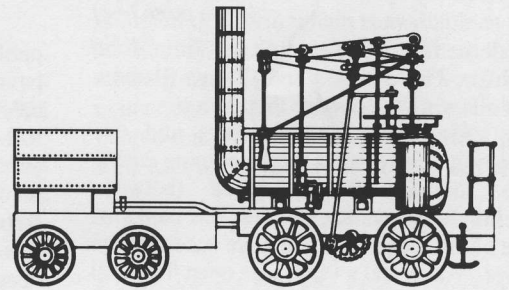


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



November, 2003

*A Happy Christmas to all our readers*

Number 74

## Fundraising for church bells nears target

Bob Doughty reports on the renovation of Wylam St. Oswin's Church bells:

All aspects of the renovation are proceeding smoothly. The amount raised is now only £1,600 short of the total cost of £21,669. It is hoped that the remainder will be raised over the next few months. The people of Wylam have been generous contributors with support for a number of local initiatives over the last two years starting with the overnight stay and morning abseil from the church tower by Alison Malcolm and Jane Schrier. Other activities have been the Race Night, Chinese Night, Christmas Cards and Flower Event. There has also been excellent support from a number of charities and organisations. These are the Foundation for Sports and Arts, The Sir James Knott Trust (Sir James lived at Close House for around 30 years from 1900 and two of his three sons were killed in the First World War and are commemorated in the Church and on the village War Memorial), Wylam Parish Council, the Sir Joseph Strong Frazer Trust, the Catherine Cookson Trust, the Joicey Trust, Northumberland Freemasons and Tynedale Rotary Club. Further funding has been promised from the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association of Bellringers and the Sharpe Trustees on completion of the work.

The firm which successfully tendered for the work was Pembletons of Glapwell, Mansfield. They have cast the new headstocks which are currently in the process of being machined. Also ready for machining are new clappers. Once this work is completed the bells will be taken down from the belfry and taken by Pembletons to their works for the renovation to be completed. This should be in the very near future. They will be rehung back in the church once this process has been completed which is anticipated to take around six weeks. Obviously taking the bells down and then rehanging them will be disruptive to the structure of the church but it is hoped this will be minimal. The exact timing of when the bells will be taken down is still unclear. It will depend on the progress of the work at Pembletons and

their availability for the various services and functions between now and the New Year.

After the bells have been rehung and are back in normal use, the bellringers will promote a recruitment drive for new ringers. For six bells, there are currently only eight regular ringers available which is at least three people short to ensure a regular ring of all six bells. New ringers will

be very welcome and also lapsed ones who wish to restart. Please phone Mike Taylor on 852470 or Bob Doughty 853398 if you are interested.

It would be nice to have raised the total funds required before the work is completed and if you would like to make a donation towards the £1,600 still needed, please contact Michael Gibbney, the Church Treasurer, on 853898.



*Hats off (except for one!) Scouts from the 1st Wylam troop amongst others enjoying themselves at summer camp held at Hesleyside near Bellingham.*

## Scouts enjoy an active and successful year

Rob Patterson and Rob Kevan who keep the 1st Wylam Scouts active have provided this report on the activities of the troop this year:

Another scouting year culminated in another summer camp - but more of that later. During the school year 2002 - 2003 the scouts have been involved in two district camp competitions (with their performances improving year on year), a district football competition, climbing, skiing, canoeing, cycling, hiking and possibly the occasional battle with a knot or two.

After a brief hiatus in summer camps, the traditional finale to the year was reinstated last year when the troop went camping near Masham in Wensleydale, with Rob Kevan's old troop, 2nd Brampton in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Due to the size of the Wylam troop we often need to share camps with other troops and this year we again imposed ourselves on another one of Rob's contacts - Jim Nicholson from 11th Tynemouth scouts. This troop is very buoyant and was also joined by another small troop - 7/9th Tynemouth. Many thanks to the four

*..... continued over*

## Scout news continued . . . .

(from page one)

leaders from Tynemouth - Jim, John Gibson, Paul Hanson and George Slamon, for allowing us to share their camp.

Eight 1st Wylam scouts and one explorer scout spent a week camping during the summer at Hesleyside (between Bellingham and Kielder) on the banks of the North Tyne. The site gave access to the river, woods and a very large open field. All in all, an excellent site.

Our hosts ran an excellent, traditional camp that all the lads enjoyed and learnt from. Some were slightly concerned about the lack of a dishwasher and en-suite facilities - but soon recovered when they realised there was an on-site tuck shop. Throughout the camp the scouts were required to cook and care for themselves in every way, with the leaders organising the activities and games whilst keeping an eye on health and safety matters.

Activities included camp cooking, axe and knife safety, bridge building, completion of the foresters' badge and much more. Off site visits included a hike over the nearby moors and a visit to the Kielder Birds of Prey Centre. 1st Wylam were introduced to many new games including one devilish version of football known as bench ball - five teams, five goals and five balls and an oxygen tent for the leaders. It should be noted that the leaders were unbeaten in all team activities all camp, but then again they were also the referees!

Now there is a new school year, more nights to plan and the embryonic plans for a week in Switzerland to bring to fruition. If anybody is interested in helping the two Robs, even on a casual basis, then please contact Ken John on 853355 for further details.

### Editors Note:

*Many thanks to the two Robs and the other residents who spend quite a lot of their own spare time in helping to run the various local groups and organisations, which are such an important part of community life in the village.*

*Since this article was written, three Wylam teenagers (two of whom are Scouts) helped to alert the emergency services to an accident in the Country Park near Stephenson's Cottage. Special thanks to Ben Brown, Josh Stoboe and Matthew Smith for their public spirited action on 28th October - Well done.*

## Dogs and the Law

Enclosed with this newsletter is a new dog leaflet produced by Tynedale Council as part of a campaign to inform the public about the law concerning dog-fouling, and to encourage responsible behaviour by all dog-owners. The Parish Council believe it is important that everyone (dog owner or not) should be aware of this and copies of the leaflet are being delivered to all households.

## Robert Stephenson 200

Local press and TV have given publicity to the programme of events which have been arranged during recent weeks to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Robert Stephenson, George's only son. Whilst father George is a nationally recognised figure, the importance of Robert, one of the country's leading locomotive and civil engineers, has never been fully recognised.

Although many of the bicentenary events have already taken place, the exhibition "Robert Stephenson - Great Northern Engineer" at the Discovery Museum, Blandford Street, Newcastle continues until Sunday, 23rd November (10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. on Sunday).

The organisers have brought together a variety of items to celebrate Robert's life and the exhibition is well worth a visit. Admission is free.

## Good Cricket season

Ken John reports:

After two years at the top of the West Tyne League Division One, and last season with the 2nd XI winning the Division Two title, it was too much to expect similar success in 2003. Nevertheless, it was an excellent season for Wylam Cricket Club, not simply because of the wonderful cricket weather throughout the summer!

Great credit is due to Mark (Walter) Wilson who led the team so ably. The 1st XI won the League Knockout Cup, in an exciting final against Haydon Bridge and completed the season with a flurry of victories to finish in mid-table. The 2nd XI also finished in the same position in the Second Division, captained by the swash-buckling Aussie, Christoph Vever.

We are very proud of our Ladies' Team who completed all of their fixtures, no mean achievement, and ended the season with a fine win over a strong Tynemouth team. It was a great honour for the Club to be chosen as the venue for the Ladies' County Match between Northumberland and Cumbria. Although Northumberland lost, we were delighted to have no less than four Wylam ladies in the County side - Sarah Furniss, Lesley Currey, Carolyn Napier and Shelagh Carter. Thanks to Carolyn who worked so hard to lead the ladies during the season.

Of particular note this year has been the support of the junior section of the Club. We have been able to field teams at Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15. By the start of next season we expect to have at least four qualified coaches; our one qualified coach this season, Peter Drake, has worked his socks off to encourage the youngsters. Several of our boys were selected for County Squad coaching, Luke Napier, James Teasdale, Tom Geary and Sam Quilliam.

## Items in brief . . .

Several years ago the Parish Council published a "Green List" as a guide to Wylam's award winning waste-recycling scheme, which also listed numerous items which residents collected - often for reuse or recycling by charities, e.g. used stamps, spectacles, cards etc.

This list is going to be reissued early next year. If you have an entry to include please contact Lynne Petrie 852577 or Karen Webster 852498.

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After many years as a caretaker at the Institute, Cath Maple has recently retired. We thank her for the work she has done in this essential job, helping to look after the Institute. Pat Buckle and Brian Bartlett are now the Institute caretakers.

. . . .

Pauline Jackson of Iveagh Cottage writes:

Oxfam knitters are a small group who meet at each other's homes to knit patchwork blankets and jumpers (Oxfam pattern) and we would welcome some new members to help us.

We are always grateful to receive gifts of wool to enable us to keep on knitting.

For more information please contact Pauline Jackson (852141) or Doris Deeley (853013).

. . . .

Friends of Wylam would like to say a big thank you to all who supported their Autumn Bazaar on 13th September, by way of donations, help, contributions and in any other way. The combined effort and generosity raised £607.

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The attractive hanging baskets around the village this summer have been widely appreciated. Thank you to everyone who provided, and watered them.

. . . .

Sadly a spate of mindless vandalism during the summer resulted in the destruction of the two picnic tables on the riverside green near Stephenson's Cottage, and the Wendy-house in the playground on the Jubilee Field. To replace these items will probably cost in excess of £2000.

## Village Diary

### NOVEMBER

27th - 29th Drama Society production  
"Allo, Allo" - Institute, 7.30 p.m.

### DECEMBER

6th Playgroup Christmas Fair, Methodist Church Hall, 10.00 a.m.

(Making Christingle's 2.30 p.m. in St. Oswin's Hall.

Christingle Service, St. Oswin's, 3.00 p.m.

17th Friends of Wylam Christmas Lunch - Institute.

21st Village Carol Service, Methodist Church, 6.30 p.m.



## Support needed for campaign to bring Broadband to Wylam area

Readers of the Courant will have seen that Prudhoe and Ovingham, amongst others, now have a high speed, ten times as fast, Broadband Internet connection available through their local telephone exchange. Those on the Wylam (01661 85) exchange can only use the slow and unreliable "dial-up" connection. Wylam exchange includes Heddon and Horsley.

Wylam Institute Computers, who are part of the UK On-line scheme facilitating access to computing based at the Institute, have got together with representatives from Horsley and Heddon, and with the support

of the parish councils have started a campaign to persuade BT to bring Broadband to the area.

Broadband has the advantages of greatly enhanced speed, enabling photographs, video, radio, music and web pages to be quickly accessed, as it is "always on" there is no waiting for a connection, you can use the phone whilst using the internet and there is unlimited use for a fixed monthly fee.

The campaign is based on getting people to register their interest in getting Broadband by either using the Internet and

registering their interest, a direct link has been provided at [www.wylam.info](http://www.wylam.info), or completing a form which is available at the Institute office and elsewhere. There is **no commitment** to subscribe to a Broadband connection if you register, but the more people that do will persuade BT that it is time to bring Wylam into the 21st century.

## Great tennis progress

Dr. Alex Hendrick, Chairman of Wylam Lawn Tennis Club writes:

We have just resurfaced the courts with an all-weather surface and installed floodlighting, thanks to grants and a loan from the Lawn Tennis Association, Tynedale Council and Wylam Parish Council. The courts were officially opened on 5th October by Ronnie Franklin, one of Wylam's longest serving members. The new facilities with the floodlighting will certainly extend the playing season and we hope to play all through the year. New members would be welcome and we hope to build up the membership so we can cater for all standards and a range of activities from recreational to competitive tennis. In particular we would like to encourage juniors in the club with a regular club session and coaching. The contact for more details about membership is T. Geary on 852969.

*Congratulations to the members of the Tennis Club on their success in carrying out their improvements to the club facilities - we hope that they will attract new members, and trust that all users of the courts will respect the amenity of nearby residents, by parking - and playing - considerately.*



Rev. Maureen Lloyd (left) with two friends at Trinity Methodist Church in Hexham, when she was welcomed to the Tynedale Circuit in September. She is now settling into the Manse on Stephenson Terrace.

## New Methodist minister settles in

We reported in our last issue that the Rev. Maureen Lloyd had been appointed as the new Methodist Minister based in the village. She moved into the Manse on Stephenson Terrace in August and we invited her to write a few words about herself:

I was brought up on the banks of the River Tyne at Bill Quay. I attended school in Jarrow. However I have lived the largest part of my life in Northumberland, in the rural village of Kirkwhelpington. I am a country person at heart and when the Methodist Church sent me to Workington town on the west coast of Cumbria I missed the sheep so much!

I worked in the Civil Service until my children were born and then when they approached their teenage years I returned to work in a medical practice in Ponteland. My husband served for thirty years in the police force. I was widowed ten years ago. My son and daughter are grown up and I have a grand-daughter aged seven. I did my ministerial training at Durham - as a "mature" student!! However I feel that the whole of my life has been a preparation for ministry.

I am delighted to be back in the North East and particularly in the beautiful Tyne Valley. To be able to look out on the trees and the river from my Manse in Stephenson Terrace is so enriching. I have also been very uplifted by the warmth of the people of Wylam. I look forward to getting to know you better and to working with you in the community.

## Fair Trade's Christmas

Traidcraft fairly-traded goods are available in the village in the Methodist Church. They have a good selection of Christmas Cards, wrapping paper and attractive small gifts as well as their normal range of foodstuffs. They will be having a stall at the Playgroup Christmas Fair in the Methodist Hall on Saturday, 6th December and another one on Saturday, 13th December from 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon. For catalogues, and to order items, please contact Barbara Brooks on 853520 or Gill Patterson on 853153. After Christmas stalls will be on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the foyer of the Methodist Church.

## Use public transport?

Following publication of the Village Plan project report, copies were distributed to all households in the village during the summer. As proposed in the report the Parish Council has now set up three working groups who will be responsible for progressing some of the key issues relating to public transport, highways and the environment, which were raised by local residents during the public consultation. The working groups will concentrate on the main findings of the report.

The Transport Working Group will be looking at all aspects of public and community transport that are available to local residents - bus, rail, taxi, shared cars etc. If you have recent experiences of public transport (good or bad) or related matters which you wish to bring to the attention of this working group please put these in writing to the Transport Group, Wylam Parish Council, Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam.

# Cub pack is now in urgent need of more volunteer help

The future of an active, lively village cub pack (1st St. Oswin's) is under threat. There is a desperate need for volunteers to come forward to take out warrants to lead the pack (Scout Association training).

By December, we shall be reduced to one warranted leader, Ann Francis. With a membership of twenty four cubs and despite excellent parental support, we need two or three more people to come forward to enable the pack to continue into the new year.

The training is short, purposeful, flexible and takes place locally. If anyone is interested, please ring Derek Smith, the

Group Scout Leader, on 852578. A scouting background is not necessary.

It may be that a parent, or indeed anyone interested, might not wish to take out a warrant but would be prepared to volunteer for one specific task which would relieve the burden on leaders. Examples might include fund-raising, quartermaster or even pantomime visit secretary! Again, please speak to Derek Smith or Ken John on 853355. There is a fascinating selection of tasks from which to choose!

Grateful thanks on behalf of the Group are extended to Marion Cassidy, the present Akela, and to Howard Johnson,

both of whom will be retiring during this term from leadership of the pack. Their commitment has been greatly appreciated. Marion has had a long history of scouting leadership; her experience will be sorely missed.

## **Editors' Note:**

*This appeal appeared in the Hexham Courant in mid-October, but to date, insufficient people have volunteered to help the Cub pack leaders. We are therefore repeating this appeal with a more urgent emphasis, and trust that more helpers will come forward so that the pack does not have to disband.*



*Improvements carried out to the Falcon Centre this year have included resurfacing of the former playground, better fencing to protect the pensioners bungalows and improved lighting. Thank you to all the various people who have helped achieve this and especially to county councillor Paul Kelly.*

## Falcon Centre action

Wylam Youth Club is based at the Falcon Centre on Falcon Terrace. The venue offers excellent facilities for various activities.

These currently include a graffiti-based art project, pool, table tennis, football and indoor games. We try to provide a balanced programme to provide stimulation, new ideas, social skills, teamwork and respect for the surroundings and others.

Future projects may include video/computers, music and outdoor pursuits and a youth volleyball club.

Session times are:

Monday 7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

11-19 years old

Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Juniors 11-14 years old

Friday 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Juniors 11-14 years old

New Youth Members are always welcome also Youth Workers and Volunteers are required.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact:

The East Centre, Front Street,  
Prudhoe, NE42 5HN.

Tel: 832343 Fax: 831027.

## Growing membership

Sue Nicholson's appeal in the last Globe, part of a wider publicity campaign to encourage more residents to join the Institute Association, proved quite successful culminating in 18 new members joining at the special Coffee Morning on 28th September.

If you didn't get to this event, but would be willing to join the Association and support the Institute, please contact Karen Webster, Institute Secretary on 852498.

## Tynedale is pleased with Wylam recycling

Tynedale Council is well-pleased with the public response of Wylam residents to the new twin-bin recycling scheme introduced in June. In the first three months of operation the scheme collected nearly 600 tonnes of recyclable material from households in the Hexham and Prudhoe areas where the scheme has been introduced.

There have been few teething troubles, and Philip Hindmarsh who is responsible for Tynedale's recycling initiative, reports that the company which sorts the recycling matter collected is very pleased with the quality of the material being provided, with 95% able to be recovered for recycling.

Occasionally the contents of bins have had to be rejected where recyclable material has been contaminated with non-recyclable material. Two of the most common items placed in the recycling bin in error are waxed drinks cartons and polystyrene, which cannot be recycled.

Please double check the lists on the notice on your bin or on the twin-bin leaflets. If you are unsure about any aspect of the scheme you can telephone Tynedale council's recycling helpline on 01434 652418 during office hours, or visit the website at [www.tynedale.gov.uk](http://www.tynedale.gov.uk). Copies of the recycling leaflet list are available from the library or from the Parish Council Office.

## New Information Card

A new edition (the 15th) -pale green-of the Village Information Card is being delivered to all houses in Wylam with this Newsletter. It replaces the previous edition (on blue card) which should now be destroyed. The Information Card is revised every two years and has always been much appreciated by residents - we hope that this new edition will be as useful as its predecessors!

*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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