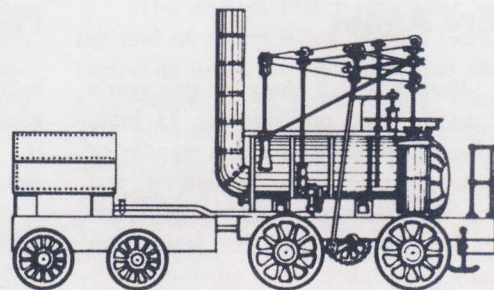


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2012

No. 105

Post Office Saved for the Future



Wylam Post Office and the services it offers to Wylam and surrounding villages is a key element in maintaining the vibrancy and life of the village centre and the viability of other local shops and services.

It may be of no surprise to most people to know that Fred and Rosa Voase, particularly following their experience in February but in order to

fulfil a long-standing wish to retire, have been trying to sell their house and Post Office business for several years. Thankfully, for them, they are now able to take the opportunity to do just that.

However, it will be a surprise for you to learn that this has been made possible by an amazingly generous donation by the Reece Foundation, which has enabled Wylam Parish Council to purchase the Post Office and associated house from Fred and Rosa at its current commercial value.

As this issue goes to press the purchase is close to completion and the complex process of appointing a tenant, approved and trained by Post Office Ltd and ready to take over the business, is still on-going. However, we are very hopeful that this position will soon be filled and

that Wylam Post Office will shortly be able to resume full-time opening.

The Parish Council is immensely grateful to the Reece Foundation and also to Fred and Rosa Voase, who have bravely kept the business going at a time when it looked as though Wylam might lose its Post Office completely, at least in the form we have come to appreciate.

We take this opportunity to thank Fred and Rosa for the long period of service they have given to the village and wish them a healthy and happy retirement, which we are pleased to know will see them continuing to live in Wylam.

Free Parking - but for how long?

One of the longest on-going issues that has occupied the Parish Council for many years has been the struggle to get charges lifted from the Country Park Car Park near the War Memorial, known to most locals as the "Old Station Car Park", which is owned by Northumberland County Council.

Imagine the surprise therefore when, out of the blue, Northumberland County Council covered over the ticket machine early in April and put up a notice indicating that charges were being lifted "for a trial period, until 30 September 2012".

We have so far failed to obtain a detailed explanation as to why this decision has been taken, other than the fact that car parking in Northumberland is undergoing a comprehensive review. As you can imagine, the Parish Council's wish, for which we will continue to press the County Council, is for the charges to be dropped permanently.

The fact that so many visitors park in the residential areas outside the car

park to avoid paying the charges is what we have been trying to alleviate and we hope that this is a step towards achieving that objective.

We suspect that regular visitors who have been deterred from using the car park are taking a long time to realise that a change has been made and we are hoping that signage to the "free car park" will soon be provided.

Olympics 2012

Be Inspired, "Give it a Go!"

No, we don't expect you to be one of those elite athletes but you might like to take advantage of a scheme to enjoy FREE* taster sessions in a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports, currently being offered by Northumberland County Council in conjunction with its Leisure Partners.

Sports include archery, badminton, basketball, boccia, boxing, cycling, diving, fencing, football, gymnastics, equestrian, judo, handball, hockey, kayaking, synchronised swimming, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon and volleyball, although not all

sports are available at all centres. Unfortunately it was just after our last issue was printed that we learned of this opportunity but events are still being held between 11 & 17 June, 16 & 22 July and 27 August & 2 September.

To obtain more details you can go to www.northumberland.gov.uk and type 'Give it a Go' into the search bar, or alternatively, you can telephone our nearest centre at Prudhoe Waterworld on 01661 833144.

(*please note that although most activities are free, there may be a small charge for a few of them.)

Volunteer Wanted

The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to keep its website up to date with Parish Council data. If you have a flair for I.T. and want to be involved as a Parish Council volunteer, then please contact the Parish Council Clerk, Diana Carney, with your details.



Summer Fair Almost Here Again

Plans are well afoot for this year's Fair to be held on Saturday 23 June. Prudhoe Community Band, a wandering musician, police car, fire engine and sunny weather are all booked for the day! Many of the plots for stalls have already been taken but if anyone else is interested please contact Koby on 852010 or kobyrmr@gmail.com.

Children can take part in the Lego building competition and culinary skills will be judged in cake making for men and women and cake decorating for parent and child. It has been rumoured that furtive scarecrow making has been taking place over the winter months and this year's winner will be announced at the Fair.

There will be an opportunity for all to demonstrate their sporting prowess with short running races for children, a "Fun Run" for adults and older children and Tug-of-War competitions.

There will be a variety of food outlets and a "beer tent" selling ales from Wylam Brewery. 2011 saw the introduction of a popular Pimm's Bar and this year this will be extended to incorporate the sale of Gin and Tonics.

Our evening event, "Wired for Sound" starts at 6pm and will showcase seven local bands. Although many will know headliners "Vinyl Jacket", this event will also give four younger and less experienced bands the opportunity to perform in public. Food and drinks will be available throughout the evening. Admission, costing £7 will be strictly by ticket and numbers.

Proceeds from the whole event contribute to the upkeep and development of the Playing Field, play equipment, pavilion and maintenance of a tractor and grass cutting equipment. The Field is home to several village sporting teams and is enjoyed by the wider community. The committee of Wylam Community Playing Fields Association value the tremendous support provided from the village and hope that all will enjoy the 2012 Summer Fair.

As you will be aware, the massive Second-hand Bookstall, held in the Methodist Hall alongside the Summer Fair, is coming to an end this year and in addition to the usual opening hours of 10.00am to 5.00pm on the Saturday, this year the books will also be for sale on the Sunday afternoon between 2.00 and 5.00pm and on the Monday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Major Work on Local Water Mains

The deep excavations in several locations within Wylam have caused a great deal of interest and, in a few cases it must be said, some rather exaggerated speculation!

The reality is that contractors for Northumbrian Water are in the process of cleaning three thirty-inch trunk water mains that run right through the village from Whittle Dene and on into the Newcastle and Gateshead area. The whole scheme will cover 218 kilometres of main and is expected to take approximately two years to complete, at a cost of £30 million.



This photograph shows one section of pipe being lifted clear to provide access for the massive 360 degree jetting machinery, which can then clean 300 to 400 metres of main from each excavation.

The work will also include cleaning of the subsidiary mains providing water more directly to properties throughout the lower Tyne Valley and beyond, and this aspect sometimes requires excavation within the highway.

We are told that this massive investment ensures that we continue to receive clean water. There may be occasional discolouration of the water while the work progresses but we are assured that even when this applies, the water is not harmful to health, although the advice is to run a tap for a while until it runs clear and to avoid using washing machines or dishwashers until the water is clear.

If you have any concerns or queries during this work, you should telephone the Northumbrian Water Customer Centre on 0845 717 1100.

Nature Reserve

There is no doubt that the Wylam Haughs Nature Reserve is a wonderful addition to the overall attractiveness and amenities of the village but, contrary to what some might think, such areas do not look after themselves!

The Parish Council has recently had discussions with representatives of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and has requested that organisation to prepare a new Management Plan for the Nature Reserve.

The principal objective will be to identify what action is needed and what is desirable to promote practices that will maximise the biodiversity of the Reserve.

We hope to be able to give more details in the September issue of "The Globe".



Ron Guariento is offering five two-hour study classes on The Great American Songbook, and these will be held weekly in Wylam Institute on Tuesdays from 16 October at 9.30am.

Ron writes:- "The popular American Songbook was one of the glories of the 20th Century, now too often dismissed as "easy listening" or "show tunes".

The songs of Kern, Berlin, the Gershwins, Porter, Rodgers & Hammerstein, written first for theatre, radio, records and movies, proved enduring. Did that new, light musical form conceal something substantial?

Song is the oldest and most widespread human musical expression. Voiced by interpreters as distinctive as Louis Armstrong, Fred Astaire, Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, these songs carried life: its joy, infatuation, rejection, hope, shrugged-off pain and tenderness.

In weekly 2-hour classes we will critically listen to enjoy the pleasure, but also to consider the melodic and rhythmic riches, and the social significance to audiences then and still". To enrol: telephone (evenings) 852632 or email rguariento@btinternet.com

Memorial Tree at Charlie's Corner

As mentioned in the last Wylam Globe, in a brief informal ceremony at the end of March and in the presence of a sizeable group of local residents, the Parish Council planted a Himalayan Birch tree at Charlie's Corner in memory of Peter Clarke, who had served the village as volunteer Tree Warden for many years and who also founded and subsequently managed the Wylam Haughs Nature Reserve on behalf of the Parish Council.



The above picture shows a group representing the Parish Council who took part in the ceremony.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration

We were delighted that so many Wylam residents, young and old entered into the spirit of the occasion for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on Saturday 2 June making it a really enjoyable community event.

The morning drizzle thankfully cleared away, encouraging hundreds to join the procession through the village, followed by a family picnic, held most appropriately on the "Jubilee Playing Field", which was named in honour of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

There were various fun competitions, games and sports with special Jubilee trophies for the winners and several stalls providing additional interest or refreshments.

We are very grateful to Tom Martin and his committee of volunteers representing several village organisations that helped to plan the event and to ensure that it all went well on the day.



End of an Era for Garage

The end of March this year saw the end of an era when Wylam Garage closed its premises on Main Road after a presence of 44 years in the village. The business has grown from a small local garage specialising in Talbots and Sunbeams, in which Alan Conley gained a reputation in rallying circles, to a significant presence as a Renault dealer. The former stable block for Wylam Mill, which provided the basis for the garage, has over the years been extended and improved to its current modern appearance. More recent residents in the village may not appreciate that Stephenson Court was built on the site of a tyre remoulding factory which was used by Wylam Garage for a number of years before being sold for the current residential development.

The decision to consolidate the business on the newer Hexham branch was, we understand, a difficult one but to a large extent the result of decisions made by the Renault-Nissan group to reorganise its representation in the area. The convenience of our own local garage will be missed by many, not just Renault owners.

The Directors of Wylam Garage wish to thank all their Wylam customers for their years of support and custom. In the meantime, Wylam customers will continue to be welcome at the Hexham site. Wylam Garage @ Hexham telephone number:-01434 602800.

All the staff who remained with the Company have been transferred to Hexham, so the move resulted in no job losses.

Sean Conley, who runs the company at Hexham, is optimistic that a new use can be found for the Wylam premises.

New Priest in Charge at St Oswin's

We are pleased to report that Rev Canon Robert McLean has been appointed Priest in Charge at St Oswin's Church and that his Induction Service, at which Frank White, the Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, will officiate, is to take place at St Oswin's on Thursday 28 June at 7.30pm.

Canon McLean was until recently Rector of Morpeth and he succeeds Rev David Cant, who retired from Wylam last year.

We offer a warm welcome to Canon McLean and his wife Susan as they settle into this community and trust that they will be very happy here.

Community Orchard Update

Wylam Community Orchard has had a busy Spring. Recently there was a Blossom Picnic which was a really good afternoon and gave people the chance not only to enjoy the blossom but also to see the progress that we have made over the winter. The Orchard is in the grounds of Wylam First School and is run entirely by volunteers. New planting includes raspberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants on the lower part of the site. Many daffodils and primroses have been put in along the length of the golden willow hedge, and these will make a lovely show next spring. The bottom hedge has been trimmed to make a pleasant avenue. To promote biodiversity we have recently put up three RSPB bird boxes to attract robins, small and medium-sized birds respectively. Work Day dates appear in the Hexham Courant Wylam news section. Visitors and new members are always welcome. There will be an opportunity to find out more about the Orchard at our stall at Wylam Summer Fair on June 23rd.



More News from Stanley Burn

Richard Shirbon, Manager of the Stanley Burn Care Centre writes:-

"We have lots happening here at Stanley Burn and would like to invite you to be involved. The Yoga classes are still on-going and if you would like to come and give it a try, just give us a call. It's low-impact exercise and appropriate for all ages.

On Wednesday 20 June at 6.00pm we are having a cookery demonstration by a representative of "Pampered Chef", who will demonstrate their range of products, which will also be available for sale. There will be also be a glass of wine and a raffle that evening.

On the first Wednesday of each month we have a Coffee Morning at 10.00am and would be delighted to see some of you here to enjoy a free coffee or tea and a scone with us.

I would also like to remind everyone who is caring for someone at home that we may be able to help you with advice or support. You don't need to book for this, just turn up and say "hello".

You may remember from previous issues of "The Globe" that we have been developing the garden at the rear of the premises. This project is about half completed now and we are planning a "Grand Opening" on 5 July, when there will be music and we will be serving food and drinks. You are very welcome to come and see what we have been up to. We are grateful to Tom and Jay from Wylam Nurseries, who have shown tremendous support for this garden makeover."

(You can contact Stanley Burn Care Centre on 853298)

Holeyln Hall Road Hedge



In 1991 the late Peter Clarke, Village Tree Warden, received a grant to plant a row of trees and hedge opposite Wylam Hills farm. Some readers may remember taking part as volunteers in the work. There are 22 trees of 10 species, including Bird Cherry, Rowan and Crab Apple, a Hawthorn hedge and a row of daffodils. In 2006 the hedge was laid by Stephen Hodgson of Belsay. Hedge-laying, where the stems are nearly cut through at the base and then bent over, is the traditional way to thicken a hedge and keep stock in the field. Laying is now encouraged to help biodiversity with bats and swallows often seen flying along tall hedgerows hunting moths and flies. The Parish Council has now paid for the hedge to be trimmed to a height of eight feet. Some tree branches have also been removed to lift their crowns to match the hedge. The work was carried out by Tyne Valley Woodlands during the winter and the area looked very good in the glorious March sunshine.

A Correction

We apologise that in the Wylam Information Card distributed with the last issue of The Globe, one digit was missed from the telephone number for Tyne Valley Cabs. Please amend your card to show the correct number as 07946 401 722.

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

Fri/Sat 15 & 16 June

JEMMS Summer Production "Ernie's Incredible Illusions" 7.30pm

Sun 17 June

Shelter "Strawberry Fair" 2.30 to 5.00pm

Sat 23 June

Wylam Summer Fair on Playing Field (and Bookstall in Methodist Hall also open Sunday 2.00 to 5.00pm and Monday 10.00am to 4.00pm)

Sat 30 June

Friends of Wylam First School Summer Ball

Sat 7 July

Drama Society. One Act Play and Buffet Supper, 7.00pm

Mon 9 July

Wylam Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Sat 14 July

"Wylympics" 2.00 to 4.00pm - "alternative" games organised by the Women's Institute

Mon 23 to Fri 27 July and Mon 30 July to Fri 3 Aug

Children's Adventure Activities (10 to 15 year olds)

Mon 20 Aug Blood Donor Session

Tues 21 to Sat 25 Aug

Green Shoe Production "Anything Goes" 7.30pm

Wed 29 to Fri 31 Aug

Wylam & District Churches Holiday Club in Methodist Church Centre 10.00am to 12 noon

Mon 10 Sept

Wylam Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Sat 22 Sept

Friends of Wylam Bazaar 10.00am to 12 noon

Fri 28 Sept

Macmillan Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12.30pm

Mon 8 Oct

Wylam Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Sat 13 Oct

Ceilidh in aid of "Water Aid" 7.00pm

Sat 3 Nov

Wylam Housing Group Christmas Fair 10.00am to 12.30pm

Mon 12 Nov

Wylam Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Please note: In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 10.30am to 12 noon, and "Friends of Wylam" Coffee Mornings are fortnightly on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am (from 19 June on this programme.)

Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe"

Monday, 20th August, 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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