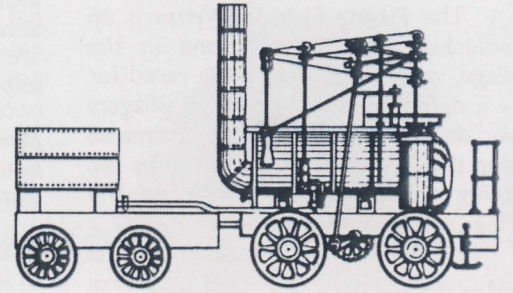


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 2014

No. 114

'Emergency Plan'? - Please contact us

The Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, with the support of the County Council's Community Safety Team and the Environment Agency, are encouraging all communities to prepare a Community Plan, which could assist the emergency services and Local Authority, particularly in the event of flooding.

Experience in recent years has shown that flooding can occur very quickly and sometimes in quite unexpected places due to what are often described as "one-off severe weather events". We are not just talking about major river or coastal floods, which have each featured in the national news in recent years. The County Council and Fire and Rescue Service are increasingly aware that in many local communities, including Wylam, properties, and possibly people, are at risk in locations which are not immediately recognised as being at risk of flooding.

As an example, the Parish Council is aware that on one day in 2012, every road in and out of Wylam was blocked by flood water to all but heavy goods vehicles for several hours. We also know that there are several properties where, from time to time, sand bags have had to be deployed or channels dug to divert water.

Wylam Parish Council has sought advice and is actively considering the preparation of such a plan. If one is developed it will be lodged with the appropriate services but it is also likely to require some local initiative, possibly including a register of volunteers prepared to help, for example, before the Fire and Rescue Service can attend.

However, to enable a plan to be of any value a more complete picture will be essential, and this is where we are requesting your help.

If your property in particular is one that has been affected, or if you are aware of any other location, perhaps where you have intervened to help in the past or where you have observed a problem, please inform the Parish Council either by email, written note or telephone message to the office (details on the back page), or to any member of the Parish Council. Please give as much detail and as precise a location as you can.

This information on its own will, of course, not constitute a plan but it will be essential if the Parish Council is to make a realistic assessment of the value of having a plan, so please respond as soon as possible.

You might also like to think about possible emergencies other than flooding. Some communities have, for example, considered what action they would take, particularly to help the most vulnerable people, if the electricity supply should be interrupted for a long period.

Lest We Forget 1914 - 1918

This is the title of an exhibition which, as this issue is in preparation, is about to take place at Wylam Library, on 13 September. We do hope that many people will have taken the opportunity to see it.

For a long time local residents Aubrey Smith, Philip Brooks and Roy Koerner have been researching the stories behind all the names from the First World War that are recorded on our Village War Memorial and on plaques within the Falcon Centre and St Oswin's Church. The exhibition provided a truly amazing and moving story in words and pictures of these brave men.

As a community we are very grateful to Aubrey, Philip and Roy but also to Helena Bates, Senior Library Assistant and Ros Markham, Librarian - Reader Development, who did so much to put the actual exhibition together. For various reasons the exhibition was only able to be open at the Library for one day, but we are pleased to report that the exhibit will later be able to be seen at the Wylam Methodist Church Centre, where it will be open to view between 10.00am and 4.00pm over the weekend of Saturday & Sunday, 8th & 9th November, the latter date being Remembrance Sunday and where the United Village Service will be held.

In this year, when the start of the First World War is being marked in so many ways, we imagine that Remembrance Sunday in Wylam will have an even greater poignancy than usual.



Jubilee Playing Field – a plea for help

The Playing Field in Wylam is an invaluable asset for everyone in the village, in so many ways. It is cared for by a dedicated small group of villagers who devote many hours of their time to keep the field in good shape and to the raising of funds both to maintain and widen the facilities on the field.

It is deeply frustrating to the Playing Field Committee, and of course to others who use the field regularly, that we have to endure irregular and, at times, serious and mindless vandalism, theft (the Cricket Club have just had their third set of metal poles stolen, the poles which support the rope around the cricket square), and perhaps above all, the never-ending problem of litter. The field may appear relatively litter-free but that situation is mainly due to the unstinting efforts of individuals who collect bottles, beer and drink cans, food packaging and other rubbish on a regular basis and in substantial quantities. Some of the litter represents a danger to young children.

The Committee is appealing to parents, and the community at large, to encourage young people in particular to put litter into the bins provided and to respect the field and its facilities which are there for them and everyone to enjoy.

Please help the Committee to look after our playing field.

Change on the Buses

For anyone who remains unaware, the timetable for the X84 buses to and from Newcastle, operated by Go North East, changed quite significantly on 27 July, although the frequency of the service is retained.

In summary, from Charlie's Corner on weekdays the first bus to Newcastle remains at 0721, then at 0809 and 0929, then hourly from 10.31 to 1531, then 1634 and finally 1739. To Hexham the first bus is at 0806 and then every hour from 0911 to 1711, with last buses at 1821 and 1920.

Weekday return services from Newcastle (Eldon Square) are now at 40 minutes past the hour through most of the day.

On Saturdays the first Newcastle service is now not until 0834, then hourly from 0931 until 1531, then at 1634 and 1739. To Hexham on Saturdays the service runs hourly from 0911 until 1711, then at 1821 and 1920. On Sundays and Bank Holidays there remain only two services in each direction, 0754 and 1154 to Newcastle and 1658 and 2058 to Hexham.

New timetables for this service have been placed at the bus stops.

Policing Wylam

We are fortunate to live in a location where crime rates are low, although quite understandably, if you are directly affected by a crime the experience can be very distressing.

Overall crime in East Tynedale is currently down 12% on the same period last year, although there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Our Neighbourhood Policing Team continue to stress the importance of keeping property secure, noting that most burglaries in Wylam are from sheds, garages and out-buildings where, in some cases, little or no attempt has been made to lock things away securely. Occasional vandalism on the Jubilee Playing Field, including an incident in July, has led to this location being identified as one of three areas in the whole of East Tynedale which is currently receiving special attention from the Police. However, it is recognised that such action still means that it is difficult for them to be on-site just when an offence is being committed. In much the same way as the Playing Field Committee has asked for vigilance (reported elsewhere in this issue), the Police ask for local people to be their eyes and ears and to report anything, at any time, that you think is suspicious. You should know the numbers to phone – 101 for non-emergencies and 999 if there is a danger to or risk to life, or if a crime is actually being committed.

There is currently only one Special Constable in the whole of East Tynedale and Phil Bond, our Neighbourhood Police Inspector, based at Prudhoe, is keen to see more recruited. Special Constables are trained volunteers who come from virtually all walks of life. On average they give four hours each week to policing duties. If you are interested and wish to know more, visit the Northumbria Police web-site (through which you can apply on-line) or, to talk to someone first, call in at Prudhoe Police Station and speak to either Inspector Phil Bond or Sergeant Michael Stephenson.

Congratulations!

We offer our congratulations to Lynn Johnston, Head Teacher at Wylam First School, who was recently runner-up in the category for "Head Teacher of the Year" in a competition organised by The Journal and Gazette Newspapers and sponsored, in this case, by Teesside University.

Lynn was nominated particularly for her invaluable support for and the initiatives she has taken to help a young pupil who is colour blind, a condition that has been largely unresearched since the 1950s, when white chalk on a black board was the norm. Colour blindness is said to be the world's biggest genetic disorder, affecting one in twelve boys.

Local Action

Wylam Parish Council greatly appreciates a recent initiative by the County Council's Senior Highways and Neighbourhood Services Officer for West Northumberland, who has made himself available to meet representatives of the Parish Council every few months to discuss local concerns.

These face-to-face meetings have proved very helpful, not only because they have led to action being taken to quickly resolve a number of issues but, it must be said, they have also led to a better understanding of the difficulties that County Council staff are facing day to day as a result of on-going pressures on their budget.

The Parish Council will, of course, continue to try to resolve issues for which the County Council is responsible between these meetings, and we would remind all residents that you can report matters yourselves through the Northumberland County Council call centre.

Cycling over Wylam Bridge

Over many years the Parish Council has received frequent complaints about people cycling on the footpath across Wylam Bridge, with several reporting collision between bikes and pedestrians, and sometimes abuse from cyclists when challenged. In a recent incident a cyclist collided with a pedestrian and fell off their bike into the road, which luckily did not lead to an even more serious outcome on this occasion.

The Parish Council has again raised the problem with the County Council and the matter was referred to the County's Road Safety Officer and Highway Engineers.

Some form of barrier or similar obstacle has been considered, but understandably ruled out on the basis that it would also impede pushchairs and wheelchairs.

It is widely recognised that the problem is largely due to the number of cyclists using the riverside cycle/footpath from the East and using the bridge as the link for their return route. At each end of the bridge there are signs which read "Cyclists Dismount", but they appear to be mainly ignored.

However, it is against the law to cycle on the footpath, although most of us, including the Police, appear to turn a "blind eye" to young children doing this. County Council Officers have promised to continue to look further for ways in which this problem can be reduced.



Summer Fair

Anne Francis writes:-

After weeks of preparation, the day of the Summer Fair dawned grey but thankfully dry. This year saw an increased number of stalls and activities with many familiar faces returning but also several new participants. All ages were well catered for with a variety of food delicacies, stalls, and activities. There was a full afternoon of entertainment with music, dancing, singing and a martial arts display. Those with energy to burn could enjoy traditional games organised by staff from Beamish Museum, an assault course overseen by soldiers from Albemarle Barracks, a "Beat the Goalie" competition and, at the end of the afternoon, a hotly contested Tug of War.



The afternoon was so popular that the problem became one of persuading people to leave the field at the end to allow it to be prepared for the evening entertainment. This involved several bands and singers, proving hugely entertaining, with the evening drawing to a close just before midnight.

The Summer Fair is organised for the enjoyment of the community but importantly it raises money for the upkeep of the Playing Field, pavilion and play equipment. We are delighted to report that profit this year was in excess of £12,000. The organisation of the Fair seems to grow more complex every year and the hard working committee are very grateful for the extra help offered by volunteers before the event and on the day itself. We would also like to thank the many village businesses which support us in various ways and, most importantly, to thank everyone for coming along and making the event so successful again.

Mystery Answered!

Many people have been wondering what is coming in the Country Park Car Park, with the development shown here.

We can reveal that Northumberland County Council has received a 75% grant from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles towards the cost of purchasing and installing a total of 20 new electric vehicle charging points throughout Northumberland, and Wylam is one of these locations. The new charger, which will replace the existing Nissan Leaf specific one, will be compatible with all electric powered vehicles currently on the road. It will be a "rapid charger", capable of fully recharging a vehicle in 15 to 20 minutes.

A valid "Charge Your Car" membership will be needed to access the chargers, using either an RFID card or mobile phone app, which can be downloaded free of charge.

It is expected that the installation at Wylam will be completed by the end of September.



Wylam's Trees



Do you ever pause to think how fortunate we are in Wylam to live in a village that is so well endowed with trees? Not only the riverside and nearby woodland but even around the heart of the village there are trees of many different species, size and colour. Some of these are within areas of private land and gardens but many are on land owned by either the County Council or Wylam Parish Council.

It was mainly for this reason that, nearly 30 years ago, the Parish Council first appointed a volunteer Tree Warden to keep a watchful eye on this wonderful asset.

For the past 3½ years this role has been undertaken by Peter Fisher. Peter is perhaps a little more reticent to write for this publication than his predecessor, the late Peter Clarke, but we wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extremely valuable contribution he is making and to thank him for the conscientious, professional and immensely thorough work he continues to do.

Peter is currently carrying out surveys of each of the many wooded areas throughout the village and providing the Parish Council with a map of each location and an analysis of the species and condition of every tree. Where work is deemed to be necessary, he prepares the specification for the work, which then goes out to invited contractors who may wish to tender for the job.

Anyone for Coffee?

We are all invited to celebrate and support the work of Macmillan Nurses at a Coffee Morning at Wylam Institute on Friday 26 September, 10.00am to noon. (Please note, not Saturday, which was incorrectly stated in our last issue). Take part in what has become one of the largest charity coffee mornings in the world.

Seat in Engine Dene

Wylam Parish Council has recently purchased and installed the seat, seen here, at the lower end of Engine Dene. We are pleased to note that it has already received many favourable comments.

It is hoped that a similar facility will soon be provided near the junction between The Dene and Hedley Road, which might provide a helpful resting point for those carrying heavy shopping towards the Dene Estate.



Institute Goes WiFi

Free WiFi facilities are now available in all rooms at Wylam Institute. For the less technically aware amongst us, this means that many devices such as personal computers, video-game consoles, [smartphones](#), some digital cameras, [tablet computers](#) and digital audio players, can connect to the internet via a wireless network.

Invasive Plant Species

The Parish Council wishes to thank Denis Peel and his annual band of volunteers who over the last 9 years have been trying to get rid of, or at least reduce, the growth of Himalayan Balsam along the riverbank and in the Nature Reserve. Areas tackled this year were Ovingham Road to the tide stone on the north side, Hagg Bank and the land north of the railway to Clara Vale. Denis and Liz Richmond have already clocked up 50 hours this year tackling the weed.

If you see any on your walks, please pull it out by the roots before it starts to seed, which is usually by early August. Thank you - every little helps!

Remarkable Fundraising for Cancer Research

Cancer Research UK, the national cancer research charity, is funded in large measure through the voluntary efforts of local committees around the country. There has been such a committee in Wylam since 1998 and residents will be familiar with the collecting goblets on shop counters and elsewhere. Other fundraising activities in the village include an Annual Spring Fair and, for a number of years, the Committee organised an amateur art exhibition in the Institute.

A recent enquiry as to how much in total Wylam had contributed to Cancer Research UK since the early 1970s apparently elicited the astonishing figure of £35,500! The collecting goblets are an important and steady source of fundraising income but the Committee also receives individual and generous donations, and, in one case, a legacy.

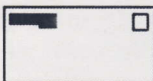
Cancer Research UK, in its response to the regular sums it receives from Wylam, and of course from other local committees, makes the point that the long term support of local groups is crucial to the continued success of the organisation. A lot has been achieved. Sincere thanks are due to everyone who contributes in any way, however modestly, to this fundraising.

...and another answer:-

Recent excavations coupled with the installation of a green cabinet outside Wylam Post Office is, we are assured by the contractors, the first stage of introducing a high speed broadband service to the village. We have yet to have this confirmed, so watch this space!

Postal Advice

If you are planning to send a card to an address overseas, at Christmas for example, be warned that new postal regulations mean that any card larger than the normal "letter" size (usually marked on the back), has to be treated and charged as a parcel, at a considerably greater cost, and also has to carry a Customs Stamp indicating what it is. If still in doubt, ask at the Post Office.



Forthcoming Events

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

Sat 20 Sept

Film Club, "Philomena", 7.30pm.

Fri 26 Sept

Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.00am to noon

Wed 8 Oct

"Men at Home" in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, "The History of Aerial Surveillance", Arthur Dodds

Mon 13 Oct

Blood Donor session, 1.45 to 7.00pm

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm

Sat 18 Oct

Film Club, "Locke", 7.30pm

Sat 1 Nov

Wylam Housing Association, Gift Fair

Sat 8/Sun 9 Nov

"Lest we Forget" Exhibition (see article) open at Methodist Church Centre 10.00am to 4.00pm each day.

Sun 9 Nov

Village Remembrance Sunday Service at Methodist Church, 10.00am, and at War Memorial, 11.00am.

Mon 10 Nov Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 12 Nov

"Men at Home" in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, New Discoveries at Vindolanda", Justin Blake

Sat 15 Nov

Christmas Fair at Methodist Church Centre in aid of "Room to Grow" Building Fund, 10.00am to noon

Tues 18 Nov

Durham Constabulary Band Concert at St Oswin's Church, 7.00pm

Sat 22 Nov

Film Club, "Nebraska", 7.30pm

Thurs to Sat 27-29 Nov

Wylam Amateur Dramatic Society production

Mon 8 Dec Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 10 Dec

"Men at Home" in Methodist Church Centre, 10.15 for 10.30am, "150 Years of the Hexham Courant", Brian Tilley

Sat 13 Dec

Film Club, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", 7.30pm

2015 - a few in advance:-

Mon 2 Feb Blood Donor session

Sat 7 Feb

St Oswin's Country and Western Evening

Sat 21 March Cancer Research Spring Fair

Please note: In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute continue to be 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 10 November

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

Mrs. D. Carney,
The Clerk to the Parish Council
Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam NE41 8AP
Tel: (01661) 852498

[e.mail: wylampc@btinternet.com](mailto:wylampc@btinternet.com)

Printed for Wylam Parish Council by the
Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA.
E.mail gilpin.press@btconnect.com