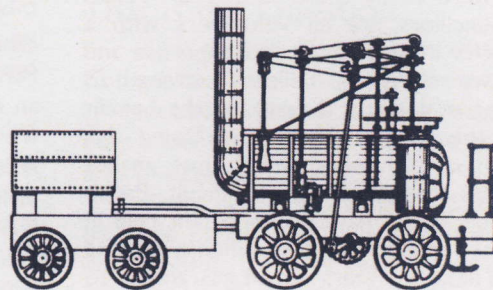


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2013

No. 109

## Changes on the Parish Council

So, where were you? It was disappointing that in spite of local and county-wide efforts to encourage people to stand for Town and Parish Councils in the May elections, many Parish Councils in Northumberland, including Wylam, had fewer candidates standing than the number of vacancies. In Wylam, this meant that only six of the eight places were taken and although Stephen Barlow has become a very welcome newcomer to Wylam Parish Council, the Council is still hoping to co-opt two more people to make up the full complement.

In addition to Tom Appleby, who stood down a few months ago when he moved away to work, two other Parish Councillors decided not to stand again this year. They were Judith Beveridge, who was co-opted to the Parish Council in 2010 and Philip Brooks, who has served on Wylam Parish Council for an incredible 40 years. We are very grateful to both for what they have each contributed but you will understand that Philip's exceptional time in office justifies a more extensive tribute.

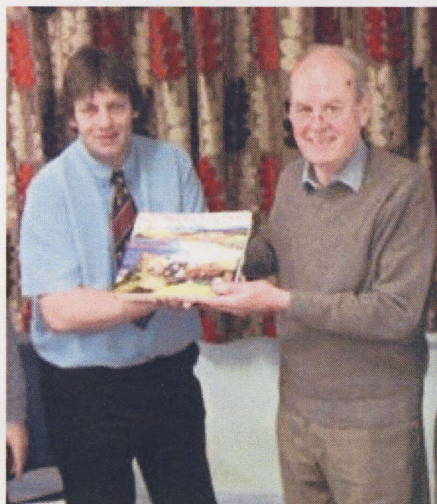
Philip joined the Parish Council in 1973 and, in 1983, was also elected to Tynedale District Council on which he represented Wylam continuously until 2007, just two years before that Council and the other District Councils in Northumberland were abolished on the establishment of the County as a Unitary Authority.

It was largely Philip's enthusiasm soon after he joined the Parish Council that saw "The Wylam Globe" develop and become established as the regular Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council, at that time an essentially solo editorial role which continued until the 77<sup>th</sup> issue in 2005, following which the current editorial group took over.

Over the years Philip's interest in local history, and railways in particular, saw him oversee the creation in 1981 and continuing development

of the Parish Council's Railway Museum, based at the Falcon Centre. During this time Philip has also written a number of books on Wylam's history, local railway pioneers and walks in the area, some in conjunction with Wylam Parish Council.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the residents of Wylam we would like to thank Philip for this outstanding period of honourable and dedicated service. At the Annual Village Meeting in April, Tom Martin, Chairman of the Parish Council, presented Philip with an inscribed copy of "Railway Journeys in Art, Yorkshire and North East" by Richard Furness and a pen, as a token of our appreciation.



*Philip receives his presentation from Chairman, Tom Martin*

*Philip Brooks writes:-*

"Looking back now it scarcely seems 40 years since I was first encouraged to join the Parish Council. We had moved to the village a few years earlier, being among those incomers to the North East tempted by a choice of new housing development along the Tyne Valley.

There were certainly plenty of challenging issues in Wylam during the 1970s which warranted attention; not just the usual topics - look at early copies of the "Globe" newsletter for information on some of these.

Fortunately there was a good mixture of ages, experience and commitment among those elected to the Parish Council at that time, which I enjoyed (and perhaps even became addicted!)

Now, 40 years later, it is certainly time to move aside.

May I therefore return the kind remarks that residents have made about my long service by thanking all of you, past and present who have helped and supported me in numerous elections, events and activities or celebrations; almost all intended to help make Wylam an attractive and enjoyable village in which to live.

By the time you read this I hope that the two more players needed to complete the Parish team have come forward, and I wish the 2013 Parish Council every success."

## **So, What of the 2013 Parish Council?**

As mentioned previously, Stephen Barlow was the only new member to immediately join Wylam Parish Council this year and he was welcomed to his first meeting on 13 May. Stephen can be contacted at 5 Denecroft (Telephone 854919). The contact details for other continuing Councillors, namely Anne Francis, Maureen Gillis, Brian Japes, Tom Martin and Tony Mitcham, remain as listed in the March 2012 Village Information Card.

At the first meeting of the new Council, Tom Martin was re-elected as Chairman and Anne Francis was elected as Vice-Chairman.

There remain two vacant seats on the Parish Council and it is hoped that they can be filled by co-option in the near future. If you would like to be considered for co-option, or would simply like to know more about what it would entail, you are invited to contact Diana Carney, the Parish Council Clerk, whose contact details are printed on the back page of this and other issues of the "Wylam Globe".

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We do hope that people will come forward to fill these vacancies. Parish Councillors are all volunteers with a mix of interests, age and expertise and so we rely on our collective strength to aid our decision making for the benefit of the whole community. Doing this with a reduced number just makes things that much more difficult. Parish Councils still have an important role in local democracy and community life and the next few years can be guaranteed to see many issues arise that are important to Wylam.

## Forty Years on and still going strong

40 years ago in July 1973, the first edition of "Wylam Globe" was published. The newly elected Parish Council at that time agreed to produce a quarterly newsletter which would inform residents of what their Council was doing and other items of general interest.

The first issue, just two sides of a foolscap-sized sheet, listed all the Councillors representing Wylam, including the Parish, District and County Councils, as well as the local Member of Parliament. General items covered the planting of trees on Coldwell Hill, Wylam Fishing Club's efforts to purchase fishing rights upstream of Wylam Bridge, the making up of the roadway at Tyne View/West View, purchase of land on Engine Dene and litter/grass cutting complaints - what's new you may think!

The original name, "Wylam Globe", was based on a famous newspaper of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, "The Globe" and one for which J.F.B Blackett, a Member of Parliament for Newcastle and of the family who were the Squires of Wylam for nearly 300 years, was a frequent and distinguished contributor. Residents were invited to suggest alternative names but the original chosen name has stood the test of time, with a slight change from the 4th issue to "The Wylam Globe".

## Leek Show Anniversary

The Fox and Hounds Leek Club will celebrate its 90th anniversary over the weekend of 11-12 September, culminating in a Grand Auction of Produce. There are 50 categories of 'side shows' ranging from flowers and vegetables to cakes and jams and, of course, leeks!

Although the tradition (which hails mostly from mining communities) is in decline, the Fox and Hounds Leek Club is going strong with an increase in women members. If you are interested in joining, members will be on the Playing Field at the Summer Fair for advice, or contact Adele Barer on [853582](tel:853582) or [Richard Makepeace](tel:852977) on [852977](tel:852977).

## County Council Election

Although there were insufficient candidates to require an election for Parish Councillors this year, there was an election for the County Council and we congratulate Paul Kelly who was re-elected for the Bywell Division, which includes Wylam.

Full results:-

Paul Kelly (Independent)	559
Fiona Hunter (Conservative)	423
Andrew Haddon (Lib. Dem)	232
John Temple (Labour)	232

The turnout was 40.52% of the electorate, possibly one of the lowest for Wylam in recent memory.

## Summer Fair Saturday 22 June

Plans are well in hand for this year's Summer Fair to be held on Saturday 22 June. The Prudhoe Community Band and Scottish dancers are coming, as are a police car, fire engine and, of course, sunny weather, which is already booked for the day!

Competitions for both adults and children are planned, many based this year on a railway theme, linking events to the forthcoming Puffing Billy Festival. Beamish Museum is kindly hosting a plot manned by Victorian stallholders, who will entertain young and old with "old fashioned" games.

2013 sees the fourth year of the hotly contested scarecrow competition, details of which have been featured on posters throughout the village. As usual, there will be the opportunity for all to demonstrate their sporting prowess with short running races for children, a "Fun Run" for adults and older children, tug-of-war competitions and the

opportunity to try a hand at angling and netball.

There will be a variety of food outlets including a Hog Roast and Spanish delicacies and a tent with ales from Wylam Brewery. The "Pimm's and Gin and Tonic" Bar will make another appearance but as the organiser's campervan became mud-bound in 2012 it will be housed in a marquee this year.

The evening event, "Wired for Sound", starts at 6pm and will showcase several local bands. Over the years the evening has provided the opportunity for 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 will be limited to 499.

Although it was anticipated that the hugely successful Book Fair would end in 2012, we are delighted to report that new volunteers have offered their support and a Book Stall will continue in a modified form throughout the day in the Methodist Church Hall.

Proceeds from the Summer Fair contribute to both the on-going maintenance and further development of the Playing Field, play equipment, pavilion and grass cutting equipment. The Playing Field is owned by Wylam Community Playing Fields Association, not Northumberland County Council, and is home to several village sporting teams and is free to use by all members of the wider community. The committee of The Playing Fields Association value the tremendous support provided from the village and hope that young and old will join us to make the 2013 Summer Fair a memorable event.



Let's hope the crowds and sun turn up as on this previous occasion



## Puffing Billy Festival is Steaming Ahead



### William Hedley, who developed the Puffing Billy

Image reproduced by kind permission of Beamish Museum

Plans for the Puffing Billy Festival are on track! The "Friends of Puffing Billy", an organisation connecting the communities of Wylam, Heddon, Newburn and Lemington along the Wylam Waggonway, are developing a series of events, including community festivals, talks, and walks to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the development of steam locomotives, which hauled coal from Wylam colliery to the Lemington staiths. With great support from Beamish Museum, which is engaging schools within these communities, the Puffing Billy replica will be visiting Wylam twice and Wylam Parish Council in association with local community groups, is planning celebrations which will take place in the Countryside Car Park and the Falcon Centre on;

**Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3.30 to 5.30pm and Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11.00am to 4.00pm.**

The celebrations will include music and dancing, community stalls, exhibitions and fancy dress.

There will be competitions for everyone, including: Poetry, on the theme:- "Inspired by Billy" and Photography:- "Going on the Rails".

There are classes for 5 to 8 years, 9 to 12 years, 13 to 16 years and adults. Poetry entries should be on A4 paper and photographs any size up to a maximum of 12 x 8 inches. All entries should reach the Parish Council Office by Saturday 31 August and must include your name, address and phone number and the category/age you are entering. Entries will be displayed at the Festival on 21 September, when the winners will also be announced.

Everyone is invited to come along to the Festival to help celebrate the huge local legacy of railway engineers, such as William Hedley.

Programmes for the events are being developed and further information will be displayed throughout the village. You can find out more at [www.facebook.com/PuffingBilly200](http://www.facebook.com/PuffingBilly200) and, if you would like to get involved, contact Tom Martin on 852025 or email [tommartin1963@sky.com](mailto:tommartin1963@sky.com)

## Village Litter Pick

We are very grateful to those who turned out on Saturday 18 March to help clean up the village and surrounding areas.

As usual a large skip was soon filled with a wide assortment of rubbish and, during the process, the police were informed about a pile of cable covering that had almost certainly arisen from a cable theft and the County Council were asked to clear two small sites where fly-tipping had arisen.

We are, of course, even more grateful to those unsung heroes within the community who pick up litter throughout the year, whether in a particular area where they regularly walk or simply as and when they see it. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It was noted this year that there was rather less litter along the waggonway, possibly because some of the volunteers referred to above had done such a good job, but conversely there were more instances where bags of dog faeces had been thrown into the adjacent undergrowth. One dog walker, recently challenged for doing just this said, "Oh it's OK, the bags are bio-degradable". Whether or not this is correct they remain conspicuous for a long time, and we ask all dog walkers to dispose of these bags to an appropriate bin.



## Community Orchard "Blossom Picnic"

"Stands Wylam clock at ten to three and singing hinnies still for tea?" The sun shone brightly on the second "Blossom Picnic" on 20 April, when over 40 villagers watched the First School Choir "wassail" the future harvest with five songs. The ten-strong choir was accompanied by Judy Milne on the piano accordion. Judy had previously visited the school with fellow musical activist, David Oliver, to teach the choir wassail songs. The repertoire completed, Judy then marshalled everybody into impromptu folk dances, as can be seen in the accompanying picture. With panoramic views of Tynedale through the growing orchard, the "Blossom Picnic" is set to become a calendar fixture. As Helen Bennett, school choir helper said, "We want to have a go at David Oliver's ten-minute play for next year's event".



## Dogs or No Dogs? That is the Question

For several months the Parish Council has been struggling to resolve an issue about whether the exercising of dogs should be permitted on the grass area of Charlie's Corner.

The Council was first approached by a few people who objected to what does appear to have been a marked increase in this practise, believing it to be a site more suited to people with young children. Those who have used the area with their dogs then appealed to the Council not to remove the right for them to continue.

At two meetings the Parish Council listened to the conflicting arguments from both "sides" and received a number of letters, again expressing opposing views.

Additional informal soundings amongst residents by Parish Councillors suggested that the argument was possibly fairly evenly balanced.

The Parish Council is very aware that the land was given to the Council for the use of all residents and, with this particularly in mind, has decided, at least for the time being, to continue to permit the area to be used by anyone, with or without dogs.

However, the Parish Council has agreed to continue to monitor the area over the coming months with the particular emphasis on it being kept free from any dog faeces. We do ask those with dogs to scrupulously respect this and also to recognise that if small children are there to play, even small dogs can appear intimidating.



## Nature Note



### A Survivor -

With the recent concern about "Ash Die Back" it is worth noting that the Elm tree is still with us in Wylam even though, in the 1970s, Dutch Elm Disease devastated the Elm population across much of the country. The disease, a fungus which blocks the tree's internal water vessels, is carried by wood boring beetles which tend to prefer larger trees such as the one recently killed at the west end of the Nature Reserve. The northern Wych Elm variety is more resistant to disease and many survive locally. Bunches of light green seed cases are very attractive in spring. The leaves which come later are toothed and on the Wych Elm one side is noticeably longer than the other at the base. The bark is grey with shallow vertical grooves. Elms can be seen in the Country Park (see photo) near Stephenson Court, in The Orchard, beside the Chinese take-away on Dene Road and in How Dene and Whittle Dene.

### A New Business Comes to Wylam

Many residents will be aware from posters in the windows in recent weeks that the former Wylam Garage premises on Main Road have been acquired by Macintyres of Gosforth Classic Cars Ltd. This is a family business specialising in the restoration of classic cars.

Transfer of the business to Wylam is planned to take place during June with the official Wylam opening on 1 July.

We take this opportunity to welcome the company to Wylam and trust that they will find success here. A feature of the business is to encourage people to view work in progress on what are sometimes exceptional and rare vehicles and their website currently encourages people to come to Wylam, not only to visit the showroom but to enjoy the locality and its many pubs and eating places.

### Blood Turns Institute Green!

A chance conversation at a blood donor session between Wylam Institute's Denis Peel and local resident Neil Wells has led to the Institute joining the "Green Revolution". Neil explained to Denis that he worked for a renewable energy company, Green Team Partnership based in Stocksfield. Keen to reduce the building's carbon footprint Denis asked Neil if he could put a proposal together.

After a survey by Green Team the committee decided to go ahead with a solar panel system. The 16 panel solution was installed on the south-facing roof of the Institute in January and will generate around £500 of revenue per annum for the building as well as reducing the Institute electricity bill by around £250 a year. Denis has commented that he is very pleased with the installation and that the panels are working well.

If anyone is interested in having a look, there is a digital display unit in the Munro Hall showing how much energy the panels produce. This unit was paid for with a kind legacy from Connie Smith. For more information you can contact Neil on 01661 845950 [neil.wells@greenteampartnership.co.uk](mailto:neil.wells@greenteampartnership.co.uk)

### More Cutbacks Needed!

Sorry we need to mention this yet again but there are lots of places around the village where hedges, shrubs and trees are overhanging pavements, making it difficult and in some places dangerous, for pedestrians to walk easily by.

Please check your own garden, remembering that some people are over six feet tall, others may be in a wheelchair or pushing a pram and that when vegetation is wet it can hang much lower! We all have a legal responsibility to ensure that we are not creating an obstruction of this kind. Thank you.

### That Footpath!

Just after the previous "Wylam Globe" had been published, the decision we had received about the path going east from the end of Stephenson Terrace being kept open, unfortunately had to be reversed.

The County Council Area Footpath Officer decided that the subsidence and consequent slippage had become too dangerous and the path had to be closed.

Drilling has been carried out by the Coal Authority but this has failed to reveal any old mine workings that might have been responsible.

The County Council has now decided to monitor the situation over the next twelve months and to then take action to attempt a repair.

### Forthcoming Events

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

**Sat 22 June**

Wylam Summer Fair, Jubilee Playing Field

**Mon 24 June**

Blood Donor Session

**Frid 28 June**

Wine Tasting event in aid of St Oswin's Church, 7.00pm

**Tues 2 July**

First of 2 visits to Wylam of "Puffing Billy" replica from Beamish. Primarily for schools but open to all late pm. War Memorial Car Park.

**Mon 8 July**

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm

**Sat 13 July**

Drama Society "Dinner Theatre"

**Tues 23 to Thurs 25 July**

Children's "Holiday Club", Methodist Church Centre, 2.00 to 4.00pm

**Tues 20 to Sat 24 August**

'Green Shoe' production, "Radio Times".

**Mon 9 Sept**

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm

**Sat 21 Sept**

"Puffing Billy" Festival Day (with return of replica from Beamish) War Memorial Car Park.

**Sat 21 & Sun 22 Sept**

"Scoutrail" event, 10.00am to 5.00pm

**Sat 28 Sept**

Giant Macmillan Coffee Morning

**Mon 7 Oct** Blood Donor Session

**Mon 14 Oct**

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm

**Sat 26 Oct**

Concert by Prudhoe Gleemen Male Voice Choir, Methodist Church, 7.00pm

**Sat 2 Nov**

Wylam Housing Group Christmas Fair, 10.00am to 12 noon

**Thurs 28 to Sat 30 Nov**

Drama Society Production, 7.30pm

**Please note:** In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 10.30am to 12 noon, and "Friends of Wylam" Coffee Mornings are fortnightly on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am

**Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe" Monday 19 August**

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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The Clerk to the Parish Council  
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Tel: (01661) 852498

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