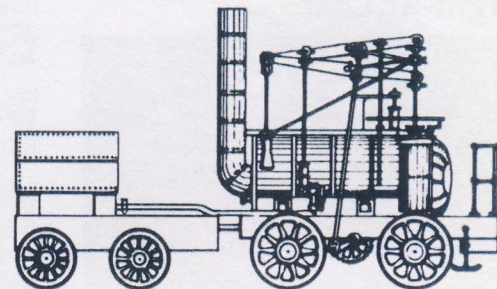


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2015

No. 117

## Summer Fair Saturday 27 June



The countdown has started for this year's Fair. Sunny weather has been requested and the "usual favourites" have been booked for the day. Most of the plots for stalls have already been taken but if anyone is still interested please contact Koby on 852010 or [kobyrmr@gmail.com](mailto:kobyrmr@gmail.com).

This year's competitions include baking for men, themed on "Death by Chocolate" and there will be numerous competitions for children. The scarecrow competition, now in its sixth year, will no doubt produce a number of intriguing models to entertain the entire village. As usual physiquess will be challenged by the Tug of War, held towards the end of the afternoon. Details of all events can be found on posters throughout the village.

There will be a variety of food outlets including a Hog Roast and a Beer Tent selling ales from Wylam Brewery. The Pimms and Gin and Tonic Bar will be extended to include sales of "Fizz".

The evening event, "Wired for Sound", will headline with "Some Like it Hot", a rock-n-roll band. Other performers will include an exciting Afro-Latin percussion duet and a "Covers" band. Food and drinks will be available throughout the evening. Admission, at £9, will be strictly by ticket and numbers will be limited.

The ever popular Book Fair will run from 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. The committee of Wylam Community Playing Fields Association value the tremendous support provided from the village and hope that young and old will join them to make the 2015 Summer Fair a memorable event. In addition they are always more than happy to welcome volunteers to assist in the lead up to the event and on the day itself. Please contact Anne on 852642, or at [annemfrancis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annemfrancis@hotmail.co.uk) if you are interested in helping.

Please note that, with the exception of guide dogs, dogs are not allowed on the field during the day or evening.

### ... and where do the proceeds go?

Money raised from this event contributes to both the on-going maintenance and further development of the playing field, play equipment, pavilion, tractor and grass cutting equipment. The field, which is owned by Wylam Community Playing Fields Association (not Northumberland County Council), is home to several village sporting teams and is free to use by all members of the wider community. Replacement fencing around the west perimeter of the field and a new gate at the entrance from Main Road have been installed. Many villagers will have noticed that the tennis court area is now unfenced. The old wire netting was dilapidated and no longer fit for purpose. As part of the revitalisation of this play area it is intended to erect very sturdy "Rebound" fencing, designed for a sports environment. This alone will cost in excess of £20,000 demonstrating the need for ongoing fund raising.

## Few Changes Within the Parish Council

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Councillors mostly agreed to continue in their current roles and Chairman Mrs Anne Francis and Vice-Chairman Tom Martin were re-elected. There were a few minor changes in those representing the Council on outside bodies and working groups within the Council. Two years might seem a long way ahead but May 2017 is when the next elections for the Parish Council are due, along with those for our County Council. It's not too soon to start thinking about whether you could play a part. Have a word with any member of the current Council if you wish to know what's involved.

## Village Tree Warden

Just as our previous issue was going to press, Peter Fisher submitted his resignation from the position of Wylam Parish Council's volunteer Tree Warden in order to devote more time to other interests. We cannot speak too highly of the excellent contribution that Peter made throughout his tenure of this post. His dedication and highly efficient approach to the task were extremely helpful to the Council on many occasions. Thank you Peter.

This of course means that we now have a vacancy for someone to take on this role and invite anyone interested to contact the Parish Council Clerk in the first instance.

A more detailed job description is available but, in essence, the main task entails keeping the trees within Wylam Parish under observation and reporting to the Council any issues requiring attention. Experience would obviously be helpful but the main requirements are interest and enthusiasm.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch, even if you would simply like to know more about what would be expected of you.

## A Smooth Walk is in Sight at Last



The Parish Council has at last managed to secure the necessary permissions and, with the addition of a contribution from County Councillor Paul Kelly's "Small Schemes Allowance", the funds to enable the very rough track between Woodcroft Road and the entrance to the Jubilee Playing Field, shown here, to be cleared and re-surfaced.

This track has been the cause of several falls and has, for those in wheelchairs and even pushchairs, been almost impossible to negotiate.

It is intended that the work will be completed in time for the Summer Fair, and so by the time you read this you may be able to see the much desired improvement.

## Wylam Cleans Up

*A whimsical reflection!*

The Spring Equinox on 21 March saw a gathering at Stonehenge but also one at the Country Park Car Park in Wylam. The Wylam gathering involved about 35 people in "high-viz" vests, with black plastic bags, picking sticks and gloves as symbols of their intent. They spread out through the highways and byways, returning to deposit their "treasure" in the yellow treasure chest, which looked remarkably like a skip. At least 6 cubic metres had been collected. No druids were spotted and another village litter pick was successfully concluded.

Seriously, the Parish Council is very grateful to all who turned up to help, representing various village organisations each of which received a modest donation from Council funds.



## Shame on some!

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism are nothing new to most communities, and sadly Wylam has had its share.

The Parish Council has been very concerned by a number of specific incidents within the past few months.

In March, a large number of youths climbed on to the roof of the Falcon Centre, creating nuisance, breaking a window in the library, shouting abuse and, at the same time of course, risking their lives.

In early May, newly planted flower tubs outside the Playing Field Pavilion were destroyed and one of the pieces of gym equipment there was damaged - and there have been other incidents too.

At least some of the culprits have been identified as being from Wylam and it does seem a particular shame that they are willing to damage things in their own community, in which so many people work hard to keep things nice for all ages to enjoy.

We are grateful that the Police have been able to take action in response to some of these incidents and we take the opportunity to remind everyone that if you see anything of this nature actually happening, call 999. If you are reporting something that has already happened or about which you are concerned, phone the Police on 101. The Police guarantee confidentiality to those reporting incidents to them.

## Stanley Burn Care Centre Closes



It was a shock to many people, including the staff we understand, to learn that the Stanley Burn Care Centre in South Wylam was to close.

Within the space of just a few weeks, residents had to either transfer to other homes operated by "Embrace" (part of the "European Care Group") or find alternative accommodation. By the end of April the home was empty and the property was on the market.

The main reason for the closure was stated by the owners as being a need for significant expenditure to bring parts of the premises up to a satisfactory standard for modern care.

The original house, which fronts the premises and can be seen in the foreground here, was no-doubt the portion requiring development.

We await with interest news of the sale and, with more than a little curiosity, the purpose for which it will be used.

## Ovingham Bridge

We can probably all remember that Ovingham Bridge closed at the end of June 2014 for "up to a year". Did you put any money on it? Just as we go to press, the Parish Council has been informed that, "due to unforeseen condition of the bridge, which has required design changes and additional works, the bridge is now expected to re-open by November 2015. Weekend working has been introduced to minimise any further delays".

## Wylam's "Call to Arms" 1914 - 1918



By the time you read this you might just be in time to see this further display in Wylam Library, building on the success of "Lest We Forget", last year's WWI Centenary display.

Further research by Aubrey Smith, Philip Brooks and Roy Koerner, with the help of several descendants of some of those whose stories were told then, has enabled more fascinating details to be added. David Petrie's photographic and display skills helped to bring the stories to life and it is hoped that more will follow when we celebrate the Centenary of the end of the Great War, if not before.

## £2 Charge to Park at the Station!

The imposition of a £2 all-day parking charge at Wylam Station, introduced by Network Rail from 18 May is, in the view of the Parish Council, unlikely to encourage patronage of the train service.

Early indications suggest that it has halved the number of cars using the car park and increased the number parking on Elm Bank Road.

Network Rail already owns and charges at Hexham Station but parking at all the other stations between Newcastle and Carlisle remain free. The Parish Council has written to the Company requesting an explanation and suggesting that they rethink their policy.



*Not perhaps as welcoming as it says!*

## Rockettes Going From Strength To Strength

It has been yet another good season for Wylam Rockettes, the girls' branch of the Wylam Junior Football Club, Wylam Rockets FC. The forward-thinking attitude of the club committee is clearly paying dividends with Wylam now a beacon for girls football in the Tyne Valley, with over 80 girls from under-8 upwards, training and playing football regularly. In the past season the club has fielded 7 teams from under-10 to under-15 in the Northumberland Girls League – interestingly more than any other club in the whole of Newcastle and Northumberland.

Whilst the focus remains on inclusiveness and having fun it has also been a successful season on the pitch with the under-12 "Rascals" and under-12 "Rebels" winning their respective leagues and the under-11 coming runners up. However the under-14, under the guidance of Tony Wynne, have been the stand out team – after a slow start they won their last 7 games to "do the double" and win both the league and cup.



*The Winning Under 14 Team*

The reputation of the club as a hotbed of high quality girls football is also clearly spreading across the country – one of the teams has been invited to play a touring Norwich City FC – "Wylam Rockettes v Norwich City FC" – not a fixture Tony Wynne or Bob Spragg ever thought they'd see when they floated the idea of establishing the Rockettes in 2008.

The traditional end of season tour to Blackpool for the prestigious North of England Tournament now beckons. The tour, which marks the end of the playing season for the Rockettes, will see over 50 girls looking to bring back more silverware to Wylam – but more importantly (for the girls if not the coaches) to also experience all the fun of going on tour with their friends, including annoying the coach driver with some dreadful singing, evening football on the beach and an afternoon at the Pleasure Beach!

## Church Developments

Just as it's said of London buses, you wait for ages and then two come along at once!

Both St Oswin's Parish Church and Wylam Methodist Church are at an advanced stage in working towards improvements to their respective premises.

At St Oswin's, there are plans to carry out a much needed modernisation scheme for the Church Hall. New toilet facilities will be provided and the kitchen is to be fully refitted with an extension to create extra space. The area of the main hall will be increased by providing extra storage for chairs and the equipment used by the uniformed groups. To provide a more secure environment, in particular for the many children who use the hall, a new porch and reception area will be provided.

At the Methodist Church, the area between the existing church and church hall is to be developed into a lighter, more spacious and welcoming main entrance area, from which there will be access to three smaller but flexible rooms to provide for the group needs for children's work and use by the wider community. At the same time the entrance to the worship area is to be moved and the whole of the floor in that part of the building will be raised to eliminate the current steps.

As we go to press, raising of the required funds is still a necessity for both schemes but the two churches, both part of the Wylam and District Churches, are hopeful that work can begin soon.

## Community Orchard Inspiring Youngsters

Spring has sprung and work continues in earnest at Wylam Community Orchard. Fertilizer has been applied to all of the fruit trees, tree ties have been adjusted and weeding around the trees is in progress. They look beautiful in blossom and, heralding the season, primroses, cowslips, bluebells, daffodils and violets have been blooming in the first phase of the wild flower meadow. Home-grown wild flower plugs and the meadow seed sown last autumn are looking good. After a couple of cancelled sessions due to inclement weather and following a kind donation of wild flower seed from Wylam Brownies, the current phase of work has been extended. Fortnightly sessions are held at weekends and these are kindly advertised within Robin Piette's Village Notes in the Hexham Courant. As always, those who simply wish to come along to have a look and potter around are also very welcome.



Have you always wanted to play tennis but been unsure about where to start, or are thinking of dusting off that old racquet?

Here in Wylam we have a superb Tennis Club at the top of Elm Bank Road. It's a small, friendly club with three floodlit, painted tarmac courts. The Club welcomes all ages and abilities and offers opportunities from social to match play, with group or private lessons.

David Esther, the Club's new coach, is a LTA Level 3 Licensed Coach, with lots of experience with players of all ages and abilities, individuals and groups. David offers a full programme of coaching on Mondays, from juniors after school to adults in the evening.

Playing tennis offers a great many benefits in addition to keeping fit. It's an interactive and fun way to spend time with family and friends and to meet new people.

What are you waiting for? Check out the Tennis Club's website at [www.wylamtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.wylamtennisclub.co.uk) - or contact Marion on 852058.

## Further Progress with Superfast Broadband

Speaking at the Parish Council's Annual Village Meeting in May, John Cooper from iNorthumberland, stated that only a few post-codes on the northern fringe of Wylam remained outside the area currently able to access "Superfast Broadband" and he expressed the expectation that these locations would also be covered very soon.

By the end of March, 16% of Wylam households had taken the opportunity to subscribe to this option, but we were reminded that, unlike previous upgrades, those wishing to have this high-speed facility have to first take action with their internet provider.

Enclosed with this issue you will find a leaflet from iNorthumberland, which sets out the reasons why, whether for home or business, you might be advised to sign up.

Pressed to indicate the likely additional cost, John Cooper stressed that this is largely up to your internet provider, with whom users will require a new contract. However, the additional cost, he said, is sometimes no more than a couple of pounds per month.

## Hedley Road Play Area

The planned improvements to the play area beside Hedley Road, which is owned by ISOS Housing, have recently been completed and can be seen here.



*Some of the new play equipment*

With some eight or nine separate pieces of play equipment, this represents a very significant improvement on what was there before. The equipment is primarily suitable for younger children and offers a great facility, particularly for families living in that part of the village.

These improvements, which we first outlined in our Winter 2014 issue, are part of a wider scheme covering several ISOS owned locations throughout the county.

## Wylam Film Club

Wylam Film Club has been showing films in the Institute for ten years. Films are shown each month for nine months of the year as part of an arts project linked to the Queen's Hall, Hexham. The Club is mainly organised by a small group of six villagers, who have given up their time to ensure that a variety of films can be enjoyed.

Alison and John Kirkbride, who take the major organising responsibility, have decided to step down from this role due to other commitments, although they intend to continue to help and to attend whenever possible.

The Club would benefit from more people being involved, but with a current need for one or two to take the lead role, and particularly good if they are younger people with a fresh view.

The Club has its own equipment and a healthy bank balance to cover breakages, but does not aim to be profit-making.

It would be a shame if the Club were to fail due to lack of support as it is so much enjoyed by many people. If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact John or Alison on 01661 852626.

## Family Film Show for Charity

The Wylam Branch of Cancer Research UK, with help from Wylam Film Club, is to stage a family film show in the Institute on Friday 11 September at 4.00pm.

The film will be "Mary Poppins", and the admission price of £2.50 for adults and £1 for children (under 5s free), will include refreshments. There will also be a raffle.

Tickets will be on sale in village shops nearer the date. Please support this event, which the committee hope will provide both enjoyment and funds for Cancer Research.

## Police Advice

Our Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Charlie Cross, speaking at the Annual Village Meeting, gave assurances about the continuity of the level of policing from Prudhoe if and when the present Police Station is replaced by an alternative base. A move has yet to be finalised, but the search for a suitable new base continues.

He also reminded everyone that a common experience in Wylam is an increase in break-ins to sheds and other outbuildings during the summer months, when many people sadly ignore past warnings about keeping these places locked, day and night, and not leaving items like bicycles and tools in the open view of casual thieves. You have been warned!

## Forthcoming Events

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

### Sat 27 June

Wylam Summer Fair, Jubilee Field from 1.00pm, and Book Stall at Methodist Centre from 10.00am.

### Sat 4 July

Concert by Sage Gateshead Chamber Choir, St Oswin's Church, 7.00pm

### Sat 18 July

Drama Society, Victorian Music Hall, 7.30pm

### Mon 20 to Wed 22 July

Holiday Club for First School ages, Methodist Centre, 10.00am to noon.

### Wed 9 Sept

Men at Home, new programme starts at Methodist Centre. "The History of Aerial Surveillance", Arthur Dodds, 10.30am

### Fri 11 Sept

Family Film, "Mary Poppins", in aid of Cancer Research UK, 4.30pm

.. and looking further ahead .....

### Sat 26 Sept

MacMillan Coffee Morning, 10.00am to 12 noon

### Sun 27 Sept

Village Harvest Festival Service, St Oswin's, 10.00am

### Wed 30 Sept

Quiz and Supper for Christian Aid, "Fox & Hounds", 7.30pm

### Fri 2 Oct

Rev Professor David Wilkinson, "God and the Big Bang", 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

### Fri 6 Nov

"Race Night", St Oswin's Church Hall, 7.00pm

**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 17 August

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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