

A WYLAM GLOBE SUPPLEMENT

to Celebrate the 100th edition 1973 to 2011

The first "Wylam Globe" was published by the Parish Council in July 1973, edited by Philip Brooks, who continued to perform this sterling task until the 77th issue in 2005, after which responsibility passed to a small editorial team.

The first few issues were copied locally on single sheets of 'foolscap'-sized paper, before a switch to what was then the "new" A4 size. The 5th issue, published in July 1974, was the first printed by the Gilpin Press at Houghton-le-Spring, the business that has printed every issue since and for which, in appreciation, we have included something of their story at the end of this supplement.

Since 2005 the editorial team has managed to sustain a regular four-page quarterly publication including some colour text and colour photographs.

People sometimes ask why the publication bears the title "Wylam Globe" and so, for those who remain unaware, "The Globe" was the title of a newspaper published in the 19th century to which J.F.B. Blakett, a member of the family who were Squires of Wylam, was a frequent and distinguished contributor. It later came to light that "The Globe" was also the name given to a locomotive designed by Timothy Hackworth, which made the title seem even more appropriate. It was a line drawing of this locomotive that appeared alongside the title on most early editions of the newsletter. However, in 1978 this was replaced by the current drawing of the "Puffing Billy", drawn for the Parish Council by Martin Orchard, formerly of Wylam but now living in Hexham. This drawing has been used as the logo of Wylam Parish Council ever since and "pinched", it might be added, by a number of Wylam organisations!

The principal purpose of the "Wylam Globe" has always been, and remains, to communicate between the Parish Council and local residents. We are aware that copies do get passed around, and it is nice to hear occasionally from readers not only around the country but also around the world, to whom copies are still passed, usually by family and friends.

Follow the 'time-line' as a reminder of some events and things of interest within the village

1973

- Pressure increases for a library in former school when new school completed on Bell Road
- Three Wylam Councillors on Hexham Rural District Council to be replaced by one on new Tynedale District Council from 1974

1974

- County Council purchases derelict North Wylam Station yard to create Country Park Walkway, Hagg Bank to Newburn
- A69 Heddon/Horsley by-pass under construction
- New Wylam First School opened, construction of Ovingham Middle School commences
- Construction of Blakett Court flats commenced on former Brewery/Brewery House site
- Parish Council purchases waste land between The Dene and Jackson Road as a public open space
- Road widening at "Butcher's Bridge" completed (beside "Fox & Hounds")

1975

- First edition of Local Information Card produced by Parish Council
- Parish Council agrees to purchase riverside allotments
- Scheme to level Playing Field and create play-area commenced at cost of £11,500

1976

- Blakett Court Flats opened
- Library opened in former school building
- Roads in Tyne View and West View made-up
- Local pressure achieves second Wylam Councillor on District Council

1977

- Playing Field officially opened to celebrate Queen's Silver Jubilee
- Station platform height raised
- Parish Council purchased waste land between Woodvale Gardens and Engine Dene for public open space

1978

- New play equipment provided on Jubilee Playing Field
- Hagg Bank residents reject idea of streets there being made-up

1979

- Parish Council construct bus shelter at Charlie's Corner
- New public toilets built by Tyndale Council at entrance to Playing Field after debate as to whether they should be there or at Old Station Yard car park
- Ovingham Road closed for over a year after land slip from scar above

1980

- Play Area provided by Parish Council at Hagg Bank
- Village litter-clearance campaigns started

1981

- "Puffing Billy" boundary signs erected at entrance roads to village
- Celebrations held to mark 200th Anniversary of birth of George Stephenson
- Parish Council's Railway Museum opened in Falcon Centre

1982

- New bungalows for elderly built by Tynedale Council and named after late Dr Swindale
- Extensive modernisation of Institute commenced
- Doctors on Woodcroft Road move into modern surgery in "Riversdale", vacating adjacent building near the road

1983

- Laws Stores closes bakery at Wylam Mill - subsequently converted into flats

1984

- Parish Council give travel tokens to local pensioners to supplement those given by District Council

1985

- Historic Station House and outbuildings converted into office accommodation
- Celebrations mark 150th Anniversary of opening of first part of Newcastle and Carlisle Railway
- Public enquiry into proposal to develop field at top of Engine Dene (later became "Denecroft")

1986

- Opposition to plan to replace full level crossing barriers with automatic half-barriers
- Celebrations mark Centenary of St Oswin's Parish Church
- Stephenson Court apartments built on site of former Wylam Garage and tyre factory

1987

- "Jack the Donkey" dies, well loved by Wylam children (and others) for over 20 years
- More new play equipment planned for Jubilee Playing Field

1988

- Parish Council purchases bottle-bank in recognition of local enthusiasm for recycling

1989

- Work commences on major extensions and refurbishment at Methodist Church
- St Oswin's Parish Hall modernised and extended to provide equipment storage for Guides and Scouts

1990

- Parish Council purchases hanging baskets to brighten centre of village
- County Council promise action to reduce traffic speed and accident risk on Holeyn Hall Road
- National Trust complete refurbishment at Stephenson's Cottage of room where George Stephenson was born

1991

- Village organisations held a Winter Carnival to raise funds to help children in Romania
- In the District Council elections, Wylam had a turnout of 70%, the highest in Tynedale
- County Council agreed to provide a nursery attached to Wylam School
- Major improvements to the road and pavement on Holeyn Hall Road

1992

- Exceptional rainfall causes flooding from Oakwood Burn into Dayhole Dene, to Engine Dene and onto the walkway by the Fox & Hounds.
- Local volunteers plant a new hedge in the wide roadside verge opposite Wylam Hills Farm
- Work on the £18.5m Prudhoe by-pass completed including a new bridge to carry the Hagg Bank to West Wylam traffic over the by-pass
- Scheme to resurface the unadopted back lane between The Ship and The Institute completed

1993

- Stan Dawson's second hand timber business moved to a more suitable site on the Low Prudhoe Industrial Estate, following planning enforcement
- Flower Festival held at the Methodist Church to celebrate 90th Anniversary of the Prudhoe Gleemen Choir, which was started in Wylam
- Idea for designating riverside area next to the allotments as an official Local Nature Reserve discussed by Parish Council

1994

- Youth Club in the Falcon Centre given a revamp but voluntary help and support still needed
- New housing development, "Denecroft", at the north end of Engine Dene, completed

1995

- Institute Committee publish programme of events for next year's Centenary
- Following retirement through ill health of Mr Eric Ford, Mrs Dorothy McSorley, Head Teacher at Ellingham School, near Alnwick, appointed new Head Teacher at Wylam First School

1996

- Special events held to celebrate Institute Centenary included a Quoits competition, a Village Show of crafts and produce and a Young Musicians Garden Party
- Residents seek reassurance from NCC and Sustrans about potential conflict between different users before designation of a section of the former waggonway as part of National Cycle Network

1997

- Institute Fundraising Appeal reached its target thanks to generous contribution from the National Lottery and several other organisations
- Impressive Wylam Map embroidered by local enthusiasts unveiled in the Institute
- Tynedale Council introduced a new by-law to tackle problems of dog fouling in the District
- Widespread local opposition to attempts by landowners and developers to build more housing on Green Belt fields around the village
- Major scheme to repair and repaint the unique former railway bridge across the Tyne at Hagg Bank completed by NCC, with major funding from the Heritage Lottery



Local dignitaries walk over Wylam Bridge in 1936 when the toll was first lifted and a similar view of Wylam Bridge as it is today



1998

- National Trust carry out essential repairs to roof and walls of Stephenson's Cottage, returning the walls to their original finish of lime-wash
- Historic Blacksmith's forge in West View, formerly part of the Colliery Workshops, renovated by the Conley family to create an attractive cottage and a tile and craft workshop
- Parish Council proposing to appoint a Village Handyperson to carry out various tasks to help keep the village tidy

1999

- After a successful trial, using wheelie-bins to replace dustbins and plastic sacks, Tynedale Council is to introduce wheelie-bins permanently
- Local Planning Inspector rejects idea of housing in Green Belt around village
- Wylam Community Playing Field Association announce purchase of village playing field from the Boys Brigade
- Barclays confirm their intention to close their bank in the village, in spite of local protests



The North Wylam Station Yard in 1958 and the same view, now part of the Country Park, in 2011



2000

- Landslide between a section of the Ovingham Road and the river closes the road for some six months.
- Former RVI Convalescent Home, Castle Hill House, is now the centrepiece of Wimpey's "Wylam Manor" development
- NCC introduces charges at the Tyne Riverside Country Park Car Park

- Millennium Exhibition showing photographs of the village and its residents to mark "Wylam in Two Thousand" proves popular

2001

- The Graham family, tenants of Wylam Hills Farm for nearly 80 years, leave for Belsay - fortunately their dairy herd survived the foot and mouth disease which devastated many farms
- Guide to shops, businesses and services available in the village produced by the Parish Council
- Parish Council agree to hire space in the Institute as an office for the Clerk and as an information/contact point for local residents
- Plans to designate the Country Park waggonyway through the village as a National Heritage Cycle Route has raised some concerns that much heavier usage could result in greater risk of conflict between different users

2002

- A good response was received to the Questionnaire circulated to all households seeking residents' views on local services and future needs and solutions - the first stage in a process to produce a Village Plan
- Major extensions and improvements completed by two local businesses, at the Black Bull and Wormald House
- Centenary of the formation of the Parish of St Oswin, Wylam, in 1902 celebrated with an exhibition about the village at the start of the Edwardian era

2003

- Village Plan Report published - "the culmination of 12 months of planning, appraisal, consultation and analysis"
- Footpath across Engine Dene tarmaced by the Parish Council
- Appearance of Falcon Centre improved with repainting, new lighting, fencing and the resurfacing of the playground
- Impressive range of new play equipment provided on the Jubilee Field proves very popular
- Scheme to renovate the bells and bell tower at St Oswin's nears completion
- Tennis Club courts improved with a new all-weather surface and floodlights to extend the playing season

2004

- Station Car Park tarmaced and fenced by Network Rail
- Teddy Bears Parachute Jump from St Oswin's Church Tower raised funds to help pay for new Wylam and District Churches Youth Worker
- Wylam Film Club was established with help from the Queen's Hall Arts Centre, as part of a project to bring films to rural communities
- Major work started to re-point and repair extensive stonework on the Institute

2005

- Installation of dropped kerbs in the centre of the village make movement with wheelchairs and pushchairs easier
- Residents of Dene Estate reject the introduction of traffic calming on the estate roads
- Deteriorating condition of buildings at Wylam Hills Farm cause concern.
- Village welcomes new head Lynn Johnston to Wylam First School
- Troops from Albemarle Barracks replace fence along stretch of Ovingham Road

- 40 people between 13-19 are registered with Wylam Youth Club
- Major improvements carried out to road and pavements on Hackworth Gardens.

2006

- Library at risk again from cuts to 2006-07 County budget.
- County Concessionary Bus Travel passes introduced for over 60's from 1st April
- Two information panels unveiled at 'Wylam Nature Reserve'. Designed by Steve Pardue
- J.A Stobo & Son celebrate 50 years of trading in Wylam.
- Threat to Library - 450 signature petition handed to County Council in support of library retention.
- Sixteenth edition of 'Village Information' card distributed with Globe Number 82.
- Return of "Community Week" raises more than £2000 for Institute funds
- Wylam Tennis Club celebrates its centenary.
- "Hadrian's Cycleway" ("Sustrans' Route 72) opened, passing through Wylam to Newburn and on to South Shields.

2007

- County Council to carry out major safety scheme to Wylam Bridge costing approximately £800,000.
- Library secure at a price, with Parish Council to pay £1200 per annum to retain Railway Museum in the Falcon Centre.
- £40,000 safety scheme in centre of village completed in April.
- Closure of Country Park Visitor Centre at Low Prudhoe, Countryside Officer redeployed.
- Sustrans pays for old railway line to be resurfaced.
- Parish Council appointed Tagish from Alnwick to create its website.
- Wylam runner up in the "Calor Northumberland Village of the Year" competition, focussing on People, Environment, Business and Communications.
- New LED lights provided by Wylam Parish Council illuminate trees in Institute Garden
- Introduction of two permanent solar powered speed warning signs on approach to village on Holeyn Hall Road and Station Road

2008

- Replacement work on water mains continues throughout the village as part of Northumbrian Water's capital investment programme..
- New National Concessionary Travel Pass available for over 60's from 1st April
- Piece of land at north side of Wylam Bridge cleared of all scrub and fly-tipped material.
- February gales blow down trees closing railway for a period
- Parish Council website www.wylamparishcouncil.org goes live
- Holeyn Hall Road resurfaced
- Flooding in September isolates village and causes landslip which closes Hagg Bank to Prudhoe road

2009

- Parts of Falcon Centre refurbished to provide new kitchen and disabled toilet facilities
- Tynedale District Council abolished in April

- Tour of Britain Cycle Race passes through Wylam
- Library under threat again due to County budget pressures
- Falcon Terrace residents enjoy street party to celebrate 100 years

2010

- Hagg Bank to Prudhoe road re-opened
- Two prominent trees on Charlie's Corner felled
- Hagg Bank play area re-equipped by Parish Council with help of grants
- Oakwood Burn flood defences completed
- Anchor Housing announce Blakett Court closure
- 100 years of the Old School/Falcon Centre celebrated



Patriotic fervour outside the old school in 1918 when children celebrated the end of the First World War and a quieter 'Falcon Centre' as we know it today



The Gilpin Press

As mentioned earlier, The Gilpin Press has printed every Wylam Globe since 1974, and so we invited the owner of the business to write this note:-

"The Gilpin Press has been in business since 1970, and owner John Brereton has seen many changes in printing over the years. John continued the "Gilpin" name when he took the business over. It is derived from the name of Bernard Gilpin, a 16th century Rector of Houghton-le-Spring who was greatly loved, not just for his preaching but also for his kindness and charity, so much so that he is still celebrated at the annual "Houghton Feast", held in October.

The first tenuous connection between Wylam and The Gilpin Press was through Colin Tyson, before 1970, as I worked with Colin when he was at Newcastle University, printing Archive Units for the History Department. It was through Colin that the Gilpin Press became associated with The Wylam Globe, and over the years the company has built up a relationship with the village, working with various residents, particularly Philip Brooks and Brian Japes.

When I qualified as a Master Printer hot metal printing was the norm; this has progressed through offset litho and now full colour digital printing has taken over. Due to the decline in manufacturing and industry and the rise of computers, the company has been forced to change direction – most work these days consists of short run colour work, books, personalised calendars and Newsletters etc.

We are delighted to have this association with Wylam and congratulate the village on the 100th edition of The Wylam Globe and look forward to being of further service in the coming years."