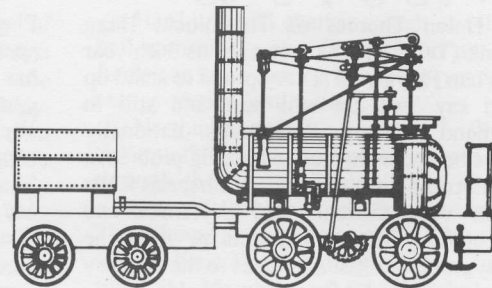


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 1999

Number 65

Inspector rejects housing in Green Belt

Most residents and people who know and like Wylam will be pleased and relieved to hear that the inspector who held the Public Inquiry into the draft Tynedale District Local Plan last summer has recommended against allowing housing in the Green Belt fields on the edge of the village along Blue Bell Lane.

He has supported the policy put forward by Tynedale Council and recommended

that none of the farmland on Blue Bell Lane or on Holeyn Hall Road should be released for housing development in the District-wide Local Plan, which will be the planning blueprint for Tynedale until the year 2006 by which time the next local plan preparation process will have begun.

Thank you to the 400+ local residents

who wrote letters of opposition to the proposal by the farm landowners/developers for more housing development on the farmland around Wylam, and to Tynedale Council Planning Officers who presented the arguments against the development at the Planning Inquiry last October.

River danger review

Everyone in the village was deeply saddened when ten year old Graeme Johnson from Newburn drowned on 21st March in a tragic accident in the river, close to the bridge. New signs, warning of the dangers of the river, were put up following an incident some years ago, but these are often ignored by children attracted to the area below the bridge. Although neither Tynedale Council nor the Parish Council own this section of riverbank, once the inquest has been held representatives of the Parish, District and the County Council (who own the land under the bridge) will be discussing the findings, with the adjoining landowners.

Swings may move

Because of problems with poor drainage and nuisance caused to some residents, the Parish Council is looking at re-positioning some of the swings on the Hedley Road playground. No decisions have yet been made and information on the costs involved will need to be obtained.



George Stephenson's Cottage seems to have been on the itinerary of several TV presenters in recent months. John Grundy, (seen in this picture) included Wylam in a programme he presented on early railways earlier in the year. A "Local Heroes" programme and a Tyne Tees programme on railway pioneers by Andy Klutz are also due to be shown in the late summer/autumn.

Castle Hill composting scheme causes concern

The proposal to establish a centre for recycling waste to create compost in the new part of Crawcrook Quarry (next to the former Castle Hill Hospital) generated a lot of publicity in the local newspapers.

The project is planned to become the largest composting operation in the North East region and would operate for 15-20 years, processing substantial quantities of waste from Tyne and Wear and probably also from Durham and Northumberland.

Both the Parish Council and Tynedale Council have raised strong objections because of the additional heavy traffic which might be generated through Wylam and the noise and smell which the scheme could create. The site would also be seen across the river, particularly from Wylam school, Blue Bell Lane and parts of the Council estate and the Dene estate.

The Parish Council are worried that it could seriously affect the amenity of residents in Wylam, Crawcrook and Clara

Vale and consider it is too close to those residential areas, for a composting scheme of this size. Wimpey who are converting Castle Hill Hospital into luxury apartments have also raised strong objections to the scheme.

Gateshead Council have deferred making a decision on this proposal until September and anyone wanting to make comments on the scheme can see the detailed planning application in Wylam library.

Playgroup gets enthusiastic local support

Helen Thomas of The Nook, Hagg Bank (Tel. 852138) writes: In its 30th year Wylam Playgroup is very proud to stand up and say "we are still here and still in demand". Many Playgroups nationally have been closing due to funding problems. With competition from state nurseries it has been very difficult and Wylam is no exception. For two consecutive years the Playgroup has lost attendees to the Nursery Christmas Intake for three year olds.

But Wylam is exceptional! The local community gives enthusiastic support to village groups. Last year when the big issue was the decorative state of the Falcon Centre, the Parish Council replaced the flooring in the kitchen and the main hall was redecorated as a result of a joint financial partnership between Toddlers, Playgroup and the Youth Club. Mick Oliver, a Wylam decorator whose son Shaun attended the Playgroup painted the hall and the cloakroom at a greatly reduced price, and it is now bright and clean. The safety issue which necessitated covering the central heating pipes was resolved by many days of carpentry by another Playgroup dad, John Bythell. This year equipment is needed, as little money has been available for new equipment for several years. So David Thomas whose son Michael attended Wylam Playgroup last year and whose daughter Christina starts in September ran the London Marathon for

Playgroup funds, raising approx. £500 to be spent exclusively on new equipment. David has been overwhelmed by people's generosity. As well as individuals, the Wylam business community has been very supportive, particularly Tom & Joe's, The Ship Inn and a superb £100 donation by Mr. Shaun Conley of Wylam Garage Ltd (Renault). There are many other local businesses who support each and every fund raising event by donating tombola and raffle prizes. At the end of our 30th year Wylam Playgroup would like to say a big **thank you** to the many organisations that always support us, to the hundreds of parents who have volunteered their time and money over the years and to the Wylam village community for coming to the fundraising events. Thank you all.

The Playgroup is hard work for the parents that join the committee, since it involves a busy year of fundraising to ensure that staff, rent, insurance etc can be paid for, but it is also very fulfilling, and despite the competition, the Playgroup has had a waiting list now for two years running. The help and active support of local people encourages the committee to continue to do what they are good at, in providing a relaxed, safe and enjoyable environment for our children to develop. For more information contact Helen Thomas on 852138.

Plenty of activities for Scouts and Cubs

Ken John, Chairman of the Wylam St. Oswin's Cubs and Scouts reports:

Exciting Activities

The Cubs and the Scouts (who have reformed this year) continue to have an exciting and stimulating range of activities. The St. George's camp held at Prudhoe in April was enjoyed by those involved. A substantial dragon was made and slain!

The outstanding event this summer will be "Northumbria 99", an international camp attended by more than 1000 Scouts and Guides - including some from Wylam. Canoeing, climbing, archery, radio crafts and the Crystal Maze are just a few of the activities to choose from for those attending the camp.

Keen Leadership

Thanks of the community are due to all those who give up their time to lead the young people and to those who have done so in the past. It is a highly responsible commitment to assume. Warranted leaders are always interested in hearing from parents and others who can lend a hand, even if it is not every week. If anyone is willing to help, please contact me and I shall gladly pass on their details to the respective leaders (tel 853355).

We say goodbye shortly to John Taylor who has been leading the Cubs with Derek Smith. John is moving to Cumbria to take up a new post. We wish him and the family, well for the future and thank him for his patient and good humoured efforts on behalf of the Cubs

It is also appropriate (and overdue) to express particular thanks to Peter Tayler, who led the Scouts for a number of years, to Ann Francis who was Cub leader until recently and to Peter Scott, our Group Treasurer who retired after long service this Spring. There are many others who deserve a mention.

Successful Jumble Sale

The Jumble Sale on 6th March was a great success with a net profit of over £600. Thanks to all who helped and especially to the many people who kindly donated, or bought jumble. The funds raised will be used to purchase new tents and other vital equipment.

Membership List

There is a waiting list at present for entry to Cubs but please do not hesitate to speak to the leaders if you have a youngster who is keen to join.

New Scouts are especially welcome. If there are any young people who might be interested, please come along on any Friday evening. The Scouts meet from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. in St. Oswin's Church Hall.

Please remove weeds

Can we encourage a few more residents to remove any weeds growing between their boundary wall or fence and the back of the footpath? It is expensive if the Council has to remove these weeds by hand and the dead weeds sprayed with weed killer just look untidy!

Institute News

Sue Nicholson the new Chairman of the Institute has provided the following report:

Attractive venue

The much-improved Institute has been open now for eighteen months, and is being used on a regular basis by many local organisations and residents. However for those people who have not yet seen inside the building, a visit is essential.

We now have a lift, which means that events held in the Munro Hall upstairs are now open to everyone, and an induction loop is available for the hard of hearing. Two new smaller rooms provide a cosier atmosphere for small groups, and new carpeting, lighting and decor make the whole building much more attractive. A fully equipped kitchen and better toilets complete the range of improved facilities.

If you have not considered using the Institute before, it could be just the right venue for your fund raising event or special occasion. A hire service is also available should you require crockery, tables or chairs for events held elsewhere.

New cleaner needed

In August, our much-valued cleaner will be retiring and we shall be looking for a replacement. The job covers a nine-hour week, but the hours worked must coincide with the use of the building, so some initiative and flexibility will be needed. A daily visit is preferred, so the job is really only suitable for a local person living within easy reach of the Institute.

Institute garden misused

Some of you may have noticed that the gate into the Institute garden has been locked over the past few months. This situation has been forced very reluctantly upon the Institute Committee.

Sadly there were some people in the village who had begun to use the garden to exercise their dogs - with the obvious consequences, and children have also been using it to play football. This garden is a private area owned by the Institute and tended by volunteers and is really not suitable for these other uses. Whilst we were happy to allow it to be used by members of the public to sit or picnic, and it has been used for special events and by the Croquet Club, we cannot allow it to be destroyed by inappropriate use. There are areas around the village specifically for children's play, and lots of walks suitable for exercising dogs.

Locking the garden is a temporary measure and we are hoping that bringing this problem to the attention of village residents will have the desired effect.

Some children are climbing over the wall from the Ship Inn car park to gain access to the garden. It is likely that their parents are not even aware of this, and we hope that anyone who thinks their child is involved, will tell them to play football on a proper play-area and not in the garden.

If anyone wishes to contact the Institute on these matters the office is open on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. (tel: 852498) or contact Sue Nicholson (853315)

Girls guiding power

Alison Malcolm, the Guide District Commissioner writes:

Popular Brownies

Who said Guiding was on the way out? Not in Wylam anyway where the 2nd Wylam Brownies is due to re-start in September. The waiting list for 1st Wylam Brownies has reached such proportions that Marilyn Harding and Lesley Alderman will be setting up the new unit for all eligible girls on the waiting list. It is intended that girls of seven years would start Brownies in the 2nd Wylam Pack and transfer across to 1st Wylam Pack as and when spaces become available. Any girls who are not on the waiting list, but are interested in joining should contact Marilyn (15 Tynedale Close - tel: 852618). Linda Hutchinson and Maggie Stamp will be running the 1st Wylam, while Marilyn and Lesley will be in charge of the 2nd Wylam pack. More help would be appreciated from adults - and if you can assist please contact Marilyn.

Flourishing Guides

Wylam Guides is also flourishing with the unit reaching its recommended numbers. In July Guides from the unit will be taking part in "Northumbria 99", an international camp for Guides and Scouts being held at Powburn. Mixing with other Scouts and Guides with a common aim but different cultures and customs can only be beneficial to world friendships and understanding. Wylam Guides are run by Eileen Bellis and Julie Hardy.

Rangers expanding

After a minor hiccup last year, when girls left Rangers to move on to University, the Ranger Unit looked near to closing but thanks to the enthusiasm of Hilary Broomfield (tel: 852533) and Fiona Stevenson (tel: 853467), the unit is expanding. In previous years Rangers have visited Mexico and Holland, gaining experience and confidence that have equipped them well for moving on to Colleges and University.

For more information about Brownies, Guides or Rangers or offers of help please contact the unit leaders or Alison Malcolm on 853328.

Housing Group events

Thanks to generous support from the village, particularly Anna Eavis, Wylam Housing Group (formerly Shelter) has had a very good year, raising £4900 for homeless people on Tyneside, including the young people in Tynedale who approach "Links" in Hexham.

As well as a stall at the Summer Fair, the group is planning a Table Top Sale (run by our junior members) at the Parish Church Hall on Saturday, 19th June: cream teas, accompanied by Ovingham Middle School Swing Band in the Institute Garden on Sunday, 11th July: the Jumble Sale at the Methodist Centre on Saturday, 11th September and a Quiz Night on 9th October at the Institute.

New enthusiasts to help with these and other events, would be most welcome. Please contact Sharon Lamb on 852688.

A Century not-out

Congratulations to Adah Dunn of Stanley Burn who became Wylam's first centenarian for many years, when she reached her 100th birthday on 14th May. She was born Adah Barron in Gateshead in 1899 and lived for much of her married life at West Wylam, where her husband was a miner. Following his death in 1975, Adah moved to Crawcrook. Together with her sister Cicely she came to Stanley Burn in 1993 although Cicely died shortly afterwards. Adah's family and friends and the staff of Stanley Burn gave her a special birthday party on 14th May.



Mrs Adah Dunn of Stanley Burn, proudly wearing her "100th birthday" badge, when she celebrated her centenary on 14th May. Many congratulations, Adah.

Don't annoy neighbours

Misuse of the Institute garden, which has necessitated it being locked, is reported elsewhere in this newsletter - and similar misuse of the other open space nearby, Charlie's Corner, has resulted in nuisance to the elderly residents of the Blckett Court flats which overlook the open space.

Whilst its occasional use for informal play by small children, preferably supervised by an adult, is acceptable, it is not suitable for use by children of more than First School age. Parents are asked to ensure that children older than nine years do not play on this open space, but use the playing field or one of the recreation areas, where they will not cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Energy saving cash

Hard-up local charities, such as village hall committees and churches, in need of funds can raise money by taking part in an energy-saving leaflet-drop.

Northumberland Energy Watch Scheme (NEWS) is funded by government through the Energy Saving Trust to save energy and to help stop global warming. The scheme can offer charities £1 for every one of their Home Energy Survey forms filled in. Members of the churches and charities undertake to deliver the forms to residents in their village. They then collect the completed survey forms a few days later.

The householders who complete the forms get a personally-tailored advice pack, with special offers on insulation and low-energy light bulbs and offering impartial information on energy saving.

The charity gains cash, the householder learns how to save money and keep warmer, the environment gains by a reduction in pollution and Northumberland Energy Watch Scheme fulfills its obligation to promote energy saving.

To find out more, church or charity representatives should phone Lesley Turner at the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on (0191) 233 2544.

Traffic speed worries

Several residents of Ingham Terrace took advantage of the recent local elections to raise their concerns about the speed of some of the traffic travelling through the village and particularly on the road between the Fox and Hounds and the bridge. There are several businesses and accesses onto this road, which winds and dips: the number of parked cars and the trees make it important to drive with care. The Parish Council has now asked the County Highways Department and Northumbria Police what action they can take to slow the speed of traffic, particularly through the centre of the village and down to the bridge.

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 Activities 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, 19th June between 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. or on the evening of Friday, 25th 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 26th June

Wet! Wet! Wet! - No! No! No!

Not this year, promises Alison Malcolm! The sun will shine on 26th June for Wylam Summer Fair 1999. It is the least it can do. Never in anyone's memory has the Fair had to be cancelled. Yes, teas have occasionally been served in the Marquee by ladies in wellies, nearly 20 years ago, but the show went on. 1997 was a disaster and

1998 wasn't much better. The stalls, Band and Irish Dancers all had to be in the Institute last year, with the sun coming out long enough to host the launch of the basketball net and the Fun Run on the field.

The Methodist Church will again hold their bookstall in the Church Centre, Chapel Lane from 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Admission will be by the Summer Fair

Programme (available at the door).

This year we have again invited The Gorman School of Irish Dancers, Sgt. Eddie's animal collection and the Ovington Tynedale Brass Band. Martin the popular Magician, will be making an appearance and, as usual, there will be commercial stands and stalls from the village organisations.

Sporting activities will include a Basketball Shoot Out organised by Paula Esson and members of Newcastle Eagles. The Fun Run for adults and over 9s, and children's races for the under 9s, will take their usual place in the programme, and it is hoped that the Football Club will be organising a 5-a-side football competition starting in the morning and finishing around lunch time.

Should the weather be inclement, then the stalls will (yet again), be moved to the Institute!

This year the Barbecue will be held on Saturday, 3rd July with the aim of attracting families. It will start at 6.30 p.m. and there will be a bar.

People should bring their own food to cook.

Further details of arrangements will be available at the Summer Fair and on posters which will be displayed on village notice boards.



Mrs Ivy Briggs of Stephenson Court, cutting the cake when the Wylam W.I. celebrated its 80th birthday in March. Mrs. Briggs had recently celebrated her own 80th birthday. The W. I. President, Mrs. Lorraine Parker, watches in the background.

Several new faces join the Parish Council

At the election on 6th May for two councillors to represent Wylam on Tynedale District Council Philip Brooks was re-elected. Jeff Leatham was elected to the second place, following the retirement of Austin Rubery. The result was:

Philip Brooks (Independent)	812
Jeffrey Leatham (Labour)	320
Ivon Piette (Conservative)	274
Jonathan Buzzard (Liberal Democrat)	258

Thanks are due to the candidates who stood for election and to the 903 electors who went to vote. Although the turnout of 54% was lower than usual for Wylam it was still much higher than in most other parts of the country.

The Parish Council has lost several experienced members with Maureen Gillis, Lynne Petrie, Austin Rubery and Philip Appleby standing down. Both Maureen and Lynne have each been with the Parish Council for more than 20 years. Maureen was Clerk from 1978-87 and then became a Councillor and Lynne has been a Councillor since 1979; both have also served as Chairman. Austin has had the demanding dual role as a District and Parish Councillor since 1987 and Philip Appleby joined the Parish Council in 1995. On behalf of the village we thank them all for

the time they have spent helping the community and hope they will be willing to continue with some of their work for the village, even though they have retired from the Parish Council!

The Parish Council have now co-opted several new members to fill the vacancies on the Council, and the eight members of the Parish Council are now:

Tony Mitcham, Chairman
Meadowfield, Wylam Wood Road
Tel: 852128

Philip Brooks
20 Bluebell Close. Tel: 853520

Michael Gibbney
2 Denecroft. Tel: 853898

Christine Henney
18 Tynedale Close. Tel: 852528

Jeffrey Leatham
12 The Dene. Tel: 852228

Linda Morton
8 The Dene. Tel: 852137

Ivon Piette
1 The Orchard. Tel: 853727

Angela Porter
17 Hackworth Gardens. Tel: 853033

Please make the necessary alterations to update your yellow Village Information Card.

W.I. still going strong after 80 years

Wylam W.I. celebrated its 80th birthday in March with a special party in the Institute. After a sherry reception, members enjoyed a delicious buffet supper and a piece of lovely birthday cake made and decorated by Mrs. Ann Hardy. The Women's Institute meets on the third Tuesday in the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Institute and new members are always very welcome.

Village handyman Ron

As promised in the last issue of this newsletter the Parish Council has recruited an occasional "Village Handyman" to do various jobs around the village. He is Ron English of Woodvale Gardens who has already cleared rubbish and undergrowth from Engine Dene, and repaired part of the fence and removed rubbish from the hedge adjoining the play area between 32 and 33 Dene Road. He has also been cleaning street name-plates and will be laying some additional flagstones at the War Memorial to make it easier to lay wreaths on Remembrance Day.

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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