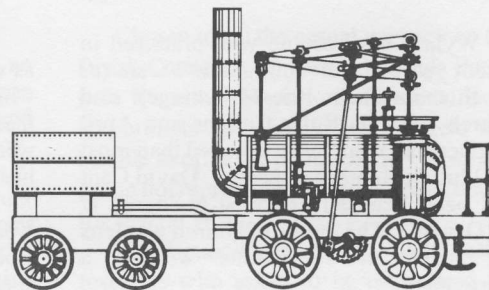


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 1998

Number 64

Council may recruit a "Village Handyperson"

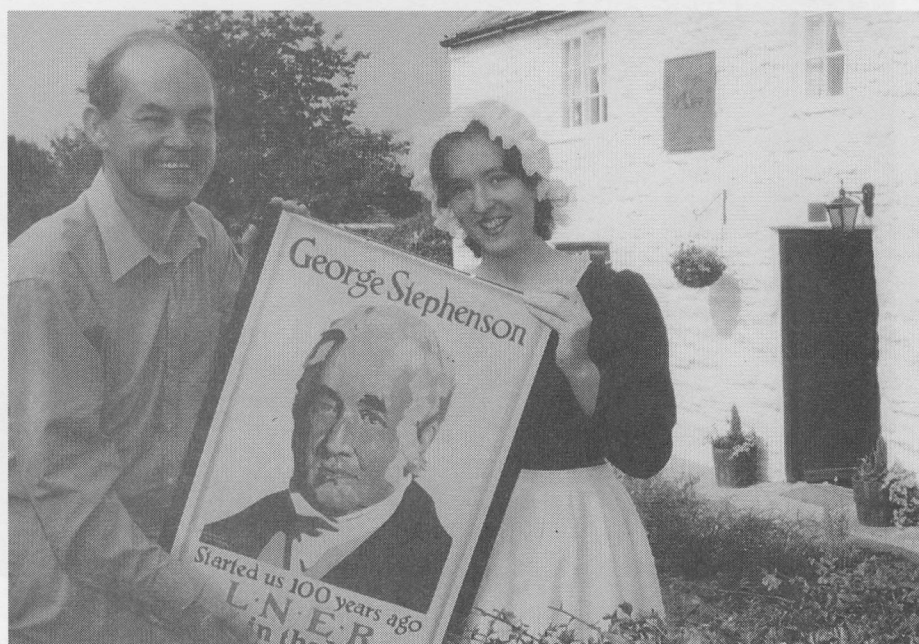
Since both County and District Councils indicate that they are unlikely to be able to effectively tackle the problems of weeds growing in roadside gullies and on footpaths around the village, the Parish Council has decided to consider employing our own part-time "Village Handyperson" from next Spring.

Although the detailed tasks to be carried out by this person have not yet been finalised, they are likely to include occasional litter picking and rubbish removal; periodic sweeping and clearing paths; occasional grasscutting and strimming; cutting back hedges/bushes and minor gardening; small repairs to footpaths, fencing, seats, noticeboards etc. The possibility of these duties also including clearing snow and ice and spreading salt and grit on selected pavements is also being examined.

The aim will be to have somebody locally to do jobs not being done at all at present (or not satisfactorily) and will be in addition to what the District and County Councils do.

A final decision on whether (and when) to appoint a Handyperson will be made early in 1999. In the meantime temporary arrangements are going to be made for some of these small tasks to be carried out around the village.

Incidentally, anyone who thinks that they might be interested in the "Village Handyperson" job in the Spring is asked to let David Petrie, Clerk to the Parish Council, know so that they can be sent details early in the New Year.



Millennium Projects

There will be a Public Meeting in the Institute at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th November to discuss a proposed Millennium project for the village based on the collection of photographs "Business and Services in Wylam in 1996" taken by the Camera Club and exhibited in May 1996. This exhibition received many compliments in 1996 and it is now proposed to make a more complete record of the village and village life during the year 2000.

The proposal has the support of the Parish Council. Ideas on the form it should take and offers of help, advice or expertise would be welcome.

Please come to the meeting with your ideas - the 1996 exhibition will be on display to remind people of what it contained. If you cannot attend the meeting but are willing to help, or wish to discuss the project, please contact Denis Peel (853278) or Jean or Derek Oxford (853738).

Incidentally if anyone has any other ideas on how Wylam might celebrate the Millennium, please contact any Parish Councillor.

To celebrate the re-opening of Stephenson's Cottage, following its extensive renovation by the National Trust during the summer, Philip Brooks presented Louisa Henderson, who assists the custodian at the Cottage, with a poster of George Stephenson, produced by the London and North Eastern Railway Company (LNER).

(Courtesy: Hexham Courant)

Publicity for Stephenson and his birthplace

The extensive renovations to Stephenson's Cottage reported and illustrated in the last issue of this newsletter were duly finished in early August, complete with the lime-wash coating to the walls. A Tyne-Tees television crew filmed the restored cottage, which was featured in "North East Tonight" on 11th August. The cottage was re-opened to the public on 13th August, almost exactly 150 years since George Stephenson's death at Chesterfield on 12th August, 1848.

On 13th September a group of railway historians who were attending an International Conference on Early Railways, held at Durham University, came to Wylam

and visited the Railway Museum and Stephenson's birthplace. One or two of the speakers at this Conference attracted national newspaper publicity by expressing doubts as to whether Stephenson deserves all the credit he has been given as "The Father of Railways"! No doubt arguments will continue.

The National Trust deserve the thanks of the village for undertaking the renovation of the cottage, at a cost of more than £25,000, helped by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Board. This work should secure the preservation of the cottage well into the next century.

New Priest-in-charge and his family given warm Wylam welcome

Wylam has become well-practised in recent years in welcoming new Vicars (or in this instance Priest-in-charge) and church wardens Keith Cullens and April Stephenson, were more relieved than most on 22nd September after Rev. David Cant had been licensed as Priest-in-charge at St. Oswin's. The duties of church wardens are much more onerous without a clergyman!

The church was packed for the service - as was the Institute for the splendid supper which followed. David, his wife Anne and their children, Andrew, Ruth and Jonathan, were given a nice taste of Wylam hospitality.

David studied law at Sheffield and worked for Northumberland County Council and then Newcastle City Council, specialising in child care and family work,

before deciding to leave legal practice in 1987 and train as a clergyman. He served first as curate in Newburn and then as a member of the North Shields Team Ministry.

David and Anne have already begun to involve themselves in village life - and as someone said, after having met them "we think they'll suit Wylam"! Certainly the church wardens hope so!



When asked to provide a photo of himself and his wife Anne, new Vicar (Priest in Charge) David Cant offered this holiday picture taken in Germany. We hope that anyone who has not yet met David and Anne will be able to recognise them from this!



When the Northumbria Air Ambulance was called out with the paramedics to an emergency incident on the riverside on the 10th August, Parish Council Clerk, David Petrie, was on hand to record the departure of the helicopter from the Country Park car park.

Local Medical Author

The population of Wylam probably contains more than its share of members of the medical profession - active or retired. One who retired to Wylam almost twenty years ago has recently published a most interesting history of the study of heart disease in the North East.

Dr. Hewan Dewar of Wylam Hall, who was a clinical teacher in the University of Newcastle from 1947-78, completed his book "The Story of Cardiology in Newcastle" earlier this year. Copies are available from Waterstones (and can be obtained through other good booksellers) price £8.50. Congratulations to Dr. Dewar on this valuable addition to the history of medicine in the North East.

Recycling area tidied

The Parish Council has agreed to pay for improvements to the paved area around the recycling bins in the Country Park Car Park. A larger litter bin is also being provided by Tynedale Council, but please don't block it up with cardboard boxes. If you find any of the recycling bins overflowing please don't add your bottles, tins or paper to the pile - take them home if possible and wait a day or two for the bins to be emptied. For any serious problems please alert the Clerk to the Parish Council on 852577.

Incidentally, please be considerate to the local residents in Stephenson and Falcon Terraces and don't use the recycling bins late in the evening.

Future cricket stars?

Robert Bergstrand and Jamie Crichton, both members of Wylam Cricket Club's Under 13 team, were selected to play for Northumberland Under 13's in a tournament held at Ampleforth College, North Yorks during what passed for the summer. Robert, a promising spin bowler and Jamie, an opening batsman and wicket keeper, played in the County team against Essex, Glamorgan, Yorkshire and Durham. Their achievement is a tribute to the Cricket Club's Youth Development Policy and also reflects the work of Jamie's father, David Crichton, who coached the Club's Under 13's last season. Well done lads: we hope you win further representative honours in the future

Invitation to mark Playgroup's 30th birthday

There will be a special "Open" afternoon in the Falcon Centre on Monday, 16th November between 2.00 - 4.00 p.m., to mark Playgroup's 30th birthday. An open invitation is extended to all residents, including those who have been involved over past years as well as those new parents and children likely to come in the future. Story times, games, songs, drinks and birthday cake will be on offer and visitors of all ages can contribute towards a community art project, designing a rose

window in celebration of childhood.

The Open Afternoon will provide an opportunity to see the new-look Falcon Centre recently re-decorated and refurbished, thanks to a team effort, involving various users and supporters. Educational furniture is also on order following a successful lottery grant application. Parents and staff send grateful thanks to all those local people who give encouragement and practical help and support, in so many ways.



This view shows Stanley Burn bridge, the Crawcrook road and the former Bradley Mill farmhouse as they are today. A photograph in the new book of pictures of Wylam in the past, shows the farmhouse as it was a hundred years ago and another picture depicts the old ford, popularly known as "The Splash", at the turn of the century.

Angela joins Council

Chosen to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council is 32 year old Angela Porter (née Ewart) of Hackworth Gardens. Born and brought up in the village, Angela will be able to offer the points of view of an age group not represented on the Parish Council for several years.

The Council was grateful to the other residents who asked to be considered for this vacancy. There will be opportunity for anyone interested in serving on the Parish Council to stand as a candidate at the four-yearly election which will be held next May. Watch the Parish Council notice boards for information next March.

New book on "Wylam Past" is now available

"Wylam Past", the new book of old pictures of the village compiled by Philip Brooks, has just been published. It contains a fascinating collection of photographs, paintings and engravings of scenes in the village earlier this century and back into Victorian times. The oldest illustration, of Wylam House (Hall) by Ralph Beilby is even earlier, dating from 1770. The front cover has a splendid full-colour print of the famous view of Wylam at the time of the opening of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. Priced at £6.95, the book should make an ideal Christmas present for anyone interested in Wylam.

It will go on general sale in the village at the Christmas Card and Gift Sale in the Institute on the morning of Saturday, 7th November, or copies can be obtained direct from Philip Brooks at 20 Bluebell Close (Tel: 853520).

Railtrack scheme to improve station

Plans by Railtrack to carry out major improvements to the platforms at Wylam Station were approved by Tynedale Council in August. The work will involve raising the level of the Newcastle (eastbound) platform and resurfacing both platforms and the area in front of the station buildings.

The retaining wall at the back of the Carlisle (westbound) platform will also need substantial strengthening. It is hoped that this work will be undertaken sometime next year.

Pressing for repairs to damaged footpaths

The Parish Council has once again drawn the attention of the County Council Highways Department to the neglected condition of many of the tarmac footpaths on the Dene Estate and the Council Estate and the urgent need for repairs to be carried out soon.

Institute impresses

In appreciation of the help and advice which the Community Council of Northumberland gave during the major extension and improvement scheme carried out at the Institute Community Centre last year, the Institute Committee invited the Community Council to hold their Annual General Meeting in the Institute on 15th October. It was well attended and guests were very impressed with what they saw.

The Community Council have been encouraging village hall committees around the county to take advantage of grants which are available to make their facilities more attractive and useful. Wylam was among the first villages in Northumberland to take advantage of some of these new sources of funding to improve the Institute.

Successful Bazaar

The Friends of Wylam took over £600 at their Autumn Bazaar on 26th September and would like to thank everyone who helped to make the event a success. The money raised will support the activities organised for older residents of the village by the Friends.

Dog-fouling complaints

Complaints continue to be received about dog-fouling on open spaces in the village, and the Parish Council is having discussions with Tynedale Council's Environmental Health Department about what action should be taken against offenders. A new edition of the "Good Dog" leaflet previously issued by the Parish Council is also being prepared and will be distributed to all houses in the village. If you see or know of local residents who allow their dogs to foul areas in Wylam without removing the faeces, please notify the Parish Council.

Will you remember?

Remembrance Day this year is Sunday, 14th November. A special service will be held in St. Oswin's Church at 10.00 a.m., followed by one at the War Memorial at 10.50 a.m. Poppy wreaths will be laid in memory of those people of Wylam who gave their lives in the service of their country. Everyone is invited to join one or both of these services. A cup of tea will be provided at the Methodist Church Centre afterwards.

Variety of events being held in the Institute during November

This time last year the Institute was still closed for the major improvement scheme - and so the traditional "Community Week" programme of events did not take place. Since then the Institute Committee have had a re-think and instead of having a concentrated week of activities, a series of events are being spread throughout November. Although details are not yet finalised, it will include the following:

November

Saturday, 7th

Charity Christmas Card Sale and Coffee Morning - 10.00 a.m.

Tuesday, 10th

Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Stall - 10.00 a.m.

Wednesday, 11th

Roman Catholic Mass, St. Oswin's Hall - 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 12th - Saturday 14th

Amateur Dramatic Society Production "And a Nightingale Sang" - 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 14th

W. I. Soup Lunch with a Raffle, Plant and Cake Stalls.

Saturday, 21st

Carpet Bowls Tournament.

Saturday, 28th

Casino Evening with Buffet Dinner.

Further details of these events will be available nearer the time, please contact the Institute office, (tel: 852498) for information.

We hope that as many people as possible will support these events - enjoying themselves and helping to raise funds for the Institute.

On Saturday, 5th December the Christingle Service will be held at St. Oswin's Church to be followed by a children's tea in the Institute.

Christmas Card sale will support charities

No need to rush out to buy all your Christmas Cards and gifts in Newcastle or at the Metro Centre.

Save time and petrol and support various charities by purchasing some of your cards at the Charity Christmas Card and Gift Sale being held in the Institute on the morning of Saturday, 7th November. There is always an excellent selection, from a wide range of national charities and local groups - something to suit all tastes. A good choice of crafts will be on sale - together with the new book of pictures of "Old Wylam" - and by special request for those with golfers in the family, a quantity of good quality, dog-found golf balls will be available, to raise funds for the P.D.S.A.

Wheelie-bin trial

By the time you receive this newsletter the wheeled-bin trial scheme for household refuse will have been going for two or three weeks. As mentioned in the last "Globe" the trial will run until March/April next year and before it ends everyone will have an opportunity to comment on whether they think the permanent introduction of wheelie-bins is an improvement on the previous dustbin and plastic sack arrangement. In the meantime if you experience any problems please contact the Environmental Services Department on (01434) 652200. Residents are asked not to leave their wheelie-bins on the footpath or road after they have been emptied, where they will cause a nuisance.



When this picture was taken in the car park late on the afternoon of 7th October, most of the wheelie-bin refuse containers had been distributed to houses around the village. The trial period will continue until March/April. Anyone who experiences problems, or feels the arrangements could be improved is urged to contact Tynedale Environmental Services Department and to notify our two District Councillors.

Tynedale District Local Plan inquiry closes

As reported in the previous issue the Public Inquiry into the Tynedale District Local Plan, (which will set the pattern for land-use planning within Tynedale until 2006) has been in progress over recent months and closed in mid-October. One of the last issues to be considered was the proposal by the owners of the fields off Blue Bell Lane (next to the Dene Estate) that this land should be removed from the Green Belt to enable many more houses to be built on the edge of the village.

This was strongly opposed by Tynedale Council, the local planning authority and by the Parish Council and many residents.

The Inquiry Inspector will now be preparing his report, which is likely to be completed in the Spring. This will contain his recommendations to Tynedale Council

on what changes he considers should be made to the Plan. The implications of his report will then be examined and considered by the District Council.

Report faulty lamps

Now that winter is almost with us it is important to make sure that all street lights in the village are working. If you see one that is unlit, please make a note of the "black on yellow" number on the lighting column and report it to the Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel: 852577) or report it yourself on Freephone 0800 616792. The County Council now relies heavily on local residents and Parish Councils to report faulty lamps.

Housing Group raise £970 with jumble

The Wylam Housing Group (formerly Shelter) thank everyone who helped and supported their mammoth Jumble Sale on 19th September. Over £970 was raised to help the homeless. As usual there were plenty of bargains and the unsold jumble was collected by the Prudhoe Youth and Community service. After sorting, some of the items were sold in the Charity Shop in Front Street, Prudhoe whilst others have been passed to various charities for them to use or sell. Nothing was wasted!

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to

D. Petrie, The Clerk to the Parish Council,

8 Stephenson Terrace. (Tel: 852577)

Printed by Wylam Parish Council by

The Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA.