

THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council

Number 8

Quarterly

April 1975

MAKE A DATE

When? 7 p.m. on Friday, 18th April.
Where? The Institute.
What for? Annual Parish Meeting.
Why? It's a special opportunity to discuss with your Parish Councillors and fellow residents, any particular problems and complaints you may have about things which are being done in the village which you don't like — or things you think ought to be done.

Why not come along and air your views, Last year we had a record attendance of about 90 people — can we beat it this time?

We try to keep everyone informed of what's happening in the village by means of this newsletter and, of course, all your local councillors are always willing to help in trying to solve local problems.

Although the Annual Parish Meeting is arranged by the Parish Council, we're inviting both our County Councillor and our District Councillor to join the meeting so that they are aware of local feelings on issues which may be the responsibility of the County or District Councils.

We begin the meeting fairly early — 7 p.m. — to allow plenty of time for discussion, but if you can't get the children to bed by then, you're welcome to come along at any time during the evening.

If there are any particular issues which you intend to bring up for discussion at the meeting, it would be helpful (but not essential) if you could let the Clerk of the Parish Council, Mrs. Fairless, know a day or two beforehand.

SLOW DOWN

The problem of traffic exceeding the speed limit through the village is not new, but the improvements to the main road at the Fox and Hounds, and also at Stanley Burn unfortunately make it more attractive for those motorists who choose to ignore the dangers of speeding in a built up area.

The youth who sped through the village on the night of 10th February, smashed through the bridge railings and landed in the river, is remarkably lucky to be alive. (All credit to the local doctors and residents, and Officers of the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services who helped save him.) Fortunately, he didn't injure anyone else, but the question remains — how do you stop speeding? Increased police patrols? Special hazards to slow traffic? Heavier fines for offenders?

Have you any suggestions as to what could be done? If so, let us know and we'll put the best ideas to the police and the County Council Road Safety Officer.

LOCAL RELICS WANTED

As reported in a previous issue, it is the County Council's intention to convert one part of the old primary school on Falcon Terrace into a much-needed permanent branch library, and the County Librarian has agreed to include within the library area some showcases and a limited amount of space which can be used for items of local interest. A separate general display area will also be provided.

Although the old school is likely to be needed for "school purposes" until at least the end of 1975, it is hoped (inflation permitting) that a start will be then made on converting the building to accommodate the library and other activities.

By drawing attention now to the idea of having a small museum, we hope that anyone who has anything of local interest which they would be willing to lend or donate for display, will put it on one side and perhaps let Mrs. Fairless or Mr. Brooks know.

As well as old photographs, plans and documents about life in the village, the type of thing we would like to be able to display will include:

Relics of the local collieries, e.g. items of miners' equipment, tools, lamps, tokens, etc.

Railway relics; old signs, tickets, badges, etc. — particularly if they are associated with Wylam Stations, or with the early Wylam engineers, Stephenson, Hackworth, Wood or Hedley.

Wylam Toll Bridge passes or tokens, and anything concerning the Wylam Bridge Company.

Anything about the lesser-known local industries — the Ironworks, the Gasworks, the Brewery, the lead-shot manufactory.

Early bills or accounts from local tradesmen, e.g. from the miller, the blacksmith, etc.

Items about the schools in the village.

Old programmes of local events and celebrations, e.g. Coronation or Golden Jubilee celebrations — unveiling of the War Memorial, and similar occasions.

Examples of the souvenir china produced about 1920, with a Wylam crest on it.

Anything concerning the Blakett family or any other well known local families.

This list could be endless, but almost anything which has any connection with the village even in recent years will be of local interest.

In particular, if anyone has the task of disposing of things following the death of any local person, please don't throw out old photographs, postcards, etc. Although often of little financial value, they may be of local interest.

John Caudle of Stephenson Terrace recently saved several very interesting old postcards and photographs when sorting papers belonging to his aunt, who lived in Woodcroft Road, and had been housekeeper to Dr. Bishop. We hope to include one or two of these photos in future issues of the "Globe."

THIS YEAR – NEXT YEAR – SOMETIME?

"We can't provide Wylam with public toilets this year" is the message from the District Council, who have been struggling hard to keep the rate increase within reasonable limits without seriously affecting public services.

Their decision to cut the project from their building programme this year is disappointing, if perhaps not altogether surprising. We presume that Wylam will be at the front of the queue for public toilets when Tynedale consider the "who needs loos" list next year.

In the meantime, with the anticipated increase in visitors to the village this summer, and the fact that the County Council will have completed the car park in the old Station Yard, residents in Stephenson Terrace and Ingham Terrace may be able to make a penny or two by opening their smallest rooms to the public!

JUST ANGLING

After protracted negotiations the Wylam Angling Club have reached agreement with the Trustees of the Blakett Estate for the purchase of the local fishing rights. Although they are receiving various grants towards the cost, the Club are having to raise a substantial sum themselves—and this is just to let you know that they'll probably be launching an appeal for funds shortly.

Incidentally membership of the Club is of course open to anyone in the village.

Further details from Terry Bailey (Tel. 2234.)

ONE DEGREE UNDER?

Many residents will have been delighted to see from the local press that the University of Newcastle is to honour Dr. Swindale next month by awarding him a Master of Arts degree – in recognition of the outstanding contribution which he has made to village life in Wylam and district.

The affection and respect which local people have for Alfred Swindale was clearly demonstrated at his Jubilee Celebrations last summer, and it is gratifying that an important institution like the University has chosen to honour him in this way.

NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The Post Office have recently applied to Tynedale District Council for outline planning permission to build a new telephone exchange on the area of rough scrubland at the top of Woodvale Gardens (i.e. where the old Boy's Brigade hut stood until a few years ago.)

As with all local planning applications, the Parish Council have been asked to comment on the proposal, but before doing so, the Council have requested the Post Office for more information both on the justification for a new exchange, and more particularly on the anticipated size and design of the proposed building and the means of vehicular access. It is considered that these aspects are particularly important in view of the prominence of this site.

If permission is eventually given, every effort will be made to ensure that the building erected is of good design, that the surrounding area is satisfactorily landscaped, and that a footpath link between the Dene Estate and Woodvale Gardens is retained.

A HOST OF GOLDEN...

In the autumn, the Parochial Church Council generously purchased a large number of daffodil bulbs, which were planted by volunteers in the grass area in front of Blakett Cottages, a position where the flowers can be appreciated both by the residents of the cottages, and by anyone passing along Church Road.

There are several other areas in the village – grass verges and open spaces – which could be "brightened up" by planting spring bulbs.

If any local resident or organisation would be willing to donate daffodil or narcissi bulbs for planting in the village in the autumn, please let us know. Such offers would be much appreciated and will all help to make a "brighter Wylam."

Why not give some bulbs for planting in the village to commemorate a loved one, or to mark a "special event" – a birth, marriage or a silver wedding?

WHAT'S ON IN WYLAM – VILLAGE DIARY

APRIL	Saturday 12th	Shelter: Jumble Sale. 2.30 p.m., InSTITUTE
	Friday 18th	Annual Parish Meeting. 7.00 p.m., InSTITUTE
	Friday 18th	Labour Party Dinner/Dance at Otterburn Hall (Details from Mrs. Bailey, Tel. 2234.)
	Thurs. Fri. Sat. 24-26	Drama Society – "Barefoot in the Park", InSTITUTE
	Friday 25th	Conservatives Open Meeting. Beaumont Hotel, Hexham
	Tuesday 29th	"Curiosities of Northumbria" – Talk by Jack Armstrong, 8.00 p.m., InSTITUTE.
MAY	Saturday 3rd	Pancake Races
	Friday 9th	Oxfam Wine and Cheese Party, High Close House
	Mon. 12th - Fri. 16th	Bible Class "6 o'clock Special" at Old Schools, Woodcroft Road
	Sunday 18th	Parents' Night at Old Schools
JUNE	Saturday 7th	Labour Party Fete. 2.30 p.m., "Jack's Field" Ovingham Rd.
	Saturday 7th	Stelling Hall Garden Party and Fete. 2.45 p.m.
	Saturday 14th	Matfen Hall Fete
	Saturday 21st	Summer Fair – Methodist Chapel, 2.30 p.m.
	Saturday 28th	Conservatives' Garden Fete, Southlands
JULY	Saturday 12th	Garden Fete, St. Oswin's Church

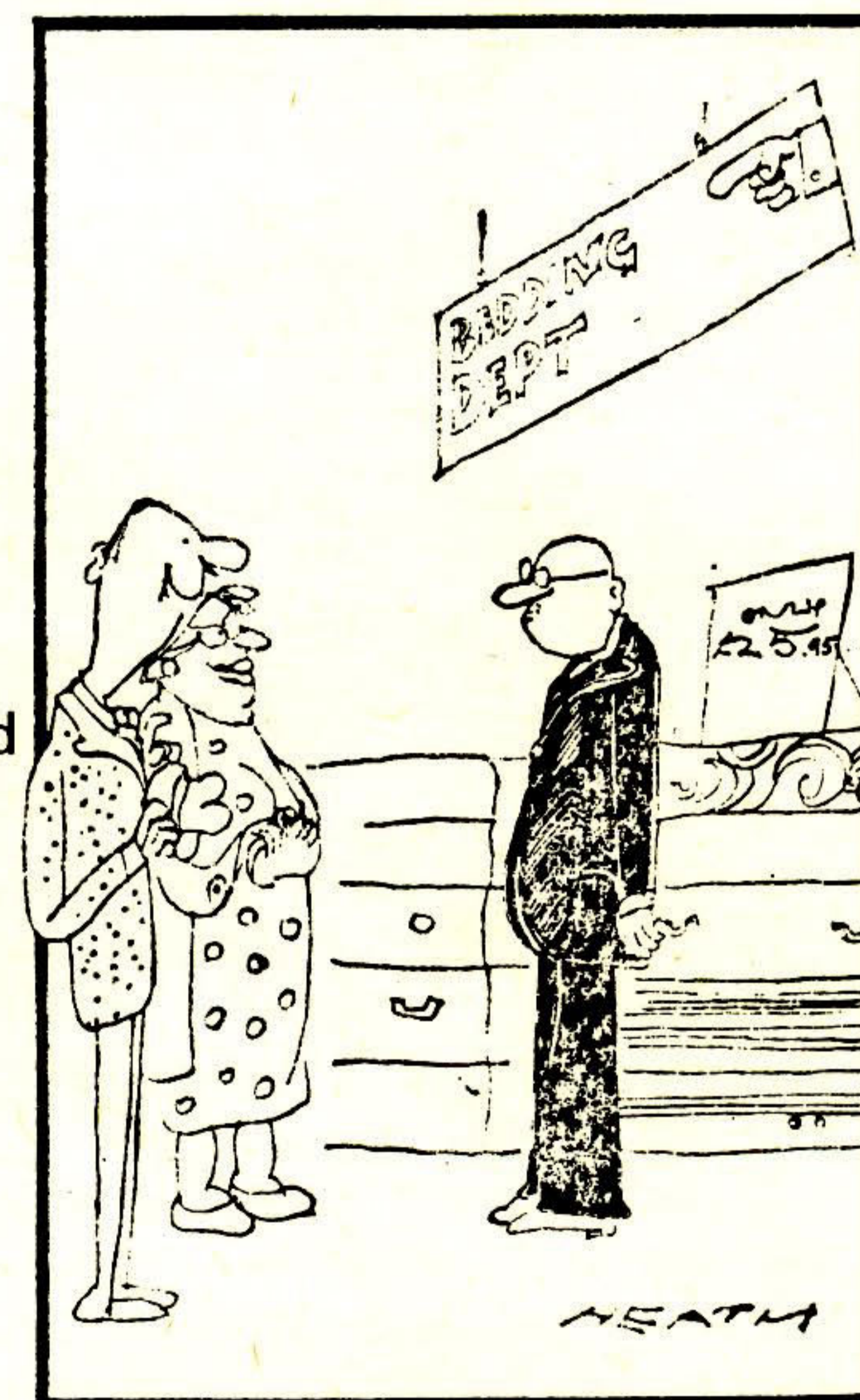
"CLAIMING DATES"

Saturday, 13th September	Local History Conference. 2.00 p.m.–6.00 p.m., InSTITUTE
Saturday, 27th September	Friends of Wylam Jumble Sale, InSTITUTE
Saturday, 27th September	Conservatives Cheese and Wine Party, Oakwood House
Saturday, 11th October	Christmas Book Fair, InSTITUTE
Saturday, 15th November	Nursery School Coffee Morning, InSTITUTE
Saturday, 29th November	Children's Christmas Party, InSTITUTE
Saturday, 31st January	Conservatives Jumble Sale, InSTITUTE

IMPORTANT!

In recent weeks, several important local meetings have clashed because secretaries have NOT checked with the Village Diary (held by Mrs. Hurd) to ensure that nothing else had been arranged at the same time! This results in neither event being fully supported.

Before arranging any important events, public meetings, etc., please contact Mrs. Hurd, Tel. 2563, any evening after 5.00 p.m.



"We're looking for a mattress suitable for dumping in some beauty spot."

(From the Sunday Times)

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

The Local Information Card distributed with the January "Globe" seems to have been widely appreciated and regarded as worthwhile.

If you didn't receive one, or have come to live in the village in the last two or three months, or for any reason want another copy of the Information Card, contact Mrs. Fairless, or call at the Post Office where Mr. Gillies has kindly agreed to keep a small stock of these cards available.

Please make the following alterations to the information on your card:

1. The address of the *Citizens Advice Bureau* is now MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle, and NOT 7, Saville Place.
2. *Gas Board Account Enquiries* telephone number is now 9-681212 and NOT 9-66391.
3. The local *Housewives Discussion Group*, although similar in its aims to the Housewives Register is not officially associated with the national organisation, and prefer to be known by their local title of H.D.G. Incidentally, Elaine Soward is no longer the Secretary — Jill Player, 66 Dene Road and Pat Holt, 48 Dene Road (Tel. 2512) share that task this year. New members are always welcome to come along to any of the Group's meetings.
4. *Labour Party (Local Branch)* — Mrs. Bailey of Harby House, Ovingham Road (Tel. 2234) has taken over the job of Secretary from Freda Robinson.

COUNCIL HOUSING

A number of difficulties have arisen which are likely to delay any possibility of early housing development on the small field at the east end of Falcon Terrace — the site which had been suggested to the District and County Planning Authorities as being suitable for a limited number of new Council houses.

At a subsequent meeting held between representatives of the District and Parish Councils, it was agreed that provision of a small number of dual purpose dwellings (probably bungalows) which could be used either by the elderly or by young couples, would be the most suitable way of meeting the present housing need in the village. After considering all the possible sites, it was felt that the area next to the old Primary School (the space previously occupied by the temporary classrooms) might be the most suitable site for these dwellings.

This land was given to the County Council in 1949 by the late Mr. Blackett for use by the school, and since it is no longer required for school purposes, the County Council is being asked by both the District and Parish Councils if it would be willing to make the land available for building about ten local authority dwellings.

As far as is known the County Council have no firm proposals of their own for using this land. The old school is likely to provide ample indoor accommodation for all the various leisure/cultural activities proposed, and because of its slope the ground is of limited use for any outdoor games. Nor is there any apparent need for it to be laid out for car parking, since there is off-street parking space on Falcon Terrace opposite the school. This should be adequate in all normal circumstances, and there is in any case the new Station Yard car park which the County Council have provided only a short distance away.

However the provision of a level footpath across the site next to the school, linking the Dene to the west side of the old school buildings would be of considerable benefit, and enable people to avoid those steep and awkward steps between the playground and the school buildings. (This path could be provided whatever use was made of the site.)

The Parish Council and the District Council are well aware that this is an important and prominent site, and that if housing development takes place it will need to be an attractive layout, with the dwellings preferably set back from the road, with a wide verge or green along the frontage of The Dene.

OLD WYLAM



Several people identified the old photograph in our last issue. It was the old Toll house which stood on the north-east corner of the Holeyn Hall crossroads.

The old gentleman was Mr. McDowell who used to direct the traffic at this junction. (*I can't see anyone risking their lives doing that today — especially if you'd only one leg, as Mr. McDowell had!*)

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to write in, telling us their recollections about the cottage — this is what we'd like you to do, please, whenever we include these old photographs of the village.

The late Tom Barron of Hagg Bank (who died a few weeks ago) told us that he was born in this cottage before the First World War.

This month's photograph should bring back memories to many of our readers. It was taken outside the village Smithy in the mid 1920's and this copy has been kindly lent by the Misses Rogerson.

(*Incidentally when carrying out some alterations at the Wylam Garage recently Alan Conley discovered an old bottle which had been buried in a wall when part of the building had been built nearly 50 years ago by Mr. Henderson, the village blacksmith and mechanic.*)

A small prize is being offered to the first person to send us a complete list of the names of everyone in the photograph, and giving us some information about them (for example — where they lived, their jobs etc. and anything else of interest. Details in writing please, to Mrs. Fairless at 31 Falcon Terrace. *Editor's decision is final!*)

EVER BEEN HUNGRY?

Perhaps a few times maybe, but never day after day after wretched day without food, going to bed sick with hunger each night. But half a BILLION (no, it's not a misprint) people are in this predicament, and these are the people Oxfam and other relief organisations are trying to help. Feed ALL the family is the slogan for Oxfam's spring campaign. Formed to meet desperate need often arising from drought, floods and other disasters, OXFAM has always tried to help people to help themselves.

OXFAM'S Wylam Branch has helped for 12 years and will go on helping. Over £200 was taken last Christmas, most of it from the sale of cards and presents which produce a useful profit.

Des Gray, the local organiser, thanks most warmly everyone who helped in any way, by buying or organising, and also the Pledged Gift Collectors and donors for their continuing valuable aid. But he has to ask every branch to try to raise more.

A Wine and Cheese Party is being held next month (see Village Diary) and we hope you will want to come.

Oxfam shops are one of the best moneyraisers, and need a constant supply of bric-a-brac and good clothes. If you can offer help of any kind, please contact Mrs. Ritchie (Tel. 2125) or the Acting Secretary, Mrs. Joan Taylor, Thornwood, Elm Bank Road. (Tel. 3194.)

HORSERIDING ON LOCAL FOOTPATHS

In the last year or two, there has been a substantial increase in the number of horses and ponies being exercised on paths in and around the village and this has resulted mainly from the establishment of several local riding schools/stables.

Whilst the availability of ponies for hire locally may be an asset for some, it has brought problems on certain local footpaths, several of which have been badly churned up and have become most inconvenient for pedestrians unless they regularly wear wellington boots! In other cases where paths are narrow, pedestrians have had to step off the path to allow horseriders to pass.

Clearly this situation is unsatisfactory and, for the record, none of the public rights of way in Wylam is a bridleway, (i.e. paths over which horseriders are allowed to pass), they are all footpaths (i.e. pedestrians only.)

The worst problems have arisen on the length of the riverside footpath between the end of Stephenson Terrace (i.e. by the Regent Tyre Factory) eastwards along to Stephenson's Cottage. The riverbank land over which this footpath runs is owned by the Parish Council who can control its use, and all the known local horseriders and riding schools have recently been asked to avoid using this path because of its deteriorating condition. At the same time, the Parish Council have approached the County Council, the owners of the disused railway track, suggesting that horseriders might be permitted to use the track between the Old Station Yard and Street Houses, provided that the horses are controlled at walking pace only, and not allowed to trot or gallop, which could create hazards for other users.

In the meantime, the situation on other footpaths in the village will be kept under close review.

WILL YOU HELP?

The Youth Club is now functioning in the old school building on Falcon Terrace on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is always pleased to welcome new members and will be delighted to see interested adults for occasional or regular visits. Now that it is established and has a good nucleus of members, help with specialised activities would be appreciated. If you would like to share your interest (chess, badminton, anything!) or special skill, or just give your time in any way it can be used, please call in or telephone Mr. J. Gorman at 998 32998.

WYLAM SCHOOL P.T.A.

So far the major pre-occupation of the newly formed Parents Teachers Association has been raising funds; a very successful film show has been held and also a Wine and Cheese party.

It is hoped to carry on with various activities, relying on the continued support of parents and staff.

FRIENDS OF WYLAM – SUMMER OUTINGS

Whole Day Outing – Monday 2nd June

Leave Wylam 9.30 a.m.

Lunch at Edenvale Hotel, near Penrith.

Afternoon in Keswick.

Return 4.45 p.m.

Arrive in Wylam 8.00 p.m.

Half-day Outing – Monday 23rd June

Leave Wylam 11.15 a.m.

Lunch at New Crown Hotel, South Shields.

Visit to Lambton Lion Park.

Return to Wylam 4.30 p.m. approx.

Any old aged pensioner in Wylam is eligible to go on these outings, and forms will be delivered to all those O.A.P.'s known to the "Friends", asking whether they would like to go on either outing.

If any O.A.P. does not receive one of these forms, or has any queries, please contact Mrs. T. Pattinson at Wylam Wood, (Tel. 3121.)

RAILWAY EXHIBITION

In addition to the erection of special village boundary signs, arrangements are also being made to mark the 150th Anniversary this year of the world's first public passenger railway in other ways, including holding a local exhibition to commemorate the contribution which the famous Wylam locomotive engineers made to the history of railways.

The exhibition will be held in the old Primary School in Falcon Terrace from Monday 4th–Saturday 9th August. It is being sponsored by the Local History Society and Mr. Jack Armstrong, with support from other local and Tyneside organisations.

It is hoped that working models will be on display at the exhibition, and that several special "live" events with a "railway flavour" will be arranged in association with the Wylam and District Round Table to coincide with the event.

It should be an event to be remembered – book the dates now: 4th – 9th August.

NEXT YEAR – WEMBLEY?

The Wylam Juniors Football Club was formed in 1973 and is enjoying considerable success this season. Last year they appeared in three cup finals and won the Blakie Cup. This season they have so far played 18 games, losing only once to South Tynedale, a result which was reversed at a later fixture. The goals for – against ratio is 143–21. Their programme in the Hexham and District Junior League is now complete and they have won the Championship. They are also in the League Cup Final and through to the semi-final of the Blakie and West Divisional Cups.

The team is captained by David Crichton of the Fox and Hounds, with Eddie Hall, who has found the back of the net on 26 occasions, providing the fire power. Another valuable member of the squad is Jimmy Pigg, who can always be relied upon to fill a last minute vacancy. Two players have represented their County, Don Robson for Northumberland and Keith Richardson for Durham.

(Report kindly written by Tony Evans – who, it is rumoured has been selected by Lord Westwood to be United's new assistant to Joe Harvey!!!)

SALES HELP SCHOOL LIBRARY

In the present difficult economic situation, only very limited funds are available for developing school libraries and similar facilities, and in Wylam the contributions which have been made to the School library fund, as a result of the sales of outgrown children's clothes have been much appreciated.

A sale is normally arranged each school term and 25% of the amount which the garment is sold for is given to the school library fund. The remaining 75% goes to the person selling the garment.

As well as providing support for the school, these sales also enable mothers both to dispose of, and to acquire clothes for their children at a reasonable price.

Those responsible for organising these sales provide the village with a very useful service, and deserve thanks for the hard (and voluntary) work they do.

The present organisers are:–

Mrs. Joan Crozier, 70 Dene Road. (Tel. 2425.)

Mrs. Margaret Roan. 88 Dene Road.

The sale last month made £70, of which about £18 is given to the school.

The next sale will probably be held at the end of May, and will be restricted to clothes for children up to 12 or 13 years.

All correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to Mrs. D. Fairless, The Clerk of the Parish Council, 31, Falcon Terrace, Wylam.