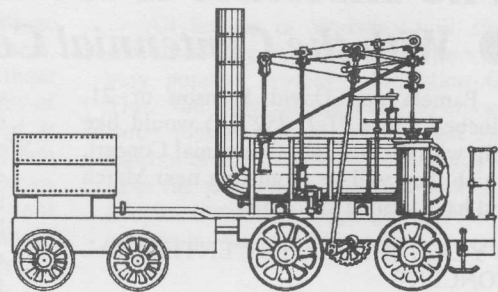


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1995

Number 58

Enjoy yourself supporting Community Week

Community Week is always a highlight of the Autumn in Wylam, and its purpose has remained largely unchanged with local societies and organisations arranging activities to appeal to residents, thus attracting more support, encouraging greater use of the Institute and at the same time raising money towards the ever increasing running costs.

This year's programme has a good mixture—providing something of interest for most age-groups. Please support as many events as you can, you'll enjoy them, and the Institute will benefit.

The main events (all in the Institute, unless otherwise stated) include:—

Saturday, 4th November

The Annual Christmas Card Sale and Gift and Craft Fayre. National and local charities will be displaying cards and gifts. Open 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Admission free.

Sunday, 5th November

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

Monday, 6th November

Fashion Show—Chain Store seconds. 7.30 p.m. Institute.

Tuesday, 7th November

Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale. 10.00 a.m. Sponsored Work-out organised by Fizzical Fun. 6.45 p.m. Sponsor forms from Myra Wiseman.

Wednesday, 8th November

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

“Have wok—will travel” Chinese Cookery demonstration. Commencing 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m., organised by the Dramatic Society.

Thursday, 9th November

Soup and sweet served by the W.I.—available between 12 noon—2.00. Whist Drive, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 11th November

Horticultural Society Coffee Morning and Plant Sale. 10.30 a.m.

Wine and Wisdom Evening, 7.30 p.m. (Booking forms from Wine Lodge, Tea Shop or P. & V. Smith. Tel. 853713).

Sunday, 12th November

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday, 25th November

Carpet Bowls Competition, 12.00 noon.



A picture which you are likely to see several times over the next twelve months as we celebrate the Centenary of the opening of the present Institute in 1896. In fact this shows the original “Reading Institution and News Room” which stood on Charlie's Corner next to Brewery House. It was in use from 1850 until the present Institute was completed. It is one of the historic photographs included by Philip Brooks in his new album of pictures of ‘Old Wylam’ just published.

Energy prize win should benefit everyone

Thanks to its good environmental record, Wylam has won an Energy Watch Village competition run by Northern Electric. The Parish Council's pioneering recycling scheme has already won two national awards.

As a major part of the Northern Electric prize, the Institute, which is due to be refurbished to celebrate its centenary next year, will receive free insulation to the main hall, together with draught proofing and energy saving lamps.

All local residents could also benefit at home. Each householder will receive a letter from Northern Electric detailing grants for energy conservation. In some

cases work may even be done at no cost to the householder.

Northern Electric's Energy Efficiency Road Show Caravan will be parked in the War Memorial car park on Friday, 3rd and Saturday, 4th November between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., to offer free advice and information. Residents and businesses will be able to purchase low energy light bulbs from the Institute for about a third of the normal retail price.

As well as benefitting the Institute, this will be an ideal opportunity for everyone to achieve a permanent reduction in their electricity charges.

The Institute is looking for assistance—Can you help?

● *With the Centennial Concert*

Pamela and David Johnson of 21, Bluebell Close (Tel. 852731) would like help with the Institute Centennial Concert, which they will be producing next March and have written as follows:—

WYLAM INSTITUTE CENTENNIAL CONCERT

“As one of the events commemorating 100 years of the Wylam Institute, we will be producing a concert on the 22nd and 23rd March, 1996. This will involve music, songs, dances and sketches recalling various events that have taken place over the last 100 years and also the type of entertainment which has been enjoyed in The Institute.

At 8.0 p.m. on Monday the 13th November, 1995 there will be a preliminary meeting in the Institute for all those who would like to take part. Would any individual or group who feel they can offer something which could be

used in this concert please contact us as soon as possible.

We would also like to hear from anyone else who would like to be involved in this production either on stage or as a helper backstage or front of house. No experience is necessary! We can promise that it will be very rewarding and a great deal of fun!

During the last few weeks, Pam has been talking with and tape-recording many local residents and has been delighted with their interest, response and reminiscences. As it is impossible for her to approach everyone personally, she would be grateful if anyone who has any anecdotes or photographs, particularly those relevant to any event which has taken place in The Institute, would contact her so that she can arrange a meeting.”

Yours sincerely,
PAM & DAVID JOHNSON.

● *With the new Institute garden rota*

For several years now Olwyn and Sarah Fittes have spent many hours maintaining and improving the Institute Garden with their own equipment, plants and cuttings setting very high standards. With the renewed fencing, newly painted railings and the new lane, the garden presents a much admired attraction to the village centre. However Mr. and Mrs. Fittes are now wishing to reduce their extensive gardening work, and the Institute is seeking to organise a grass cutting/gardening team weekly rota. Elsewhere in the village St. Oswin's Church has an extremely successful

gardening team and the Institute is keen to do likewise.

Through the new Croquet Club and some generous sponsorship of yet another Great North Run by Ken John, a fund is being established for the garden and to buy equipment including a lawn mower. Additional donations to this fund would be most welcome and can be made through the Institute Office. (852498).

If you are able to assist with the garden in any way please add your name to the list on the Institute notice board during Community Week or contact Fred Parker on 852575 or the Institute Office.

● *In planning more activities for youngsters*

Although the Institute attracts a wide-range of groups who meet in one or other of its rooms there has been local concern that in recent years it has lost some regular groups and activities for children and young people, for various reasons. Although similar groups still meet in Prudhoe and/or Heddon-on-the-Wall, Wylam needs a wider range of leisure interests for active

youngsters in the 9 to 15 years age group. Discussions are being held by representatives of the Institute Committee with County Council Youth and Community staff to try and establish the local needs and what might be done, but if there are any residents with special interests and skills who would be willing to help please contact Fred Parker on 852575.

● *In tracing the missing croquet equipment*

Although the Institute's Croquet equipment has not been seen since the major alterations were carried out to the Institute in 1982 a Wylam Croquet Championship Competition was held for the first time for many years in the Institute Garden this summer, with equipment hired from the Northern Counties Croquet Association. With expert coaching from Wylam residents Sue Stenhouse and Malcolm O'Connell who are regular players at the Tyneside Club at Cochrane Park and for Scotland, everyone who participated discovered that they could play and thoroughly enjoy some extremely close games. The eventual winners of the

Championship Final were Dave and Judy Collins against Tony and Margaret Mitcham. Ivon and Robin Piette were victors in the Plate Competition.

Negotiations are now being undertaken to purchase equipment for next year, and the Wylam Institute Croquet Club will also have a role to assist the Institute in financing the Institute Garden expenditure.

Play will commence again in May next year. Watch the Institute Notice Board for information or ring 852575, or the Office on 852498. Also please ring either number if you have information which might help locate the Institute's old Croquet equipment.

100 years ago in November 1895 the shell of the present Institute building was largely complete, but much work remained to be done and it was 11th April, 1896 before the building was officially opened.

The contrast between the new building and the previous Reading Institute which had been housed in an old cottage on Charlie's Corner since it was founded in 1850 was immense. Fortunately the present Institute does not need total replacement like the old building did a century ago—but it is essential to regularly improve and update the facilities and ensure that the premises are attractive.

The Centenary is obviously an appropriate special anniversary to celebrate 100 years of the present building and carry out further improvements. Plans for possible improvements have been discussed over many months, and details have recently been finalised for consideration by the Management Committee and Trustees.

Substantial finance will be needed to complete the planned improvements and an appeal for funds will be launched. Provided that sufficient support is forthcoming it is intended to undertake the works next summer.

More information about the improvements and the amount of money needed will be available in due course.

An ambitious programme of events to celebrate the Institute Centenary has been planned—and although still subject to possible changes, you might like to note some of the following dates in your diaries (or on the calendar) for next year:—

January 20	Burns Night.
February, 17	Valentine Dance.
March 22—23	Centennial Concert.
April 11	Centenary Day. Ceremony and Art Exhibition.
April 13	Coffee Morning.
April 20	Grand Dinner Dance.
June 7—9	Flower Festival in St. Oswin's with Exhibition.
	Music in church on 7th with Songs of Praise on 9th.
June 22	Village Field Day.
July 13	Cream Teas and Music in Institute Garden.
August	Institute closed for re-furbishment.
September 14—15	Village Show.
October ?	Gardeners Question Time.
October ?	Musical Evening.
November	Community Week.
December 7	Children's Christmas Party.
December 15	Messiah in St. Oswin's.

Fred Parker reports that the Institute Management Committee operates with several sub-committees but with the loss of some prominent members recently additional support from other residents, particularly with the forward planning of some of Centenary events (listed above) would be most welcome. Anyone willing to help, or who would like more information is asked to contact Fred.

Attractive album of historic Wylam photos

The album of old photographs for which many residents have been waiting has just been published and will be available for sale at the Charity Card Sale and Craft Fayre in the Institute on Saturday morning 4th November.

Author, local historian, Philip Brooks has chosen 44 of the best photographs from the collection he has assembled to include in this volume. Many of these depict the village in Victorian and Edwardian times, and show how much some parts of the village have changed. Each photograph has its own detailed and informative caption and the introduction describes aspects of the history of Wylam.

Attractively produced, the book has been published by the County Library in association with the Parish Council, which has celebrated its centenary this year.

Whether you have lived in the village all your life—or only recently moved here, you're sure to be interested in these pictures of Wylam in the past, and many of you will want to buy a copy. Priced at £4.95 the book will make an excellent Christmas present for anyone who knows the village—ideal for members of your family or friends who have left Wylam, as well as for yourself and others still here!

Profits from all copies sold by the Parish Council will go to the village museum fund.

So buy your copies at the Institute on Saturday morning, 4th November, when Philip will be happy to sign them if you wish, or you can obtain them from David Petrie, Clerk to the Parish Council, 8 Stephenson Terrace or from Philip Brooks at 20 Bluebell Close.



Although there was some local concern when planning permission was given, on appeal, to build a house at the end of Algernon Terrace, the design of the new bungalow now being built in stone and slate should blend quite well with the stone terrace and the Church Hall, without being unduly prominent.

Paper-back, but any offers for aluminium?

With the value of waste paper now £50 per Tonne, the Parish Council has decided to re-introduce the waste paper collection service. In conjunction with Castle Morpeth Borough Council, two extra collection bins will be sited in the War Memorial car park to collect this valuable asset, an arrangement which will be of financial benefit to the village.

The Parish Council is having to underwrite the cost of the new bins, since as many people are aware, the reason that the collection was suspended some years ago was due to the mindless vandalism of several local youths who twice set fire to the original bins, causing £500 worth of damage.

PLEASE be aware of this possibility and report immediately to the Police any suspicious behaviour in the car park. Future damage to the bins will not only result in the village losing income, but also

costing the Council and hence you the ratepayer's, money!

The intended refurbishment of the Institute porch next year as part of the Centenary improvement means that it will not be practicable for the aluminium can collection to continue. The Institute Committee have decided that they no longer wish to pursue this collection and the Parish Council would be interested to hear from any other local organisation who would be willing to continue collecting **Aluminium** cans.

Castle Morpeth BC could arrange bulk collection on a regular basis and the value of each can is about 1.2 pence, ie. a dustbin full of uncrushed cans is worth about £2.

Please do not continue to leave cans at the Institute. We look forward to other volunteers coming forward to help swell their funds with the cash return from this worthwhile enterprise.

New Information Card

All houses in Wylam will shortly receive a copy of the latest edition of the very popular Wylam Information Card. This, the eleventh edition is on green card—please dispose of the last (pink) Card or any earlier ones, so that you only have the new one—with new names and telephone numbers of people and services whom you may need to contact.

Hedges—a warning

Several complaints about overgrown hedges and trees obstructing footpaths, have been made to the Parish Council this year, necessitating the Clerk having to contact the householder personally.

In future, however, the Parish Council will produce a standard letter which will be sent to anyone who allows their hedges or trees to become a nuisance to members of the public using an adjoining footpath. This letter will ask that action be taken to remedy the problem within a specified time (probably one month) and if that is not done without reasonable excuse, the matter will be referred to the County Council who have powers to take further action. We hope it will not be necessary to do this very often—but there are one or two regular offenders in the village—please note!

3 year olds wanted!

Are you a Wylam resident with a child whose 3rd birthday falls during this school year? If so he or she could be eligible for a place at Wylam Playgroup. Where?—Falcon Centre. When?—Between 9.30—11.30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please contact Louise Hislop (Tel. 852445) for more information.

Housing Group thanks

Wylam Housing Group would like to thank all those who generously supported their recent jumble sale which raised over £1000 for the homeless in Tyneside. The group were also able to arrange for the remaining clothing, shoes and bedding to be distributed through the Soup Kitchen in Newcastle, directly to those people in need of them.

Such an active group always needs new members—and anyone inspired, and willing to help, should contact Sharon Lamb (Tel. 852688) for more details!

Ramp-help available

The Church Council at St. Oswin's is investigating the possibility of installing a ramp at the main entrance to the church, to facilitate access by wheelchair-users. However, in the meantime access is possible through the vestry entrance, where a small wooden ramp is available to negotiate the external step. Members of the congregation are always happy to offer help if needed.

Keen Cubs are looking for new leaders

Wylam always seems to have been fortunate in finding residents willing to offer help in running groups and organisations for young people in the village.

Three ladies who deserve special thanks are Margaret Halfpenny, Cathy McNicholas and Jacqui Hodgson who will shortly be retiring after having run Wylam Cubs for the past 10 years. Their work has been much appreciated, especially by the

parents of those boys who have been Cubs.

There is now an urgent need to find three new leaders willing to become involved with the Cubs from January. We hope that three people will offer their services in this very worthwhile task for a few years to keep the Cub packs going.

Anyone who might be willing to help is asked to contact Dr. Peter Tayler, 24 Woodcroft Road (Tel. 852464) for more information on what is involved.

All change at school

Following the retirement through ill health of Mr. Eric Ford the present Headteacher of the village first school, a new Headteacher, Mrs. Dorothy McSorley, who is currently at Ellingham school in North Northumberland, has been appointed to succeed him. She will be starting at the School after Christmas.

We welcome Mrs. McSorley to Wylam and hope that she enjoys working in the village. At the same time we offer our thanks to Mr. Ford who has served the school loyally for over 20 years, and wish him and his wife a very happy retirement.

RBL Collectors wanted

The Royal British Legion needs more collectors to help their annual Poppy Appeal—if you would be willing to give an hour or two in this very worthy cause, please contact Richard Allen, 10 Bluebell Close (Tel. 853880) as soon as possible.

Even if you cannot help as a collector please be as generous as you can to the Poppy Appeal which pays for homes, jobs and assistance for ex-service people and their dependants.

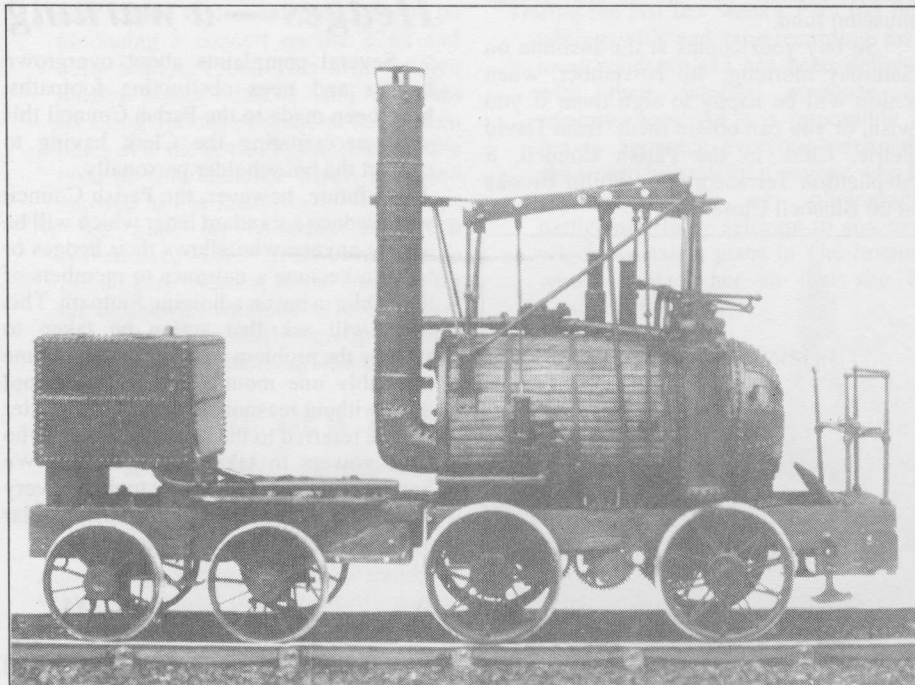
Holey Hall Road

The installation of marker posts along the kerb-edge of the pavement outside houses in Holeyn Hall Road has been welcomed by local residents and the Parish Council, who have been pressing the County Council for action to reduce the speed of traffic and risk of accidents on this length of road. Further action to improve signing, and make the 30 mph signs more prominent has been promised by the County Surveyor. Our thanks to County Councillor Robina Jacobson for her help and support in urging the need for action by the County Council.

Country Park update

Following the retirement of Les Hewitt, Kevin Storie has taken over local responsibility for the Tyne Riverside Country Park, and representatives of the Parish Council have met him and his colleague Mike Jeffreys from County Hall, to discuss the concerns of local residents about the use (or misuse) of the walkway through Wylam, and the need for improvements. Some work has been done, and further improvements, including new signs are promised for next year.

One noticeable improvement has been on the riverside path to Stephenson's Cottage, where the Conservation Volunteers from Newcastle University have levelled and strengthened several sections of path. Their work, aided by the County Council Countryside Team has certainly been of benefit, and much appreciated.



This splendid model of famous Wylam locomotive "Puffing Billy" was built by George Mitcheson of Ashington. Mr. Mitcheson, who works for Synpac, the Taiwanese-owned pharmaceutical company at Cambois, is an enthusiastic railway modeller. This model, at scale of 12mm to 1 foot, was made for a presentation to the Company Chairman when he visited the Cambois factory in 1993. It is powered by a small electric motor, with batteries concealed in the plinth. Now on display in the company boardroom in Taipei, it is frequently shown to and admired by visiting dignitaries. Good publicity for Wylam — and the skills of the North-East past and present.

Local History Society to be revived

At a well-attended meeting in early September it was agreed to re-form the Local History Society, and a Committee was appointed and given the task of considering what activities the Society might carry out.

It is being suggested that the Society should invite occasional outside speakers, but that members should also become involved in local projects to explore and record the history of Wylam, which could involve recording the recollections of local residents, searching the extensive Wylam Archives in the Blakett papers at the County Record Office, or studying the history and development of buildings in the village.

The immediate priority will be to plan an exhibition about the history of Wylam for the Village Show next year as part of the Institute Centenary Celebrations.

The next meeting of the Local History Society will be held in the Institute on Wednesday, 29th November at 7.30 p.m. when there will be some formal business to set up the new Society, followed by a talk

and slide show on "Wylam—As it was" by Philip Brooks. All are welcome—especially everyone interested in joining the Local History Society. Don't forget to bring some money with you.

St. Oswin's appeal

The Vicar, Rev. Richard Bryant writes: All Churches of England have to review their income every four years at present; almost always an increase is needed! St. Oswin's has been holding a Funding Campaign this Autumn to raise the £50,000 a year which it will need over each of the next four years to pay its bills and obligations. This represents an increase of over 25% on our current income—a tall order in the present climate. This increase is necessary primarily because of the extra money required to pay pensions for the rising number of retired clergy. If you would like to contribute through cash covenant or pledge, please contact Miss Fiona Stevenson on 853467 for further details.