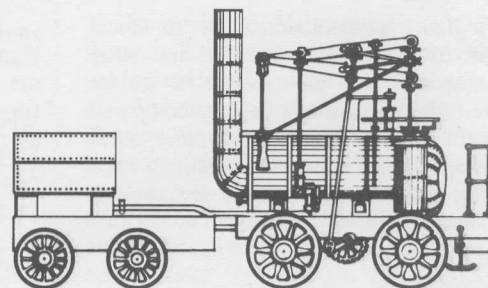


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2000

Number 67

County agree to go ahead with road repairs

The last time the Ovingham road was closed was 21 years ago, in 1979 when a severe fall of rock and trees from the scar above the road caused a major obstruction. This necessitated the felling of several large trees on the top of the scar and grading the slope using drag-lines. The road was closed for a year.

The latest problem was caused after several days of heavy rain by a landslip of the bankside between the road and the river. The bankside and roadside footpath have slid into the river. Gas and water pipes running under the road have been made safe, and an exploratory geo-technical survey undertaken to ascertain ground conditions, so that the safety of the road can be established, and the extent of the need for piling and stabilisation of the bankside decided.

Why you like Wylam?

The volunteers who are involved in the Wylam 2000 project, report that good progress is being made and almost half the families in the village have now been photographed.

However very few residents have yet responded to the request to write down (in not more than 50 words) - your views about living in Wylam. This could be about aspects you like (or dislike) - or some recollections about life in the village.

We hope that more residents will respond to this reminder. Please send your thoughts to Derek Oxford at 11 Stephenson Terrace (Tel 853738) as soon as you can.

Thanks for your help

Many thanks to the 120 plus children and adults who took part in the village Litter Pick, and spent the morning of Saturday, 1st April helping to tidy the village - including those areas which only get tackled on this occasion each year.

Thank you also to the N.C.C. Country Park staff and Tynedale Council who provided help with the event. The effort was well worthwhile.

In view of the importance of this road the County Council have now agreed to go ahead with the necessary works although the estimated cost of some £250,000 is unexpected expenditure the Council would have preferred not to have to spend!

The decision to proceed with repair work this summer will be welcomed by most local residents. Repairs will

necessitate closure of the road for up to six months.

The Parish Council have suggested to the County Council that whilst the road is closed to traffic, the opportunity should be taken to fell several of the dead and potentially dangerous trees along the banksides on both sides of the road.



The Ovingham road showing the footpath and bankside which has slipped into the river. Since this photo was taken the trees along this section of bankside have been felled. The County Council have now confirmed that permanent repair work will be undertaken at an estimated cost of some £250,000.

Concern about trees and paths along riverbank

Residents who regularly walk the riverside footpaths below the playing fields and along the edge of the allotments and the nature reserve to Hagg Bank, or the path from Stephenson Terrace to Stephenson's Cottage will have noticed that more and more people are using these paths - resulting in increased wear of the surface of the ground. Movement in the course of the river has also caused further erosion of sections of the bankside.

In addition to the erosion there are also problems with several of the large willow trees on the riverside, many of which are now probably seventy or eighty years old. Because of their size some are splitting and

their branches breaking; others are suffering from honey-fungus.

There are therefore several problems along the riverbank which will need attention over the next year or so. The Parish Council will be seeking expert advice on what action needs to be taken to try and manage this attractive riverside area, protecting it from damage and especially whether the old willows should be selectively pruned - or felled and allowed to regenerate. Once the necessary professional advice has been obtained, the Parish Council will consult local residents on the options available.

Village shops and businesses need your support

Wylam is well-served by its local shops, its pubs, its post office and other businesses, which are not, as far as we know, under threat of closure, compared with many in smaller and more rural villages, but it is most important that Wylam residents continue to support our local traders.

Often the goods are as cheap or cheaper than at many of the larger supermarkets and the service is certainly more personal and friendly locally. So please shop locally for as many items as you can, and support Wylam businesses.



Castle Hill House, built by architect Archibald Dunn in 1878-79 for his own family and more recently used by the R.V.I. as a Convalescent Home, is now the centre-piece of Wimpey's "Wylam Manor" development. One of the new dwellings being built on the site of the demolished hospital buildings, can be seen on the right.

River safety

The Parish Council has been pressing both the County Council and the District Council to carry out the various safety measures which they have agreed to provide on the riverbank below the bridge, where young Graeme Johnson was tragically drowned last year. It is important that the new barriers and improved signs etc are in place as soon as possible, and certainly before the school summer holidays.

An enjoyable job

Karen Webster has now had two months in her new job as Clerk to the Parish Council and says she is enjoying it. If you need to contact her about Parish Council matters, her home address is 23 Dene Road (Tel 853619).

We thank her predecessor, David Petrie for his dedicated work as Parish Clerk for the past six years and wish him well in his second retirement.

A home for your foil

Dorothy Eavis of Mornington, Wylam Wood Road (the end house nearest the Tennis Club) is now collecting clean foil for recycling, so please take any foil to her house. Her telephone number is 852188.

For dog owners

Dogs are not allowed on the Jubilee Playing Field or the Hagg Bank play area. Dog owners are also asked not to let their pets onto the Hedley Road playground, in the interests of health and hygiene. It is intended to seek an order banning dogs from this play area. Dog owners are requested to clear up after their pets on all public areas in the village.

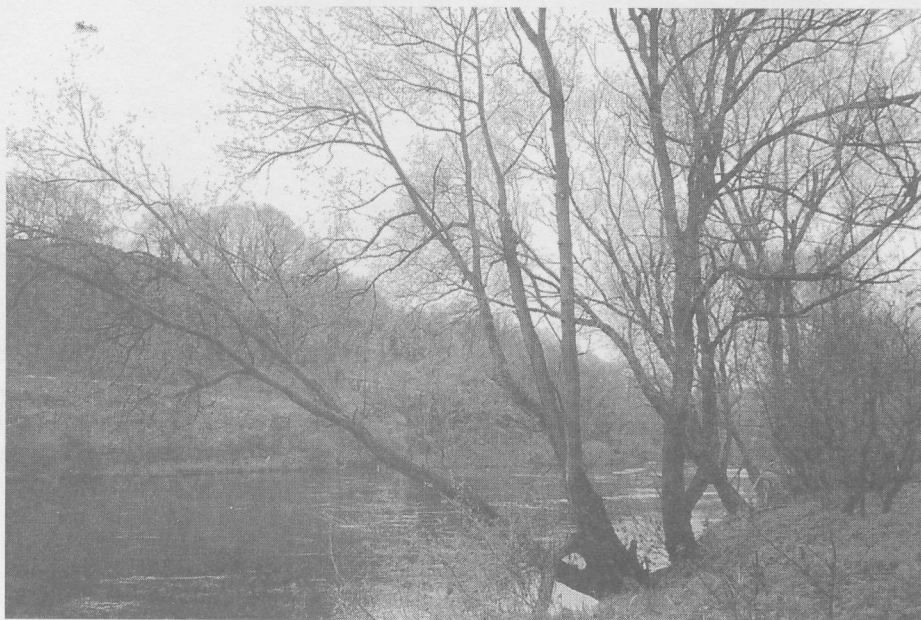
Millennium makers

Keep the 14th October, 2000 free for a special multi-media event, arranged for the whole village community in the Institute, when Wylam and District Churches will present "Makers of the Millennium - they challenged the world".

The story of men and women who, by their courage and determination, have changed the way the world thinks.

Thanks Robin and Pat

The snippets of news about village activities which Robin Piette and Pat Buckle have compiled in recent months for the Hexham Courant's "Around the District" section have been much enjoyed by local residents. They also provide valuable publicity for forthcoming events. Thank you Robin and Pat. Keep up the good work!



Several of the attractive willow trees growing along the riverbank are suffering from damaged branches and other ailments and require attention. Increased usage of the riverside paths is also causing erosion. The Parish Council will be seeking expert advice on how to tackle these problems and protect the attractiveness of the riverside.

Traffic is one of main concerns of residents

One of the main issues raised by residents at the Annual Parish Meeting was about the amount - and speed - of traffic coming through the village; the hazards to pedestrians, and the growing problem of parking, particularly in the centre.

With competing demands from many towns and villages the County Council don't promise much early action, but the Parish Council will be examining what options might be available. Ideas from residents would be welcome.

More books needed for popular bookstall

The secondhand bookstall at the village Summer Fair (24th June) provides many local residents with a good choice of reading material for their holidays.

Demand for books of all types seems to increase year by year, and there is a great need for more fresh stock this year. Proceeds from the bookstall are divided between the Playing Field Association and the activities for young people held at the Methodist Church Centre.

So please look through your cupboards and bookshelves and see if you can find some books which you no longer require.

Books for children, adults, fiction or non-fiction, paperback or hardback are all welcome.

It would be most helpful if you could take them to the Methodist Church Centre on Saturday morning 17th June, between 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. or on the evening of Friday, 23rd 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.



Front Street, Hagg Bank, where residents have purchased the local allotments (on the left) and prepared a scheme to provide much-needed private parking spaces on parts of those allotments facing the street.

Great fund-raising

The village's reputation for successful fund-raising events has continued in recent months. The Cancer Fund Coffee Morning in April took more than £700, the Institute Jumble Sale in May £930. The Wylam Rangers raised over £500 with their very enjoyable American Evening, helping Cancer charities as well as their own funds. Collections have raised £412 for the British Red Cross.

Congratulations to everyone involved in each of these events, whether as organisers and helpers, or as customers and supporters.

Youth club yard games

Whilst the Falcon Centre yard (old school playground) is an ideal hard-surface area for football, would the youngsters who use it, please remember that several of the pensioners' bungalows at Swindale Cottages back onto the yard. Please try and avoid kicking the ball into their gardens, and do not make excessive noise, particularly during the evening.

Brian joins Council

Brian Japes of Westlands, Holeyn Hall Road (Tel 852151) has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the resignation and removal from the village of Christine Henney. Brian and his wife Kath have lived in Wylam for 30 years and will be known to many residents. Before his retirement Brian was a senior lecturer at Kirkley Hall College of Agriculture. He is active in the Methodist Church.

Limelight with Lynne?

Wylam Amateur Dramatic Society is to present 'Under Milk Wood' on 23rd, 24th and 25th November, with rehearsals from 14th September. This play has a cast of thousands (well, a minimum of 15 men and 15 women anyway, plus children) and some of the parts are literally one line. Is this the chance you've been waiting for to make your debut on the boards? If you'd like to talk about it, please give Lynne Petrie a ring on 852577.

Millennium seat soon

To mark the Millennium the C.J.W. Blckett Trust has agreed to provide a public seat in each of the four local villages of Wylam, Ovingham, Ovington and Horsley. Wylam's seat should be delivered in the next few weeks and will be placed in the Institute temporarily, pending a final decision on its ultimate resting place, which will probably be the Institute garden or the open space opposite - in "Charlie's Corner", named after Mr. Charles Atkinson of West House who acquired and gave the land to the Parish Council more than 50 years ago.

Hagg Bank scheme for car park agreed

After years of discussion and planning, the scheme by residents to provide car parking spaces on part of the allotments off Front Street, Hagg Bank, has now been approved. It is hoped that a contract will be let shortly so that construction work can be carried out before the autumn. When completed these new off-street parking bays should result in a great improvement to the facilities for Hagg Bank residents.

Trim those hedges!

Hedges and trees which overhang pavements or footpaths can create a hazard for pedestrians - please make sure that any hedges, bushes or trees on the boundaries of your garden are trimmed back. If complaints are received the Parish Council Clerk will write to the householders concerned requesting them to cut back the offending hedge. The prompt action by two or three residents contacted recently is appreciated. If residents do not respond to the "polite request" from the Parish Council, the problem may have to be referred to the County Highways Department who have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that public roads and footways are not obstructed.

Play areas reminder

A reminder that the Institute garden in the centre of the village is not a children's play area. It is intended as a garden for quiet enjoyment. There are other grassed areas around the village, specifically provided for children's play, and the Jubilee playing field, together with the "Chinese Field" and Engine Dene are available for informal ball games.

Parents are requested to ensure that their own children use the designated play areas or playing fields, and avoid causing a nuisance to neighbours.

Chairman re-elected

At the Parish Council A.G.M., Tony Mitcham was re-elected Chairman with Ivon Piette as Vice Chairman again.

Plenty to enjoy at Summer Fair on 24th June

This year Wylam Community Playing Field Association is not just holding a Summer Fair on Saturday, June 24th, but is also including a Festival of Sport.

The **Summer Fair** event will be full of fun with entertainment from The Hexhamshire Lassies Morris Dancers, The Gorman School of Irish Dancers, The Prudhoe Community Band, Mr. Merlin the Magician, Punch and Judy, Children's Fancy Dress, a visit from Prudhoe Fire Engine, a demonstration of Bee Keeping, Donkey Rides and Eddie Bell's table top creatures. Of course that is only the start. There will be plenty of stalls from commercial and local organisations, not to mention teas and home baking available from the pavilion.

The famous **Methodist Book Stall** with 100's of books to buy will be held in their Church Hall on Chapel Lane from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. (Admission by Summer Fair Programme).

The **Festival of Sport** will take place throughout the day. In the morning, on the Playing Field, there will be a Senior Football Competition and a Basketball event, while in the Institute Garden, there will be a Croquet Competition. In the afternoon there will be Junior Races, a Junior Tennis Competition and of course the Millennium Fun Run. There will be prizes all round and special Millennium Medals for all those finishing the Fun Run, so let's make it a full house with a target of 100 runners on the day.

The morning **Basketball** activity, being organised by Paula Esson, is part of a National event called "**Time Out 2000**". Throughout the country participants will be making an attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records. The idea is that all Outdoor Basketball Sites will monitor the number of people playing basketball at the same time on the same day, so we want loads and loads of participants. Some of the proceeds from this event will be going to the NSPCC charity.

The **Five-a-side Football Competition** is being organised by Wylam Celtic Football Club. This event has taken place over a number of years with great success. The village contact for this is Peter Creighton on 852668.

The **Croquet Competition** is a first. Entry Forms are available from the Wine Lodge. The first eight pairs to enter will be accepted. Others wishing to have a go will be given the opportunity, time permitting.

The **Tennis Competition**, being organised by Wylam Tennis Club is for children between the ages of five and 13 years. It will be organised according to the response of participants, so get your name in now to Ann Francis on 852642. This event will take place between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Tom Grieveson will again be organising the **Children's Races for the under nines**. Entries will be taken on the playing field on the day.

The **Millennium Fun Run** is looking to have 100 entries in this special year. Let's prove it can be done. Participants range from top year First School to Senior Citizens. The under 11's run the 1.5 miles from the Field to Stephenson's Cottage and back. The senior run of three miles takes participants around the allotments before heading off beyond Stephenson's Cottage returning along sections of the riverside path and the old railway line to finish back on the field. There can be few routes more scenic or safe.

The Playing Field Association look forward to a record number of participants and spectators on this very special Millennium Summer Fair.

Please come and support the special Summer Fair this year and enjoy yourself
ALISON MALCOLM

Post box for Dene Road

We're pleased to report that after resisting requests for a post-box on the Dene Estate for several years the Postal Authorities now seem willing to provide one - probably on the space next to No. 135 Dene Road. This will be much appreciated by local residents.

*Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to
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23 Dene Road, Wylam. (Tel: 853619)
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Taken several weeks ago, this picture shows work in progress on the major extensions to the Stanley Burn Residential Home. The new accommodation should be completed shortly and will increase the number of rooms for residents and greatly improve the facilities at the Home.

Stop this dumping

Complaints have been received about several local residents dumping garden waste and other rubbish on public amenity land within the village, e.g. on the former railway land (now the walkway) behind Woodcroft Road; on the bankside below the playground on Hedley Road; in the hedgerow next to the play-area at the corner of Dene Road; around the edges of Engine Dene and in the bushes around the "Chinese Field" on Jackson Road.

This behaviour is unacceptable, unnecessary and an affront to other residents.

The new wheelie-bins are quite large enough to take some garden rubbish if you cannot compost it within your own garden. Alternatively you can take it to the Civic Amenity Depot at West Wylam.

Anyone caught dumping in future will receive a strongly worded letter from the Parish Council, and may face prosecution.

New car park charges

As predicted earlier this year the County Council has now decided to introduce parking charges for motorists using the War Memorial (Country Park) car park, as a means of raising money to improve facilities in the Tyne Riverside Country Park.

The parking charges are 50p for up to half a day and £1 per day, although residents can purchase annual parking permits (12 months) for £5. People taking or collecting children from the First School will be allowed to use the car park free (information and passes available from the school). Similarly people taking items to the recycling bins can park free for that purpose.

The Parish Council and nearby residents will be watching closely to see whether the parking charges result in more street-parking in the vicinity - and nuisance to local residents.