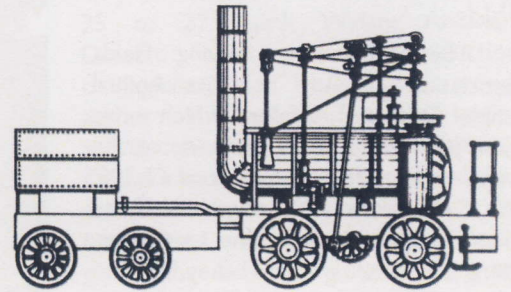


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Spring 2013

No. 108

Your Parish Council Needs You



Would you like to be involved in democracy at its most local level? Would you like to be involved in deciding how to spend around £36,000 a year for the benefit of Wylam and its residents? This is what your Parish Council is able to do each year by means of statutory duties and discretionary powers.

What Does Your Parish Council Do?

Wylam Parish Council has eight members and employs the Clerk to administer its policies and the Village Handyman to help keep Wylam clean and tidy. The Council organises the Litter Pick each year and pays for hanging baskets and floral displays throughout the village. The Parish Council manages both the Wylam Railway Museum and The Haughs Local Nature Reserve. The Parish Council's voluntary Tree Warden is a valuable source of information and advice on the natural environment and reports each month on issues affecting Wylam's open spaces. Your Parish Council responds to the concerns raised by local residents and promotes the interests of the community with both local and central government. Through grants and donations, your Parish Council supports a number of local organisations such as Wylam Institute and Wylam Playing Fields Association. The Parish Council is also a statutory consultee on matters as diverse as planning and healthcare, making sure that the interests of your community are not overlooked. Your Parish Council, along with Ovingham, Ovington

and Horsley Parish Council, is the main financial contributor each year to Ovingham Cemetery and is a member of its Management Committee.

There are many other areas in which the Parish Council could make a difference. It just needs your energy, your ideas and your commitment. How about it?

Interested? Why Not Become a Parish Councillor?

Parish Council Elections take place alongside elections for the County Council on 2 May 2013. Diana Carney, Clerk to the Parish Council, will be happy to answer any questions you may have and talk to you about the details of the election process. Tel: 852498 or email wylampc@btinternet.com.

You can collect your Nomination Pack from Diana at the Parish Council Office in Wylam Institute from Thursday 14 March, but remember, nominations must be submitted between Monday 25 March and the deadline of noon on Friday 5 April 2013.

YES, YOUR PARISH COUNCIL DOES NEED YOU!

Village Litter Pick

We do hope that a good crowd of volunteers will turn out on Saturday 16 March to help for an hour or two with the Annual Litter Pick around the village, organised by the Parish Council.

Just come along to the Country Park Car Park (near the War Memorial) for 10.00am or soon after and basic tools for the job will be provided.

Please wear old clothes and strong footwear or "wellies".

As always, health and safety is paramount and specific advice will be given on the day. Children are very welcome but must be closely supervised by an adult at all times.

The Parish Council will make a small contribution to village organisations that volunteers may wish to nominate, as long as that organisation operates a bank account.



Wylam Community Playing Fields

The Community Playing Fields Association recently held its Annual Jumble Sale and Auction, which once again proved to be a very successful event, with a profit in excess of £1,200. The Committee wish to thank those who contributed their time to sorting, selling and clearing up and they hope to see you again next year!

Now You See It, Now You Don't -

For those who have braved the cold weather and have ventured outside, you may have noticed that something is now missing from the Playing Field. After lengthy discussion the Committee decided to arrange for the removal of the "youth shelter". Unfortunately, over recent years this has acted as a magnet for certain groups of youths who have used it as a "drinking and smoking" shelter and as a communal litter bin.

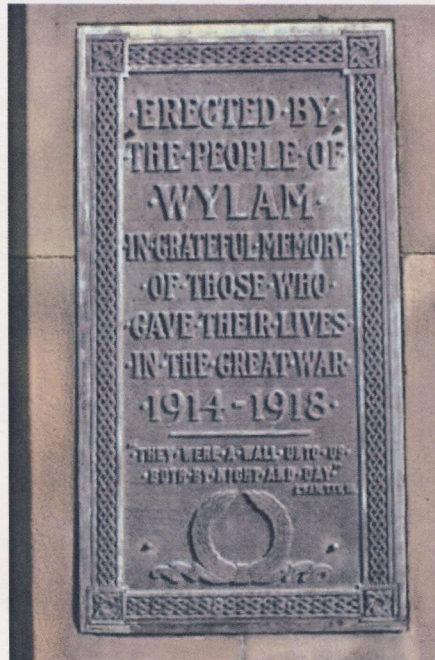
In a similar vein, there has been a recent report of a youth on the pavilion roof, wielding a burning scarf. The Committee would be grateful if any residents would immediately inform the police or a member of the Committee, should they witness an episode of anti-social behaviour on the field.

New Proposals for the Playing Field -

Following a generous bequest, a further bench seat is to be erected within the vicinity of the pavilion. After consultation with Pennine Playgrounds, it is planned to install three pieces of gym equipment that can be freely used by young and old as part of "2013's Exercise Regimes". Consideration is being given to future use of the existing tennis court. An initial discussion has been held with a Sports Development Officer from North Country Leisure who has advised the Association to register its interest for funding with Sports England. It is envisaged that a Multi-User Games Area (MUGA) would be beneficial for users of all ages within the community. Clearly plans are in their infancy but if anyone has any particular interest or expertise in this area, please contact Anne at annefrancis@hotmail.co.uk or by phone to 852642.



Wylam War Memorial World War I Casualties



In an article about Remembrance Sunday in the last Wylam Globe (issue 107), reference was made to the number of names listed on the Village War Memorial and the stories that might lie behind those names.

This reference has inspired Wylam resident Aubrey Smith to embark upon what has become a fascinating line of research through a range of archive records and he writes as follows:-

"Brief enquiries around the village seemed to indicate that there are no existing records of the names listed for the 1914-18 War. There appeared to be a gap in the village archives that might be filled, given that a great many military records and census returns are available on-line. Clearly at the time of these events, each death would have had a massive personal impact on at least one family in the village and each person would no doubt have been well known as a friend, neighbour or workmate to many others. It therefore seemed reasonable to attempt to restore that information.

There are actually three listings of World War I casualties in the village. They are in St Oswin's Church, the former village school now known as the Falcon Centre, and at the War Memorial near the bridge.

It has taken time but so far it has been possible to identify 44 of the 49 World War I names on the main memorial with some degree of certainty, together with two further names from the Falcon Centre, which are not included on the memorial near the bridge. Available records vary in the range of information they provide but it has been possible to add further

details to most of the names, such as their military details, age, occupation, local address and family.

We realise that the events of 1914-18 are beyond living memory, but there is just the possibility that there may be some people in the village who have relevant information regarding one or more of the listed names. Names that to date remain obscure are those of George Cowings, Walter Hindley, George Robson, Jack Winder and John William Young. In these particular cases, the information found can so far be described as "likely" rather than "certain".

In addition to the War Memorial near the bridge, two further names are recorded on a memorial in the former school, now the Falcon Centre.

If anybody has any information regarding any of the names on the War Memorial that they think might be useful in making the record complete and authoritative, I would like to hear from them."

Aubrey can be contacted by email to aubreywylam@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone on 853266.

Nearer Remembrance Sunday later this year, or possibly in 2014 when the Centenary of the outbreak of World War I will no doubt be widely marked, we will try to publish more stories about some of these local heroes.

Annual Village Meeting

The Annual Village Meeting, which is the open meeting held each year at which Wylam residents are encouraged to come along to hear more about Parish Council and related issues and to question their Parish Councillors, will take place in Wylam Institute at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 April.

This year, representatives from the Puffing Billy Festival Committee will attend the meeting to explain more about the wide range of events that are planned, particularly those associated closely with Wylam. Do come along, we trust this will be an interesting and informative occasion.

End of Excavations May Be Near

The work across the village by the Seymour Civil Engineering Company, on behalf of Northumbrian Water, that has been on-going for more than a year now, may soon be coming to an end. The local section of the last of the three thirty-inch water mains that run under the village is currently being cleaned. When this is finished the deep excavations will be filled in and the sites restored.

Riverside Footpath

It's hard to believe that it was as long as a year ago that we first reported a serious problem of erosion affecting the riverside path from the east end of Stephenson Terrace.

The County Council's Area Countryside Officer has been monitoring the problem and some time ago the Parish Council was informed that money had been identified to carry out our repairs. However, action was delayed while efforts continued to find the cause of the erosion, which has proved elusive.

The Coal Authority has recently agreed to investigate whether the land slippage could be due to water from old mine workings and will carry out borings to assess this. The result of the investigation is awaited.



Meanwhile, as this photograph illustrates, although the path is in a very poor state it is considered by the County Council to be just safe enough to leave open, rather than closing what is a very popular and well used path.

Friends of Wylam

This voluntary organisation, which has provided much-appreciated social activities for older people in our community for many years, decided to switch what has previously been an autumn fundraising event to the spring. Their "Spring Bazaar" will now be held at Wylam Institute on Saturday 27 April, between 10.00am and 12 noon. Support from the wider community would be appreciated.



Parish Council Budget 2013-14



The Parish Council confirmed the Budget required for 2013-14 at its January meeting and it was agreed to advise the County Council that the Precept required for Wylam would be £36,500, the same figure as 2012-13.

Many other Local Councils have had to raise their Precepts to cover new responsibilities for services/facilities which are being passed to them from the County Council. Wylam Parish Council has not had to do this as the maintenance of the War Memorial, bus shelter, land at Charlie's Corner, Nature Reserve, part of Engine Dene, The Dene and Hagg Bank Play Area has always been the responsibility of the Parish Council as owners.

The Parish Council has managed to resist taking over responsibility for and costs of maintaining the public toilets on the Playing Field, having persuaded the County Council that they are of more strategic importance for visitors to Wylam than to local people. Toilets therefore remain the responsibility of the County Council. This is particularly fortunate in view of the mindless vandalism that has recently seen the light fittings ripped out of the toilets!

Community Orchard "Blossom Day Picnic"



Members of Wylam Community Orchard invite everyone, whether members or not, to join them in the orchard in the lower school field, on Saturday 20 April between 1.00 and 3.00pm.

Bring a flask and some "sarnies" is the message, enjoy the peaceful surroundings, celebrate the blossom and encourage a bountiful harvest with the Wylam First School Choir, whose members will be wassailing in the orchard.

Drama Production

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 25 to 27 April, Wylam Amateur Dramatic Society presents a production of "Equally Divided" by Ronald Harwood, author of "Quartet". The play begins shortly after the funeral of Edith and Renata's mother. Edith, unmarried, has sacrificed her life to nurse the bedridden old woman. Renata, glamorous and several times married, has spent her life doing what she pleases. When the contents of the will are made known, childhood rivalries re-emerge and the result is a moral tale both powerful and comic.

We are encouraged to make a note of the dates and look out for tickets nearer the time.

Nature Note

Peter Fisher, Parish Council Tree Warden, writes:-

The Parish Council has planted ten saplings on the riverbank below Tyne View, which can be seen here.



The species are Alder, Bird Cherry, Crab Apple, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Rowan, which are quite small, so they will not shade the houses. After a few years they should look attractive and provide a variety of blossom, berries and shelter for wildlife. The work was carried out by Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy Ltd.

If we ever have a dry spell, readers could help by giving the trees a drink of river water!

"20 is Plenty", Road Safety Petition

The Parish Council has agreed to enclose details of a petition on this theme inside this issue. This initiative, by a group of Wylam residents, requests Northumberland County Council to establish a 20 mph speed limit within the village and is in-line with previous attempts by the Parish Council, which is happy to commend it to you for your consideration.

First Responders Are You Up For It?

In February, a dozen or so people attended an open meeting arranged by the Parish Council, at which staff from the North East Ambulance Service described how people can help to save lives when there's a local life-threatening emergency.



North East Ambulance Staff with an automated defibrillator

In the last issue of "The Wylam Globe" we provided an outline of the "Community First Responders Scheme", but there are in fact two options; First Responders are a team of local volunteers, trained by the Ambulance Service in basic first aid and provided with an automated external defibrillator (AED), oxygen and a first aid kit. These volunteers become Community First Responders (CFRs), and can be called to a variety of emergencies within a local area, including chest pain, heart attacks, breathing difficulties, cardiac or respiratory arrest, collapse and unconsciousness. In these situations an ambulance is always already on its way but when precious minutes can mean the difference between life and death, First Responders can make that difference. Medical expertise is not required to operate the defibrillator as the machine itself carries out the necessary tests and operates automatically, but someone has to get it to where it is needed as quickly as possible and take control of the situation until paramedics arrive; that is the task of the First Responder.

The second option is to have a "Public Access AED", where a defibrillator is either kept in a local public building or in a heated external box with a coded lock. In this option the AED is available to any member of the public who can be advised how to access it by emergency call operators.

There is much more detail to both options, which space prevents us including here. However, at this stage we would like to know of anyone

whether you attended the meeting in February or not (you must be over 18), who would be interested in becoming a Community First Responder, if that should emerge as a viable option. CFRs have to be committed to initial training and regular refresher training and have to be available on a rota basis to respond to calls.

If you would be happy to be considered as a First Responder or if you would like more information, please contact the Parish Council as soon as possible, as indicated on the back page of this Newsletter.

If there is insufficient support from potential First Responders, the Parish Council, in consultation with the North East Ambulance Service, will consider whether the Public Access AED option is a viable alternative.

New Additions to Train Timetable!

Further to the article in the last issue of "The Wylam Globe", plans are now on track for celebrations this summer to mark the 200th anniversary of the use of steam locomotives to haul coal from Wylam to Lemington.

A meeting was held at the Walbottle Campus in January at which groups from villages and communities along this route were invited to suggest events and themes for the Festival. This was a well-supported meeting which included groups from Wylam, and some great ideas were put forward.

Many events will take place throughout the summer and we can announce that the full-size working replica of Puffing Billy from Beamish Museum, shown here, will be located in the Country Park Car Park in Wylam on Saturday 21 September.



Puffing Billy Replica at Beamish
(Photo by permission Beamish Museum)

Wylam Parish Council will be organising celebrations on this day to mark the anniversary, and although plans are at an early stage, ideas for events and competitions currently include a treasure hunt, fancy dress competition, model competition and an egg and coal race!

If you are interested in further information or wish to be involved in the planning and development of the Wylam event, please contact Tom Martin at tommartin1963@sky.com or by telephone on 852025.

Forthcoming Events

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

Wed 13 March

Men at Home, Methodist Church Centre, Charles Enderby - "The Queen's Body Guard", 10.15 for 10.30am

Fri 15 March

Cricket Club Quiz Night 7.30pm

Sat 16 March

Parish Council Annual Village Litter Pick. Meet Country Park Car Park at 10.00am. Cancer Research Spring Fair. Domino Night, St Oswin's Hall

Sat 23 March

Jumble Sale for Gateway Project Film Club "Shadow Dancer", 7.30pm

Mon 25 March

Blood Donor Session

Mon 8 April

Parish Council 7.00pm

Wed 10 April

Men at Home, Methodist Church Centre, "Musical Prodigies", Alan Fearon 10.15 for 10.30am

Wed 17 April

Annual Village Meeting 7.30pm (see earlier note)

Sat 20 April

Community Orchard, Blossom Day Picnic 1.00 to 3.00pm

Film Club, "Moonrise Kingdom" 7.30pm

Thurs 25 to Sat 27 April

Drama Production, "Equally Divided", 7.30pm

Sat 27 April

Friends of Wylam Spring Bazaar 10.00am to 12 noon

Thurs 2 May

County and Parish Council Elections, Falcon Centre

Wed 8 May

Men at Home, Methodist Church Centre, "A Letter to the Times and Team Valley", Ken John, 10.15 for 10.30am

Fri 10 May

Playing Fields "Musical Quiz"

Mon 13 May

Institute AGM 6.30pm

Parish Council Annual Meeting 7.00pm

Sat 18 May

Gardeners' Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12 noon

Film Club "The Angel's Share" 7.30pm

Sun 9 June

"Jump for Joy", St Oswin's grounds from 12 noon (Please note change from Sat 8 June, given in Dec issue.)

Mon 10 Jun

(tbc) Parish Council 7.00pm

Wed 12 June

Men at Home, Methodist Church Centre, "Spanish Tudor", John Derry, 10.15 for 10.30am

Sat 22 June Wylam Summer Fair, Jubilee

Playing Field

Mon 24 June Blood Donor Session

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 20 March in this listing).

**Deadline for material for the next
"Wylam Globe"
Monday 13 May 2013**

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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