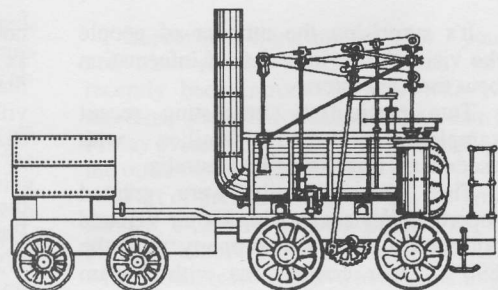


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1994

Number 56

## Something for all in Community Week Programme

One of the attractions of Wylam which most people discover when they come here, is its great sense of community with a good 'mix' of residents, willing to take an active part in, or support local events.

We hope that this will be proved again this year with as many of you as possible joining in the interesting programme of events arranged by the Institute Committee and village societies during Community Week which runs from 5th - 13th November.

The main events include:-

### Saturday, 5th November

The Annual Christmas Card and Gift Sale. More than 15 national and local charities will be displaying Christmas Cards and gifts for sale.

### Sunday, 6th November

Joint Community Week Service starting at 6.30 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

### Monday, 7th November

Cookery demonstration starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Institute.

### Tuesday, 8th November

Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale - 10.00 a.m.  
Sponsored Work-out organised by Fizzical Fun - 7.30 p.m.

### Wednesday, 9th November

Celebration of Mass at 7.30 p.m. in St. Oswin's Church Hall.

### Thursday, 10th November

Soup lunch arranged by the W.I., available between 12.00 - 2.00 p.m.  
"Fashion through the Ages" arranged by the Dramatic Society. 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

### Friday, 11th November

"Travellers in Thailand". An illustrated talk. 8.00 p.m. Light Refreshments.

### Saturday, 12th November

Horticultural Society Coffee Morning.

### Sunday, 13th November

Remembrance Day Service at St. Oswin's at 10.00 a.m. followed by a procession to the War Memorial for 11.00 a.m.

Coffee will be served in the Methodist Church Hall after the service.

### Future Events

#### Saturday, 19th November

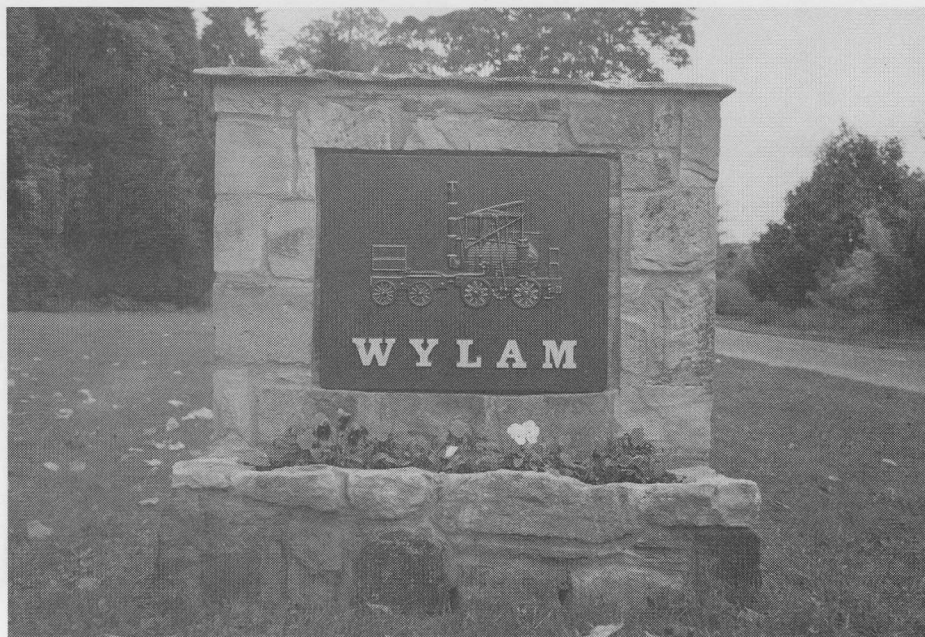
Carpet Bowls Competition - 12 noon.

#### Monday, 21st November

Fashion Show, 7.30 p.m. - Chain Store Seconds.

#### Saturday, 17th December

Children's Christmas Lunch with Santa.



*It's great to see them back! Many residents have enquired about the attractive village signs during their absence. Now fully restored they are back on display. The one on Station Road has also been given a smart new flower trough - now filled with winter pansies.*

## "Not enough traffic for a crossing" - Survey

In response to concern expressed at the Annual Parish Meeting, about the speed of traffic through the centre of the village, and difficulties which people have in crossing the main road, the Parish Council asked the County Surveyor to carry out a new survey.

This was done during July and the results recently sent to the Parish Council. These show that the pedestrian and traffic densities are nowhere near those regarded as necessary by the Department of Transport to justify providing a pedestrian crossing.

There would need to be an eightfold increase in the number of pedestrians, or a threefold increase in vehicles to meet the

Department of Transport criteria.

Whilst not meriting a pedestrian crossing the County Surveyor suggested that the possibility of providing a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road could be considered in due course. However the Parish Council felt that the road outside the Post Office was of insufficient width to accommodate a refuge which could obstruct and confuse traffic, increasing rather than reducing the possibility of accidents.

The survey also showed that very little traffic was going at more than 30 m.p.h. through the village centre.

## Aussies keen on tracing their roots

It's surprising the number of people who visit Wylam in search of information about their ancestors.

Two particularly interesting recent examples concerned families with descendants now living in Australia.

The Walker family were granted property in Wylam by King Henry VIII and continued to own that property until the 1890's. Their connections with Wylam were therefore earlier than the Blackett family, but as far as can be discovered they left the village in the 18th Century although continuing to own land here.

The Walkers owned the Town Farm - which included the land at Charlie's Corner, the sites of Blackett Cottages, the Institute garden, the Holeyn Hall road

houses, and part of the Dene Estate, as well as the riverside "common land" east of Stephenson Terrace which was given to the village earlier this century by one of the descendants of the Walkers.

The other Australian family tracing their ancestors are descendants of Dr. Philip Brown who built what is one of Wylam's most attractive houses, Elmfield on Station Road in 1886. He was Medical Officer of Health for Ryton, Blaydon and Winlaton, and lived at Blaydon for many years before moving to Wylam.

Susan and Michael Ewart of Elmfield Lodge are hoping to get more information about Dr. Brown and his family from the Australian relatives.



*Elmfield, one of Wylam's most elegant houses, was built for a Blaydon doctor over a hundred years ago. Now some of his descendants who live in Queensland, Australia are trying to obtain more information about him and his family.*

## Change of Chairman

New Chairman of the Parish Council is Philip Brooks of 20 Bluebell Close, with Maureen Gillis of 27 Dene Road continuing as Vice-Chairman. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting retiring Chairman Judith Furniss was thanked for her work over the past three years.

## Door to door salesmen

In some parts of the country unauthorised door to door salesmen have caused problems.

A pedlar's licence is required for doorstep selling and anyone selling in this manner should carry a licence and are committing an offence if they are trading without one.

## Travel tokens popular

So far 323 pensioners in the village have claimed their travel tokens for 1994-95. Anyone reaching pensionable age between 1st October and 31st March, 1995, or any new pensioners moving into the village to live are likely to be eligible for a half-years tokens. For further information please contact David Petrie (Tel: 852577)

## More mail - new box?

More people posting more - (and larger) letters and packages at the weekend has meant that the Victorian letter-box in the Post Office wall is sometimes unable to cope. The Royal Mail have therefore been asked if they could provide a larger pillar-box adjacent to the Post Office, which could take the increased quantity of mail.

## Concern at drugs use

In view of the growing concern at the use (and misuse) of drugs, particularly by children and young people, and in response to several local requests, the Parish Council agreed to hold a meeting for parents and other adults involved with children, on 20th October.

Medical and police experts spoke and gave advice at the meeting, which coincided with European Drug Awareness Week and a national campaign.

Those who attended felt the meeting was very helpful, and the Parish Council is grateful to all who assisted in making arrangements.

## Jumble Sale Record

The Wylam Housing Group (formerly Shelter) thank everyone who helped and supported their Jumble Sale and Auction last month which broke all previous records and raised over £1,000.

Incidentally the unsold jumble also went to a good home - for use by the Red Cross. Nothing was wasted!

## Thanks for your help...

Wylam is fortunate in having many people willing to do things voluntarily for the benefit of the village - some in helping to run village societies and clubs others to help make the village attractive.

The latest is Jack Marshall who very kindly provided the materials and labour to remedy erosion on the riverbank footpath to Stephenson's Cottage.

We thank Jack - and everyone who helps make Wylam an attractive and pleasant place in which to live.

## ...but more help needed!

The local Meals on Wheels team is looking for new helpers (drivers or mates) on Mondays or Thursdays.

Anyone willing to assist in providing this important voluntary service, please contact Penny Phillips, Wylam Lodge, Ovingham Road.

## Improvements started

Tynedale Council have recently started work on a £1/4 million contract to improve many of their houses and bungalows in the village.

Barwick Brothers Ltd. are the contractors and they require storage containers and skips close to the houses and bungalows where they will be working.

Finding suitable convenient sites for all the containers and skips has proved difficult. In particular two have had to be placed on the grass outside Blackett Cottages.

These and the others will be moved when the contract is completed and the sites will be tidied and reinstated.

## Successful Scheme for young cricketers

Wylam Cricket Club's strategy to develop young players has this year seen the formation of two teams playing in the Nat. West Tyne Under 13 league.

Around 50 youngsters also regularly attended Monday evening coaching sessions. Leading this initiative have been club members, Chas Earl, Bernard Paton and Ray Stockdale assisted by a few parents, particularly Peter Creighton, Frank Ponsinelli and Charles Pullin.

The scheme has been a major success and will continue when the new season begins in April next year.

The help of more parents, either at coaching or providing transport to away

matches, would be much appreciated. Would anyone willing to help please contact Chas Earl, 92 Dene Road (Tel: 852438 )

The Cricket Club have also asked parents to try to keep children from playing unofficially on the cricket square when using the field. Much time and effort is spent to maintain the square so please don't spoil it.

(Editors Note: Congratulations to all the cricketers and parents who have been involved in this worthwhile initiative to encourage young players. In recognition of the benefits, the Parish Council made a modest grant towards the setting up of the scheme this year).

## More Youth activities

Improved opportunities for youth activities at the Falcon Centre have recently been introduced now with two sessions, one on Monday and the other on Friday evenings, one for 7-10 year olds and the other for 11-15 year olds.

Part of the cost of improving the youth service locally has been funded by the Parish Council, reflecting the importance which local residents give to maintaining a good service for young people.

## Consult on your plans

Our article "Good design enhances village houses" in the last issue in which we were complimentary about the appearance of the extension to Rose Cottage, (and emphasised the importance of consulting neighbours if you are planning extensions to your property, which could affect them) prompted a response from one of the neighbours.

He expressed concern because he felt that the article implied there had been full consultation in the case of the Rose Cottage scheme, which he stated was not so.

We're sorry if we gave a wrong impression that everyone was entirely happy with that particular development. The important point to emphasise is that it is generally better to make sure that your neighbours know what you are proposing before you apply for planning permission. Sorting out potential problems at that stage can often avoid objections and friction later.

## Pubs good neighbours?

Over the past twenty years there has probably been at least one complaint (and in some cases more!) made to the Parish Council about each pub in the village.

Some complaints have been more serious than others, but they have all been resolved - generally by the owner/licensee realising that it is in their own best interest to be "good neighbours" to the village and particularly to the residents who live close to the pub.

Most local residents are reasonably tolerant about an occasional lapse but if the Parish Council receives frequent or serious complaints about nuisances arising from any pubs in the village, it will not hesitate to report these to the appropriate authorities (police, magistrates or brewery company) and press for prompt action to produce a satisfactory remedy.

## Bus service changes

The County Public Transport Officer has notified the Parish Council that changes in the mini-bus service from Crawcrook will be introduced in November. The service will be re-routed up Woodcroft Road, out via Charlie's Corner (existing stop) and down Main Road, with a new stop near the Black Bull.



*A pleasant reminder of warmer weather - a group photo of the young cricketers who benefitted from the new Coaching Scheme introduced by the Cricket Club this summer. It is hoped to continue the successful scheme next year.*

## Recycling update

Boots the Chemist will accept 35mm film canisters for recycling - perhaps there is someone in the village who works in or near a branch of Boots who would be prepared to collect them up. If so, please phone 852577.

The Institute has just received a useful cheque for £42.60 from recycled aluminium cans. Please do crush your cans (aluminium only, please) and put them in the bin in the Institute porch - they are worth almost 1p each, so we need lots!

A word about the recycling area in the old station car park, please when you have deposited your glass and metals will you take home any containers etc., this area is not a general waste collection point!

## New safety railings

At the request of the Parish Council the County Council have recently provided barrier-railings across the end of the "cut" path leading from Engine Dene onto Dene Road. We hope that this will help to stop small children running straight out onto the road.

## Wall repairs welcome

The many residents who have expressed concern at the deterioration of sections of the fine stone boundary wall to Holeyn Hall Park during recent years will have been very pleased to see the repairs started by the new owner, Mr. Milner of Stamfordham.

He has promised to continue the work next year, to ensure the future preservation of the wall which is such an important feature on the main entrance to the village.

## New V.I.C. soon

A new edition of the popular Village Information Card will be published in the Spring. The Parish Clerk, David Petrie will be contacting all the organisations listed on the present card in March or April, asking them for updated details of their secretaries etc.

Any new organisation not listed on the present pink card, but who would like to be added to the new card should contact David (Tel: 852577) before the beginning of March.

# Ambitious plans to improve the Institute for its Centenary

Fred Parker, President of Wylam Institute reports on their achievements in 1994 and plans for 1995 and the Centenary in 1996.

1994 has been an eventful year but much more is planned for the next 12/18 months before the Centenary Year's celebrations start in April 1996.

Just prior to the Wylam Womens' Institute 75th Anniversary in March, new ceilings were installed in the Swindale Room with generous financial support from the Parish Council. In the summer the Institute's appearance was improved with the renewal of the external paintwork and

this month the garden fencing has been replaced following the construction of the new back lane alongside the attractive Institute Garden, which continues to be maintained by Mr. & Mrs. Fittes.

At the Institute Management Committee meeting in early October a plan for further major improvements prepared by Jim Coulson of Coulson Swinburne & Partners, with costs exceeding £50,000, was proposed. This included an upgrading of the existing, outdated electrical installations, the provision of a disabled access ramp, an updating of the Institute's heating systems, rising damp eradication, renewing

the Swindale/Blackett Room dividing systems, improving the standard of seating, lighting, decor and furnishing to the Institute entrance hallway and Swindale Room, to meet higher expectations for leisure and social meeting occasions, and a lift installation to the Munro Hall for disabled and elderly visitors to attend Drama productions and other public concerts and functions.

The Institute has had a record of strong financial management since the 1982 redevelopment programme and will be able to provide an initial balance of over £6,000 to finance the centenary development scheme. Additional support from Tynedale Council and the Parish Council is being sought and a Centenary Appeal Fund will need to be launched in 1995 if the plans are to proceed. The Institute was able to undertake major improvements in the early 1980s with generous financial help from many people in Wylam and a number of local charities, local councils and an interesting programme of social and fund raising events. The current Management Committee is extremely enthusiastic but additional help from village residents would be most welcome.

With improved facilities the Institute Committee are planning to undertake a Centenary Programme of Events from April 1996 to satisfy all the people of Wylam. Throughout the last 98 years the Institute has been the centre of Wylam's social/leisure interests and the Trustees and Committee consider that it has an important part to play in the future".

The new Secretary of the Institute is Eleanor Carroll. She is in the office (Tel: 852498) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10.00 - 12.30 p.m. At other times there is an answerphone.



*This attractive new fence, and the repairs to the railings around the Institute garden is just the start of a series of improvements which it is planned to carry out at the Institute in the next year or so - to prepare it for the 21st Century! Your help and support will be needed.*

## Traffic to Close House

Following local worries that the extensive improvements to Close House Mansion, to create a major conference centre, could result in additional traffic along the narrow and winding Blue Bell Lane, the Parish Council have written to the County Surveyor asking that signs be displayed directing traffic leaving Close House onto the Heddon - Horsley road and the A69.

The need to warn drivers to take care on the bend outside Oakwood Cottages was also emphasised.

## Line to be replaced

Northern Electric are proposing to replace the section of overhead power line which runs across the allotments at the Haughs.

They promise the minimum of disruption - and new poles which are less prominent than the existing ones.

After their experience with Northumbria Water earlier this year, the allotment holders are deeply suspicious!

## Local Plan to 2006

A good number of residents took the opportunity to see Tynedale Council's "Planning to 2006" exhibition displayed in the library between 25th-29th October.

The exhibition highlighted the issues being considered in the draft of the Local Plan for Tynedale, now being prepared by the District Council.

A copy of the full Consultation Draft of the Plan is available in the library, together with copies of the special supplement included with the "Hexham Courant" in early September. Comments on the draft plan should be sent to the Director of Planning at Tynedale Council, Hexham by the 23rd December.

## Coffee with Carols

The popular "Christmas Carols with Coffee" event will be held in the library again this year, with carols being sung by children from one of the local schools.

The date and time will be publicised in the library and on village notice-boards.

## Take care parking

Parking on the road outside the "Tudor" houses on Holeyn Hall Road can be hazardous. Anyone visiting residents there is urged to try and park off the road wherever possible.

## River Salmon Report

The recurrence of the distressing sight of dead salmon in the Tyne during the summer prompted the Parish Council and the Angling Club to express concern to the National Rivers Authority at local river conditions.

The reply received from the Rivers Authority is much too detailed to summarise here, so a copy of the response has been displayed on the Parish Council Notice-board in the library, for all interested residents to see.

If, having read the response, anyone has comments they would like the Parish Council to pass to the Rivers Authority please let the Parish Clerk know.