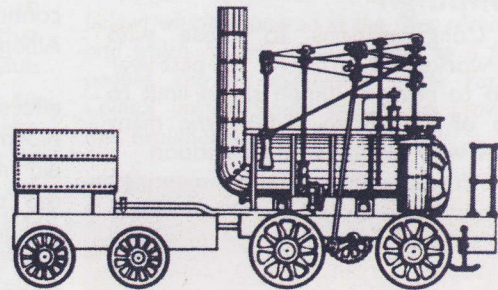


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 2013

No. 111

## Wylam Institute

Wylam Institute is "home" to the activities of our local Community Association and, as such, the Parish Council is aware of the very significant part the building plays within this village.

For this reason we are happy to give a prominent place to the following article, prepared by Sue Nicholson, Chairman of the Institute Committee, and to include a related slip inside this issue.

*Sue writes:-*

I know that most of you will either have used the Institute or know someone who has and will probably be aware of its value to the community.

I occasionally hear that people think we are Council funded. The Institute is in fact a registered charity, run by a committee of volunteers and, apart from a Parish Council grant which covers our insurance premium, we are completely self-funded. Virtually all our income arises from hire fees and membership subscriptions, the latter forming a very important part of our finances.

Those who are members of the Institute share ownership of the building and have a right to vote at our AGM.

We currently collect subscriptions door-to-door and at our annual Member's Coffee Morning (due to be held on Saturday 15 February 2014). Collections on the doorstep can be difficult for both parties and so we are hoping to introduce payment by Standing Order from as many members as possible. We would obviously still be prepared to call and collect where necessary.

If you are not currently a member of the Institute I would like to ask you to consider joining. We are lucky to have such a facility in the village and hope that by increasing membership we will be able to safeguard the future of the building.

The Institute currently has some 25 regular user groups and is used for fund-raising events, private parties, wedding receptions and many other activities.



### Subscriptions for 2014 are:-

Patrons: £15; Family: £12;  
Individuals £7.

If you are an existing member and are prepared to pay by Standing Order, or if you would like to become a member, a form is enclosed in this newsletter which should be completed and forwarded to your bank.

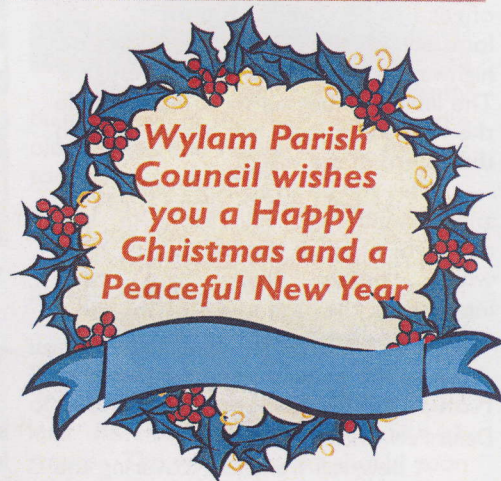
If you would like to join but would be happier paying direct, please get in touch. The Institute Office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings or, if you wish to telephone to know more about the building or membership, you can phone on 852498. Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Nicholson (Chairman)

### A Thank You!

John Watson, from Heddon, has recently contacted the Parish Council asking us to publish his gratitude to those anonymous folk who helped him following a cycle accident in the village in September.

He hopes that, if you were one of those people, you will be aware through this note that your kindness was greatly appreciated.



### A New Roof, At Last!

If you have children who attend Wylam First School you are probably aware that the roof of the school has given problems for years, with water getting in on many occasions and in many places.

Following sustained pressure from School Governors and the School itself, Northumberland County Council has accepted that the roof is beyond repair. It will be completely replaced and the work is expected to be carried out during the summer holidays in 2014. It will still be a flat roof, but with superior materials available now compared with those when the school was built in 1973, we trust the problem will be resolved once and for all.

### Christmas is Coming

We are, once again, very grateful to Tom and Lois Martin who have kindly provided the Christmas tree at Charlie's Corner.

Although a bad weather alternative in the Institute is lined up this year, we hope that the weather will be kinder and that many will come along to celebrate with children from Wylam First School and sing carols around the tree, 10.00 for 10.30am on Friday 20 December, with refreshments afterwards in the Methodist Church Hall.

## Success for "20 is Plenty" Campaign

Congratulations to those who have worked so hard over the past year or so to bring a 20mph speed limit to parts of the village and to the many people who supported their petition.

After a lengthy series of meetings, investigations and discussions within Northumberland County Council, and with support from County Councillor Paul Kelly and the backing of Wylam Parish Council, the Leader of the County Council has now promised that a 20mph advisory speed limit will be introduced very soon. The exact length of road to be covered and the type and location of signs is currently left to highway traffic officers to investigate. The limit is expected to at least include the main road from the bridge through the centre of the village.

This will be an advisory speed limit and 30mph will still apply in law, although in other local authority areas where similar limits have been introduced, they are said to have had a marked positive benefit to road safety.

## Rail Franchise

*Denis Peel writes:-*

A new rail franchise, covering the Tyne Valley Line, is due to be up and running by 2016. At the moment we do not know the form it will take, but 2014 will be a crucial year for consultation and, bearing in mind this franchise might run for twenty years, it's essential that there's an input from those who are currently the "under forties" users, who will be most affected.

The best way to be kept informed is to join, or at least to get on the email links with the Tyne Valley Rail User Group, through the Chairman, Malcolm Chainey, or the website. The yearly subscription is £5, but we are more interested in your views than your money.

*Denis Peel has kindly represented the interests of Wylam Parish Council and the wider community on the Rail User Group for many years, for which the Council is very grateful.*

## Remembrance Sunday

The annual Remembrance Sunday service was held this year at St Oswin's Parish Church, conducted by Rev Angus Palmer.

It was a cold and frosty morning but with beautiful sunshine. The church was packed, as usual, with many more joining the congregation at the War Memorial for the traditional Act of Remembrance, where a crowd estimated to be well over 400 people observed the two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths.

The event was helped once again by the participation of a sizeable contingent from 39 Regiment (RA) from Albemarle Barracks.

The temporary road closure, effectively managed by staff from Northumberland County Council, also did much to enhance the poignancy of the occasion by bringing peace and tranquillity to a normally busy section of the road.



*Soldiers from Albemarle lead the Parade in Church Road*

## Those Bus Times!

We regret that having just been informed that the only change to our local Hexham-Newcastle bus service would be improved vehicles, and having also been encouraged to publicise the services as much as possible, we summarised the timetable in our last issue, only to learn when copies were coming off the press that the timetable had been changed!

The former 684 service is now named the X84, with weekday times to Newcastle from Charlie's Corner at 0721, 0813, 0931, 1034 and then hourly until 1634 with the last bus at 1739. Services to Hexham from the same stop are now at 0806, 0911 and then hourly until 1711 and then at 1821 with the last bus at 1920.

During the main part of the day, return X84 journeys now leave Eldon Square bus station at 20 minutes to each hour. Full timetables should now be displayed at the local bus stops and copies can usually be obtained at The Spar.

## "My Electric Avenue"

We understand that Wylam is one of ten clusters across the country taking a lead role in in this project, with ten households in close proximity having an electric Nissan Leaf car for 18 months. This 'Ofgem' led trial is assessing the impact on the electricity supply grid when, potentially, 10 cars are being charged at the same time. We await news of what we trust will be the success of this project.

A second project has now arisen from this. Many car drivers in the village expressed interest in the "My Electric Avenue" project, but were unable to be part of the trial because their houses were not connected to the selected electric feeder cable. Now, "Earth Doctors", in collaboration with Northumbria University, will investigate the potential for an electric car club in the village, so that businesses and households could have the use of an electric car or van.

To this end, a survey will be carried out by Hannah Graham, a Geography and Environmental Management student at Northumbria University.

Local residents are invited to find time to complete the questionnaire, which is available on-line at:- <http://edu.surveymzmo.com/s3/1430045/Low-carbon-transport-in-Wylam> or, if you would like an emailed copy or printed version, either contact Hannah directly at:- [hannah.graham@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.graham@northumbria.ac.uk) or phone Andy Haddon at Earth Doctors on 854626.

The deadline for completion of the questionnaire is 31 December 2013.

## New Ventures

Several new ventures have recently started up in the village or are about to start, and we hope that all will be successful.

Steve Loveday at the Post Office has added another dimension to the services on offer with the creation of a small, predominantly DIY section, within the extended premises.

Chris and Cathy Dixon are about to open "The Wood Oven" in the former Wine Lodge premises. They will be offering 'wood fired cookery' with a linked pizzeria, along with local beers, ice creams and locally roasted coffee.

This venture follows the retirement of John and Angela Craven, to whom we offer our thanks for all that they and their business have contributed to the village over many years, latterly based at Wormald House and the Wine Lodge, and our best wishes for their retirement. The B&B business, based at Wormald House, will continue, although now overseen by David, their son.

Finally, Wylam Community Bakery, has volunteers baking bread at Dilston College in a project linking an Artisan Baking Co-operative and Wylam's "Earth Doctors". The very popular bread products are now sold from the Falcon Centre when the library is open on Saturday mornings.

## Station Footbridge

We mentioned the imminent re-opening of the Station Footbridge after major refurbishment in our last issue and this photograph shows something of the much-needed improvement to the safety of the steps.



We are, however, disappointed that no improvement has so far been made to the illumination of the steps on the north side of the bridge. This is something the Parish Council has been pursuing with Network Rail for a long time and we will continue to do so.

## More Lights

One area where we do have the ability to provide more lights is the Christmas decoration on the trees within the Institute garden.

A further extension has been added to the lights this year, which we hope will be welcomed. It is encouraging that since they were first installed, we have received many appreciative comments about these lights including many from people who don't live in Wylam but who frequently drive through.

## .... and still more about lights

Members of the Parish Council were recently interested to learn that all street lights in Northumberland are to be converted to use low-energy LEDs. This will be achieved by the County Council borrowing £25m, which will be recovered over a relatively short time through the energy costs that will be saved.

## Camping Site Concerns

Concerns were raised in September when it became known that the Camping and Caravanning Club (CCC) had made an application to permit an existing but unused site behind Stephenson's Arms (just east of the end of Falcon Terrace) to be used as a "Certificated Site" for up to five caravans or motorhomes and, subject to available space, up to ten tent campers. Residents of Stephenson Terrace, which would be the access route to the site, and nearby Falcon Terrace, oppose this change feeling it would increase noise and disturbance in a quiet part of the village and create traffic problems on Stephenson Terrace. Residents of these roads sought the support of the Parish Council with details of a petition in which 78% of these households had objected to the proposal. In the light of this level of concern, Wylam Parish Council has also expressed its opposition to the Camping and Caravanning Club and, as we go to press, a decision is still awaited.

## A Police Warning

We have been advised by Dave Simpson, our new Neighbourhood Police Inspector, that the most frequent crimes committed in Wylam relate to the theft of tools and other items, particularly bicycles, from garages and sheds, which are frequently, though not invariably, left insecure.

This is not new intelligence. On several occasions over recent years we have reminded people to try to ensure that these places are well locked up.

The police are also well aware that the route along the old waggonway is commonly used by those intent on burglary in places along the route, such as Wylam. For this reason they have increased their surveillance of this and other locations and you may have more frequently seen police on horseback in the village as part of this campaign or police cars parked at strategic points.

Remember, keep all of your premises as secure as possible and, where practicable, install an alarm. Then, if you do spot anyone behaving suspiciously, don't wait till you hear that your neighbour was burgled yesterday, but contact the Police on the 101 number (reserving the 999 number for emergencies or crimes actually taking place.)

Having said this, Wylam and other local communities still have a statistically low incidence of crime.

## Angling Club River Works

The mysterious structure (shown below) which appeared in the river recently and which caused some concern to a few people, can be explained. The Parish Council invited Simon Brough to provide that explanation:-



"Wylam Angling Club has recently built a 'croy' in the river, between the old pit heap and Points Bridge, adjacent to the Nature Reserve.

The purpose of this structure is to speed the flow of the river in this area and to improve the salmon fishing in the pool it creates.

The 'croy' has been constructed using techniques approved by the Environment Agency, utilising the trunks of two willow trees that have been built into the river bank and covered with stones. The willow trunks should soon root into the bank and river bed, forming a living structure in the river.

The work has caused some damage to the river bank in this area, which will be repaired and seeded by the Angling Club over the coming months and the bank reinforced with willow cuttings. In addition, some wild flower plugs will be planted in the 'spring'.

## Our Thanks

Willie Appleby, the current Chairman and Secretary of Wylam Cricket Club, is retiring this month.

Willie has given many years of service to the Club and, in particular, his skill and knowledge in preparing, week after week, wickets generally accepted as the best in the West Tyne League, will be sorely missed.

It is a little reassuring to know that Willie will continue to give advice and help whenever he can. He deserves the heartfelt thanks of all cricketers in the village, both young and old, past and present, and even those who just go down to the field to watch.

## Another Thank You

The Wylam Housing Group are very grateful to those who supported their annual Christmas Fair, held in The Institute on 2 November. Local charity groups and craft businesses produced a wonderful display, and the event raised £400 for local homeless charities.

## Puffing Billy Festival

Well, although it's now over, we are sure the Puffing Billy Festival will remain a very pleasant memory in the minds of many, not just Wylam people but those from miles around who came to Wylam to participate in and enjoy what was on offer.

Just prior to the main event in September, children from Wylam and neighbouring First Schools re-enacted part of Puffing Billy's journey along the waggonway, led by Lion, a Shire horse from Beamish Museum.

On the Saturday there was music and dancing, local community group and commercial stalls, children's activities, races and re-enactments, competitions, film shows and displays. The wonderful display of model railways in the Institute as part of "Scoutrail", was a wonderful addition to the weekend.

It's always difficult to assess numbers attending events of this kind, but we do know that something like 900 people visited the Falcon Centre to see the exhibits in the library and, of course, the Railway Museum. Overall we think that about 1500 people visited part or all of the event.

It would be impossible to thank everyone who helped make a success of the whole Festival, but our special thanks to Mark Beattie and Jane Hackworth Young, descendants of William Hedley and Timothy Hackworth respectively, who opened the Festival and who spent much of the day judging competitions and handing out prizes.

We were particularly grateful to Beamish Museum, for bringing the Puffing Billy replica "back home" to Wylam, and to Geraldine Straker and Simon Woolley, from Beamish Museum.

Special thanks also to Tom Martin who, on behalf of the Parish Council, worked tirelessly for many months beforehand and during the events, to ensure the whole thing went smoothly.



David Newbiggin's winning picture of A4 Pacific, 'Union of South Africa', passing Wylam. October 2012

## 'SCA' Plans Changed

Some people may remember that in 2007, in spite of a lot of local objections, a Planning Application to create an "Energy Recovery Plant" comprising a drying kiln, furnace and chimney within the 'SCA' Paper Mill site at Prudhoe, was approved. Put simply, this development was to enable paper sludge from the production process to be dried and then burned in a way that would generate power for use on-site. It would also have reduced the number of lorry journeys to remove the waste sludge from the mill. The main reason for the objections was that various toxins would be released from the chimney and although assurances were given, serious doubts remained in the minds of many people.

However, although approved, these plans were not acted upon. Then, a few months ago, an application was submitted on behalf of 'SCA', for what they described as a "variation" of the original plans.

Several local councils, including Wylam Parish Council, were concerned about aspects of this application which, in addition to it containing several inaccuracies about various local features, appeared to be significantly more than a "variation" of the original plan.

Aware of these concerns, and to their credit, just as this issue was being prepared, 'SCA' has withdrawn the new application. They have reserved the right to proceed with the original plans but will also consider re-submitting the revised plans as an entirely new application, which would at least mean that the County Council as the Planning Authority and 'SCA' in accordance with their own policies, would be obliged to undertake comprehensive consultations with local community representatives.

## Forthcoming Events

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

### Mon 9 Dec

Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

### Wed 11 Dec

Men at Home in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am. "Vitamin D – the elixir of life?" Roger Francis.

### Sat 14 Dec

Film Club "Hugo" 7.30pm

### Tues 17 to Sat 21 Dec

Ingenious Theatre presents "Charming" (a musical) 7.30pm

### Fri 20 Dec

Christmas Celebration around the tree at Charlie's Corner, 10.00 for 10.30am

### Sun 22 Dec

Village Carol Service, Methodist Church, 6.00pm

## 2014

### Wed 8 Jan

Men at Home in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am. "Nothing was made Easy" - the Rural Naturism of George Clauson, Ken McConkey

### Sat 11 Jan

Community Playing Field Association Jumble Sale

### Mon 3 Feb

Blood Donor session

### Wed 12 Feb

Men at Home in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, Peter Hetherington (subject tba)

### Sat 15 Feb

Institute Annual Member's Coffee Morning

### Sat 1 March

"Wine & Wisdom" evening

### Wed 12 March

Men at Home in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, "Tyneside in the 1830s – an exciting decade", John Charlton

### Sat 15 March

Cancer Research Spring Fair

### Sat 29 March

Friends of Wylam Bazaar

### Thurs 3 to Sat 5 April

Wylam Amateur Dramatic Society Production

### Wed 9 April

Men at Home in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, "Schubert", Alan Fearon

**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 3 February**

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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