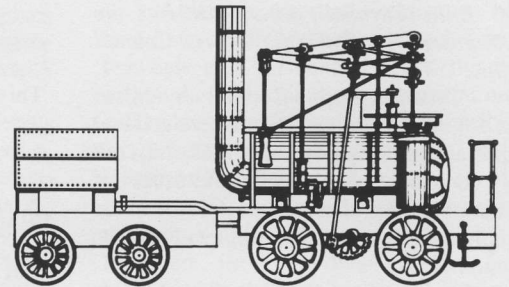


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2003

Number 73

Variety of views in the Village Report

By the time you read this, we hope that every household in the village will have received their copy of the Wylam Report and Village Plan, with an invitation to attend a meeting on Tuesday, 24th June in the institute. This publication represents the culmination of 12 months of planning, appraisal, consultation, analysis and finally writing.

There is no intention to repeat the conclusions here. At this stage we only hope that everyone will try to find the time to read it and to think about the proposals it contains. Please remember that the content is based on what we, as Wylam residents, have said, when completing the questionnaire in the autumn or at one of the subsequent meetings. Every comment and statistic has been examined and, if you don't see your own view on a particular issue in print it doesn't mean it was overlooked, simply that yours was probably a lone or relatively lone voice! The whole project has, almost certainly, been the most detailed and comprehensive assessment of people's views ever undertaken in this community and the Parish Council is very keen to maintain the momentum of public interest that has been shown, and to encourage practical help and support.

Your first opportunity to do something about it is to **come along to a public meeting in Wylam Institute at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 24th June.** With a glass of wine or a soft drink in hand there will be an informal chance to celebrate the "launch" of the Report and to question any aspect of it or the resulting proposals.

The Village Plan proposes that three "Working Groups" should be set up, to examine key areas of the Report and to bring more detailed recommendations to the Parish Council. These will look at Transport, Highways and Environmental issues. Each group will consist of probably two Parish Councillors and others from the wider community who either have a special interest in the subject or who can bring relevant knowledge or expertise to the group. If you are interested in being considered for one of these groups, please inform Karen Webster, the Parish Council Clerk (Tel: 852498). It is hoped that the

groups will be formally set up over the next few weeks. These working groups will need to be of manageable size and if we receive a lot of interest we may need to create special groups to undertake particular tasks.

We are fortunate in Wylam that, unlike many parishes, we have a generally good range of facilities and services available to the community. That does not mean that we can be complacent, far from it. There are various gaps in our village services - some might be provided by

volunteers, but others may cost money. One of the main benefits that we expect from the questionnaire and resulting Village Plan is that we now have the supporting evidence to approach appropriate organisations that may be able to help us with advice and perhaps with funds to support community-based projects. If you are involved with such plans, the Parish Council will be happy to provide copies of the document or abstracts from it to assist you.



The reintroduction of the Village Pancake races was a great success and was well supported by all age groups. Congratulations to everyone involved. Perhaps it could become an annual event?

Plenty for all to enjoy at this year's Fair

This year's Summer Fair is on Saturday, 28th June and will have many of the ever-popular favourites, with something for everyone.

The Fair will start on the playing field at 1.00 p.m. and the first official event will be the opening of the new play area at 2.00 p.m. The excellent new play equipment has already been well-tested but the grass seed has not had much chance to grow what with the dry weather and constant wear!

In the main arena, Prudhoe Community Band, the Gorman School of

Irish Dance and "Uplifted" a Women's Choir will provide musical entertainment. Sergeant Eddie Bell's Table Top Creatures and Mr. Merlin the Magician are always popular with children and adults. As usual there will be a good selection of commercial stands and stalls from many village organisations, helping to raise money for good causes and adding to the fun of the fair.

..... continued over

More adults needed now to help coach sports

Billie Turnbull, who represents the Wylam area on Tynedale Sports Council writes:

"Tynedale Sports Council recognises that voluntary sports clubs are a valued and important part of village life. Such clubs not only contribute to the health and fitness of its members, but also play a vital role in the social and financial development of the community.

Having secured funding from Awards For All, Tynedale Sports Council has set up a six month project to work with sports clubs around the Prudhoe area, helping them to develop and supporting the volunteers who run these clubs.

One of the issues surrounding clubs is the development of junior sections. Getting youngsters involved in sport not only improves their fitness and skills but also keeps them off the streets. They gain a respect for the facilities they use and vandalism can be reduced.

Around Wylam we are looking to extend the already successful junior cricket section at Wylam Cricket Club and West Wylam Cricket Club, set up junior football teams for Wylam and Ovingham players under the umbrella of Wylam Celtic Football Club, and develop junior golf at Prudhoe Golf Club.

Most trees safe

We reported in the last issue that the Parish Council had agreed to commission an expert arboriculturalist to examine the attractive row of lime trees on Ingham Terrace and report on their condition and any action that is needed.

Having inspected all the trees the arboriculturalist advises that only one of the trees, at the western end in front of 4 Ingham Terrace will need to be felled. The other trees will need some limited surgery, but are considered safe.

His report has been passed to the County Council who are responsible for the maintenance of the trees and they have agreed to undertake the action recommended.

... more Summer Fair

... continued from front page

The Fun Run for adults and over 9s and the children's races for the under 9s will take their usual place in the programme, so you can get in training now!

We hope that the weather will be fine and dry - but whatever the weather the Beer Tent (real ales from Wylam Brewery) and the second-hand bookstall in the Methodist Centre always get plenty of customers.

So please try and support the Fair this year - you'll enjoy it and you'll be helping to raise money to continue to improve the facilities on the playing field.

Special thanks to everyone who has been involved in organising the variety of events which are part of the Summer Fair this year.

For all these sports to develop we desperately need adults to come forward as coaches or support to the existing coaches. This will entail as little as a couple of hours weekly during the season. Coaches require a Level 1 award to coach juniors. A Level 1 course will give an insight into organising groups of juniors and how to teach basic skills and tactics. Coaches do not need to be experts themselves although a basic understanding of the game helps. Courses vary in length from 10-24 hours.

As part of the project, Tynedale Sports Council is hoping to organise local Level 1 courses for local people interested in getting involved. It is an ideal opportunity for

- parents to get involved
- ex players to give something back into the sport (if a professional footballer can go from playing into management/coaching so can you!)
- adults with time on their hands to get involved in a rewarding opportunity.

The hope would be to get enough volunteers to set up junior football at between Under 8's to Under 17's, each age group requiring one or two club managers. With cricket the age groups are Under 11, 13, 15 and 17. The Cricket Clubs are desperately in need of female coaches, as they aim to develop girls/women's cricket. At Prudhoe, the golf club has plenty of juniors wanting to play but only one regular coach.

If you would like more information about each sport and the commitment required then please contact any of the following:

Billie Turnbull, Tynedale Sports Council Wylam area representative 852127.

Football John Plunkett 07949 251 136

Wylam Cricket Club, Ken John 853355.

West Wylam Cricket Club, Ian Scott 852306.

Kathie Keady Club Development Officer based at Leisure Tynedale 01434 608894."

Trees still protected

The application to carry out work on trees in the wooded area behind West Mews and Blackett Cottages generated concern from several nearby residents and publicity in the local newspapers. These trees and others growing in the grounds of Wylam Hall and surrounding land are very important features in the village landscape and are protected by a Tree Preservation Order made when the Hall and adjoining land was sold for development in the late 1960s. Following a detailed inspection of the trees by one of their landscape officers the County Planning Committee has now decided that several of the trees in poor condition can be removed, and that limited surgery can be undertaken to some others. However they have refused the prospective developer permission to fell a number of healthy trees which he wished to cut back or remove. Details of the decision can be seen in the Parish Council Office in the Institute by any resident who would like more information.

New Recycling bins

Tynedale Council should have delivered the second grey wheelie bins to every household in the village. These bins are to be used for the recyclable items, cans, paper and plastics and will be first emptied in the week commencing 30th June and thereafter every other week alternating with the dark green bin with normal waste.

Incidentally you are recommended to wrap kitchen scraps and anything smelly in plastic carrier bags in your green wheelie bin.

Glass must not be put in the new grey wheelie bins, but you can continue to take glass to the metal skip in the War Memorial car park.

Everyone should have received an explanatory leaflet but if anyone has any queries, please contact the Helpline number 01434 652418.

Items in brief...

Vera Walton has recently decided to retire as Institute Caretaker, and we thank her for the work she has done in this essential job.

...

After a few unavoidable delays resurfacing of the footpath along the north side of Engine Dene, between Algernon Terrace and Bluebell Close was carried out in April and has already been much appreciated by regular users.

...

A new edition of the popular Village Information Card will be published in the autumn, and it is important that the information is accurate, up to date and useful to you, as local residents.

If you have any suggestions as to possible improvements to the existing card please let Karen Webster, the Clerk to the Parish Council know by early September.

...

Jim and Brenda Robinson of 17 Woodvale Gardens (Tel 854032) are now collecting aluminium cans and tin foil, to help raise money for charity, but please make sure that any foil you leave for them is clean and cans are squashed. The Robinson's would welcome your support in keeping foil and cans for them - any queries, please contact them direct.

...

Several residents have welcomed the way that the Parish Council arranged to have the hawthorn hedge opposite the farm on Holeyn Hall Road laid in the traditional manner by experienced hedge-layers. Few field hedges receive such care and attention these days, but in view of its prominence at the entrance to the village, the Parish Council is anxious that it should be well maintained. Some additional trees will be planted in the autumn, together with bulbs in the roadside verge.

Chairman urges more residents to support village Institute

Sue Nicholson, Chairman of the Institute Committee writes:

For those residents new to the village the 'Institute' is our Village Hall. It is a registered charity, run by a very hard working voluntary committee and is self financing.

The building is well used but our message to all residents is that we need your support. The building is extremely expensive to run and is becoming more so as the years go by.

Some people have told me that they thought that the Institute Committee ran the organisations who use the building. This is not the case. The Institute is hired out to user groups who run these on their own behalf. Responses to the Village Plan/

Questionnaire indicated there were several gaps in activities which people would like to be filled. Perhaps those villagers who suggested these would consider helping to set up such a group?

The existing clubs and organisations that use the building are listed below and are open to new members. Supporting these groups means they will continue to flourish.

Art Class • Baby Clap Baby Sing • Badminton • Bowls • Bridge • Camera Club • Computer • Drama • Friends of Wylam • Gardeners' Society • JEMMS (Children's Drama Group) • Karate • Keep Fit • Local History Society • Singing Group • Short Tennis • Tai Chi • Women's Institute • Yoga.

The Institute is also an ideal venue for fund-raising events and private parties.

A valuable part of our income comes from membership subscriptions. Currently a relatively small proportion of residents are members, if this could be increased it would help our finances considerably. The current subscriptions are only: Single £5, Family £8, Patron £10.

It is our intention to hold a free coffee morning on Saturday, 20th September when villagers can pay new membership subscriptions and enquire about existing groups, hire charges and the availability of rooms. Please come along and support us in any way you can. The Institute is a very important facility in the village.

If you cannot come on that day or would like to contact us before then please phone our Secretary, Karen Webster at the Institute Office on 852498.



The village Institute and Community Centre looks in fine condition in this recent photograph, but closer inspection has shown that various external repairs will be necessary soon.

Volunteers wanted - to help shoppers

As shopping steadily becomes one of the nation's favourite pastimes, most of us enjoy going out to see the choice of goods on offer and buying them whether for ourselves or as a gift. Being able to go shopping at our leisure and not having to rely upon someone doing it for us is not something we give much thought to. But for some older people, going shopping and being able to choose their own food, clothes and gifts is difficult. *Age Concern Northumberland will now make this possible for them.*

Age Concern Northumberland is about to launch a brand new project in two areas of the county to help older people maintain their independence and go shopping. One of the areas is Wylam and Ovingham and they are looking for people to help older people who already enjoy shopping and having a chat on a day out. These helpers will be able to assist the older people to choose their purchases, help them to buy the goods and give them a helping hand.

"We are delighted to be able to offer this new service", said James Glover of Age Concern. "Helping to give the opportunity to older people to buy their own goods and not having to rely upon the choice of

someone else is something that will make a huge difference".

The project needs helpers in Wylam and Ovingham to make this all happen. Minibus transport and lunch will be provided for the helpers who will be asked to help at least once a month. The shoppers and their helpers will be collected from a pick up point at about 9.30 a.m., taken shopping, enjoy lunch together and return to the same point soon after lunch. A full induction will be given to the helpers and members of staff will always accompany the trips.

"This will be a great day out for both the older people doing their shopping and the helpers too," said Anne Shilton, Volunteers Development Officer. "We are looking for helpers from Wylam and Ovingham but hope to expand the scheme at a later date, if funding and demand are sufficient. We will be taking both ladies and gentlemen so will need helpers for everyone."

If you fancy a day out shopping and helping someone else enjoy the day too, give Anne Shilton a call for a chat on 01670 528220 to become involved right from the start.

Advice for patients

Neil Tapster and Simon Richardson are the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) officers for this area based at Hexham General Hospital. They have asked us to publicise the service of advice and support they can provide to patients, relatives or carers.

"As a patient, relative or carer sometimes you may need to turn to someone to help sort out problems or for advice and support. This is where the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) comes in. We are here to provide that advice and support, helping you to resolve any concerns that you may have about the care provided in any area of the NHS and continuing care.

We act independently and in confidence when handling patient and family concerns, liaising with staff, managers, and where appropriate, relevant organisations, to negotiate speedy resolutions to your concerns.

You can be assured that if you use the service it is completely confidential and there to serve you. By this we mean that when a PALS Officer speaks to you about your concern you are not told what to do or what we think you should do. Instead we try to present you with a range of options - it is then entirely your choice which way to proceed. Some people just want their concern noted and acted upon accordingly, whilst others want to leave no stone unturned to resolve their problem. In every case, no matter what, we will support you to help bring about a resolution of your concern as quickly as possible. If a resolution at this stage is not possible we will advise you about what course of action to take.

PALS can be accessed through the **Freephone Number 0800 032 0202** during normal office hours or by leaving a message on the answer phone out of hours.

New Hadrian's Wall Path brings more walkers

The extensive publicity given to the recent opening of the Hadrian's Wall Path, the latest National Trail to be designated seems to have attracted more walkers into the village.

The official path runs along the former Wylam Waggonway (now the Country Park) from Newburn and then around the eastern boundary of the Close House golf course up to Heddon, and does not come through Wylam.

However, Wylam is mentioned in the official guide book and several walkers have been continuing along the wagonway

to see George Stephenson's birthplace cottage (which is illustrated in the guide book) and the other features of interest in the village.

Joy Stephenson reports that the afternoon teas she provides when the cottage is open (Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons) are proving popular with walkers and other visitors.

John and Angela Craven's B & B accommodation is also mentioned in the Walking and Accommodation guide published in association with the opening of the Hadrian's Wall Path



The Brethren have recently created an attractive access and parking area to their premises on Woodcroft Road, in keeping with the tradition and character of the old school buildings, which will be 150 years old next year! A special birthday celebration in 2004?

Search for First World War medallions

Many residents will have seen the story in the "Hexham Courier" about the rose gold fob presented to a Wylam soldier who served in the First World War which was recently found in a box of jumble at a sale in Birmingham.

The fob carries the inscription "Great War 1914 - 1919. L/Cpl. Gordon C. Russell. Wylam Thanks You."

After the First World War most villages held "Welcome Home" events and made presentations to those soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the war and returned safely home.

Unfortunately all the Parish Council records for this period have been lost and no accurate details of any presentations to local troops survive.

The Russell family lived at High Croft, Elm Bank Road from the time of the First World War to the mid 1930s. The parents were James and Hannah and their children were Gordon and Lily.

Later Mrs. Hutchinson recalls a Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Russell living in the bungalow on Ovingham Road, opposite the old Waterworks during the late 1930s, and believes that Mrs. Russell had a sister, a Mrs. George who lived on the south side of Woodcroft Road until the early 1960s.

Can any of our readers help with any information about Gordon Russell or Mr. and Mrs. George? Any help would be much appreciated.

Does anyone living in the village now have one of these gold fobs, which was presented to their fathers or grandfathers or other relatives who served in the First World War?

If you have, please contact Philip Brooks (Tel: 853520) or Karen Webster, Clerk to the Parish Council on 852498 or 853619. Thank you.

New "Gateway" Signs

The County Council has recently erected new "Gateway" signs on the entrances into the village and made the 30 mph signs more prominent. On Blue Bell Lane, the Parish Council has asked the County Council to move the existing 30 mph signs further east, level with the houses in Bluebell Close and before the road dips and bends. This should give drivers more warning that they are entering the village and a dangerous bend and that they should reduce their speed.

First Lady Minister

Although women ministers have served in various Methodist churches in the Tynedale area for several years, this year will be the first time that a woman minister will be based in Wylam with responsibility for several Methodist churches at the eastern end of the district.

The Rev. Richard Firth, the present minister, will be retiring this summer after 10 years in the village and will be succeeded by the Rev. Maureen Lloyd, who will be coming to Wylam from Workington in Cumbria, but previously lived in Kirkwhelpington for many years.

We thank Richard for his work locally and wish him a happy retirement and look forward to welcoming Rev. Maureen Lloyd to the village.

Falcon Centre improving

The improvements planned for the Falcon Centre yard are now almost complete, with the lower yard area resurfaced, one of the shelters removed, new fencing erected on the western boundary and a replacement yard gate. The Falcon Centre building itself has also been repainted and the whole premises look better.

Thanks to County Councillor Paul Kelly for the support he has given to this project, assisted by County Library staff, and to Gavin Breeze, the Tynedale Community Safety Officer, for helping to obtain funding for part of the work.

More books needed

One of the special attractions which brings many people to the Summer Fair is the second-hand bookstall, which offers a huge selection of books all at bargain prices.

Proceeds from the bookstall are shared between the Playing Field Association and this year, the planned appointment of a part-time Youth Worker for the Wylam and District churches.

Please look through your cupboards and bookshelves and see if you can give some books which you no longer require. Books for children and adults, fiction or non-fiction, paperback or hardback will all be welcome.

It would be most helpful if you could deliver them to the Methodist Church Centre on Wednesday 25th or Friday 27th June between 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

If you cannot deliver them please contact Brian Japes (Tel: 852151) or Philip Brooks (Tel: 853520) who will be happy to collect them from you.

Incidentally, don't forget to come and buy some books from the stall - it is an ideal opportunity to acquire a fresh selection of reading material for your holidays. The stall is open from 10.00 a.m.

Shortage of volunteers causes closure of village day-centre

Sadly the Day Centre at Blackett Court, run by volunteers for Age Concern Northumberland, has had to be temporarily closed, depriving older people in and around the village of the opportunity for companionship and a hot meal. And unless more helpers can be recruited, the day centre will not be able to re-open.

'We are very sad that this has had to happen, especially as it is often the only chance local older people get to meet up, chat with someone and get out of the house', said James Glover of Age Concern Northumberland.

The helpers are needed on Mondays

at the Day Centre, which is held at Blackett Court between 10.00 a.m. and about 2.30/3.00 p.m. Helpers can get travel expenses paid and a free meal.

We are looking for more helpers to chat, help serve lunches, which are already prepared, and join the clients in fun activities to make their day as enjoyable as possible,' said Mr. Glover.

Age Concern Northumberland wants to get the village Day Centre open again before the summer so that the older people do not lose out on this invaluable service. If you have a few hours to come along to chat or play games on a Monday, they would

like to hear from you. Please call Anne Shilton (Volunteers Development Officer) at Age Concern on 01670 528220 to find out more.

Without help from local volunteers, the day centre will not reopen.

Popular playground

Jennifer Power of the Playing Field Association reports:

Wylam now has a grand new play area on the Jubilee Field. If you have not yet been, visit the field on a sunny day and you will see how popular it is already proving. The pedal roundabout is particularly successful, used by all ages!

Construction was not started until February due to pipelaying across the field by Northumbrian Water. Our contractors, Playdale, had difficulty making a platform for the toddler equipment and had to import 80 tonnes of rubble for it. This explains the large number of stones around the play area. However, everything was eventually finished by the end of April. We now have the roundabout, slide and bouncer for toddlers; four swings; a tower climber; a new adventure trail; a shelter and three benches. All the play items are protected with spongy safety surfaces. Everyone seems to agree that the whole area is a big improvement and great fun for our children.

Some landscaping remains to be done. The stones will be picked and after the Summer Fair, the steep slopes will be smoothed and top-soil added.

The play area and shelter will be 'opened' officially at the **Summer Fair** on **Saturday, 28th June**, at 2.00 p.m.

Supported by

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Station improvements

Improvements are continuing at the station. Following the renewal of the level crossing and the renovation of the historic signal box, the fencing around the station car park and along the footpath behind the houses in Elm Bank Road has all been replaced. Two cycle lockers and a rack have just been installed. For more information or to register for a locker (key costs £20) please phone 01670 533915. All these improvements have been very welcome. The next improvement needed is to resurface the car park, and the Parish Council have also asked that some lighting should be provided to improve security for rail users who park there.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to

*Mrs. K. Webster, The Clerk to the Parish Council,
Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam NE41 8AP.
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District and Parish elections bring changes

At the Election on 1st May for our two councillors to represent Wylam on Tynedale District Council, Philip Brooks was re-elected again, and Nicholas Appleby was elected to the second seat. The result was:

Philip Brooks (Independent)	712
Nicholas Appleby (Lib. Dem.)	454
Jeffrey Leatham (Labour)	178
Valerie Armstrong (Cons.)	135
Christine Hanley (Cons.)	95

The turnout of just under 52% was lower than usual for Wylam but it was still among the highest in Tynedale and well above the level in many other parts of the country. Special thanks to the 845 of you who went to vote. Thanks also to Jeff Leatham for his work over the past four years.

There was no contest again for the Parish Council with only eight candidates being nominated for the eight places on the Council.

Three Parish Councillors retired, Ivon Piette, Linda Morton and Jennifer Sutherland and we thank them for the work they have done as members of the Council. They have been succeeded by Jane Kevan,

John Joures and Robert Whinham. Jane and her family moved into the village last year but John and Robert are long serving residents. We welcome all three to the Parish Council. The eight members are now:

Tony Mitcham - Chairman
Meadowfield, Wylam Wood Road.

Tel: 852128

Brian Japes - Vice Chairman
Westlands, Holeyn Hall Road.

Tel: 852151

Philip Brooks
20 Bluebell Close. Tel: 853520

Michael Gibbney
2 Denecroft. Tel: 853898

John Joures
4 Woodvale Gardens. Tel: 852743

Jane Kevan
2 Wylam Hills Farm Cottage.

Tel: 852012

Jeffrey Leatham
12 The Dene. Tel: 852228

Robert Whinham
2 The Dene. Tel: 853404

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