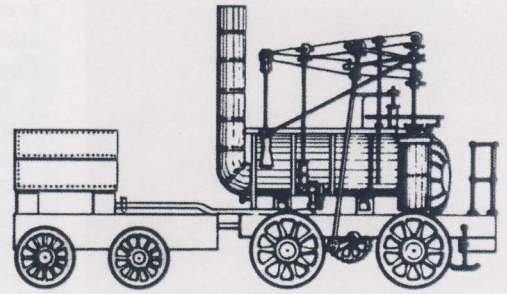


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 2014

No. 115

## Development of Wylam Hills Farm Site



*Soon, mostly to go!*

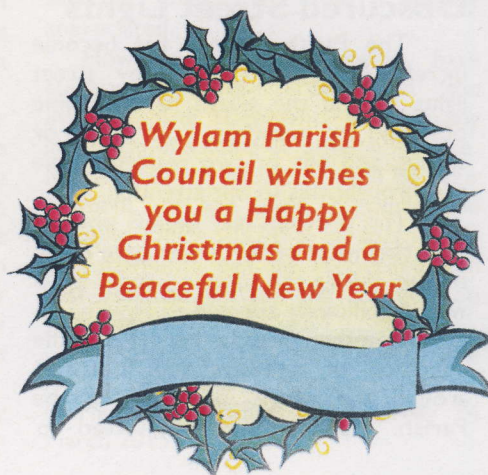
The consultation event in late August, held by building developer Gentoo Homes Ltd, attracted a very big turnout of local residents to view the Company's plans for this site.

Subsequent information suggests that 70 questionnaires were completed on the day and that 96% of respondents welcomed the development, at least in principle.

However, the proposals presented in August did not constitute a planning application which, in spite of a report in the local press, was not submitted to the County Council until November. As this issue is in preparation, Wylam Parish Council, as a Statutory Consultee, is finalising a detailed response to the County Council.

The final plans indicate the retention rather than demolition of the old stone barn near the back of the site, which we know will please many people. This building is to be converted into a single dwelling.

The number of proposed "affordable houses" has been increased from nine to eleven, a mixture of 2 and 3 bedroom properties, whilst the main development comprises a mix of twenty-seven 3, 4 and 5 bedroom houses, which includes the barn conversion and the existing farm house, which is a Grade II listed building, the setting of which is to be protected.



## Dogs at Charlie's Corner

It will no doubt be a disappointment to some that Wylam Parish Council, at its November meeting, agreed an order to ban dogs from the enclosed area in front of Blackett Court, known locally as Charlie's Corner.

You may remember that this became a hotly debated issue in 2013 at which time, having listened to arguments on both sides, the Parish Council decided to allow what had become a fairly common practice to continue, but to closely monitor the situation.



*A few days 'poo' collection in October*

In recent months it has become very clear that many dog walkers using that area have failed in their obligation to clean up faeces left by their pets and, if proof were needed, the photograph here illustrates something of the scale of the problem. In addition, the area of commemorative poppies at the back of the garden was severely trampled by dogs at its flowering peak, although this was not the main reason behind this decision.

The Parish Council believes there to be many other suitable locations in and around Wylam where dogs can be exercised and trusts that those who have been using Charlie's Corner will respect this decision, even though there will be many who have not allowed their dogs to contribute to the problem.

## Ovingham Bridge



Work on Ovingham Bridge is currently in progress as this picture, taken in early November, shows. Although additional damage to the steelwork has been identified, we have been assured by the County Council that work is still expected to be completed within the planned 12 months.

The effect of the bridge closure on traffic through Wylam has, as predicted, been significant, noticeably at peak morning and afternoon times. South Wylam residents have expressed particular concern about the speed of vehicles using the Wylam Wood Road and sometimes The Crescent/Elm Bank Road route as a "rat run". There are also reports of dangerous driving and of pedestrians facing abuse from drivers. Wylam Parish Council has raised these issues with both Northumberland County Council and the Police, who have promised to deploy officers to check vehicle speeds. Other possible steps are under consideration.

### Tom takes it on!

It was no great surprise that shortly after Tom Martin stood down as Chairman of Wylam Parish Council and became Vice-Chairman in May, he accepted an invitation to take on the Chairmanship of the East Tynedale Parish and Town Councils Forum.

Although the constitution and area covered by this Forum has changed since it was first set up, prior to the creation of the Unitary Authority for Northumberland, its purpose remains essentially the same. This is to provide a group with representation from all Parish and Town Councils, extending more or less between Wylam and Hexham, to identify common issues and, where necessary, bring these to the attention of the County Council or other appropriate organisation, where a collective and possibly more powerful voice might be more effective.

We wish Tom well in this additional role.

## What? No Water!

Following an appeal in the previous issue of "Wylam Globe", asking residents to let the Parish Council know if they ever suffered from a flooding risk, either to their own property or if they knew of any other locations in the village where flooding occurs, we were very surprised to receive a virtually nil response. (Two people in fact, only one of whom identified a risk to a specific property.)

Have we all been lulled into a sense of false security after a winter with virtually no snow and below average rainfall, followed by another very dry summer? This we can only guess.

The purpose of the appeal was to consider the creation of a "Emergency or Resilience Plan", which would assist the Emergency Services and possibly provide a local "rapid response" group that could help people facing difficulty.

In the light of so little response, such a plan would appear to be totally unnecessary, although the Fire and Rescue Service and Northumberland County Council have both been notified about the occasional experience of blocked roads due to flood water.

## Community Orchard News

It has apparently been another busy summer and autumn in the Community Orchard. In July a "Wildflower Picnic" was held, which saw visitors following a quiz route through the orchard whilst searching for butterflies with Dave Stebbings and charming the worms!

Extension of the wild flower meadow has started, thanks to a grant from LEAF (Local Environment Action Fund). This has involved stripping and removing more than 500 square metres of turf and sowing with wild flower meadow seeds. Sue Keeton, from the Environmental Records Information Centre, has surveyed the site as part of a nationwide project, and reported that the Wylam orchard is the third largest in Northumberland and the condition of the trees is described as good.

## Obscured Street Lights

The Parish Council has become increasingly aware that many street lights around the village have become obscured by branches from trees or shrubs, and one or two residents have also brought this to our attention.

This problem may be less obvious now that most of the leaves have come off but, during the summer, some lights were significantly affected.

Together with a report on the condition of highways and footpaths around the village, prepared by the Parish Council and submitted to

Northumberland County Council every autumn, obscured street lights were included this year for the first time. 30 specific lights were identified and, even then, we may have missed one or two!

The bad news is that the County Council has since advised the Parish Council that it is entirely the responsibility of the owner of the land from which the vegetation grows to keep it cut back. In some cases we believe this to be the County Council, and we will press for those lights to be cleared.

The advice continues that, where action is deemed to be necessary, the County Council can request that the work is completed within a specified time and, if it is not, they will arrange for the work to be carried out and issue the owner with a bill to cover the cost. The Parish Council has been aware for a long time that this applies to vegetation overhanging pavements and highways, but this is the first time, to our knowledge, that this advice has been extended to include street lighting.

## Talking of lights .....

By the time you receive this issue the Parish Council hopes that the Christmas lights on trees opposite Charlie's Corner will have been extended and that this addition will be welcomed and enjoyed.

## And the tree .....

Once again we are very grateful to Lois and Tom Martin of Wylam Nurseries for the Christmas Tree at Charlie's Corner. Come and gather round the tree, hear the School Choir, join in a few carols and enjoy a cup of coffee/tea afterwards, Friday 19 December at 10.00am.



## Improvements to Hedley Road Playground

The play area on Hedley Road has always been popular, particularly for younger children less able to get to the Jubilee Field without close adult supervision. ISOS Housing, which took over responsibility for this play area several years ago, held an exhibition and consultation about their plans at the Falcon Centre in October, and it was good to see that the plans would totally update and improve all the equipment there.

The ISOS scheme is in conjunction with "Playdale", who will supply the equipment. At this stage we do not have information about when the work will be carried out.

## Wylam Housing Group

Sharon Lamb, Chairman, writes:-

The Wylam Housing Group has, after 42 years, decided to call it a day, having raised approximately £70,000 over this time! However, the need to raise funds and an awareness of housing needs remains at least as great, so some members have decided to focus their future fund-raising efforts on a more community based event or events.

It is hoped that the Annual Card and Craft Fair will continue on the first Saturday in November but hopefully with a greater community involvement. The Group would like to engage with others who would like to work with us and Gail Lawler is prepared to coordinate this. She would welcome your approach and can be contacted on 07817 769 174 or by email to [gailawler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gailawler@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Fair, which raised £470. Thanks also to all those past and present members and the whole community for supporting the wide variety of activities that have been held over the years, many of which were quite innovative in their day.

We sincerely hope that Wylam people will continue to support those who are in need of help with housing in whatever way they can.

## Ideas Invited

Unless you are new to Wylam you will probably remember that the Parish Council was able to purchase the Wylam Post Office premises in 2012 following a very generous grant from the Reece Foundation which, in reality, saved the Post Office from possible closure at that time.

The money we were given exceeded the cost of purchase plus the various improvements which have since been carried out, and this has left the Parish Council with a sum in the region of £100,000. We know that Alan Reece, as a Wylam resident who has since very sadly passed away, together with the Trustees, wanted any surplus to be used for the benefit of the wider village community.

The Parish Council is committed to using this money very carefully, with the expectation that it will cover the cost of several capital schemes over a number of years.

We would be interested to hear your suggestions. If you think you have a suitable idea that will benefit a significant proportion of Wylam folk, please let us know. Any reasonable suggestions will be considered although we make no promises as to whether any particular scheme or schemes will be approved, or indeed when the money will be spent.

It would help if you could put any suggestions in writing and submit them to the Parish Council Clerk.

## Superfast Broadband Gets Nearer



This recent picture shows some enterprising engineering taking place across Wylam Bridge, when a fibre-optic cable which will soon carry superfast broadband was being installed.

We are informed by BT that Wylam village is served by two structures. One involves a simple upgrade to an existing cabinet, and this is expected to be completed very soon. The second structure is more complex as it involves creating a new cabinet near to the telephone exchange before upgrading it to a fibre-optic enabled cabinet. Again, this work is at a fairly advanced stage and expected to be live by the end of the year. However, this is a more complicated process and more likely to have problems which could result in delays.

When the system is operational there will be more publicity but, if you wish to receive an email to advise you when this will be, you can register now at [www.inorthumberland.org.uk/pledge](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/pledge)

## Have You Paid?

We understand that many people have kindly signed up to pay their annual subscription to Wylam Institute by Standing Order, and this is greatly appreciated.

However, some payments have apparently come through on the Institute bank statements without any indication of a name or other reference. If you think any of these could be your payment, you are asked to contact the Institute Office (852498) so that names and payments can be reconciled and that you can receive the appreciation you deserve.

Although a long way ahead, the Annual Institute "Members Coffee Morning", is planned for Saturday 14 March 2015.

## New Roofs

The picture below shows work in progress in August to replace the roofs on the 18 Blackett Cottages. This was part of a major improvement project on behalf of ISOS to ensure these bungalows, built in 1958, remain watertight for the foreseeable future.

Perhaps less noticeable to other than those living in the area, was the total replacement of the roof at Wylam First School. This flat roof, constructed in 1973/74, has been leaking like the proverbial sieve for years and damage resulting from these past leaks meant that internal repair to some ceilings and floors was also necessary. Thankfully the work was completed just in time, but only a day before the school reopened for the new term in September, which meant a heavy workload for teaching staff who had to get classrooms ready.



## Playgroup Needs Help

Wylam Pre-school Playgroup is based in the Falcon Centre and provides child care and early learning activities for children aged 2 to 4 years. The Playgroup is a registered charity and relies on a volunteer committee to oversee the group, similar to the role of school governors. There are a variety of positions currently available on the committee and an urgent need for volunteers to help. No previous experience is necessary, only enthusiasm, a "can-do" attitude and a few hours each month. Anyone interested and with a little time to spare to ensure this valuable resource can continue to support the children in our village, is asked to get in touch, either through the Wylam Preschool Playgroup website or by telephone to Lynda Featonby (853150).

The Playgroup would also like to thank all those who contributed to or attended their fireworks display and bonfire night, which raised in the region of £750. This will be used to buy new library seating for the children.

## Old "Globes"

No doubt many of you will empathise with Wylam Parish Council, which has recently discovered a large number of back-copies of the "Wylam Globe" that have been hoarded for many years, taking up valuable space in our limited storage space.

These have now been sorted, a double set retained as an archive collection and a similar number transferred to the Northumberland County Archives at Woodhorn.

We know that there are many Wylam residents that have kept their own collection over the years and, before we dispose of the remaining surplus, we would like to make them available, thinking particularly of those who may have just a few issues missing.

The first "Wylam Globe" was published in July 1973 and you will see that this issue is number 115. There are no spares of issues 1 to 4, or some others too numerous to list here.

Brian Japes has offered to receive and respond to requests. He can be contacted by email at [brian@japesfamily.co.uk](mailto:brian@japesfamily.co.uk) or by telephone on 852151. Please make sure you indicate clearly the issue number(s) you are wanting, your address and a phone number.

Any requests will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis and this offer will remain open until Monday 12 January 2015.

## "Lest We Forget 1914-1918"

We were very pleased that additional opportunities to see this moving exhibition became possible after we featured it in our September issue. The inspiration for the project came from the names of servicemen listed on our War Memorial and other village memorial plaques, men who gave their lives in the service of their country during the First World War.

The research underpinning the exhibition was the work of Aubrey Smith, Philip Brooks and Roy Koerner. Helena Bates, Margaret Kelly and Ros Markham from the Library Service made a significant contribution in putting together the components of the exhibition and David Petrie provided the ingenious photographic collages which brought the material to life.

We are pleased to know that the research is to continue and that some visitors to the exhibition were able to provide further helpful details, enabling more information to be filled in about their relatives.

We look forward to news of how the research is progressing and perhaps when we are celebrating the Centenary of the end of the Great War in 2018, a revised exhibit may be feasible.

Meanwhile, thank you to all those who made this event possible in Wylam this year.

## Wylam Remembered

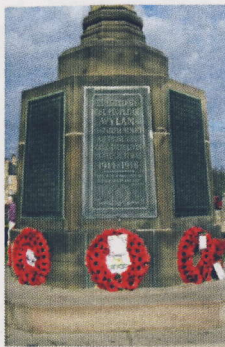
With the obvious interest generated this year by stories relating to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War, aided locally by the "Lest We Forget" exhibition, it was not surprising that Remembrance Sunday in Wylam was so well supported.

Following a packed service at the Methodist Church, the traditional Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial drew the usual very large crowd. Thankfully it was a pleasant, sunny and still morning.

We are grateful to Fintan Kealy, from Ovingham, who played "The Last Post" on the day and particularly to the representatives of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, based at Albemarle, who came once again to enhance the event in Wylam. The soldiers who came had particularly asked to do so because they were made to feel so welcome last year, which was good to hear. Unfortunately, most of these men and women will shortly be re-deployed elsewhere, as their Regiment is about to be disbanded. We take this opportunity to wish them well in whatever new situation they end up. Their place at Albemarle is due to be taken later in 2015 by members of the Royal Horse Artillery, although we understand that the horses are restricted to a ceremonial troop these days!

## Making Winter Warmer for those without

This is the title of a project set up to help some of the most needy in Society. The request is for unwanted clothing suitable for homeless people who are sleeping rough on the streets. Helen Robson (who will collect if necessary, 854765) is organising a local collection and items can currently be left in the entrance hall at Wylam Institute. Main requests are for sleeping bags and flasks; men's & women's fleeces, jackets, coats, T-shirts, hats, gloves, socks, underwear, jumpers and trousers. Non-perishable food items and toiletries, including baby wipes (alcohol free), tissues, tooth brushes & toothpaste, roll-on deodorant, combs/brushes and plasters, are also required.



## Forthcoming Events

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

### Fri 19 Dec

Carols around the Christmas Tree at Charlie's Corner, 10.00am

**Mon 12 Jan** - Parish Council, 7.00pm

### Wed 14 Jan

Men at Home, "What Human Culture Owes to that of Bees", Dorian Pritchard, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

### Thurs 15 Jan

Gardeners' Soc. "Banish Winter Blues", Karen Phillips, 7.30pm

### Sat 17 Jan

Film Club, 7.30pm, "The Lunchbox"

### Sat 24 Jan

Playing Fields Jumble Sale, 2.00 to 4.00pm

### Mon 2 Feb

Blood Donor session, 1.30 to 7.30pm

### Sat 7 Feb

St Oswin's "Country and Western Evening", 7.30pm

**Mon 9 Feb** - Parish Council, 7.00pm

### Wed 11 Feb

Men at Home, "Recent Advances in Genetics of Reproduction", Alison Murdoch, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

### Thurs 19 Feb

Gardener's Soc. "Bide-a-Wee", Mark Robson, 7.30pm

### Sat 21 Feb

Film Club, 7.30pm, "Calvary"

### Sat 28 Feb

Playing Fields "American Themed Night"

### Sat 7 March

Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning

### Sat 14 March

Institute Annual Coffee Morning, 10.00am to 12

**Mon 9 March** - Parish Council, 7.00pm

### Wed 11 March

Men at Home, "The 'Far Corner' Revisited", Harry Pearson, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

### Thurs 19 March

Gardeners' Soc. "The Development of the Bog Garden at Howick", Robert Jamieson, 7.30pm

### Sat 21 March

Cancer Research Spring Fair  
Film Club, 7.30pm, "Saving Mr Banks"

### Some advance dates:-

**Sat 7 June** - "Jump for Joy" at St Oswin's

**Sat 4 July** - Concert at St Oswin's

**Please note:** In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute continue to be 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 2 February

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: wylamipc@btinternet.com](mailto:email:wylamipc@btinternet.com)

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