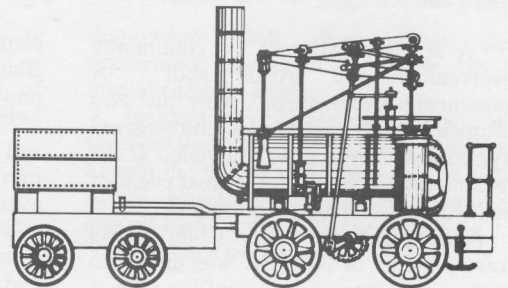


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1997

Number 61

Major Institute improvements starting soon

The splendid news earlier this year, that the 21st Century Halls for England Fund (supported by the National Lottery Millennium Commission) had offered a grant of £62,000 towards the estimated £184,500 Institute improvement scheme was followed by an offer of £20,000 from the Rural Development Commission Village Hall Fund, £9,000 from Tynedale Council and £5,000 from Northern Rock Building Society.

These contributions, together with £25,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the £70,000 already raised last year from individuals, fundraising events, charitable trusts and the Parish Council, have ensured that the target of £184,500 is now well within reach.

Although some people had reservations about planning a more ambitious scheme, when the fund raising for the original and more modest scheme seemed to stall in the Autumn, the Institute Committee carried out an extensive consultation amongst users and local residents and encouraged by those responses (and with a little faith) decided to press ahead with the bigger scheme.

The new scheme which has now been approved involves an extension in the yard incorporating a new kitchen and toilets with two new activity rooms above; installing a lift to the Munro Hall and first floor rooms; providing improved heating and lighting, new dividing doors for the ground floor rooms, additional storage for user groups, together with an upgrading of furnishings and decor.

Bottles and cans pay for new street lamps

Some of the money raised from Wylam's very successful waste-recycling scheme will be used by the Parish Council to provide extra street-lamps in the village. The first will probably be on Front Street, Hagg Bank. If more money is raised from recycling next year, it is hoped to provide an extra lamp in Woodvale Gardens and perhaps one in Elm Bank the year after.

Keep putting your bottles and cans in the recycling banks!

Construction work is planned to start at the end of June, and it is hoped that the Institute should be ready to reopen during October, perhaps with Special Community Week celebrations!

Congratulations to the Institute Trustees and the Committee on their

success so far, and thanks to everyone - individuals or organisations who have helped the Institute in this major fund-raising task.

We hope everything progresses well during the contract and look forward to completion and reopening in October.



Joseph Ayton demonstrating that the new ramp built at St. Oswin's will make access to the Parish Church much easier in future. The group includes Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, Rev. Kenneth Gill, who dedicated the ramp, with the (then) Vicar, Rev. Canon Richard Bryant.

Popular Vicar leaves for "a new challenge"

By the time you read this the village will again be without a Vicar. The first four Vicars at St. Oswin's stayed for 80 years but the last three for only 15 years; however Richard Bryant who changed jobs at the beginning of June has assured his congregation and local residents that there was nothing personal in his decision to leave Wylam early!

A once-in-a-lifetime offer to take on a new post responsible for local diocesan training (something which he has already been doing part-time for several years) was too good to miss!

Richard's talents and pleasant personality will make him a hard act to follow, but his special skills in training seem to have made him the obvious choice for his new job.

We thank him, his wife Barbara, Stephen and Nichola for the contribution they have made to the parish over the past 4½ years and wish them well in the future. Incidentally, they will continue to live in Wylam vicarage, for a week or two until their house in North Tyneside becomes available.

It is likely to be several months before a new Vicar arrives in Wylam.

Magnificent map - a splendid achievement

"A splendid example of community involvement and artistic skill". "A magnificent achievement", were just two comments made about the embroidered Wylam Map when it was unveiled at the Institute on 1st April, as the final event of the Institute Centenary celebrations.

Although Kate Adie, Chief News Correspondent of the BBC was unable to be present in person to unveil the map, a telephone link was arranged; we hope that she will be able to visit Wylam and admire the map on another occasion.

Peter Hetherington kindly gave the village, the Parish Council and the map, some generous publicity in an article in the 'Guardian', when the unveiling of the Wylam Map coincided with some comments early in the General Election

campaign by Prime Minister elect Tony Blair, on Scottish Devolution and the powers of English Parish Councils.

The map is tremendously impressive, and the time, effort and care which went into its design and production is apparent to everyone who sees it. All 150 embroiderers and everyone else who took part in this splendid project, deserve congratulations and thanks.

A coloured postcard and an attractive handbook describing the map and providing information about the features and emblems are available from the Parish Council or shops in the village.

Having done this for 1997 what can we do for the Millennium - only 2½ years from now?

Visit George's for tea?

A reminder to those of you who may have visitors staying with you during the summer that you should take them to see the birthplace of Wylam's most famous (former) resident.

George Stephenson's cottage is open on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons (1.00 - 5.00 p.m.).

Custodian Joy Dunn can provide a cup of tea to any guests who need refreshment after their walk from the car park to the cottage.

Next year incidentally is the 150th anniversary of George Stephenson's death in 1848.

Gift for Cricket Club

Wylam Cricket Club has been left a legacy of £500 by the late Mr. Jack Wright, a keen cricket spectator, who died earlier this year. Jack had lived in the village for many years, most recently in a bungalow on Woodcroft Road overlooking the playing field. The Cricket Club is most grateful for this generous gift and plans to use it to buy some new equipment. (We understand that some other local organisations in which Mr. Wright had a special interest have also benefited from his kindness).

Help for Housing Group

Wylam Housing Aid Group would like to thank everyone who supported them in raising the splendid sum of £4,000 for the homeless during the past year.

The Group are now looking for new members and anyone interested in joining this active and successful group would be given a very warm welcome; please contact Sharon Lamb (Tel: 852688).

More books wanted

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 21st June between 10.00-11.30 a.m. or on the evening of Friday 27th 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.



The unveiling of the very impressive Wylam Map at the Institute on 1st April, by Mrs. Valérie Jarvis-Read (second from right) with Mrs. Joan Harper of the N. E. Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild (centre) Lynne Petrie (left) and Tina Hartas Geary (right), leading figures in the successful project, together with Thomas and Charlotte Geary

Please report any problems with electricity

Following local complaints about the unreliability of the electricity supply to parts of the village, District Councillors Philip Brooks and Austin Rubery raised the problem with Mrs. Elizabeth Derrington, the Chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Regional Committee, the local "watchdog" group with the task of trying to ensure that consumers get a fair deal from the electricity suppliers.

She expressed a willingness to discuss the problems with Northern Electric and try and arrange for improvements to the present service.

To help achieve this, she has asked the Parish Council to keep a record of any problems experienced by Wylam residents with their electricity supply. So if you experience any difficulties with your electricity supply, or dealings with Northern Electric, please let David Petrie, the Clerk to the Parish Council, 8 Stephenson Terrace (Tel: 852577) have details.

Without that information the Parish Council and the Electricity Consumers Committee can do little to help.

It's now up to you!

New laws introduced in Tynedale to tackle problems of dog-fouling

A reminder to all dog-owners, that new orders have now been made by most local authorities (including Tynedale Council) under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 - the effect of which is to make it an offence for persons in charge of a dog not to clear up after the dog has fouled the land, without reasonable excuse.

The maximum penalty on conviction for failure to comply with the poop-scoop requirements is currently £1,000.

This order applies to all land within Tynedale (and of course within Wylam) which is in the open air and to which the public have access with or without

payment. The only exceptions are as follows.

1. Carriageways with a speed limit of more than 40 mph and land running alongside them.
2. Land used for agriculture or for woodlands.
3. Land which is predominantly maintained, moor or heath.
4. Rural Common Land.

In almost all situations anyone in charge of a dog **must** clear up after the dog has fouled, if you do not, you can be prosecuted.

The Parish Council hope that all local

dog-owners will obey these new regulations. Copies of the order will be displayed in the library.

Incidentally complaints are still received that some owners allow their dogs to foul the mown grass areas on the Dene Estate, Engine Dene, Jackson Road and around the Country Park car park.

You have been warned!

Control dogs on fields

Not only are there problems with dog-fouling within the village but Robert Graham of Wylam Hills Farm has expressed concern at the increasing number of dogs fouling his fields alongside Bluebell Lane, which are grazed by his dairy cattle. Cows, like humans, can be affected by diseases caught from dog faeces and can be expensive to treat.

There are no official public rights of way across these fields other than to Rift Farm, and if the problem of fouling continues, Robert feels he may have to take further action to safeguard the health of his cattle.

Dog-owners are therefore asked to avoid allowing their dogs to foul these fields, or to make sure that their faeces are removed if they do so.

In brief

Following local requests, Tynedale Council have agreed to provide a new lamp later this year, on the path which runs between the top of Hackworth Gardens and Bell Road.

Hedges and trees which overhang pavements or footpaths can create a hazard for pedestrians - please make sure that any hedges or trees on the boundaries of your garden are trimmed back.

"Rent-free for a year" - allotments are available on the riverside this year to anyone who would like to grow their own crops. Contact, F. Gordon, 6 Woodcroft Road. Tel: 853531.

Motorists are reminded that it is an offence to park on and obstruct the pavement. Several complaints have been made about parked cars preventing pedestrians from walking along the pavement.

As the Tynedale Furniture Store has now closed down, if anyone has household goods they no longer need, please phone Newcastle Community Transport (Tel: 0191 224 0555) who will collect them.

The County Council had planned to close the bridge across the river at Hagg Bank, whilst repair and repainting are in progress, but efforts are now being made to keep it open especially for Hagg Bank residents.



Work in progress on the new ramp at the Methodist Church. It is now completed and is much appreciated by users of the Church Centre, whether in wheelchairs or pushchairs, or those who just prefer a ramp to steps.

Open space reminder

Intensive use by children of the small triangular open space between houses in Dene Road and Tynedale Close has been causing some problems to nearby residents.

Parents (and children) are again 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) and that special care needs to be taken to avoid damaging neighbouring gardens, or otherwise causing a nuisance to nearby residents.

Children of Middle School age (10 years+) are encouraged to use the area in the corner of Dene Road, next to the footpath to Rift Farm, or alternatively, the larger areas on Jackson Road (the "Chinese" field) or Engine Dene.

By the way, budding golfers should not use Engine Dene as a driving-range, where there is a risk of causing injury or damage.

Parents are specially requested to make sure that their children follow these guidelines which are intended to try and ensure that residents of all ages can live in reasonable harmony.

Change of Chairman

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Philip Brooks, Chairman of the Parish Council for the past three years stood down and was thanked for his work as Chairman. Maureen Gillis was elected as the new Chairman, with Tony Mitcham as Vice-Chairman.

School staff moving

Two valued members of staff, Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Telford will be leaving Wylam School at the end of this term.

Both came in 1992, Mrs. Morton to the "new" Nursery Unit and Mrs. Telford to Year 4.

Mrs. Morton will be taking a well-earned rest and Mrs. Telford has been promoted to Deputy Head at Broomley School. We thank them both for their contribution to the school and wish them well for the future.

Summer Fair offers plenty for everyone to enjoy on the 28th June

The Playing Field Association intends to offer plenty of entertainment, fun and participation in this year's Summer Fair on Saturday, 28th June.

For entertainment there will be the Ovington Tynedale Band and the Boot 'N' Boogie line dancers. Look out for some familiar faces in that line-up. For fun, watch the ever-popular Martin the Magician or relive your childhood dreams by climbing aboard the Prudhoe Fire Engine. For participation why not take part in the Penalty Shoot-out, organised by Wylam Celtic Youth Football Team, or run for fun in the Children's Races for the under 9's or the Fun Run for the over 9's to 99's!

in the Children's Races for the under 9's or the Fun Run for the over 9's to 99's!

Wylam Spar is once again generously sponsoring the Fun Run, which enables every participant to receive a medal, with trophies for the winners of each category. Application forms are available from the Spar and should be returned to Alison Malcolm, with an entry fee of 50 pence, before the event if possible. Entries will be taken on the day. Teams of three adults are wanted to add a little extra fun to the event, so pick up your application form now.

As usual teas will be served from the pavilion and there will be a range of stalls

from local organisations, charities and commercial bodies.

Incidentally, the Playing Field Committee are still working on a couple of surprise exhibits, so keep your eyes peeled.

The day will be rounded off by the Barbecue and Dance in the Institute in the evening. This year the music will be provided by the West Jesmond Rhythm Kings Jazz Band. Definitely a sound to be heard.

We hope that as many residents as possible will support the Fair again this year and so help the Playing Field Association to maintain and improve the field for the benefit of the village. See you at the Fair!

P.S. It had been hoped to have completed the purchase of the field by now, but there have been a few more delays. These should be resolved soon, so that the Association can become proud owners of the field!

No more excuses with the new road signs

The prominent new signs and road markings at the entrance to the village from Holeyn Hall, must now make it impossible for any motorists to claim that they don't know when they are within the 30 mph restricted zone.

Several residents have said that they think that the number of speeding motorists has reduced since the new signs and markings were provided - we hope that this is true and that residents and other motorists who regularly travel through Wylam, don't become too used to them - and ignore them!

New County Councillor elected in high poll

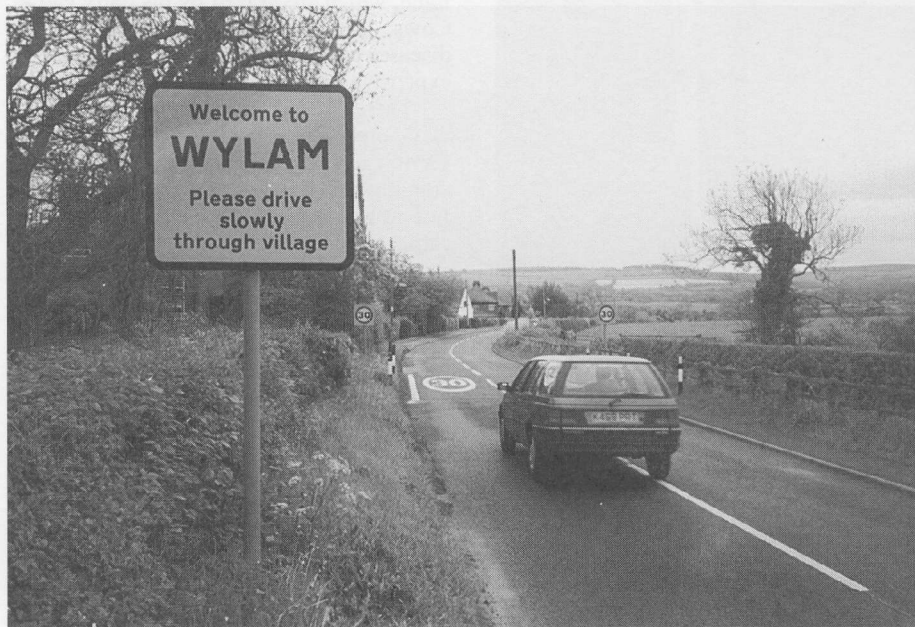
In a closely-fought four-cornered contest on 1st May, Paul Kelly from Ovington was elected as the new County Councillor to serve the Bywell Division. This time none of the candidates were Wylam residents.

Although the County Council election was overshadowed by the General Election, having them both on the same day at least achieved a poll of 80% for Wylam - much higher than usual for local elections. At the Annual Parish Meeting, Chairman Philip Brooks expressed the sincere thanks of the village, to Robina Jacobson, our County Councillor for the past four years (and who did not seek re-election) for her hard work on behalf of Wylam and its residents and for the very pleasant way in which she had carried out her duties.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to

*D. Petrie, The Clerk to the Parish Council,
8 Stephenson Terrace. (Tel: 852577)*

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The new road signs and markings on the entrance to the village along the Holeyn Hall Road seem to be getting their message across to at least some of the motorists who use that road. We hope that their impact and message does not "wear off" too soon.

Will you help with local "Green" projects?

The efforts of the volunteers who help to keep Wylam's "green" environment in good shape are of great benefit to the village. We are most grateful to them, and long may they continue. The attractive flower tubs, war memorial beds, the Institute garden and tree plantings are fine examples of their voluntary work.

However more people are now needed in order to maintain parts of the village in a healthy and attractive condition. We are therefore appealing to residents to try and find time (as much or as little as you like!) to help by taking part in activities such as seed collecting, clearing hedgerows, tree planting, taking and growing cuttings and perhaps a little rubbish clearing. The biggest and most important project at the moment is the tree-work on the riverbank, where volunteers will be needed to clear brush and make cuttings for later planting. (Volunteers will **not** be expected to use power saws or similar tools).

If you would be willing to help in any of these ways please contact the Tree Warden, Peter Clarke, (Tel: 852297) or Parish

Council Clerk, David Petrie (Tel: 852577) or drop in at the Institute on Saturday, 21st June between 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon to discuss things or suggest projects. We should be very glad of your support.

Interested in a pensioner's bungalow?

Although there are several local residents with their names on the waiting list for one of the A.P. bungalows at Swindale Cottages, there are very few on the list for Blackett Cottages.

If there are any residents living in the village (either Council tenants or owner-occupiers) who are of pensionable age and who might be interested in moving into one of the Blackett Cottages in future, please contact Bill Rowell, the Area Housing Officer at Tynedale Council (Tel: 01434 652200). He can supply further information and application forms.