedale) have agreed to recommend to the Local Government Commission (who are undertaking the review) that the present Council structure should be retained, but with various

improvements to clarify responsibilities and eliminate duplication.

There is also a strong feeling that Parish Councils, which represent the views of local communities at the 'grass-roots' should have a greater involvement and be consulted more widely by the County and District Council and other authorities, on proposals which affect their town or village. This should help to ensure that the views of local people are heard when decisions are being made.

The Local Government Commission will now be considering the views which

the Local Authorities and others have put forward, and they will be publishing their draft recommendation for public consultation before the end of June.

There will then be opportunity until mid-August for anyone and everyone to comment on the draft recommendations made by the Local Government Commission; the Commission will then consider the views expressed during the consultation and make their final recommendation to the Secretary of State for the Environment at the end of October.

## Good design enhances village houses

Adding extensions which actually improve the appearance of houses is often difficult, but two good examples have taken place in the village over the past twelve months.

Elizabeth Hunter extended and added a first floor to part of her house, Rose Cottage on Woodcroft Road. Great care was taken to ensure that the new work matched the style and materials of the unaltered parts of the cottage with the result that it is difficult to tell what is old and what is new - it blends so well. In an attractive part of the village, opposite the fine old school and school masters house, good design was particularly important.

In a more prominent position are the pair of farm cottages opposite the Wylam Hills Farm on Holeyn Hall Road.

The Graham's refurbished them at the

end of last year, adding neat front porches, and modernising without spoiling them. Again care was taken to use natural and matching materials for the extensions, so that the latest alterations blend with the original cottages - rather better in fact than the artificial stone used in the flat-roofed extensions built twenty years ago.

The alterations to both these properties are examples of what can be done by careful choice of materials, and good design.

For anyone planning alterations or extensions please consult any of your neighbours who might be adversely affected by your proposals.

Do this **before** having detailed plans finalised. Prior consultation may avoid a refusal of planning permission or friction (or both) later on.



*Wylam Hills Farm cottages on Holeyn Hall Road, showing the neat stone porches which have been added to the front elevation, the older, and rather less attractive extensions in artificial stone, can be seen at the rear.*

## New Parish Clerk

Last December, Lorraine Parker who had been Clerk to the Parish Council for the past two years decided to take early retirement—joining husband Fred who also retired from Barclays Bank. We thank Lorraine for her work on behalf of the Council.

David Petrie has been appointed as the new Clerk, and has quickly mastered the Parish Council's word processor!

David can be contacted at 8 Stephenson Terrace (Tel: 852577). We hope he enjoys his new duties.

## Thank you . . . .

To Tynedale Council for providing a new street lamp to shed some extra light on the activities of some of our senior residents in Blackett Cottages.

To Northumberland Countryside Team for arranging the provision of new stiles, signs and a footbridge on several footpaths in the Parish.

## Phone number changes

The main offices of both the District and County Councils have new telephone numbers.

County Council HQ	0670 533000
Morpeth	
Tynedale Council HQ	0434 652200
Hexham	

## Wylam history popular

A new course exploring Wylam's history through some of the many historic documents available in the County Record Office, has proved so popular that it may be re-run in the Autumn to meet demand from local residents.

Arranged by the Wylam W.E.A. group, the tutor is Roger Sims, an Archivist with the Heritage Division of the County Council. The 15 places available on the ten evening sessions course were quickly filled, but if you are interested in joining a possible re-run of the course in the Autumn please contact Walter Crawford (Tel: 852502) or Grace Gilroy (Tel: 852708) as soon as possible.£

## More books needed

One of the traditions of the village Summer Fair is the second-hand bookstall which provides many people with a fresh selection of reading material for their holidays.

Proceeds from the bookstall are divided between the Playing Field Association and the Youth Club, run at the Methodist Church.

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

It would be most helpful if you could deliver them to the Methodist Church Centre on Saturday morning 18th June between 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. or on the evening of Friday, 24th 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.

## New lamp for footpath

Now that Muircroft Ltd. have completed their new housing development at Denecroft, the Parish Council have asked them to improve the surface of the path which crosses from Algernon Terrace to Bluebell Close, and repair the grassed areas on Engine Dene and Bluebell Lane damaged when the development was being carried out.

The new lamp on this path has been provided by the Parish Council to make it easier and safer for residents who use this popular path during the hours of darkness.

## Library safe—for now

Thank you to everyone (and there were quite a lot of you) who took the trouble to tell the County Council that Wylam people regard the village library as an important local amenity - which is enjoyed by many residents and is something which we want to keep. The threat to small libraries arose when the County Council was considering cutting back some services to save money in this year's budget.

Although our library is safe for this year there is no guarantee for future years, so your help in lobbying may be needed again.

## More travel tokens

Most pensioners in the village have now collected their increased travel tokens for this year. The Parish Council which has given £5 worth of tokens for several years, decided to raise their contribution to £7 and Tynedale Council agreed to withdraw its £1 administration charge. This has meant that Wylam pensioners received £24 of tokens this year, effectively an extra £3 over last year.

Any pensioners eligible for travel tokens who have not yet claimed them, should contact David Petrie, the Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel: 852577).



## Parish Council Centenary to be celebrated

1994 - 95 is the 100th Birthday of Parish Councils, which were first created by an 'Act of Parliament of 1894 during the last Government of Prime Minister William Gladstone. First elections for Parish Councils were held in December 1894, and the newly elected councils came into office on 1st April, 1895.

Unfortunately the early records of Wylam Parish Council have been lost,

probably during one of the numerous changes of Clerk which have occurred over the past hundred years. To mark the Centenary, the Parish Council has agreed to have the attractive village boundary signs refurbished, and the "Country Walks in East Tynedale" guide revised and republished. Other ideas for commemorating the Centenary - which runs until April next year, are being considered.



*A dusting of snow shows that this picture was taken at the start of work by the NWA on relaying the damaged sewer alongside the old pit heap. A prolonged contract with various problems. Discussions between the Parish Council, the Allotment Association, and the NWA are continuing to make sure that satisfactory reinstatement of damaged ground, fences etc. is carried out.*

## Reserve goes ahead

The proposal to create a local nature reserve on the unused land at the Haughs owned by the Parish Council to the west of the riverside allotments, was widely welcomed at a public meeting in January.

A group of volunteer wardens, led by Peter Clarke, the Parish Tree Warden, are "keeping an eye" on the area and details of wildlife are being recorded.

The activities of the Northumbria Water Authority in replacing sections of the sewer alongside the allotments and through part of the nature reserve have been much more disruptive and taken much longer than planned.

Although this has caused some damage along the western edge of the reserve one benefit has been that a small shallow marshland area has been specially created with the help of the N.W.A. and their contractor. This should encourage a wider variety of wildlife to use the reserve in future.

Incidentally, if anyone else would like to be involved in helping to look after the reserve, please contact Peter Clarke (at 28 Bluebell Close. Tel: 852297).

## Cancer Campaign funds

The Wylam branch of the North of England Cancer Research Campaign raised a grand total of £5,000 last year. The proceeds of a Coffee Morning in the Institute and a Supper Party at Bradley Hall helped contribute to this total.

Major donations included £140 from Catherine Graham for a sponsored run, £175 from Moira Bell for a sponsored walk, £26 raised at the Friends of Wylam Christmas raffle, and a substantial sum donated in memory of the late Mrs. Jean Robinson.

The first event this year, a Spring Fair held in the Institute on 23rd April raised some £766. The Committee is most grateful to everyone who has helped and supported the events organised to raise funds.

## Fair Saturdays fine?

The popular Ovingham Goose Fair will be held this year on Saturday, 18th June, one week before Wylam's own Summer Fair.

Is it too much to hope for fine weather on two successive Saturdays in June?

## 30 mph—action needed

The Parish Council has recently reminded the County Surveyor of the concern of local residents at the speed of traffic coming into the village along Holeyn Hall Road and asked that early action be taken to make the existing 30 m.p.h. signs more prominent - something accepted as necessary two or three years ago, but which seems difficult to achieve!

## Start of path repairs

Relaying the highway footpaths on the Dene is the first stage of a programme of work by the County Council which will include replacing most of the footways on the Dene Estate. These paths have deteriorated badly in recent years. The Parish Council brought the extent of this problem to the attention of the County Council and welcomes the action being taken! It will press for the work to continue to completion over the next year or two.

## Plastics recycling

It has not been possible to reinstate a monthly plastics collection, but if you are able to deliver to N.E. Recycling on Newburn Haugh Industrial Estate between Newburn and Lemington (it's the first building on the left) they will be delighted.

Unfortunately, it's only open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - if you go outside these times please seal your plastics in a bin bag, dump the bag in the skip to the left of the building and push a note through the letter box.

They would like household bottles (pop, washing up liquid, shampoo etc.) but **not** yoghurt pots, bottles from garden or garage products, or any kind of film.

These arrangements are obviously far from perfect, but the best we can do for now. The situation will be monitored.

If the scheme is well supported, their funding will be extended and then we **may** be able to have a regular collection in the village again.

## New bowlers wanted

The Indoor Bowling Club is looking for new members, both male and female, young or not so young, beginners or experienced. This is a thriving club with teams competing around the county with some success, as well as enjoying all levels of play at club meetings.

The Club meets in the Institute on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. and on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. and you are invited to come along and see for yourself.

For further information on the Club's activities please contact the Secretary, Rhoda Harris (Tel. 853745) who will be happy to help any local residents interested in finding out more about Indoor Bowling.

# Bridge closure may have been a nuisance—but not as bad as 1957

An expensive inconvenience for some - but a blessing in disguise for others! The recent closure of the river bridge for three weeks to enable essential repairs and maintenance to be carried out, provided a mixed reaction from residents.

Several local businesses suffered loss of trade and the diversions via Ovingham or Bywell Bridges caused problems to residents who travel across Wylam Bridge. However the absence of through traffic, and particularly heavy wagons, was c

certainly a blessing which made crossing the main road in the centre of the village, much easier and pleasanter. At least the closure this year was planned, and residents had some advance warning, unlike in 1957 when several of the stone piers were undermined by the river and the bridge was in serious danger of collapse.

At that time the bridge had to be closed for many months. Can anyone living here in 1957 tell us exactly how long?

Repairs to another local bridge, may have started by the time you receive this newsletter.

The bridge carrying Station Road traffic over the Stanley Burn on the County boundary is due for maintenance - the good news is it will not have to be closed, although traffic-light controls will be necessary.

This bridge was built in 1972, before which all traffic had to splash through the ford!

## Learn more about Wylam

It's several years since local historian Philip Brooks last led one of his popular "Wylam Heritage Walks" around the village pointing out, and talking about Wylam's history and heritage, but you can join one on the evening of Monday, 20th June.

The walk will start at 7.00 p.m. from the library on Falcon Terrace and finish by about 8.45 p.m. at the library, where a cup of coffee will be provided.

Tickets for the walk (Price £1 each, to cover costs) are obtainable from Wylam Library. Numbers may have to be limited so you are advised to book early. You might learn something you didn't know about our historic village!

This walk is one of a series entitled Time Travellers arranged by the County Council Amenities Division as part of "Travellers Tales" a festival celebrating journeys of all kinds, which will take place in Northumberland during the week beginning 20th June.

Two other local walks have been organised, one on Tuesday, 21st June, starting from Heddon Library at 7 p.m., and the other on Thursday, 23rd June, starting from Prudhoe Library, also at 7 p.m.

## Dog Fouling byelaws

There cannot be many local dogs (or their owners) who haven't seen the new notices which Tynedale Council have displayed on lamp posts around the village publicising the new Dog Fouling Byelaws.

"Clean it up"

"You must remove all faeces left by your dog from any pavement, footpath, grass verge or the road gutter."

"No Fouling"

"You must not allow your dog to foul the roadway. The maximum penalty for contravention of the above requirements is a £100 fine."

All dog owners are asked to ensure that their dogs do not foul any of the regularly mown play areas, verges or amenity areas in the village (but if they do, please make sure you remove the faeces



*Proof (if anyone needed it) that the river bridge was closed in April for repairs, strengthening, and repainting. The last major closure was in December 1957 when two of the piers were undermined and there was a risk that the bridge would collapse.*

## Housing Group is looking for your support

Vicky Powell writes on behalf of the Wylam Housing Group.

"For over 20 years there has been a Shelter Group in the village, raising money for the homeless (over £3,000 last year). The group has recently been re-christened the Wylam Housing Group as, because of changes in the Charities Law, Shelter have decided to centralise their fundraising. We will still hold all our traditional events and activities and the House to House collection for Shelter, but the remainder of our funds can now be donated directly to charities in the North East including the Tyneside Cyrenians, The Tyneside Housing Aid Centre and the Links Housing Group for the young homeless in Hexham.

To go with our new name we are looking for some new people to become part of our enthusiastic group and to help with the events we organise - from the Grand Jumble Sale in September, House to House and street collections, and the Summer Cream Tea to the Christmas Card Sale and Carol Singing. Please join us - the members of the Housing Group are positive and cheerful people - of all ages, interests and political persuasion. We only hold two meetings a year, and that includes the A.G.M., favouring a "hands-on" approach to organisation.

If you are interested in joining the group, helping or simply knowing a little more about what we do, please contact either Alison Cook (Tel: 852181) or Vicky Powell (Tel: 853159).

Our next event is a Summer Cream Tea at Elmhurst, Holeyn Hall Road on Sunday, 12th June from 3.30 - 5.00 p.m. Tea, scones, cream and strawberry jam will be on the menu and there will be a Raffle for several prizes, the principal one being a free consultation from a landscape gardener - offered by one of last year's happy customers. The money raised will be donated to LINKS in Hexham for the young homeless. Admission £1 adults, 50p children."

## New Institute Secretary

Gillian Fairless of 37 Dene Road has taken over from Pat Oubridge as the new Secretary of the Institute.