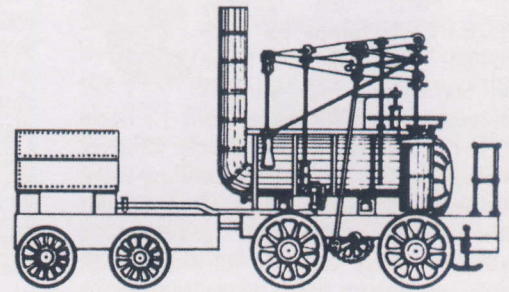


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 2011

No. 103

Winter Snow Clearing

This picture is a reminder of conditions we experienced last winter and although we hope that things won't be as severe this year, we gave an interim statement in the last issue of the "Globe" on the Parish Council's policy regarding snow clearing, which was under review at that time.

We can now confirm that, having sought the advice of the National Association of Local Councils and our own insurers, the Parish Council is unable to undertake any action to clear snow from pavements, this technically remains the statutory duty of the County Council which, for its part, is expected to prioritise how and where resources are used. Clearly, roads are where the County Council sees this priority and even there it has to prioritise further, depending mainly on the volume of traffic and importance of the route.

Our previous advice remains valid in that, where practicable, private residents and businesses are encouraged to clear pavements close to their own property. The principal stipulation is that the work is carried out with "reasonable care and without negligence".

The Parish Council is currently trying to get the County Council to increase the number of grit bins deployed around the village for use on public roads and pavements where the slope makes them most likely to become dangerous. We must stress however, that the salt/grit in these bins is not provided for use by residents on their own driveways. It is an offence to use salt/grit in this way. We strongly urge every household to consider acquiring a bag of suitable material from a local DIY store, preferably before it is actually needed and while stocks are readily available.



Parish Council Vacancy

Caroline Shepherd has unfortunately felt it necessary to stand down from the Parish Council. During a recent meeting at which Caroline's resignation was received, widespread appreciation was expressed for all that Caroline had done for the Council since she was co-opted during the summer of 2007.

Judith Beveridge was elected to replace Caroline as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the year.

The statutory steps are now in progress to find someone to take Caroline's place on the Parish Council, so this could be your chance! If you are interested please contact the Parish Council Clerk as soon as possible for more information. Contact details are on the back page, as usual.

Calling all Gardeners - Even Armchair Ones!



Wylam Gardeners' Society is one of the oldest clubs in the village & has a great tradition of providing interesting talks on a wide variety of plant and garden related topics, garden visits, coffee mornings with plant and cake stalls and, most importantly, friendly folks most willing to chat about anything related to plants or gardens.

For more information you can contact the Secretary on 881245 or, better still, come along to one of the meetings which are held on the third Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in the Centenary Room in Wylam Institute.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT

Dog Fouling, Again!

Just when we were thinking that most dog owners had accepted their responsibility in this respect, the Parish Council has recently received a spate of complaints about dog faeces being left on paths and some other areas around the village.

It appears that paths behind houses on routes towards Wylam First School are amongst the worst affected, with pushchair wheels and the feet of children and toddlers being particularly vulnerable.

We should not have to remind people that failure to clear up after your dog is an offence and this Council will support any action to report offenders to the authorities with a view to prosecution.

Wylam Parish Council provides free "poop scoop" bags, available from the institute, Library, the Spar and Wine Lodge and used bags can be placed in any of the litter or specialist bins located throughout the village.



*Merry
Christmas*

Jump for Joy 2012

Plans are already afoot for "Jump for Joy 2012". This will take place on Sunday 27 May and, as always, it will take place from 12 noon in the grounds of St Oswin's Church, with favourite teddies descending from the tower by parachute. Over recent years this event has provided a wonderful day out for all the family, with a barbecue lunch available, various stalls and games, followed by a magnificent selection of cakes to enjoy with a cup of tea. The money that's raised goes towards the Youth and Children's Work provided by the Wylam and District Churches.



If you would be interested in being involved please come to the first planning meeting. This will be held at 4 Woodvale Gardens, the home of Kay Jours, on Thursday 26 January 2012 at 7.30pm. For more details you can contact Kay on 852743.

Leek Show

The 88th annual Wylam Leek Show was held at the Fox and Hounds on 10 and 11 September. Once again the garage next to the pub was transformed on Saturday morning into a treasure trove of colour with an amazing display of vegetables, flowers and baked goods. Following an afternoon's judging, the show opened to the public at 6 o'clock. There was the usual stampede of people wanting to admire the produce and of Leek Club members keen to see how they had fared in the spirit of friendly rivalry that is the hallmark of the club.

The winning leeks were grown by the old master Bob Straughan, who entered a couple of beauties which were in a class of their own. There was a good array of impressively long beans, parsnips and carrots, giant marrows, onions and beetroot and beautiful boxes of mixed veg. Lovely Chrysanthemums, Dahlias and Gladioli brought a welcome splash of colour to the room as did some magnificent mixed floral displays. As usual all Leek Club members had put a great deal of effort into the baked goods section with mouth-watering results. Cakes, scones, pies, jams and chutneys crowded the central table and were much admired by all visitors.



Part of the impressive display of baking at the show

After the show closed on Sunday afternoon, focus shifted to the grand auction in the Fox and Hounds that evening. A lively pub filled with villagers, including a number of enthusiastic cricketers who had been playing the annual end-of-season charity match, were then invited to bid for all show items in a good-humoured and occasionally hilarious auction, ably conducted by master of ceremonies Richard Makepeace. The Leek Club was pleased to make a donation to the cricketers' charity of choice.

Anyone interested in the Leek Club can visit the website at www.wylamleekclub.co.uk.

Stanley Burn Care Centre

Since Stanley Burn, on Station Road in South Wylam, was a private house many years ago, it has been through a number of stages of development within the "care sector". Today, as the Stanley Burn Care Centre, it has an established place within the Wylam community and the current manager, Richard Shirbon, is seeking to further develop these links by extending the service the Centre offers.

With the hard work of the staff team and the families of residents, funds have been raised to develop new projects. A recent initiative has been to develop a vegetable garden, improve the flower beds and create a new sensory garden using fragrant plants and flowers, and with plans to use plants which feel different when handled in order to stimulate touch. This project is expected to bring a lot of enjoyment to residents, particularly in the spring and summer, when it is hoped that visitors to events at Stanley Burn will also come to see what's going on and enjoy the experience.



Stanley Burn Care Centre

There are also plans for fortnightly music sessions at the Centre with afternoon tea/coffee. These will be free of charge and Wylam residents are invited to attend. Booking is required and so, if you wish to be on the mailing list, you can either send an email to sbeuopeancare@aol.com or telephone 853298. Staff at Stanley Burn have considerable experience in care services, including dementia care, and if you are caring for someone at home and in need of support or advice at any time, they are only a phone call away on the above number and will be pleased to help!

Christmas Celebration

We are very grateful once again to the Wylam Business Forum and to Tom and Lois Martin in particular for the Christmas tree that, by the time you read this, will probably be erected at Charlie's Corner for local and passing folk to enjoy.



We hope that as many as possible will come along at 9.45am (for 10.00am) on Friday 16 December to share in a spot of carol singing around the tree with children from Wylam First School and Rev Jane Cook.

It was so cold last year that Santa couldn't get his reindeer out but we are assured that he will be making a special effort not to let us down this time!

After this little celebration, everyone is invited to the Methodist Church Hall for tea and coffee.

Playing Fields Association New Year's Eve Party

The Wylam Community Playing Fields Association invites us all to come and celebrate the arrival of 2012 at Wylam Institute, 7.30pm till late. There will be a bar and music, party games, simple food and all ages are welcome, young and old (which should solve any babysitting problems!).



Tickets are £6.00 (£3.00 for children) and include a hot dog, soup and a roll. They are available from Stobo's, Wylam Nurseries, Wylam Wine Lodge or by contacting Koby on 852010.

Wylam in Bloom is Coming

Watch this space for more details in the next issue of The Globe



Christmas Illuminations

One of the few more conspicuous things that your Parish Council does that seems to be universally welcomed is to provide the display of fairy lights in the Institute garden at Christmas. These have been extended this year to another tree and hopefully will be as well received! Merry Christmas from Wylam Parish Council.

Notes from an "Orchardeer"!

Tom Martin reminisces:

The day of the Wylam Community Orchard Open Day dawned overcast and as I was loading the trailer with plants for the stall it began to rain. My heart sank! I thought everyone would blame me as it had been my idea on the Thursday to cancel the marquee after looking at the weather forecast. Will they ever get it right, why do we take any notice? Arriving at the First School I realised that I should have had more faith in Michael Fish's successors, the sun was peeping through.

Everyone worked hard setting up, and the displays all looked fantastic as the opening time approached. The cake and produce tables were almost groaning under the weight of all that so many people had kindly provided. The information stall was decorated with pictures of the bounty our trees had produced in this, their first year, the many wild flowers already on the site, the story of the Orchard so far and plans for the future.

The activity area was bustling with willow ready for weaving and sheets prepared for the bug and plant hunts. The plant stall was bright with colour, the barbeque fired up, 'Pimms' mixed and kettles boiling in the school ready for teas and coffees. We were ready!

Our master of ceremonies welcomed the first Open Day visitors and as the minutes ticked by, more and more people came to the school field. Many opted for guided tours around the Orchard with an average of 15 people each time, listening to the story. By two o'clock the field was bustling with excitement as the first choir, the "Apple Pip Singers", a local group comprising members from many different choirs, took its place. They sang beautifully, finishing with a wassail, a song to the trees of the Orchard to promote good growth and a harvest. The Wylam First School Choir then took centre stage and charmed us all with a selection of local tunes and others from across the world. We were finally serenaded by two young local folk singers. All this time the sun was shining and people were wandering around the stalls and the Orchard.



The First School Choir entertaining visitors to the Orchard Open Day

The day was a great success, with money raised for the Wylam Community Orchard and by Wylam First School PTA, but I feel it was more important that everyone had a great time. It truly felt a family event, with many becoming members of the Orchard and looking forward to spending time getting their hands dirty developing the site by planting more fruit trees and bushes later this winter.

I must thank everyone who helped, including the members of the Orchard who did so much, Wylam First School, which has been so heavily involved and everyone that supported the project by coming along on the day. It was a great success and the warmth I felt came not only from the sun but the smiles as well.

A Police Warning

Northumbria Police are currently carrying out operations in every area of the force, including Wylam, to tackle doorstep crime. With limited space we are unable to reproduce all of their advice but the following are the key points:-



- Keep front and back doors locked, even when at home.
- If possible, look through a spy hole or window to identify the caller.
- Put a door chain on before opening the door, and keep it on while talking to the caller.
- Don't let visitors who appear to be in a hurry pressurise or confuse you.
- If you need to leave a caller standing outside while you collect or check something, close the door and lock it.
- Never buy goods or services from people calling unexpectedly or unannounced at your door.
- If the caller is offering work on your house or garden tell them that you are not interested and ask them to leave.
- If they do not leave tell them you will call the police.
- If in doubt - keep them out!

125 Years of St Oswin's

St Oswin's Church, Wylam Cope, has recently celebrated 125 years since the dedication of the building in 1886.

The Bishop of Newcastle, The Rt Rev Martin Wharton, came in full regalia on Sunday 6 November to conduct the Festival Service to mark

the occasion, for which he wore the "Wylam Cope", beautifully embroidered with things concerned with the history of the village. Throughout the week there was an exhibition in the church which included copies of documents giving the story of the church, the donation of the land, the raising of money for the construction of the building, the special services to mark its dedication and several photos of Victorian personages concerned with the foundation of St. Oswin's.

There were fascinating letters from benefactors such as Christopher Blackett and William Hedley and others detailing negotiations with lawyers and authorities. Also on display were photographs providing memories of events over the last 125 years, a baptismal certificate from 1930, photos of the last three vicars and others of children now grown up with their own families. The Parish Magazine burst into colour for the occasion and contained reminiscences from some older members of the congregation, whose memories of St. Oswin's stretched back as far as the twenties.

After the service, where two former vicars and many ecumenical friends were present, the congregation adjourned to the church hall for coffee and the cutting of the birthday cake.

The church is now looking forward to the next 125 years!



Bishop Martin with Rev Angus Palmer and Churchwardens Fiona Oomes and David Monaghan

Wylam Institute Community Association

The Annual Member's Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 4 February from 10.00am to 12 noon. Please join us for a complimentary cup of coffee. There will be a cake stall, plant stall and raffle.

Membership subscriptions for 2012 will be due and you can pay at the Coffee Morning or at the Institute Office. Subscriptions are: Patron £15, Family £12, Single £7. If you are not already a member of the Institute and would like to support the building, please come along for a coffee and pay a subscription. Financing this valuable village asset is becoming more and more difficult and any help you can give will be much appreciated

Country Park Car Park

You may be aware that Wylam Parish Council has struggled for many years; unsuccessfully it must be said, to get the County Council to consider lifting charges from the Country Park Car Park (often known locally as the "Old Station Car Park" or simply "the Car Park behind the War Memorial").

At this moment there may be a "chink of light", although this is unlikely to lead to charges being lifted! Our arguments have led the County to change their plans and to include Country Park car parks in its current Strategic Review of car parking throughout the County.

One suggestion that we understand the County Council might consider is the introduction of lower charges for shorter periods of parking, which we hope would encourage dog walkers and others who make relatively brief stops, to use the car park rather than add to the congestion in local roads.

Remembrance Sunday

Once again, Wylam people turned out in force to mark Remembrance Sunday on 12 November.

A packed United Service in St Oswin's Church was followed by a procession to the War Memorial for the traditional Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence, where many more of all ages joined the gathering.

The service this year was conducted by The Venerable Peter Robinson, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne.

We are grateful to Northumberland County Council for applying a Road Closure Order for the duration of the procession and Act of Remembrance in recent years, which brings peace and quiet to the village and adds so much to the poignancy of the occasion.

Extra Trains on the Way

We understand from Denis Peel, who kindly represents the interests of the Parish Council on the Tyne Valley Rail Users Group, that there's great train news! The train operator, Northern, has been awarded extra trains in the form of "Pacers", and one has been allocated to the North East. It will be used to double the capacity of the 0740 from Hexham to Newcastle (0805 at Wylam) from 5 December. This means that there should be no more standing on that train and, when it snows, hopefully adequate capacity to carry all the snow-bound motorists!

Neighbourhood Watch

A few years ago, most of Wylam was covered by "Neighbourhood Watch" areas in each of which a local representative acted as a community link with Northumbria Police, passing on information to the police about any suspicious activity in their locality.

For various reasons the scheme ran out of steam but our local police are wishing to re-establish cover of this nature in Wylam but with perhaps a wider emphasis, to include issues such as speeding traffic and anti-social behaviour as well as the more usual concerns about crime or suspicion of crime.

One area, based around Holeyn Hall Road and Acomb Drive, has already been established and the Parish Council has agreed to pass on the names of people who might, without obligation at this stage, be interested in taking on this role for their immediate neighbourhood. The scheme is said to work best in small, relatively easily defined locations. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Parish Council Budget 2012-13

Within the next few weeks the Parish Council will be finalising its Budget for the next financial year and every effort is being made to avoid anything more than a modest increase in the current level of precept.

The Parish Council does what it can to provide financial assistance to local community groups and organisations where the need can be clearly demonstrated. If your group has a project or urgent need for funds, please don't wait till the Budget is finalised in January when it may be too late, but get in touch now as a matter of urgency.



*Wylam Parish
Council wishes
you all the best
for 2012*

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

- Sat 10 Dec**
Film Club "As Good as it Gets", 7.30pm
- Mon 12 Dec**
Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- Wed 14 Dec**
Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon
- Fri 16 Dec**
Christmas Celebration at Charlie's Corner 10.00am
- Sun 18 Dec**
Village Carol Service, Methodist Church 6.30pm
- Sat 31 Dec**
Playing Fields Assoc. New Year's Eve Party 7.30pm
- Mon 9 Jan**
Blood Donor Sessions, 2.30-4.00pm, 4.45-7.00pm
Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- Wed 11 Jan**
Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon
- Sat 14 Jan**
Film Club 7.30pm
- Thurs 19 Jan**
W.I. Soup Lunches 11.00am to 2.00pm
- Mon 21 Jan**
Playing Fields Assoc. Burns Night Ceilidh
- Thurs 26 Jan**
W.I. Soup Lunches 11.00am to 2.00pm
"Jump for Joy" Planning Meeting, 7.30pm, 4 Woodvale Gardens
- Sat 28 Jan**
Playing Fields Jumble Sale 2.00 to 4.00pm
- Thurs 2 Feb**
W.I. Soup Lunches 11.00am to 2.00pm
- Sat 4 Feb**
Institute Members Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12 noon (see report)
- Wed 8 Feb**
Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon
- Thurs 9 Feb**
W.I. Soup Lunches 11.00am to 2.00pm
- Fri 10 Feb**
Cricket Club Quiz
- Sat 11 Feb**
Film Club 7.30pm
- Mon 13 Feb**
Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- Thurs 16 Feb**
W.I. Soup Lunches 11.00am to 2.00pm
- Mon 12 March**
Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe"**
Monday 6 February 2012

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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The Clerk to the Parish Council
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Wylam NE41 8AP

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