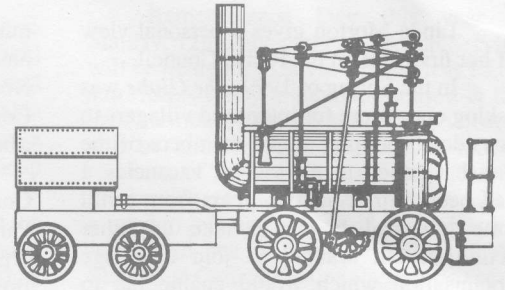


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 2000

Number 68

## Generous gift to provide models for Museum

Many residents will have seen the press publicity given to the bequest of £20,000 which the Parish Council recently received from the late Mr. Michael Seymour of Cambridge. This money has been left to enable scale models of the unique and historic Wylam locomotives to be constructed for display in the village railway museum. The originals of two of these locomotives, "Puffing Billy" and "Wylam Dilly" designed and built by William Hedley, Timothy Hackworth and Jonathan Forster are displayed at the Science Museum, London and the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh respectively.

Michael Seymour was a retired Cambridge schoolteacher, especially interested in early railway history and in steam locomotives. He was actively involved for many years in preserving the Ffestiniog Railway in Wales. He was a skilled graphic designer and when the Parish Council were planning special events and the production of souvenirs to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Stephenson in 1981 he kindly agreed to design a first-day stamp cover to mark the event. Subsequently in 1985 when the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway was being celebrated, Mr. Seymour designed and drew a splendid commemorative map of the

railway, which the Parish Council then printed, with copies being sold as special souvenirs. Philip Brooks maintained regular contact with Mr. Seymour over the years and he was particularly interested in trying to research the history and development of the early Wylam Colliery locomotives. Although when he developed cancer in 1997-98, Mr. Seymour expressed

the hope to Coun. Brooks that he might be able to assist in enabling models or replicas of Hedley's locomotives to be built for display in the village railway museum, the amount of the bequest was a complete surprise.

The Parish Council will now be seeking expert advice from the National Railway Museum on experienced engineers capable of producing suitable models.



*The Wylam village signs, depicting the locomotive "Puffing Billy" were much admired by the late Michael Seymour who has given £20,000 to construct scale models of the historic Wylam locomotives for the museum. Here members of the Parish Council admire one of the signs. From left, Ivon Piette, Linda Morton, Michael Gibbney, Tony Mitcham, Philip Brooks and (kneeling), Angela Porter and Clerk, Karen Webster. The other two Parish Councillors, Jeff Leatham and Brian Japes were unavailable.*

*(Photo courtesy of Hexham Cowrant)*

## Charity Card Sale

No need to rush out to buy all your Christmas Cards and gifts in Newcastle or at the Metro Centre. You can save time and petrol and support various charities by purchasing some of your cards and gifts at the Charity Christmas Card Craft and Gift Sale being held in the Institute on the morning of Saturday 11th November, 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. There is always an excellent selection from a wide variety of national charities and local groups - something to suit all tastes and pockets.

Incidentally, Margaret Phillips, who organises the event reports that one or two spaces are available for extra stalls and if any local charity would like to attend to sell items to raise money, please contact her on tel 853589.

## See yourself in the "Wylam 2000" exhibition

The Wylam in Two Thousand project (supported by Millennium Festival Awards for All), is almost completed with over 700 photographs taken. The subjects include most people in the village in or around their houses in family or neighbour groups or in social groups at work or play. There are also landscapes, streetscapes and a record of the principal trees in the locality together with four aerial photographs taken during May 2000. Orders for copies of the aerial photos will be taken during the exhibition of the project in the Institute on Friday, 3rd November, 2.00 - 5.00 p.m., Saturday, 4th November, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. and

Sunday, 5th November, 12 noon - 5.00 p.m. Admission to the exhibition is free and refreshments will be served throughout. The Saturday morning will also be the village coffee morning on that day.

All persons on the photographs are named but there are NO addresses given. There are two copies of everything so that one set will be stored within the village and be available for consultation, while the other set will be held at the Northumberland County Record Office, together with all files from the project. Files will be withheld from consultation for thirty years. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this project such a success.

# A new Parish Councillor gives her view of a year on the Council

Linda Morton gives a personal view of her first year on the Parish Council.

In the Spring of 1999, *The Globe* was asking once more for interested villagers to consider becoming active members of the Parish Council to fill several vacancies. I had been retired for two years from a full time job, had begun to take up other activities, but wanted to join a village organisation which would enable me to repay some of the benefits I and my family had enjoyed simply by living in the village. The Parish Council seemed to fulfil this beautifully, although I was a bit concerned that friends and neighbours would assume I was doing it for the kudos. Sitting on committees was nothing new, and it was not something I particularly looked forward to, but on the other hand, it is the layer of democracy which is truly in touch with us all, and to which we all have access.

My first meeting was in July 1999. I learned that meetings are held approximately every six weeks, but with other duties occurring from time to time. I also discovered that most of the other members were either very new, like me, or had only a few years experience. There had been a group of committed, long-standing councillors, who had decided in the last year or so, that it was time to move on. It is also of note that the average age of councillors must be about 55 - most of us are retired - which is a pity. My concerns about the prestige were dealt with at that meeting when I was handed a pile of *Globes* and told to distribute them to the addresses supplied and by the dates given. Lesson number one - an important responsibility is as postman.

Delivering the newsletters was interesting: I thought I knew the village well - I have lived here for thirty years after all, but I soon found that there are houses I have never seen, that some big houses are divided up, that some show no signs of life, and that I was very unclear about the names of some streets: obviously I had walked around for thirty years with my eyes closed. Then there were the letter boxes - the till in 'Open All Hours' has nothing on the rottweiler tendencies of some letter boxes, and they are such different shapes - folding becomes an art form. Letter boxes can also be hard to find - there is one house in the village to which I could not find an entrance to the garden (I did finally discover a gap in the hedge) and another that I am convinced has no letter box at all. I do find it enjoyable though, when I am able to hand *The Globe* to a householder personally - it makes the whole process more personal and less official.

Later in the summer I had the opportunity to attend a training evening for new Parish Councillors. We learned the basic rules for Parish Councils, e.g. Councils have few responsibilities (things they must do) but lots of permissive powers (things they may do if they so choose). We were also instructed about finances - and the

minimum number of meetings we should have etc. This event was held by the Northumberland Association of Local Councils - very comforting to know there is a body who can advise in cases of difficulty.

During the second meeting, Councillors were appointed to serve as Parish Council representatives on village organisations. These include the Burial Board, School Governors, Playing Fields, Blackett Trust and the Institute. I joined the committee of the Playing Fields Association - again I am pleased to be helping an organisation which is very active in maintaining an important village facility.

So what were the subjects of discussion at the meetings? Many of them are raised by other bodies - the Council receives correspondence from various organisations who ask for the views of the Parish Council and these include Northumberland and Tynedale Councils. Other issues are raised by villagers, who may attend the meetings and can speak by prior arrangement, and some by councillors themselves, who are often approached by friends and neighbours in the village. These latter include concerns such as apparent moves to close a footpath, road markings which are fading, overhanging hedges and the perennial problem of dog dirt on our pavements and playing areas. The amount of traffic through the village is a current large concern, as well as the future of rural post offices and village shops. We have both county and district councillors in

regular attendance, in fact our two district councillors also serve as parish councillors and they are able to tell us what is happening at the county and district level and will take forward the concerns of the village.

So now we are several meetings further on; I have attended a budget meeting in December, where the Council decides how much it needs for the next year and considers requests for support from village and other helpful organisations. I missed the annual parish meeting, the main public meeting when the Parish Council reports on the previous year's activities, due to being on holiday (I am sorry about that). Most of us now have a particular interest, e.g. how to consult more effectively with the village and my special interest is the future of village post offices. What do I enjoy? The opportunity occasionally to be of direct help to individual villagers - and least enjoy? Situations where it is impossible to meet everyone's needs, so that someone is left feeling unhappy.

What I wish is that I had obtained my seat by election instead of by co-option. It would be wonderful to have an election again - we used to have them - and in that case, knowing that people are interested and enthusiastic, I wouldn't even mind losing my seat. Have you considered standing at the next election?

Linda Morton

## Local events in November and December

There are a wide variety of events taking place in the village during November and December. Listed below are a selection - these are being held in the Institute, unless otherwise stated. We hope that local residents will support these activities.

### November

- 3rd-5th Wylam in 2000 Photographic Exhibition.
- 6th Playing Field Association A.G.M. - 8.00 p.m.
- 7th Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning - in aid of Institute Funds.
- 11th Charity Card Sale - 10.00 a.m.
- 11th Wine & Wisdom Quiz - in aid of Institute Funds.
- 12th Remembrance Day Service and Parade to War Memorial - St. Oswin's Church, 10.00 a.m.
- 23rd - Drama Production - "Under Milk Wood".
- 25th

### December

- 2nd Geordie Night - Wylam Rangers - Hilary Broomfield's Farewell Bash!
- 8th Wylam First School P.T.A. - Christmas Fair, 6.00 p.m. at School.

- 9th Christingle Service - St. Oswin's Church, 3.00 p.m. Make Christingles in Church Hall at 2.30 p.m. Tea in Institute following Service.
- 9th Prudhoe Community Band Concert, Arts Centre, Prudhoe High School, 7.30 p.m.
- 13th Friends of Wylam - Christmas Lunch.
- 14th Ovingham Middle School - Service of Celebration (school 25 years old) - Hexham Abbey, 7.30 p.m.
- 17th Village Carol Service, 6.30 p.m., Methodist Church.
- 24th Blessing of the Crib, 6.00 p.m., St. Oswin's Church.
- 31st Service to close the Millennium Year, 11.00 - 11.30 p.m., Methodist Church.

## An auction for 2001

Keen to give residents plenty of advance notice - the Institute Committee are planning to hold a 50 : 50 Auction on Saturday, 19th May next year. So those of you with your 2001 diaries/calendars please make a note of this event.



## Decision on concessionary fares in the New Year

Several residents who have received concessionary travel tokens this year have seen articles in the newspapers and magazines that a new national scheme of cheap bus passes for pensioners would be introduced from next April, and have enquired whether pensioners will have a choice of receiving either tokens or bus passes next year.

In the more rural areas of Tynedale where there are very few bus services, pensioners prefer having travel tokens but in those parts where there are more buses

pensioners would benefit from being able to have cheap bus passes. It is however still uncertain whether the Government will make sufficient additional money available for Tynedale Council to be able to offer a choice of either travel tokens or cheap passes.

Once the legislation is passed and the amount of Government funding is known, probably early in the New Year, then Tynedale Council and the Parish Council will make decisions on whether their existing travel token schemes can continue.



*A scene from the multi-media production "Rebels with a cause" performed by members of local churches and school children, staged at the Institute on 14th October, looked at how seven men and women from different centuries and continents have changed the world by their inspirational lives. The performances were greatly enjoyed by packed audiences. Congratulations to everyone involved who worked so hard to make this Millennium event such a success.*

## Searching for any local "Turnbull" relatives

Requests are often received from people living in other parts of the world, who are seeking information about ancestors who lived in Wylam. A recent request was from a Mr. Ted Turnbull who lives in Western Australia.

His great grandfather was Joseph Turnbull, a coal miner who built "Tyne House", Tyne View, Wylam in about 1888 and lived there with his wife, Jane (Brown) and children, Ann, William, Henry, John, Robert, Joseph and George.

Ted Turnbull's grandfather was the second son, Henry, who married Sarah Dolan in 1911 and lived in Prudhoe, before joining the 12th Northumberland Fusiliers in the First World War. They had two children, Joseph (Ted Turnbull's father) and Henry (Junior), before Henry (Senior) was killed in battle in June 1916.

Sarah Turnbull remarried in 1919, to a Thomas Spence from Prudhoe and they had two more children before emigrating to a farm in Western Australia in 1924.

Henry Turnbull's name is recorded on the village War Memorial and we think that the Robert Turnbull who is also named on the War Memorial is Henry's younger brother. Can anybody in the village confirm that and give any more information about the Robert Turnbull named on the War Memorial?

Jane Turnbull lived with daughter Annie at 28 Falcon Terrace in the late 1930s and son John (Jack) built the house "Thirlmere" next to the chapel on Woodcroft Road.

Are there any residents living in Wylam today who are descendants of members of the Turnbull families, if so please contact Philip Brooks (tel 853520 - 20 Bluebell Close), who will put you in contact with your Australian relatives. It would be nice to compile a family tree showing members of the Turnbull family with Wylam links.

## Faster light repairs?

In a recent survey of the level of public satisfaction with the services which the County Council provides, delays in the repair and maintenance of street lighting came in for criticism. The County Council is now trying to improve this service and a new freephone telephone number 0800 085 0029 should be used to report faulty street lights. Please delete the telephone number on your green Wylam Information Card and add this new freephone number instead. It is also helpful to give the identification number on the lamp post (e.g. W 123) when reporting faults.

## Will you remember?

Remembrance Day this year is Sunday, 12th November. A special Service will be held in St. Oswin's Church at 10.00 a.m. followed by a commemoration at the War Memorial at 10.50 a.m. Poppy wreaths will be laid in memory of those former residents 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.

Poppies will be sold and collections made on behalf of the Royal British Legion, throughout the village in the weeks before Remembrance Day and everyone is asked to support this worthy charity.

## Local village histories

Although there is no new publication about Wylam this year, many residents interested in the history of other nearby villages will want to buy (or be given) copies of two attractive new books - one on the history of Ovingham which is being produced by Frank Atkinson, retired Director of Beamish Museum, who lives in Ovingham, and the other is on the history of Ovington, compiled by local residents. Both books will be on sale locally before Christmas.

## Items in brief . . . .

The Amateur Dramatic Society are presenting Dylan Thomas's "Under Milk Wood" on Thursday, 23rd, Friday, 24th and Saturday, 25th November. A lively and entertaining production is promised and should be well worth seeing. Tickets are available from Wylam Tea Shop.

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The attractive new extension to the Stanley Burn Residential Home on Station Road was opened at the end of October. Anyone who would like to see the new facilities is invited to contact the manageress of the home, Dorothy Lamb and she would be pleased to show you around.

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Congratulations to the Scout and Cub Pack who have received a welcome grant of £2793 from the Millennium Festival Awards for All towards the purchase of new camping equipment.

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Parents who drop off or collect children from the First School entrance on Bell Road are requested not to obstruct the block of lock-up garages alongside the school entrance.

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Thank you to those residents who respond promptly when asked by the Parish Clerk to trim back overgrown hedges or trees. Where the roadside pavements are particularly narrow (e.g. along the Main Road or on Wylam Wood Road) the need to keep hedges well cut back is especially important.

## Publicity leaflet for village shops + services

We emphasised in our last issue the importance of residents shopping in the village for as many items as possible and supporting Wylam businesses.

It has been suggested that it would help local residents if a leaflet were to be produced giving information about Wylam shops and businesses. Although there is insufficient space on the popular Village Information Card to include this additional information, the Parish Council will explore with local traders the idea of publishing a separate card or leaflet.

In addition to listing village shops it may be possible to include information on other services which Wylam residents who

work away from the village could offer to other Wylam residents. So anyone who lives in Wylam and would like to publicise their business/service to other Wylam residents might do so.

We could list local architects, childminders, solicitors, painters and decorators, music teachers, surveyors, dentists, gardeners, signwriters, financial advisors, tree surgeons, etc., etc. - and many more.

Any village resident who would like to have their business/service considered for inclusion in this new leaflet is asked to contact Karen Webster, the Clerk to the Parish Council, 23 Dene Road (Tel: 853619).



Work on stabilising the riverbank and repairing the Ovingham road was completed by mid October. Contrary to early speculation the soil survey showed that the road-slip was caused by the collapse of an old coal-seam below the road, rather than by river erosion.

## There must be more keen gardeners in Wylam?

A few months ago, writes Frank Littlewood, I was in Harthill, a South Yorkshire village, comparable in several ways with Wylam; it's about the same size, situated on an old worn-out coalfield, has the same sort of rural look, and is as close to Sheffield as Wylam is to Newcastle.

What it does have that Wylam seems rather to lack is a deep sense of its own worth, and to stress this it fills itself with flowers every year - enough to enter itself into the Britain in Bloom contest.

And I thought: Why can't we do this in Wylam too? And then I thought: If, for starters, we could build up a big enthusiastic following for the village Gardeners' Society and get things moving that way, then, bingo, we might.

So all you garden lovers of Wylam - and I know there are lots of you - why not come along and join the group and throw your weight behind its work? Who knows, with the right sort of effort, what could be achieved?

The Society's A.G.M. was held at the Institute on October 19th and its first public meeting is on Thursday, November 16th,

also at the Institute, when members will hear of the great successes of garden-makers in Ponteland.

So why not come along and see for yourselves what can be done?

## Will you help a child?

Glen Smith writes:

The Tyne Valley link of the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline hosted its third group of children from Belarus this summer. The visit was again a great success and eleven children went home healthier, hopefully a little happier and certainly weighed down with clothing, vitamins and other essentials, as well as plenty of "goodies"! We are most grateful to the village for all the support we received. However we do need more host families if possible as we have previously hosted fourteen children. Would you be willing to help? - either by hosting or volunteering in other ways. Please contact Glen on 853997 for more information.

These children desperately need our help as the situation in Belarus continues to deteriorate.

## Damage to playing field

The night of Friday, 13th October was a bad one for the village playing field, when a group of youths - male and female, held a party there, and enjoyed themselves destroying a seat, damaging some play equipment and fencing - valued at about £1500 (which is the amount of money raised at the Summer Fair each year!) - as well as littering the field with cans and bottles.

Many of the youngsters - some from Wylam and others from neighbouring villages, had had far too much to drink. Whilst the Parish Council does not wish to stop anyone - young or old - enjoying themselves, such behaviour, drunken vandalism, is wholly unacceptable. The police, the High School and local alcohol outlets in the village have been informed of this incident, and all parents of teenage children are asked to make sure that their children are aware of the seriousness of this behaviour.

## New parking charges

After several delays the County Council have now installed the parking ticket machine in the Country Park Car Park. Passes for parents escorting children to or from the First school are available through the school. The scale of charges etc. are displayed in the car park. The Parish Council remain concerned that introducing these charges will increase the number of people parking on Stephenson Terrace and Ingham Row and other streets in the vicinity - but the effectiveness of the scheme will be monitored by local residents.

## Pavement parking fines

Motorists who park their cars on the pavement risk being prosecuted and fined for obstruction. Several complaints have been made to the Parish Council where motorists have parked thoughtlessly, preventing pedestrians and particularly people with pushchairs, from using pavements. Motorists - you have been warned!

## Friends Christmas Lunch

The Friends of Wylam Committee would like to thank everyone who supported their Bazaar, and particularly those shops and individuals who gave prizes for the raffle and cash donations. A total of over £560 was raised which will help fund next year's event.

A Community Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday, 7th November. Everyone most welcome. The traditional Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday, 13th December and all Wylam residents of 60 or over, are invited. If you would like to come to the lunch please contact Ursula Barker (Tel: 852621).

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to

Mrs. K. Webster, The Clerk to the Parish Council,  
23 Dene Road, Wylam. (Tel: 853619)  
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