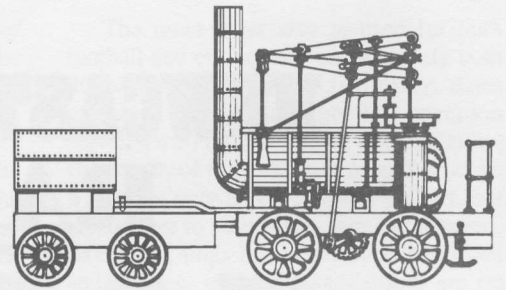


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 1999

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Millennium

Number 66

Launch of village project to mark Millennium

Every house in the village should have received a leaflet about the "Wylam Two Thousand" project in which it is hoped sometime during the next year to photograph as many residents as possible - either outside their own house, or in the Institute garden. Buildings, landscapes and activities in and around the village will also be recorded.

A preview of the project and a re-showing of the "Wylam Past and Present" exhibition, (first shown in 1996) was held in the Institute on Saturday, 27th November and was well-attended by residents.

The Parish Council gave a small "pump-primer" grant earlier this year to get the project started; the "Millennium Festival Awards for All" have recently agreed to make a generous contribution towards the overall costs.

Join Millennium Party

Undecided on what to do on New Year's Eve? Why not welcome the new Millennium with your friends (or perhaps meet someone new) at the Village Millennium Party in the Institute from 8.30 p.m. on 31st December. Bring your own banquet and drink. Tickets are £5 per person and can be obtained from the Institute office or from Hilary Broomfield (tel 852533).

It should be a very enjoyable party for a very special New Year's Eve.

New Information Card

All households in Wylam should receive a copy of the new (13th) issue of the Village Information Card (on green card this time) with this newsletter. It replaces the previous yellow card. The Parish Council hope that all local residents will find it useful. Where any changes or corrections are necessary in future, please report these to the Clerk (or any member of the Parish Council) so that the changes can be included in the next edition.

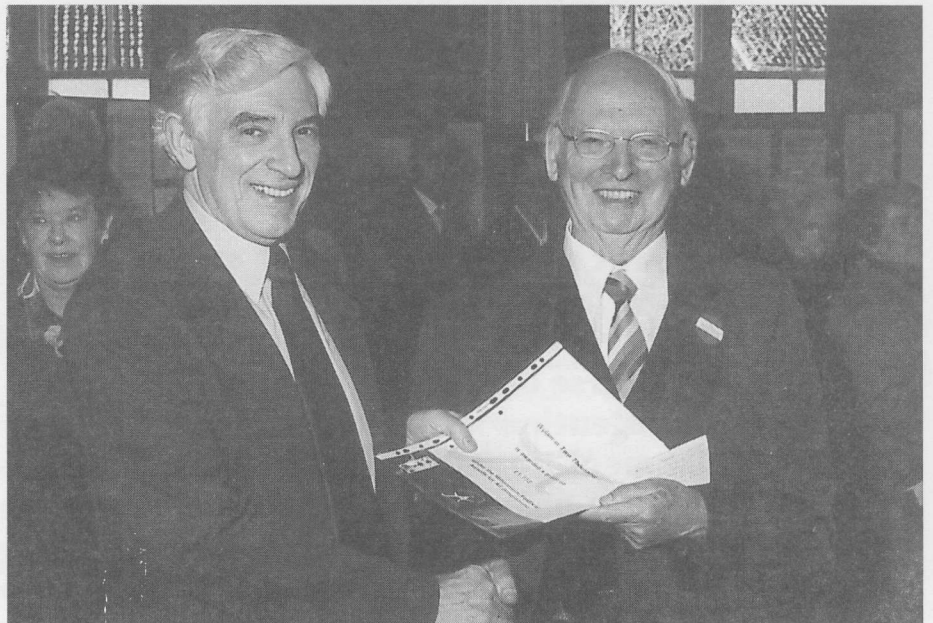
The project requires considerable planning and organising and every household in the village is asked to complete the slip at the bottom of the form indicating whether you are willing to be photographed.

Volunteers will be needed to help with

taking the photographs, and also with tasks like distributing leaflets etc.

Please complete and return the yellow slip to Judith Gordon at 40 Dene Road.

Anyone who has mislaid their form can obtain another one from Judith Gordon, or from the Library.



At the recent preview of the "Wylam in Two Thousand" project, the Rev. Richard Firth, on behalf of the "Millennium Festival Awards for All" organisation, presented Percy Lovell, Chairman of the project committee with a grant certificate, which will help to fund the work.

((Photo by Derek Oxford))

A new Parish Clerk and a Councillor needed

We are sorry to report that Christine Henney, who joined the Parish Council earlier this year, will be leaving the village soon, as husband Roland is now working at Annan. We thank Christine for her enthusiastic contributions to the work of the Parish Council, which we shall miss, and we wish her and Roland and young daughter Deborah good luck in their new home.

This leaves a vacancy on the Council: anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor is invited to write to David Petrie, Clerk to the Parish Council at 8 Stephenson Terrace (tel 852577) giving some details about themselves and their interests, and why they would like to become a Parish Councillor.

More information about the Parish Council can be obtained from any of the existing Councillors, whose names are on the new (green) Village Information Card.

David Petrie, Clerk to the Parish Council for the past five years, has also indicated that he will be retiring at the end of March. The Parish Council is therefore looking to employ a new Clerk from early April. An information sheet giving details of the job, salary, etc. will be available early in the New Year. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in the job is invited to contact the Chairman of the Parish Council, Tony Mitcham at Meadowfield, Wylam Wood Road (tel 852128).

NEWCASTLE & CARLISLE RAILWAY.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

A Person of the Name of **HENRY O'NEIL** was brought before **JAMES KIRSOPP, Esquire**, at the **Magistrates' Office, Hexham**, on **Thursday the 18th Inst.** charged with **Travelling on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, between Wylam and Hexham, without having obtained a Ticket.** The Charge was fully proved by the Company's Officers against the Prisoner, and the Magistrate convicted him in the **Penalty of Twenty Shillings and Costs, besides the amount of the Fare for the entire Journey ; and, in default of payment, he was committed to the House of Correction for Fourteen Days.** Mr. Kirsopp, in the course of his address to the Prisoner, intimated his intention of increasing the severity of the Punishment in all future Cases which should be brought before him. He said the Company had placed **Third Class Carriages** upon their Line for the **Benefit of the humbler Classes of Society, and these Cases of Fraud were certainly ungrateful acts.**

The Directors are determined, by every means in their power, to detect any Party attempting to **Defraud the Company, and have the Offenders visited with the severest Punishments authorized by their Act.—By Order,**

JOHN ADAMSON,

Railway Office, Newcastle. 19th February. 1847.

CLERK TO THE COMPANY

Newcastle-printer: Printed at the Journal Office, 13, Cross-street, by John Horsman.

Travelling between Wylam and Hexham without a railway ticket in 1847 was a crime which warranted quite severe punishment.

WCPFA Chairman reports on playing field progress and asks for help

Denis Peel, Chairman of Wylam Community Playing Fields Association (WCPFA) has prepared this article:

Before I start I feel that I must clear up a common misconception that the late Christopher Blackett gave the playing field to the village. In fact he did not, but rather sold it in the late nineteen forties to the Boys' Brigade at the then agricultural value. The present WCPFA is currently engaged in purchasing the field from the Boys' Brigade at a modern agricultural value. Hopefully, when this note reaches you, the purchase will be completed and the ownership of the field will be vested in the trustees of the WCPFA.

How does the WCPFA relate to the village of Wylam? WCPFA is a charity, registration number 525203, and under its constitution drawn up in 1973, membership

is open to all "inhabitants of the Parish of Wylam and the neighbourhood". The affairs of the WCPFA are arranged by a committee elected each year at the AGM, usually held in October.

The committee's main function is the maintenance and development of the existing facilities. For the very young there is a variety of play equipment which this year has been improved by provision of safety surfaces. The adventure trail used by an older age group is coming to the end of its life and will be replaced when funds can be found. The hard court area needs to be relaid and the outcome of a grant application for this is awaited. Two years ago a practice basketball goal was erected on the hard court which is also used for tennis, 5 a-side football and the stupid sport of breaking glass bottles.

The main grass area is used for both football and cricket and unfortunately both the pitches and the respective fixture dates overlap. Usually there is good co-operation between the clubs to resolve this difficulty. Other uses of the field such as golf practice which not only leaves holes in the turf, but is a danger to other users, are discouraged. Exercising dogs has never been permitted and notices, when not vandalised, are on every entrance stating that dogs are not allowed on the field. Please exercise your dog elsewhere.

Over recent years the committee has overseen the installation of water and electricity to the pavilion, has extended it and installed showers. Committee members have dug trenches, erected sheds and on a weekly basis carry out repairs to items damaged by mindless vandals, some from other places attracted by our facilities, but several from Wylam itself. Throughout the year grass is cut, litter removed and equipment maintained by committee members and volunteers.

Other than occasional grants for special projects, no money comes from Tynedale Council or Northumberland County Council. The grant from Wylam Parish Council is used for the grass cutting and the repair of items vandalised. In some years most of it has been spent on the latter. Each year the committee raises some £4000 by its three main events - January Jumble Sale, Burns' Ceilidh and the Summer Fair. This money is normally spent on the type of improvements outlined above. Most of the committee members have served for many years, some since 1973 and several would welcome the opportunity to hand over some or all of their functions to younger residents.

Wylam is a very attractive place in which to live, but this is only so because of the large variety of opportunities within the community provided by the community for the community. It therefore follows that all residents really ought to help in some way to maintain these facilities. I can only see two ways in which this can be achieved. That is all to muck in together or else pay much increased Council Tax so that the Parish Council can employ people to undertake these tasks. If you feel you could help the WCPFA in any way, even driving the little red tractor, please contact any member of the committee or myself on 853278. Volunteers welcome!

Editor's Note:

We hope that some local residents will respond to Denis's appeal for volunteers to help the WCPFA. For many years Wylam has been fortunate in having people willing to give their time and effort to run societies and organisations. Without this help many groups would have to be disbanded, or facilities like the Playing Field, or the Institute, would have to raise more funds to employ paid staff; your Council Tax would then certainly have to increase!



A view under the northern end of the bridge showing the concrete apron sloping down to the edge of the river. A barrier will be erected along the edge of the concrete and more signs displayed in the vicinity.

Action on river safety

Discussions have been held between the County, District and Parish Councils on what action should be taken to try and reduce the risk of river accidents, especially in the vicinity of the bridge where Graeme Johnson was sadly drowned earlier in the year. It has now been agreed that the County Council will erect a barrier-rail in the concrete apron under the bridge, to deter children from running into the river. Improved signs, both to warn children of the dangers of the river, and also to give information about emergency services in the event of an accident, will be put up.

Footpaths resurfaced

Following requests from residents, the Parish Council has had the two heavily used footpaths which cross the area of Engine Dene owned by the Parish Council, resurfaced with tarmac. This improvement has been much appreciated by regular users of those paths, and has been done without spoiling the rural character of that area.

Foil collector needed

One side effect of the closure of the bank in the village is that someone else is now needed to collect foil and ring-pulls from cans, on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind, a task previously done by members of the bank staff.

Anyone willing to collect foil is asked to let David Petrie (tel 852577) know: the information will be included in the next issue of "The Green List" which gives details of Wylam's Waste Recycling Scheme. Copies of the present "Green List" are available on request from the Parish Clerk or from the Library.

Youth Club welcome

The village Youth Club which meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings between 7 and 10 p.m. in the Falcon Centre would welcome new members. A variety of activities are available and youth leaders attend. Entrance is only 30p per evening. Interested teenagers are invited to call in.

Barclays close bank in spite of protests

The decision by Barclays to close their branch in the village at the end of October, was greeted with dismay by many residents! Notwithstanding strong representations from most of their customers, the Parish Council, local councillors and our member of Parliament, Barclays proceeded with their closure plan which will certainly make local banking much more difficult, particularly for older residents and those

without their own transport.

The village Post Office can however provide some banking services, free of charge.

- Deposits and/or withdrawals of money from the following banks: Lloyds TSB Bank plc - Co-operative Bank - Alliance and Leicester Giro Bank and the National Savings Bank.
- Utility service bills can also be paid.



In spite of widespread opposition from its customers, local residents and businesses, Barclays went ahead with the closure of their branch in the village at the end of October, after almost a century of providing banking services in Wylam.

Frank hopes for more enthusiastic gardeners

Frank Littlewood encourages you to take an interest in gardening:

There are lots of gardens in Wylam: nearly every family in the village finds itself faced with the inevitable job of caring for one. After all, who wants to live in a tangled wilderness?

And wouldn't it be lovely if every garden in the village was kept as a showpiece? Wouldn't it be splendid if a walk around Wylam was flowers all the way, all the year round?

Too much to hope for, perhaps, but it's what Wylam Gardeners' Society would like to see and why it is seeking to strengthen its membership by recruiting people, younger ones especially, to join in the drive to make Wylam a blaze of flowers in the Twenty-first Century.

The Society, which dates back to the beginning of this century and is believed to be the oldest group in Wylam, at present cares for public floral displays in the village. Its meetings include specialist talks by expert speakers, visits to interesting gardens in the district and quiz evenings with other local garden associations.

It now seeks to move with growing strength into the new century dawning as 2000, the Millennium year, passes into

history. The first Millennium meeting begins at 8.00 p.m. at the Institute on Thursday, January 20th. Why not come and join us?

Welcome to Wylam

During the past year several houses in the village changed hands: we welcome all new residents who have moved into the village. Wylam has always had a good reputation as a caring and friendly community: we hope you enjoy your stay here, however long or short that may be.

Railtrack treefelling

The work by Railtrack to carry out quite extensive felling of trees alongside the railway, particularly in the vicinity of the station without any notification locally, has upset many residents.

Whilst the treefelling they have done is intended to improve safety on the track, we hope that before the next major felling is planned, an effective means of removing leaves from the rails - perhaps by fitting something to the front of trains, can be designed and introduced, which would avoid the need for extensive treefelling.

New hedge to be laid

Peter Clarke, our village tree-warden writes:

Many residents will remember the planting of the hedgerow opposite the farm in Holeyn Hall Road several years ago. Volunteers turned out in force one Saturday morning and planted eight hundred hawthorns together with a few other hedgerow trees and finished in good time for lunch. Part of this hedge is now ready for laying, which consists of cutting the stems part way through near the ground, bending the plants over and staking them down.

We have had a very generous offer from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers who will carry out this work for us. The two short sections next to the pair of farm cottages will be laid in the next few months and the long section in a few years time, as the stems in this part are not yet thick enough, though it will be tidied by the BTC volunteers, to whom we are most grateful.

When the hedge has been treated in this manner, it should grow into a fine example of traditional hedge management, and it will be many years before it needs further attention.

Hedge-laying looks rather drastic when first carried out, but we can look forward to an attractive piece of work which will greatly enhance the main approach to the village and be appreciated equally by both residents and wildlife!

Guides need helpers

The 22 girls in Wylam Guides are appealing for additional leaders to provide the level of adult leadership required. There is now an urgent need for a "Warranted" leader and for a "Unit" helper, each with a different level of commitment to training.

If you are willing to help (either the Guides or Brownies), please contact Alison Malcolm, District Commissioner at 12 Dene Road (tel 853328). We hope that several residents will come forward to assist the hard-working and enthusiastic existing Guide and Brownie leaders to meet these needs.

A Shakespearean drama

Wylam Amateur Dramatic Society will celebrate William Shakespeare, the Poet of the Millennium, with a witty revue in Shakespearean mode - sketches, ballads, music and dramatic bits both comic and serious. "Beware the Ides of March" - March 2nd, 3rd and 4th at the Wylam Globe Theatre, also known as the Institute. Book the dates in your new diaries.

*Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to
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