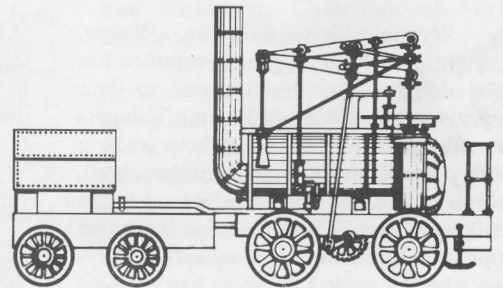


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2001

Number 69

All change on the farm after almost 80 years

The Graham family of Wylam Hills have been very much in our thoughts over the last few months, along with all other farmers who have been living on the "knife edge" of foot and mouth disease. Thankfully, in spite of the proximity of early outbreaks, at the time of writing all appears to be well.

However, Robert and Judith Graham, together with their son Andrew and his wife Del, have had their plans very much affected by the restrictions. For some time the family had been looking for an opportunity to expand their business and, if possible, to release their dairy herd from the constraints imposed by, as Robert puts it, "living on a traffic island"! (Not everyone may realise that Wylam Hills has no land directly adjoining the farm steading). Several months ago, the Grahams purchased the farm known as West Newham together with neighbouring Hunt Law, south west of Belsay. It was, and remains their plan, to remove the dairy herd to West Newham. The cows should have gone almost eight weeks ago but it now looks as though it might be some time in June at the earliest, depending very much on the progress of current livestock movement restrictions.

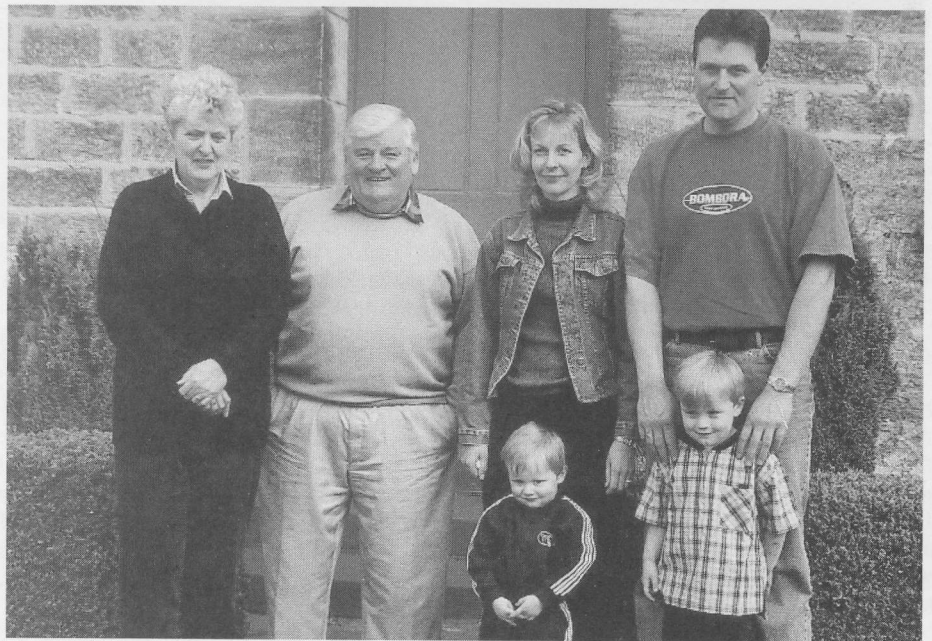
Wylam Hills will become a more predominantly arable farm, managed from West Newham, with young stock reared at Buildings Farm, Clara Vale, on which the Grahams have held a business tenancy for the last year or two. In anticipation of these changes some of the grassland including fields on Blue Bell Lane and Holeyn Hall Road had already been ploughed out when the disease struck and everything had to be put on hold.

The sight of the cows wending their twice-daily way to and from the summer grazing will be missed by many of us, although it must be acknowledged that the event has not always brought pleasure to every Wylam resident! Those who left insufficient time to get to work or who imagined their tea getting cold as they queued down Holeyn Hall Road, are the most likely beneficiaries of the change.

Wylam without the cows, not to mention the Grahams themselves, will seem a very different place. The family has farmed here since Robert's grandfather acquired the farm in 1923. They came from Gowlands Farm, just off the West Road in Newcastle and not far from the General

Hospital: an area where they had maintained daily milk deliveries for many years. Indeed, daily milk deliveries from Wylam into Newcastle continued for years after that. Wylam of course was a very different place in those days, being just a fraction of its present size with hardly any traffic to contend with. The farm itself started as 400 acres but with the growth of the village has been reduced to 280!

farming within a village, together with a natural concern for the future security of the family, result in the feeling that this is the right time for a change. Of course we will continue to see some of them around, probably on their tractors, together with their loyal team of staff, but they have been very much part of the village and their going will leave a gap.



The Graham family outside the Wylam Hills farmhouse for their Millennium photograph. From the left, Judith, Robert, Del and Andrew, with Josh and little brother Logan in front. Andrew, Del and the boys have recently moved to a new farm at West Newham, near Belsay, and by the end of the summer, Robert and Judith will have joined them.

It was in 1981 that Robert Graham invested in pasteurisation equipment, began buying-in milk to add to the home production and introduced the "smiling cow" logo which became a well known feature, not only on the dairy door but also on the milk bottles distributed throughout the region. (How many still have one, perhaps lurking in their garage somewhere?) This era came to an end in 1998 with the sale of the milk processing and retail business.

The Grahams have been very happy in Wylam and are leaving with very mixed feelings. However, a combination of the economic and strategic pressures of dairy

It is actually quite a coincidence that Stephen Gray, dairy herdsman at Wylam Hills for many years will now be returning to the farm on which he worked when he first left school. He at least should soon feel at home.

We take this opportunity to wish the whole Graham family, together with their staff, our very best wishes for the new venture that lies ahead of them. We hope that they all settle well in their new home and that the new business is a success. Most of us have moved at some time but not many have taken between 180 and 200 cows with us!

Great support for First School's "Rhyme, Rhythm & ROM Appeal"

Wylam First School's Rhyme, Rhythm and ROM Appeal Committee has been delighted by the response to their appeal by the residents of Wylam. Villagers have donated over £5,000 to help create a library, music and ICT space for the school, and this has taken the appeal's total to the halfway mark of £50,000. Julian Bates, the appeal co-ordinator, commented: "Everyone who has made a donation has received a letter of thanks, but the committee would like to recognise publicly the tremendous community spirit in the village that has resulted in such generosity. Although we

still have some way to go to achieve our target, it is great to have reached the halfway mark". There is still time to make a donation. Please send it to the Appeal Co-ordinator, Wylam First School, Bell Road, Wylam NE41 8HE or ring 852614 for further information,

The most ambitious fund-raising event so far has been the May Ball, held in the Institute on 12th May. The evening was a great success with superb live music and delicious food. Many thanks to Gill Drake and Helen Jackson for taking on the organisation of such a mammoth task, and

to the excellent team working with them. As well as being a wonderful evening, £2,000 was raised towards the Appeal.

In early autumn there will be a Favours Auction with people donating anything from gardening services and babysitting to free meals. Please let Lyn Hardwick (852052) know if you or your company can contribute in any way.

Editor's Note:

Everyone in the village will have been impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm shown by the Appeal Committee in their fund-raising for what will be a great asset to the future of the school and Wylam as a community.



Linda and Ainsley Morton caught in a public-spirited act, no not collecting litter, but planting cowslips on the riverside nature reserve. Incidentally the Parish Council will be buying more daffodil bulbs for planting around the village in October, and any help with planting from individuals or groups would be welcome.

More books needed

The secondhand bookstall at the village Summer Fair (23rd 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, 16th June, between 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. or on the evenings of Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st or Friday 22nd June after 7.00 p.m. 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.

Walkway is widened

Regular users of the Country Park walkway between the Wylam car park and Hagg Bank will have seen that the County Council have been widening the surface of the track to allow the various different users (cyclists, horseriders, pushchair-pushers, walkers, etc.) to pass more easily.

It is hoped that this will reduce the risks of conflicts - but it is still important for cyclists to sound a bell or horn - to warn other users of their arrival, and to travel slowly past other users of the walkway.

Dog-free playgrounds

At the request of the Parish Council and following concerns expressed by local residents, the Tynedale Housing Company have carried out repairs to the perimeter fencing and the entrance gate to the playground on Hedley Road. This will help improve security and should prevent stray dogs from entering and roaming around the playground.

Dogs should be kept away from all children's play areas and the playing field.

Antiques at the bank

After remaining empty for nearly two years, the former Barclays Bank building in the centre of the village will shortly be opened as an antique shop by Stephen Lavery. We wish him success in his new business - to be known, appropriately, as 'Bank Antiques'.

Jumble raises funds

Jumble sales continue to be excellent ways of raising money for local organisations - the Scouts netted over £850 and the Pre-School Playgroup more than £500 in their recent sales.

A new event, a 50 - 50 Auction also proved quite popular for the Institute Community Association last month, when nearly £450 was raised for Institute funds, helping to maintain the building in good condition.

Thanks to everyone who supported these village events, either as donors, buyers or helpers.

Falcon Centre yard

Yet another plea to youngsters using the Falcon Centre yard for football and other activities to please try and avoid aggravating the elderly residents living in the bungalows which back onto the yard. Please keep balls out of their gardens and keep your noise down, especially late in the evening.

Ovingham's story told

In our last issue we reported that a new History of Ovingham, compiled by local author Frank Atkinson, was to be published before Christmas. However, various factors, including the late discovery of old documents about the Ovingham Toll Bridge Company, meant that additional information and illustrations had to be added to the draft text, which delayed printing.

Publication has recently been completed and copies of this large and attractive book (over 200 pages) are now available locally, price £14.95.

Speeding traffic hazards on Station Road

The speed of traffic entering or leaving the village along Holeyn Hall Road has long been a problem, but this year concern has been expressed by several of the young families who have recently moved to live in South Wylam about the hazards along Station Road.

With more young children living in South Wylam than for many years, safety at the Elm Bank - Station Road junction is increasing in importance.

At present many motorists leaving the village think the 30 m.p.h. restriction ends at the railway level-crossing, and accelerate out along Station Road, while some coming into the village from Crawcrook, don't reduce speed until they reach the level-crossing.

The Parish Council has asked both the County Council Highways Department and the police to examine this problem urgently and take necessary action. Obvious suggestions include speed limit markings on the road surface (as on Holeyn Hall Road) and 30 m.p.h. repeater signs on the lamp-posts. The hedges on both sides of the road will also need to be regularly trimmed back to maintain visibility at the junction and keep the footpath on Station Road clear, especially the section between the station and the parish notice board, which is frequently used by mothers with small children and pushchairs.

New Computing help

Sue Nicholson, Chairman of Wylam Institute Committee writes,

May has been a very exciting month for Wylam Institute. As some of you will be aware the Institute has been chosen as one of ten village halls to benefit from Government funding which will provide access to communications and information technology for the whole community.

The package provided includes at least two and probably three personal computers, a printer, scanner, associated software and access to the internet. Maintenance for three years and installation costs will be included as will security cabinets and any additional office furniture which may be required.

The computers will be sited in the Centenary Room in the Institute and it is the intention of the Management Committee to make them available to anyone who may be interested. Basic skills courses will also be run by a qualified tutor.

The system should be up and running by September and access times and dates of courses will be widely advertised.

This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the village and beyond - both beginners and experts - to be involved in technology which is now part of our daily lives.

County Election result

No surprises in the result of the election for our local County Councillor, held on 7th June. Taking place on the same day as the General Election, the turnout was higher than usual for separate local elections, but lower than normal national elections.

Paul Kelly of Ovington was re-elected. The result was:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Kelly (Labour) | = 1165 |
| Woodman (Conservative) | = 895 |
| Williams (Liberal Democrat) | = 531 |
| | = 72% poll |

Thank you to the three candidates for offering themselves for election and congratulations to Paul, whom we trust will continue to try and ensure that Wylam receives its share of good quality services from the County Council.

Parking problems

Among the matters raised at the Annual Parish meeting last month were the problems caused by indiscriminate parking, especially along Ingham Row, Stephenson Terrace and around the War Memorial green; local residents confirmed that the problem has become much worse since the County Council introduced parking charges in the car park. It was reported that the County Council officials had promised to monitor the effect of the parking charges on street-parking locally, but residents living close to the car park were recommended to do their own checks as well and report these to the Parish Council and to the Countryside Department at County Hall, Morpeth.



Many people have expressed sorrow that the Friesian dairy herd will be leaving Wylam shortly and that during their last summer in the village the threat of catching foot and mouth disease has been very real, and they have had to be confined to the yard. We hope that they have now survived that risk - and will enjoy their fresh pastures near Belsay.

Good level of recycling - but more needed

Wylam has won awards for its recycling scheme, and currently recycles about 14% of its waste - Tynedale overall recycles only 6%, so we have a reputation to maintain, and even improve on!

Last year the Parish Council received £648 in recycling credits. This is less than past years, because there has been a downturn in the market for recycled materials and because Castle Morpeth Council (who handle all the materials collected from the banks in the car park) have had to change their system.

It is proposed to print a new Green List in the autumn. Everything on the current list will be checked for accuracy but maybe you know of something that could be re-used within the village that could be added. If so, please contact either Karen Webster on 853619 or Lynne Petrie on 852577. If you do not have a copy of the current list, please phone Karen.

Incidentally, clean foil is now being collected by the First School (not by Dorothy Eavis).

We deliberately do not have a book bank, as this would affect the huge book sale held in the Methodist Hall every June,

or a clothes bank which would affect the many fund-raising jumble sales held within the village, but we are happy to consider anything else that could be re-used.

On the general question of Wylam's recycling scheme some of you will have seen from publicity leaflets distributed by the County and District Councils that the Government is pressing local councils to recycle more of the waste that they collect from householders.

Whilst an extended scheme is desirable, it will cost more than the existing waste collection arrangements. The authorities are investigating how a new scheme which will require householders to separate recyclable material from their other waste, and place the recyclable and the non-recyclable materials into two different wheelie bins which would be collected separately from each house, will work in practice. More information about how this new scheme might operate will probably be issued later this year, but any new arrangements will not commence until later next year at the earliest so, in the meantime, please continue to support our own village recycling scheme.

Plenty to enjoy at Summer Fair on 23rd June

This year's Wylam Summer Fair and Fun Run are going ahead almost entirely as normal on Saturday, 23rd June.

The Fair promises to be another exciting event this year, with new attractions including a bouncy castle, a real ale tent organised by Wylam Brewery and a grand raffle (the First Prize will be a weekend trip to Amsterdam). The always popular second-hand book stall will be open all day in the Methodist Church Centre, from 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Back on the main field, entertainment will be provided by Prudhoe Community Band, Irish Dancers, Mr. Merlin the Magician, childrens' entertainer, Lord Lolly, with many other stalls and side shows, including pony rides, egg hoying, 5-a-side football and face painting.

The Summer Fair is run as a fund-

raising event for the upkeep of the Jubilee Playing Field. Not everyone realises that the village actually owns this valued amenity, through the Playing Field Association trustees. It is run entirely by voluntary effort, with routine funding from events like the Summer Fair and Burns Night Ceilidh. The next big project will be to improve or replace the children's play equipment providing new attractions for young children.

The Playing Field Association always welcomes new volunteers both onto its Committee and to help with specific events. If you would like to be involved, please contact Linda Morton (Tel 852137). In any event, don't miss this year's Summer Fair on 23rd June, for a great afternoon. Your support will be greatly appreciated by all the organisers and stall holders.

Brave PC recovering

All residents will have been horrified at the vicious attack on Bob Aynsley of Algeron Terrace in the centre of the village on the evening of Saturday, 5th May. Although a member of Northumbria Police Bob was not on duty at the time of the attack. Thanks to prompt medical attention Bob is making a good recovery. We pass our very best wishes to him and his wife Carol.

A 23 year old man has been arrested and charged.

Guide to Wylam shops, businesses & services

With this copy of your "Globe" each household and business in Wylam should receive a copy of the promised "Guide to Wylam shops, businesses and services" - also known as the "A-Z Card". The intention is to give all local residents information about the shops and business services already available within the village, together with other services which residents who live in Wylam, but work elsewhere, can offer to other Wylam residents.

It is intended that this leaflet should be used in conjunction with the existing "Village Information Card" (currently green) which the Parish Council has produced for many years.

Whilst the inclusion of a shop or other service on this list does not imply any recommendation by the Parish Council, it would be helpful if any comments about the information given in the leaflet, or about the services offered, could be sent to the Clerk to the Parish Council, from whom further copies of the leaflet can be obtained.

Our thanks to Steve Pardue for his help with design and production.

Poppy-day wreaths

An early reminder that the annual Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the village War Memorial on Sunday, 11th November.

It is important that any organisation or individual who wishes to lay a wreath during the ceremony, should notify Karen Webster, Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel 853619) by 31st October, so that a programme for the ceremony and a sequence of wreath-laying can be agreed beforehand.

Incidentally Dick Allen who has been Poppy Appeal organiser for many years, is retiring, and Maurice McNicholas of 27 Tynedale Close (Tel 852308) is succeeding him. We thank Dick for his voluntary work on behalf of the Poppy Appeal in the village.

Chairman re-elected

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

*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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Wylam Scouts about to set off for the Summer Cycle Camp 2000. Left to right Matthew Wade, Daniel Tree, Tom Patterson, Chris Fairless, John Armstrong (Leader), Jonathan Fairless, Richard Webster, Tom Garven, Rob Patterson (Assistant Leader), William Armstrong. Unfortunately, this photo was not available for the last issue, but it was too good to lose. Sorry if the bikes and fashions are all last year's models!!

Search for facts on First World War heroes

Despite it being more than 80 years since the end of the First World War, and there being very few people living in Wylam now who lived in the village before the start of the war in 1914, the Local History Society is looking for information about the men of the village who fought and died during that terrible war.

Whilst the main village memorial at the bridge end records 42 names, the plaque in St. Oswin's Church lists 48 names, since it includes the whole parish and contains the names of the men of Horsley, as well as Wylam. The third memorial is in the Falcon Centre (which was then the village school): 24 former pupils are named on the memorial plaque.

The names of some men are recorded on all three of these memorials, others are only named on one or two of them. A com-

bined total of exactly 50 different names appear on the three memorials.

Using a variety of sources, including the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, old copies of the Hexham Courant, and entries in the 1891 census, details of several of the men are being collected. With the publication next year of the details of the 1901 census, and investigation into records of former regiments of the Northumberland Fusiliers, it is hoped that more information will be uncovered.

If there is anyone living in the village today who has a relative who was killed in the First World War and is commemorated on one of Wylam's war memorials please contact Peter Clarke (Tel 852297) or Philip Brooks (Tel 853520) of the Local History Society.