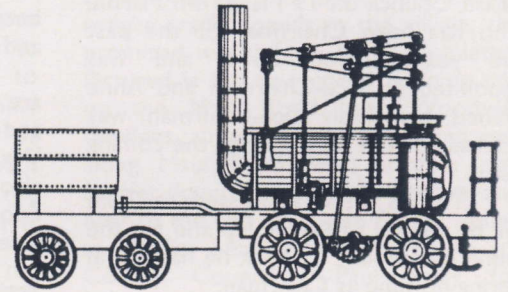


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2014

No. 113

Summer Fair Saturday 28 June



It's that time of year again and plans are well advanced for this year's Fair, to be held on Saturday 28 June. Many old favourites will be present to provide entertainment and, this year, 'JEMMS', 'Feet First' and a Juggler will be welcome additions to the programme. For the first time there will also be a spitfire cockpit simulator, for anyone fancying themselves as a pilot!

Children's competitions will be for "Lego" models and edible fruits, both modelled on local landmarks! The men's "bake-off" competition will be for a "red velvet" cake (yes, you can look it up on Wikipedia!) For those who like to hop, skip and jump, staff from Beamish Museum will again be running Victorian games and soldiers based at Albemarle Barracks are organising an assault course. There will also be an opportunity to try your hand at angling and the popular Tug-of-War competition will have its usual slot at 4.00pm. There will be a variety of food and drink outlets to cater for everyone. The evening event, "Wired for Sound", starts at 6.00 pm and will showcase

several local bands. Over the years the evening has provided the opportunity for younger and less experienced bands to perform in public. Food and drink will be available throughout the evening. Evening admission will be £9, strictly by ticket and numbers are limited. Please see posters for details of tickets sales.

A Book Fair will run 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 Jubilee Playing Field, play equipment, pavilion and grass cutting equipment. The facility is owned by Wylam Community Playing Fields Association, home to several village sporting teams and is free to use by the wider community. Organising the annual Summer Fair is extremely rewarding but also involves a few people in a lot of hard work. The committee would be delighted if anybody could help in the lead up to the event or during the weekend of the Fair. Please contact Anne on 852642 or by email to annemfrancis@hotmail.co.uk.

War Memorial Cleaned

With so much focus this year on the Centenary of the start of the First World War, Wylam Parish Council decided that this was an appropriate time to have the village War Memorial cleaned.

In addition to the steam cleaning, seen in progress here, the plaques have been treated with a hard wax protective coating and a few missing screws replaced, the stonework has been re-pointed where necessary and the whole structure treated with a biocide to deter the growth of algae and moss.

It is reassuring that the contractor has confirmed that the structure remains sound, with some very minor erosion in one or two places.

It is probable that this is the first time the War Memorial has received any significant treatment since it was erected and we hope it will help to keep it in respectfully good condition for years to come.



Turnaround at the Top!

At the Annual Meeting of Wylam Parish Council on 19 May, Tom Martin, who has been Chairman for the past five years, stood down and was appointed as Vice-Chairman and Anne Francis, previously Vice-Chairman, was elected to take his place for the coming year.

Thanks were expressed to Tom for his period of leadership and for the immense amount of work he has put in during his time as Chairman.

All Parish Councillors serve on a variety of other groups, either Working Groups within the Council or as representatives to other bodies, and these appointments mainly remain unchanged.

Those Plants Again!

Over a period of 10 years or so, Denis Peel has worked tirelessly, often on his own, to reduce the population of several invasive plant species that continue to put areas of our local environment at risk.

The main problem species are Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed, all of which are currently present in Wylam.

The Parish Council is very grateful to Denis and to others who have helped with this task from time to time.

However, more help from volunteers is needed urgently and this is an invitation we sincerely hope that many will accept:-

On Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July, Denis will be at the Country Park Car Park (behind the War Memorial) at 9.30am, ready to lead the attack! This will be chiefly against the Himalayan Balsam, which can be eradicated by pulling it up by the roots when in flower but before seeds are set. **Do please come along if you can on at least one of these days.**

Footpath Becomes Official

Although the route has been used unofficially for many years, Northumberland County Council has recently registered and way-marked a new footpath from the west end of "Points Bridge", running westward along the south side of the river below Hagg Bank, to link up with the existing road. The new path is marked a little further from the river edge, to avoid areas of erosion.

Support Invited for Food Banks

Several months ago the congregation of Wylam Methodist Church became aware of a critical need for contributions to two local Food Banks, set up to provide short-term emergency help to families in need. Support quickly grew, involving the St Oswin's congregation and the wider

community and Andrew Nicholson, Wylam Pharmacy, kindly offered to provide a third collection point when it became apparent that basic toiletries and baby products were also needed.

The two outlets being supported are the Newcastle West End Food Bank and one based in Hexham, covering West Northumberland. Counselling is also provided alongside gifts from the Food Banks and people are also referred to other agencies where advice can be obtained.

If you wish to assist by donating items, either regularly or occasionally, these can be left at the Methodist Church, St Oswin's Church or Wylam Pharmacy whenever these premises are open.

Please remember that only non-perishable items can be accepted, particularly milk (UHT or powdered), sugar, fruit juice (cartons), soup, pasta sauces, tinned sponge pudding, tinned tomatoes, cereals, rice pudding (tinned), tea bags, instant coffee, instant mashed potato, rice/pasta, tinned meat/fish, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, jam, biscuits or snack bars and "kettle food" (such as pot-noodles).

To All Green-Fingered Villagers

Rowena Ward writes:-

We are very lucky at Wylam First School to host the Community Orchard, but you may not be aware that we also have our own allotment and small orchard which is looked after by the parents and children.

We are currently looking for a new volunteer Allotment Leader to manage the plot and work with children to develop their interest in gardening and growing food. The children are very keen and we have an active Gardening Club on Wednesday lunchtimes during term-time, between March and November. They also enjoy arranging plant and produce sales and cooking activities, which helps to make the activity self-funding.

Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to pass on your experience to budding gardeners? We would also welcome offers of occasional help too.

If you are interested you are welcome to come and have a look (outside school hours would be best, it's easy to find.), or contact Clare Lock in the school office (clare.lock@northumberland.gov.uk or by phone to 852771) if you would like to ask any questions.

How Well Do You Know Your Library?

This might at first sight appear to be a rather odd question but it never ceases to surprise us that there are many Wylam residents who admit to never having been inside Wylam Library and others who, even more strangely,

don't even know we have such a wonderful facility at the heart of the village. For anyone in the latter category, the Library is located within the Falcon Centre, the former school on Falcon Terrace which is also home to the Parish Council's Railway Museum, Wylam Playgroup and used for several other community activities.

Interestingly, it was the "Puffing Billy Festival", held in the latter part of 2013, with several events and displays based in the Library and other parts of the Falcon Centre, that brought this situation into focus.

On the main "Puffing Billy" Day in September, over 900 people passed through the library, many admitting they had never been in before. During the more children-centred day in July, almost 700 were counted through. Several joined the library at these times or soon after and book issues have since increased by 20%.

Although statistics are not available specifically for the Railway Museum, visitor numbers have also clearly increased and the two magnificent models of "Puffing Billy" and "Wylam Dilly" continue to be a great attraction, even more so since the lighting of that display has been improved.

Many Wylam residents will remember that it's only a few years since Wylam Parish Council and others fought hard to resist plans by the County Council of that time to close the Library. Although that threat appears to have gone away, at least for now, we have always believed that the more we use this facility the more secure it will be for Wylam residents, not only today but for generations to come.

The Library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2.00 and 5.00pm and from 5.30 to 7.30pm and on Saturdays between 9.00am and 12 noon. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to call our friendly Library staff on 852174.

You can even register on-line at www.mylibrary.co.uk, where you can also request books - all free of charge!

Poppy Plantation

Charlie's Corner will look a little different later this year after 700 poppies were planted in May by a group of volunteers, organised by the Parish Council. When they come into flower in a few months time they will be a reminder of the sacrifice made during the Great War which started 100 years ago on 26 July 1914, a conflict in which over 9 million Allied Forces died, 20 million were wounded and a further 8 million were recorded as "missing in action".

Provisional arrangements are in hand for an exhibition at the Library/Falcon Centre in September, when it is hoped to mark the centenary with a display relating to some of those whose names appear on our village War Memorial.

Litter Pick

Although the turnout of volunteers was rather disappointing this year, the Parish Council is very grateful to those who helped with this annual village event in March. A very considerable quantity of rubbish was cleared from many areas, chiefly away from the centre of the village.

The Parish Council is particularly grateful to those who voluntarily pick up litter throughout the year. We may not even know who all these people are, but your efforts are greatly appreciated.



No Change at the Post Office

Two years ago, the Parish Council was able to acquire the Wylam Post Office property, thanks to a donation from the Reece Foundation. Prior to the acquisition, the Parish Council was assured by Post Office Ltd that Wylam Post Office was viewed as strategically important and with a secure future.

There was therefore considerable surprise when, a few months ago, questionnaires from Post Office Ltd appeared in Wylam Post Office, inviting public reaction to a proposal to reduce the range of services offered at the Branch.

A meeting was quickly arranged between Wylam's Sub-Postmaster, Steve Loveday, and representatives from the Parish Council and Post Office Ltd. The outcome of this meeting was agreement on the part of Post Office Ltd that information in the questionnaires was at variance with assurances previously given to both Wylam Parish Council and Steve Loveday. Revised questionnaires duly arrived but as these too contained inaccuracies, they had to be withdrawn.

The background to these events is that Post Office Ltd is at present undertaking a national modernisation programme. This involves the consolidation of a network of main Post Offices. Where possible, local branches, with a significantly reduced level of service, are being relocated to existing retail outlets such as supermarkets to take advantage of their extended opening hours.

With Steve Loveday's permission, the Parish Council is pleased to report that he has opted to remain on his present contract. This means that for the next few years, the range of services available at Wylam Post Office will remain virtually unchanged.

Thank You Hexham Ramblers

The Hexham Ramblers have recently donated money to Northumberland County Council to cover the cost of installing new handrails and realigning the steps at both ends of the popular footpath between "Points Bridge" and the Ovingham Road, one end of which is shown here.



Part of the money came from a "Love Northumberland Award" and the group decided to put it towards this walk as it is frequently used by the Prudhoe Health Walks Group, some of whose members were having difficulty negotiating the steps.

Hexham Ramblers walk every Sunday, usually in Tynedale, with walks ranging from 6 to 10 or 11 miles. New walkers are always welcome and details of the programme can be obtained by telephoning 0191 413 1724. Prudhoe Health Walks are held every Thursday, meeting at the Tyne Riverside Country Park at Low Prudhoe at 10.00am, with walks of between 2 and 4 miles.

We are also pleased to report that Rights of Way staff from the County Council have recently replaced the very shaky handrail on the steps at the foot of the path between the West end of Woodcroft Road and the Waggonway.

Wylam Parish Council Website

A planning group from the Parish Council are in the early stages of designing a new Parish Council website which will probably become "live" in early 2015. As part of this it is envisaged that it will include a gallery of photographs. We would welcome interesting and/or unusual contributions from village residents. Please forward these to Diana Carney at wylampc@btinternet.com or call in at the Parish Council Office in Wylam Institute.

Traffic Calming Scheme

Following the campaign led by Lynne Clarke and Becky Frankel to reduce traffic speeds in the village, the promised works have been completed. Pictured is the new speed warning sign on the Main Road near Woodvale Gardens, aimed at drivers heading east along Main Road, with another sign further down, along Ingham Terrace and near to the end of Wylam Bridge, aimed at traffic heading west. Thanks to County Councillor Paul Kelly for obtaining funding through Northumberland County Council.

The County Council collected automated recordings of vehicle numbers and speeds in the village just prior to the introduction of the new system and the Parish Council will be requesting that a further check is taken for comparison, once the scheme has been in operation for a while.



New Status for Playing Field

Of great anxiety throughout the UK is the continuing loss of playing fields and outdoor recreation spaces.

In 2007 the National Playing Fields Association was re-branded as the Fields in Trust Charity. The Trust seeks to halt the decline in outdoor play areas through encouraging local communities, trustees and committees to enter into agreements in the form of Deeds of Dedication to protect in perpetuity the outdoor play spaces for which they are responsible. The process is known as the Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust Challenge.

Here in Wylam, the Community Playing Fields Association has met the criteria with the Jubilee Playing Field, completed a Deed of Dedication, has been recognised as a Field in Trust and been awarded a rather fine plaque, shown here, which is mounted on the outside of the pavilion.

Apart from the ongoing commitment to the Jubilee Field, the award will help in the pursuit of funds to meet the never-ending costs of maintaining and improving the facilities on the field.



Community Orchard Update

Wylam Community Orchard has had a busy year so far. In February a grant was received from the North East Environmental Records Centre, to fund a survey of butterflies and insects on the site. The Orchard Committee is on the lookout for volunteers to help with this. If you are interested, please email wylamcommunityorchard@gmail.com

In March the Orchard hosted an enjoyable tree grafting workshop, run by Alastair Robinson of "Evergreen Gardening", and lucky participants took home fruit trees that they had grafted themselves.

On Saturday 5 July there is to be a Wild Flower Picnic at the Orchard. Please look out for details around the village.

Care for a Coffee?

It may seem a long way off, but it's worth putting in your diary that you, and your friends, are invited to celebrate and support the work of Macmillan Nurses at a Coffee Morning at Wylam Institute on Saturday 26 September, 10.00am to noon. This is part of what has become one of the largest charity coffee mornings in the world.



Wylam Rockettes to the Top!

The under-14 Wylam Rockettes team has this year accomplished the League and Cup double in the Northumberland Girls Football League, beating Forest Hall 5-3 in the Cup Final whilst also topping the league. Congratulations to all involved!

The extent of junior football being played in the village is probably under-appreciated, as are the small army of volunteers that organise, train, transport and manage a total of 4 boys' teams and 6 girls' teams in the under-9 to under-14 age groups. This involves around 65 boys and 70 girls playing 7 and 9 a-side games. Although the home pitch is the Jubilee Playing Field, with such large numbers involved, one of the tasks is finding alternative "home" venues to play games.

The boys teams (Rockets) were founded in 2003 whilst the girls (Rockettes) kicked off in 2009 and both have prospered.



Annual Village Meeting

A fairly small, but let's say "discriminating audience", attended the Annual Village Meeting in April to hear a report from Tom Martin (Chairman) about various aspects of the work of the Parish Council during the previous year.

Further reports included those from County Councillor Paul Kelly, Peter Fisher (Village Tree Warden) and PC Charlie Cross (Neighbourhood Policing Officer).

Guest speaker was Mike Jeffrey, Green Spaces & Countryside Access Manager, Northumberland County Council, who gave a very interesting illustrated talk about the role of his team, whose remit includes the Country Parks and Rights of Way throughout the County. He referred to concern about the timbers on "Points Bridge" at Hagg Bank, which become slippery when wet (not easy to correct as the bridge is a Listed Structure), planned measures to alleviate muddy stretches of the waggonway on the east side of the village and on-going monitoring of the landslip on the riverside footpath from the end of Stephenson Terrace, which currently continues to move.

A Chance to Study Song Lyrics

The word schemes of P.G. Wodehouse, Dorothy Fields, Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, and others, were written for particular audiences in the New York theatres and Tin Pan Alley. In the mixed ethnic culture of Manhattan early last century, there were big changes in the literary and theatre arts generally, and something unique in the verse-prose of the popular song.

For five weekly Tuesday mornings, starting on 7 October at the Wylam Institute, there is an opportunity to listen to and study these popular song lyrics.

To enroll, contact Ron Guariento at rguariento@btinternet.com or phone 852632.

Forthcoming Events

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

Sat 21 June

Wylam First School Ball

Mon 23 June

Blood Donor Session, 1.30 to 7.30pm

Sat 28 June

Wylam Summer Fair. Jubilee Playing Field and Book Stall at Methodist Centre.

Sat 5 July

"Wild Flower Picnic" at the Community Orchard.

Sat 12 and Sun 13 July

Volunteer days to tackle "invasive plants". Meet in Country Park Car Park, 9.30am

Mon 14 July

Wylam Parish Council 7.00pm

Mon 8 Sept

Wylam Parish Council 7.00pm

Wed 10 Sept

"Men at Home" in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, "A Year Behind the Veil", Ingrid Kilner

Sat 26 Sept

Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.00am to noon

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

Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe" Monday 18 August

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