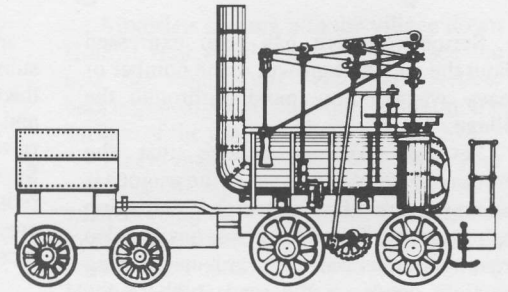


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1996

Number 59

Great Start made to Institute fund raising

Almost £50,000 has now been promised for the Institute Centenary Appeal Fund, launched last November. Donations, fund-raising events so far and a transfer from reserves has provided £23,000. Charitable trusts have offered £22,000 including £10,000 from the Blakett Trust and £5,000 from the Sir James Knott Trust. The Parish Council have agreed to contribute £4,000 and Tynedale Council £7,000 towards the project over the next two years.

It had been hoped to boost the fundraising with a major contribution from one of the National Lottery funds this year to enable most of the improvement work to be completed during the centenary; however schemes for village walls and Community Centres are now to be considered for Lottery funds next year and an application will therefore be submitted in 1997.

In view of this delay, and the fact that a more enterprising plan for improving the Institute, including a lift and perhaps building up over the yard area to create additional space for rooms and storage is being explored, a phased improvement scheme will be carried out, with the major works being undertaken next year, provided necessary additional funds can be raised from the Lottery and other sources.

Every house in the village has received information about the Appeal Fund and a good response has been received to date. Any further contributions would be most welcome and should be addressed to the Chairman of the Centenary Appeal Fund and sent to the Institute office.

Annual membership subscriptions over the last 15 months have contributed over £3,000 towards Institute running costs. This means that almost 40% of households in the village are involved in the Institute's development.

The Institute celebrated its centenary on 11th April with a Wine and Cheese Evening, attended by some 80 members and friends, at the opening of a three-day Art Exhibition organised by the Art Classes group and other local artists. Mrs. Peggy Pattinson, the Institute's Centenary Appeal Fund President unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

One hundred years ago in April 1896, the Institute was officially opened by Sir J. C. B. Riddell of Hepple, near Rothbury. His descendant Sir John Riddell still lives at Hepple, and was formerly the Private Secretary to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Several successful events have already been held to celebrate the Centenary Year.

A very popular Centennial Concert organised by Pam and David Johnson, took place on three evenings at the end of March, incorporating scenes from Wylam's history over the past hundred years, and involved both adults and children in a very enjoyable evening's entertainment; this was followed in mid-April by a Supper Dance which was also well supported.

Highlight of the Summer Programme has been the Flower Festival in St. Oswin's, combined with a "Wylam - Past and Present" exhibition in the Institute - held over the first weekend in June, and including a "Songs of Praise" and Concert.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who has helped to make the Centenary events already held, so successful.

But there are plenty more events to come; please support as many as you can.



President of the Institute Centenary Appeal Fund Mrs. Peggy Pattinson with the plaque she unveiled to mark the Centenary of the opening of the Institute in April 1896. With her is Fred Parker, Chairman of the Institute Association.

JUNE

Saturday, 22nd

Summer Fair and Barbecue.

Friday, 28th

Whist Drive.

Sunday, 30th

Quoits Competition.

JULY

Saturday, 13th

Cream Teas and Music in the Institute garden.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 14th & Sunday, 15th

Village Show of Produce and crafts.

OCTOBER

Thursday, 17th

Gardeners Question Time.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 2nd - Sunday, 10th

Community Week

DECEMBER

Saturday, 7th

Children's Christmas Party.

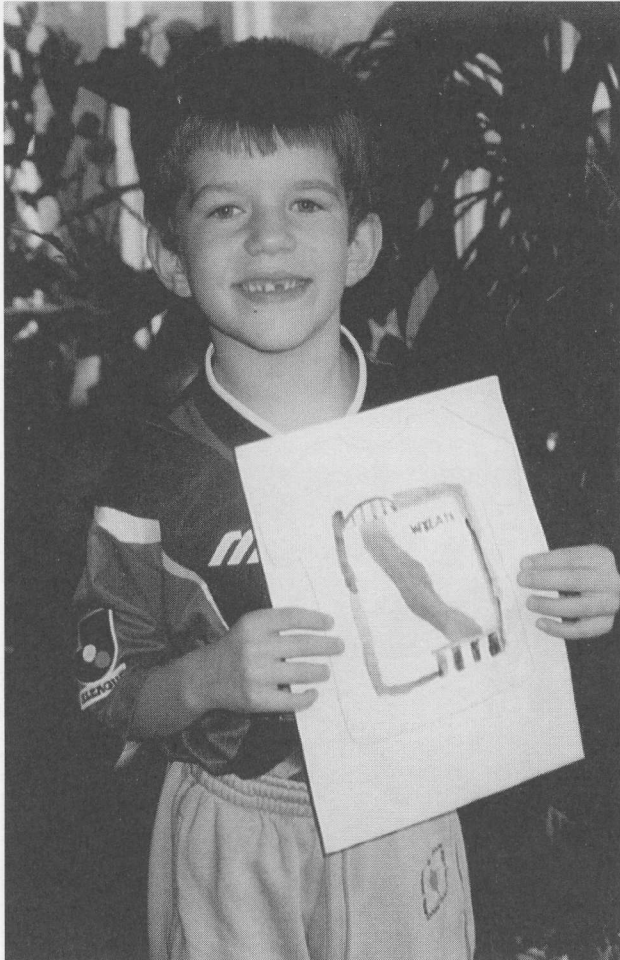
Sunday, 15th

Handel's 'Messiah' in St. Oswin's.

Heavy Traffic causing hazards and damage

Serious concern has been expressed about the apparent growth in the number of heavy wagons now passing through the village.

Several residents believe that the increased weight and speed of the wagons is causing severe vibration which is damaging their property. These large wagons are also creating serious traffic hazards negotiating the tight bends on the road south of the village.



Tom Geary of the Toll House is proudly displaying the prize-winning design he produced for the new 1996 Wylam Summer Fair T-shirt.

The problems appear to have increased substantially over the past two years, since the County Council last undertook a survey and the Parish Council has now agreed to raise the problem again with the County Surveyor, requesting that action be taken to reduce the volume of heavy vehicles which are causing damage to property and increased traffic hazards.

Fascinating history

Members of the Local History Society recently enjoyed the opportunity to look around the outside of Wylam Hall, trying to identify the various additions and alterations made to the Hall over the centuries. Assistant Secretary, Rosemary Proud also invited members to look around West House, and pointed out the various features of the house and talked about its fascinating history.



Members of the Wylam Discussion Group and Tree Warden, Peter Clarke, planting 25 trees on the Wylam Haughs, to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Group.

Plant a tree to mark that special event

Why not plant a tree to celebrate a birth, or a marriage, or to remember a loved one, or an exam success, or even just for the pleasure of doing it? Several people have already done so - to commemorate an anniversary or some other family event.

The most recent group to do so were the Wylam Discussion Group, who planted twenty five trees on the Nature Reserve, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the formation of the group.

It is very satisfying to see a tree growing, when you, or a member of your family have planted it, especially if it brings back happy memories.

If you would like to do something like this, to help make the village more attractive, please telephone the Tree

Warden, Peter Clarke, to discuss the idea (Tel: 852297). He is always willing to help and will assist you in deciding what kind of tree to choose, and where to plant it. He will be able to tell you how little it can cost, and help with the actual planting if you like.

Travel tokens

Most pensioners in the village who are eligible for their travel tokens have now collected them from the Post Office. Any pensioners who have not yet claimed them, or anyone who becomes eligible during the year should contact David Petrie, the Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel: 852577).

Any recycling ideas?

The Green 'Recycling' list which the Parish Council published and circulated to all households in the village several years ago is due for updating, and a new list will be produced. All items on the present list will be checked, but does anyone have anything which they think could usefully be added to the list? Prudhoe Hospital no longer require illustrated magazines - does anyone else have a use for them, or will they just have to be recycled with the other paper?

Any suggestions, or new ideas about the recycling scheme, please pass them to Lynne Petrie Tel: 852577.

Incidentally, more than £500 was received last year for the recycled material collected at the Wylam recycling centre.

Open space reminder

Parents (and children) are reminded that use of the open spaces on the Dene Estate for playing games should be limited to children of First School age (5 - 9 years).

Older children should use the Jackson Road ("Chinese") field or Engine Dene which is much more suitable for ball games.

Children using the open areas particularly at the Dene Estate and those off Bell Road and the Hedley Road playground, which are close to houses, are asked to take special care to avoid damaging neighbouring gardens, or otherwise causing a nuisance to nearby residents.

Parents are especially requested to make sure that their children follow the guidelines which are designed to try and ensure that residents of all ages can live in reasonable harmony!

Welcome to new Head

This is the first newsletter since Mrs. Dorothy McSorley started as Headteacher of the village First School. Reports to date seem very favourable and we welcome her, and hope that she enjoys her work in one of the most important jobs in Wylam.

War Memorial repairs

Minor repairs repointing the village War Memorial are to be carried out this year. The idea of cleaning the stonework was also considered but it was felt that the weathering on the stonework and metal panels are part of the character of the Memorial.

Sewing help needed

After a very long planning period, needlework on the village map has finally begun. More help is needed, and if you'd like to take part, please contact Diana McFetrich, 7 Stephenson Terrace (Tel: 852345). If you think your sewing might not be good enough, but you are still interested, do give Diana a call, and see what is involved. It is hoped to complete the work and have the embroidered map hanging in the Swindale Room in the Institute by next April, before the end of the centenary year!

Skips require permits

Did you know that under the Highways Act 1980 you must have a permit for a skip placed in the road or on a footpath or verge. The skip must also be illuminated at night. Permission is required from the County Highways Department (Tel: (01434) 602246 for more information) - and a fine of up to £100 is the penalty for not observing this law. Check with the skip hire company that they have obtained a licence - and will provide a light; otherwise you may face prosecution - and might cause an accident.

Dog fouling action

Strong complaints were made at the Annual Parish meeting about the number of dog owners who are ignoring the code of good practice, and the Dog Fouling bye laws.

The bye-laws are displayed on lamp posts and bollards around the village - and there is no reason why every dog owner should not be aware of them. They state;

"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).

The Parish Council is asking Tynedale Council to "get tough" with any local dog owners who contravene the bye laws.

The guidance leaflet produced by the Parish Council and delivered to every house in the village will be revised and reissued later in the year.

In the meantime, if you have evidence of local residents allowing their dogs to contravene bye laws, or foul public areas, please give details to the Clerk to the Parish Council, 8 Stephenson Terrace, and we will approach the people concerned.

Repairs for bridge

One of Wylam's most distinctive landmarks, the former railway bridge over the river at Hagg Bank, should be repaired and repainted, following the award of a substantial grant by National Heritage. The County Council who own the bridge, and applied for the grant, hope that work can be carried out in the next twelve months.

Nuisance phone calls

Several residents have reported receiving nuisance phone calls; there may be someone who is using the telephone system to annoy or frighten people, or for prospecting criminal opportunities.

It is important if anyone in the village has received any sort of nuisance call; or even calls which are immediately terminated on being answered, please dial 1471 to determine the number of the caller. If the calls occur frequently please report the matter to British Telecom (Tel: 0800 666 700). The Parish Council would be interested to know if many residents have had problems with nuisance calls - if so the Council may raise the matter with B.T. and the police.

Reduce your speed

Motorists coming into the village down Holeyn Hall Road, cannot fail to see the new 30 mph signs with their yellow backing boards, or the red band on the surface of the road itself.

Please make sure that you reduce your speed to 30 mph at this point. Similarly when leaving the village, please remember to keep your speed below 30 mph until you cross the red band on the road. Residents of Holeyn Hall Road say that several Wylam residents regularly exceed the speed limit on this section of road.

Centenary history book

To mark the Centenary of the Institute, Philip Brooks and Denis Peel, in association with Peter Isaac have produced an attractive booklet on the history of the present Institute, and its predecessor, the Wylam Reading Institution and News Room which was opened in 1850 and occupied part of a cottage which stood about where the present bus shelter stands on Charlies Corner. The illustrated booklet includes a copy of the first Annual Report of 1857, and describes many of the people and events in the subsequent development of the Institute. Copies of the booklet are available - price £1.50, with profits to the Institute Centenary Fund.

Involving youth

In common with several other local Parish Councils, Wylam Parish Council is exploring ways in which young people in the village might be encouraged to become more actively involved in the practical work of the Parish Council.

Whilst we all criticise the Government - national and local, for what they do - or don't do - democracy is important, and it is vital that young people are persuaded to take part in helping their local communities to meet the needs of present residents, and in planning for the future.

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, adult 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 15th June between 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. or on the evening of Friday 21st 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.

Plenty for all to enjoy at this year's Summer Fair on 22nd June

The Playing Fields Association Summer Fair on Saturday, 22nd June promises to be even bigger and better than usual, starting a half hour earlier at 1.00 p.m. A new attraction this year is a demonstration of the ancient art of Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling.

The flying display of owls and hawks proved popular last year, especially with the children who were able to help fly the birds, and are back again. Martin the Magician will be on hand to mystify children and adults alike, whilst the Ovington Tynedale Band will provide the

music and the Hexham Morrismen the dancing.

The Fun Run and Children's Races, Penalty Shoot-Out and Egg Hoyoing cater for the more active, whilst a range of refreshments and stalls will be provided by village organisations, charities and commercial stallholders.

The Barbecue in the evening in the Institute Garden with the Ad Hoc Band rounds off the day. Half the profit will go to the Institute Centennial Appeal.

A Raffle is being held with a first prize of a weekend break for two at a Vaux

Swallow Five Star Hotel, including dinner, breakfast and lunch on the third day, worth around £250.

Profits from the raffle will help raise the £10,000 needed to purchase the field from the Boys' Brigade, which it is hoped to complete this year.

A new Wylam Summer Fair T-shirt will be on sale again this year to a design by Thomas Geary (7), chosen from a number of entries by village children in a competition (see photo inside).

We hope that as many residents as possible will support the fair again this year, and so help the Playing Field Association, whose members work so hard voluntarily to maintain and improve the field, for the benefit of the village.

A new memorial seat

Walkers on the public footpath on Wylam Scar now have the luxury of a seat from which to rest and admire the splendid views up and down the river, thanks to friends of the late Brian Purvis.

Brian was an athlete of repute who lived with his family at Walbottle, and knew the Tyne Valley well. The views from the Scar were amongst his favourites. Sadly he died last year from cancer, aged 54. We thank his family and friends for gifting this seat, and hope that it will be appreciated and respected by those who use it.

Green-fingered helpers

Members of the Horticultural Society have kindly agreed to take on the task of planting and maintaining the various tubs and troughs around the village and the border to the War Memorial. Peter Clarke, the Tree Warden who has put in a lot of hard work to help keep the village looking attractive, is relinquishing the job of looking after the plant tubs. He will however be continuing his work as Tree Warden and helping with the Nature Reserve. We thank him for his continuing work, and the Horticultural Society members for the help they have promised.

New Cottage tenants

A belated welcome to Joy and Colin Dunn, from Crawcrook who moved into Stephenson's Cottage as the new National Trust tenants some months ago. They are thoroughly enjoying their new home. Some building repair work necessary on the front wall of the cottage will be undertaken in the Autumn, but in the meantime the Cottage continues to be open to visitors. So if you have friends staying with you this summer, why not take them to see the birthplace of Wylam's most famous former resident!

Opening times are between 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.



An important member of the Petrie household admires the attractive new seat on Wylam Scar, kindly given by the family and friends of the late Brian Purvis of Throckley. Walkers can now rest and enjoy the splendid view, including, in the distance the unique and historic former railway bridge at Hagg Bank, for which the County Council have received a substantial grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, towards the cost of essential repairs.

Concern about crime - your help is needed

One of the best attended public meetings in the village for several years took place at the end of April.

Over 100 people packed the Institute for the meeting organised by the Riverside Neighbourhood Watch group, to discuss the problems of crime and vandalism in the area. Senior representatives from Northumbria Police, and local Councillors were present to explain what action was being taken, and future plans.

Following the meeting it has been agreed to invite representatives of the police and various organisations concerned about crime and safety in the village to form a Working Group to try and establish the causes of the present problems and then to identify the most effective action to tackle these problems, with the aim of reducing the worries of local residents.

The importance of strengthening the local Neighbourhood Watch schemes and

ensuring that they involve the whole village, and co-ordinate action, was emphasised at the meeting.

Everyone needs to be alert, and if you see something suspicious - don't rely on someone else reporting it, contact the Police direct yourself.

Improved power - when?

The frequency of power cuts in the village has been a cause of complaint for many years and the Parish Council has raised the problem again with Northern Electric. Some of the difficulties have been caused by vandalism and steps have been taken to try and reduce this. Northern Electric have also indicated that it is intended to erect a new supply line from West Wylam via Wylam, to Heddon, at some future (unspecified) date.