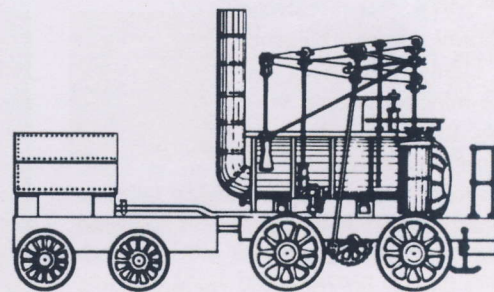


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2011

No. 101

It's Summer Fair Time

Preparations for this year's Wylam Summer Fair, which takes place on Saturday 25 June from 1.00pm, are well underway. This big event attracts a great many visitors to the village and raises well-needed funds, not only for the Jubilee Playing Field Association, which organises the event, but for many participating village charities and other organisations. The Playing Field is one of the village's finest assets, offering facilities for the many village football and cricket teams as well as play equipment for the younger residents of Wylam. A selection of local food producers will be in attendance on the day, all selling locally produced food.

The Fair is also a showcase for live bands, musicians, entertainers, and craftspeople and will feature a selection of competitions for children including one for the best Lego model, the best light-sabre and the best tiara. There will even be a cake competition for men – the good old traditional Victoria sponge cake!

The main event runs from 1.00pm to 5.00pm on the Jubilee Playing Field and, among other things, will feature the popular "Fun Run" for adults, children's races, cake competitions and a tug of war. Children will be able to sit in a police car or a fire engine.

Thousands of second-hand books will also be on sale at one of the largest one-day second-hand Book Fairs in the North of England. This is a regular and popular feature of the Summer Fair, held in the Methodist Church Hall between 10.00am and 5.00pm, (admission by Summer Fair programme, available at the door).

By the time you read this it is hoped that the Scarecrow Competition, repeating last year's very successful inaugural one, will be evident around the village. This year, all entrants will be encouraged to judge each other's scarecrows and the winner will be awarded the "Scarecrow Cup" which will be engraved with their name.



Wylam Summer Fair on the Jubilee Field

During the evening of the Fair, visitors will be able to listen to four local bands, sample locally produced beers and enjoy a selection of food, including some Latin American delicacies.

The Summer Fair Committee is hoping to draft in more volunteers as the Fair needs stewards to ensure that things run smoothly. Anyone willing to

help is asked to contact Koby Bremer on 852010. If you want to know more about the Scarecrow Competition or have a team of 8 to enter the Tug of War (male or female), please contact Stephen Westgarth on 852325. More information is also available on the Playing Field Association website: www.wylamplayingfield.org which has kindly been created by Bob Golightly.

New Parish Councillor

Following the recent resignation of Melanie Dunnett from the Parish Council, reported in our last issue, we are very pleased to advise that Anne Francis, a resident of Dene Road, was co-opted to succeed Melanie at the Parish Council's recent Annual Meeting. Anne is already involved in local community activities and is currently Treasurer of the Wylam Playing Field Association. She can be contacted on 852642.

At the same meeting, Tom Martin and Caroline Shepherd were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Other continuing members of the Parish Council are Judith Beveridge, Philip Brooks, Maureen Gillis, Brian Japes and Tony Mitcham. Contact details can be seen on the Parish Council website.

It's That Balsam Again!

We are always grateful for the diligence of Denis Peel and a few like-minded people who, for many years, have done their best to rid the village of a number of highly invasive weeds, particularly Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam.



Denis is currently organising a purge on various pockets of Himalayan Balsam and is seeking assistance from as many as possible. If you are willing to help pull out these weeds, you are invited to join Denis at the Country Park Car Park (behind the War Memorial) at 9.30am on any or all of the following dates:-

Sunday 26 June Sunday 2 July
Sunday 17 July Sunday 24 July

If you would like more information you can contact Denis on 853278 or by email to :

gdpeel@btinternet.com

Leek Show

The 88th Annual Show of the Wylam Leek Club is due to be held at the Fox and Hounds on Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 September. The Show will be open between 6.00 and 9.00pm on the Saturday and from 12 noon to 3.00pm on Sunday. The weekend concludes that day with an auction of produce from 7.30pm.



Everyone is invited to this event but new members are particularly welcome. If you would like more details about the Show or about membership, contact the Secretary, Adele Barer, on 853582 or by email to adelebarer@msn.com

Tree Warden

We are pleased to be able to report that Peter Fisher, a resident of Falcon Terrace for many years, has been appointed to the vacant position of volunteer Tree Warden. Peter is a keen amateur naturalist, with a particular interest in woodland ecology and has already brought a significant and enthusiastic impact to the role. We trust that Peter will greatly enjoy this work and that he will receive the support of the community in all that he does.

A Himalayan Birch tree is to be planted at Charlie's Corner in memory of Peter Clarke, our former Tree Warden, who died early this year. It is expected that this will be carried out in the autumn and an appropriate plaque will be put in place.

Police Alert

Speaking at the Annual Village Meeting, PC Charlie Cross, Neighbourhood Beat Officer for our area, pointed out that statistics for Wylam show a fall in overall crime for the fifth successive year. However there has recently been an increase in car crime and anti-social behaviour, although he explained that the latter offence is ill-defined and therefore the figure can be misleading.

The overriding message, especially during warmer summer weather, is to ensure that house doors are locked and car keys out of sight, away from doors and windows.

Warmer than expected weather in April also saw an increase in illegal camping and associated damage to trees, mainly along the riverside, with rubbish frequently left behind. The police are keen to stamp this out as much as we are. They have erected notices warning that camping is not permitted and encourage residents not to hesitate to phone to report this and any other crime when it is seen in progress or when something or someone suspicious is noticed. We are advised not to intervene ourselves but to phone the police immediately on 03456 043 043. The Northumbria Police website at www.northumbria.police.uk also contains many useful contacts and links.

Village Plan

Speaking at the Annual Village Meeting, Parish Council Chairman, Tom Martin, confirmed that the Parish Council has decided to put on hold, at least for the time being, the planned updating of the Parish Plan. Reasons were outlined in our last issue, primarily the uncertainty currently faced by all Parish and Town Councils as to what services may have to be taken over in the near future from the County Council, the fact that opinions expressed at preliminary meetings with several groups across a range of ages within the village suggested that views have changed very little since the last Parish Plan in 2003 and the likely cost of carrying out an exercise of this type.

The Parish Council are of the opinion that, if and when a particular issue arises it would be more efficient to sound out local views through a simple questionnaire, either as an insert within this quarterly publication or as an integral part of it.

Wylam Institute

Anyone who attended the Annual General Meeting of the Wylam Institute Community Association in early May could not have come away without feeling immensely grateful to those who devote so much of their time, energy and talents to managing and maintaining this wonderful village resource, which we know locally simply as "The Institute".

You have to look a long way to find an equivalent community building with such a range of rooms and facilities, other than perhaps in some of our larger towns. Little wonder that individuals and diverse groups come from far and wide to make use of it.

However, it's an ageing building and frequent expenditure is needed to keep it in a good state of repair and decoration. The Management Committee are to be commended for their efforts to do just that. During the past year approximately £20,000 was raised in grants towards a refurbishment fund, half coming from the "Big Lottery" and the rest from several Trusts and the Parish Council. This money has enabled a significant part of the heating system to be replaced (particularly the boilers), high quality secondary glazing to be installed in key areas, insulation to be added in the roof space and for a further range of small improvements to be initiated.

The Management Committee aim to reach a point where the income from room hire charges, membership subscriptions, grants and donations is sufficient to cover the cost of running the building. We can all help to achieve this. If you are not already enrolled as a member, why not put that right NOW? You can call at the office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning or telephone on 852498 and, if the office is closed and you leave your details, someone will return your call. You can also help by attending the monthly Coffee Mornings, currently held in the Heritage Room at the Institute on the second Wednesday of the month from 10.30am.

Annual Village Meeting

Hopefully it's a sign that Wylam residents are happy about local issues and the actions of the Parish Council in particular but it is disappointing that attendance at this meeting, which took place on 11 May, followed the downward trend that has been noticeable over recent years.

Those who did come along heard and discussed a report by Tom Martin, Parish Council Chairman, about the work of the Council over the past year, a report from Paul Kelly, our local County Councillor, some topical advice from PC Charlie Cross, Community Beat Officer, who popped in during his shift, and reports from representatives of the Wylam Institute Community Association, the Playing Field Association, and the Tyne Valley Rail Users Group.

In addition, Duncan Hutt, Head of Land Management for the Northumberland Wildlife Trust had been invited to attend and he gave an illustrated talk about the work of the Wildlife Trust with emphasis on a number of local sites and initiatives. Duncan Hutt has recently been of assistance to the Parish Council by consulting on a draft Management Plan for our Local Nature Reserve, a topic that the Parish Council is expecting to come back to and report about quite soon.

Playing Field Pavilion

The Wylam Playing Field Association is delighted to report that the long-awaited pavilion extension has now been completed, with the additional building providing storage space for the football and cricket clubs.

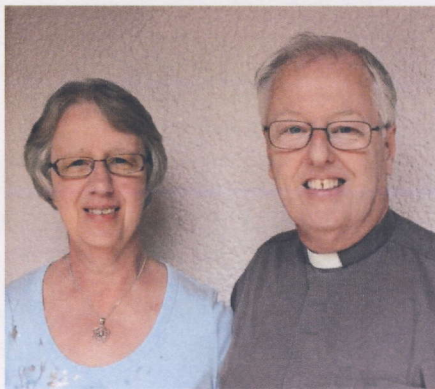
Last summer's theft of copper piping and boiler from the original building resulted in water damage to the changing rooms which have now been refurbished with new floor coverings, ceilings and internal decoration. In addition the tea room was repainted and re-carpeted and decorative metal grilles have been installed across all windows for additional security.

In the coming weeks "a lick of paint" is planned for the outside of the original building and new plants have been added to the patio area. We are very grateful for the financial support received towards this project and delighted to see that the pavilion and playing field continue to be used by many. Ongoing maintenance requires time, effort and money and we would greatly appreciate everyone's co-operation in keeping the field and the



The new pavilion extension

Retirement Beckons



David and Anne Cant

Wylam will be all the poorer when Rev David Cant, Priest in Charge at St Oswin's Church for nearly 13 years and currently Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, retires next month.

David and his wife Anne have become well known in the village and David, through his contribution to the ecumenical work of the Wylam and District Churches, his pastoral role and his natural interest in the village and its wider community, will be greatly missed.

It is widely known that both Anne and David have experienced a period of difficult health in the last year or two and we sincerely hope that they will be able to enjoy improved health in future. They leave with our heartfelt thanks and good wishes for a long and happy retirement when they move soon to Shilbottle.

David's final Sunday service will be on 3 July followed by a party in the Institute, to which all are invited. The following invitation is to everyone:-

You are invited to Bid Farewell to the Cants on Sunday 3rd July 2011

*Sung Eucharist at St Oswin's
at 9.45am followed by a Party
at Wylam Institute from 11.30am
Drinks and a Light Lunch - please bring a
plate of food to share (drinks provided)
Entertainment*

Also in St Oswin's Church at 7.30pm on Sunday 26 June, Lisa Hardy and Roberta Ritson will give a Concert as a personal thank you to David and Anne Cant. The title will be "An Apron of Flowers" and the songs chosen will illustrate women's lives and loves from many different angles. Elderflower cordial and home baking will be available in the interval. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for donations to The British Heart Foundation and Breast Cancer Care, charities chosen by Anne and David.

"Tree Fellers" - A Warning

A recent incident has occurred when Wylam residents were approached by what turned out to be "cowboy" tree surgeons offering to cut down or lop trees.

As a general guide, providing that there is no Tree Preservation Order and that the tree is wholly on your own property you are entitled to have it cut down. If the tree is on your boundary you should at least discuss it with your neighbour. However, if the tree is on someone else's property including beside a road or footpath or on public land, it is illegal to take or authorise any action.

In the recent case a tree was in the process of being illegally cut down on County Council-owned land. When challenged the men responsible fled, but the tree had been so badly damaged it had to be felled by the County Council. For more information on hiring a competent tree surgeon, you can either visit Northumberland County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk and click on the tree leaflet page or you can contact the Arboricultural Association at www.trees.org.uk

Children's Holiday Club

The Wylam and District Churches invite all children of First School age to their ever-popular Summer Holiday Club, which will be held in the Methodist Church Centre from Wednesday 31 August to Friday 2 September, 10.30am to 12 noon each day. This year's theme is "Space Savers", with loads of fun and games for all. You are asked to note the dates and, if you require further information please contact Richard Shrimpton, the Churches Youth and Children's Worker on 01661 852689 or visit the website at www.wylamanddistrictchurches.org.uk

Change at the Library

Although we were all very sad to see her go, a very pleasant event was held at Wylam Library at the end of March to mark the retirement of Maureen Rogerson who, as Assistant Librarian, had been in charge of the Wylam Library for approximately 26 years. A number of people spoke about Maureen's dedication, her pleasant personality and her ready willingness to offer assistance to people of all ages. She was presented with a number of gifts from library users and other well-wishers, after which the many who had gathered were able to enjoy refreshments, which added to the occasion.

Maureen leaves with our grateful thanks and very best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Groups, Organisations - Update Your Web Information

This is a final reminder to all local groups/organisations to update their contact information via the Parish Council website. The list will be incorporated into the 17th edition of the "Wylam Information Card" to be published and delivered to all Wylam households in the autumn, so up-to-date information would be appreciated.

The Parish Council would also like to remind local groups/organisations of the facility available to them to advertise 'Forthcoming Events' in the 'Diary Section' of its website. Very few events are displayed at present and the list has the added advantage of helping to avoid "clashes". Submit details of your event using the form on the website.

686 Bus Service

In the last issue we reported that the part of this service which has seen the bus going up The Dene to turn near the doctors' surgery was under threat.

The Parish Council took this matter up with the County Council, which subsidises the bus company for this service, but we regret to say we have lost the argument.

The bus operator claims that it is as much the width of the bus as its length that makes it difficult to turn near the parked cars but the final straw is that, on an average journey there has been less than one person either boarding or alighting at this point.

The continuation of this bus service is by no means guaranteed in these financially difficult times and the best evidence to the bus operators and the County Council that a bus service is wanted, is that it is well used.

Playgroup Calendar

Wylam Pre-school Playgroup has joined up with John Faulkner Photography this year to produce the Wylam Playgroup Calendar 2012.

A competition is being held for the photographs for the months of December and January and entries are invited. The photograph must be local and ideally taken in the village.

If you have a suitable photograph, of the memorable Wylam winter for example, and would like to enter it for possible inclusion in the calendar, please email a copy to

johnfaulknerphotography@ymail.com

War Memorial Green

Re-alignment of the corners of the War Memorial green, designed to prevent the frequent over-running by large vehicles such as the refuse lorry, were recently completed.

Recovery of the re-seeded areas was hampered by the very dry weather but we hope that recent efforts to improve that situation will be effective. We are grateful to County Councillor Paul Kelly, who was able to finance this work from his "Member's Small Scheme allowance".

The Parish Council is concerned that the condition of the grass in this area and the current County Council grass cutting regime, does little to show off this attractive area at its best.

However, before contemplating improvements we may have to wait until more is known about changes to the delivery of County Council services, about which we expect to know more in the next few months.



Before



After

Forthcoming Events

The following events will take place in Wylam Institute, unless indicated otherwise.

Other events, possibly with more detail, can be seen in the Diary Section of the Parish Council's website:-

www.wylamparishcouncil.org

Mon 13 June

Ovingham Choir Concert 7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Thurs 23 to Sat 25 June

Junior Jemms present "Bugsy Malone" 7.30pm

Sat 25 June

Wylam Summer Fair and Bookstall (see main text)

Sun 26 June

Concert in St Oswin's Church, 7.30pm

Sun 3 July

Rev David Cant's final service and farewell event (see main text)

Sat 9 July

Wylam First School "Quiz & Chips" 7.30pm

Mon 11 July

Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Wed 13 July

Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon

Wed 10 Aug

Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon

Wed 31 Aug to Fri 2 Sept

Children's Holiday Club at Methodist Church Centre (see main text)

Sat/Sun 10/11 Sept

Leek Show at "Fox & Hounds" (see main text)

Mon 12 Sept

Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Wed 14 Sept

Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon

Sat 18 Sept

Friends of Wylam Bazaar 10.00am to 12 noon

Sat 24 Sept

Cricket Club all day sports and evening disco

Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe"

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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The Clerk to the Parish Council
Wylam Institute, Church Road,
Wylam NE41 8AP
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