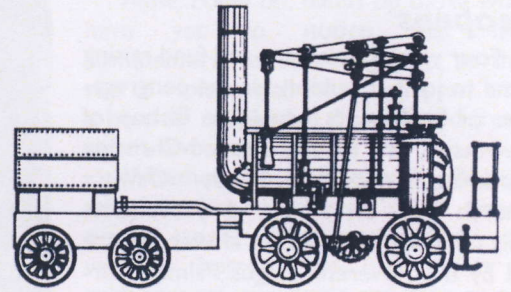


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 2016

No. 123

The Wylam Winter Tales Festival will be returning in early 2017 and Wylam Parish Council is delighted to be once again supporting this venture.



The Festival aims to bring a little community light through the arts at the darkest time of year. From **Friday 27 January to Friday 3 February**, the programme hopes to capture much of what made the first year so memorable whilst bringing some new events and activities to inspire and entertain us all. Gareth Davies-Jones, a Director of the Festival writes:-

"Amongst other things in 2017 we'll welcome a national award winning choir, host a cardboard carnival, celebrate our heritage with a TV personality and toast superb local food with a special pre-show dinner. We'll also laugh along with an Edinburgh Fringe favourite, bathe in the nostalgia of songs from the '40s and lose ourselves in the poetry and lyricism of a renowned singer-songwriter. Alongside the shows, get creative with our photo participation event "Hidden Wylam" and see an exhibition of specially commissioned photographs that capture the previously unseen inner workings of a local landmark.

So, as the long nights linger and the cold carries on, come along and warm yourself awhile as we gather around Wylam Winter Tales 2017".

Tickets (once again reasonably priced) are on sale now from Steve's Emporium, the Festival website and the Queen's Hall, Hexham. The provisional programme is shown below but please visit www.wylamwintertales.org.uk for the latest news, venue and timing information. The Festival is run as a non-profit local voluntary organisation by directors and helpers who freely give their time, effort and energy to make it happen. Please send an email to wylamwintertales@gmail.com to volunteer for the 2017 Festival.

The Winter Tales Programme:-

Fri 27 Jan

6.00pm Celebrate Winter Tales – songwriting residency concert with Bethany Elen Coyle

Sat 28 Jan

1.00pm & 3.00pm

Lempen Puppet Theatre – a Cardboard Carnival of the Animals

7.30pm *Waking Ned & A Wee Dram* – Classic film & classic Irish whiskey

Sun 29 Jan

2.00pm Family Circus Skills Workshop

7.00pm Winter Tales Comedy Club – with comedian Tony Vino & support

Mon 30 Jan

7.30pm *The Big Art Club* – An evening with painter Mary Ann Rogers

Tues 31 Jan

3.45pm *Calligraphy & Hex Bugs* – Crafts & creativity for kids

7.00pm *40's A Cappella, Pie & Peas* – with The Shoeshop Quartet

Weds 1 Feb

1.30pm *The Gingerbread Man* – Crafts & creativity for kids under 5

7.30pm *Voices of Hope* – featuring the songs of Percy Lovell

Thurs 2 Feb

1.30pm *Wylam Railway Roots* – History walk with Robert Forsythe

4.00pm *National Harry Potter Book Night* – with Northumberland Libraries

7.30pm *Stories in the Stones* – Historic capers with John Grundy & Pete Ryder

Fri 3 Feb

6.00pm Celebrate Northumberland Pre-Show Dinner – Featuring exciting local produce

8.00pm *The Acoustic Café Finale* – Singer-songwriter Yvonne Lyon

Road Safety in Wylam

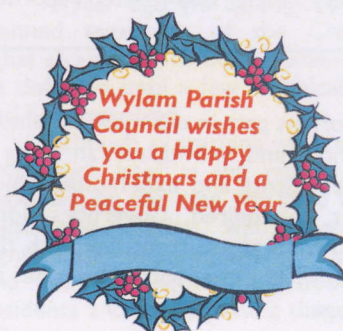
Concerns about speeding traffic and general road safety are amongst the most frequent issues raised by residents with members of the Parish Council.

As a local council we have to rely on Northumberland County Council to take any action and it goes without saying that we do our best to press for action which might help.

Some 2½ years ago, the Parish Council supported an initiative by a group of residents which led to an advisory speed limit being introduced along the main road through the village and the installation of two vehicle activated speed signs. By the time you read this, the advisory limit is expected to have been made mandatory, with red circles replacing black on the entry signs and additional signage to bring it to an enforceable level. It is to be hoped that this change will generate a greater respect for the limit than some observers believe has been the reaction to the advisory limit.

Although we don't wish to raise people's hopes, we understand that consideration is also being given to creating some form of spur in the road somewhere near to the Fox and Hounds, which it is hoped will make it a little safer for pedestrians to cross in that vicinity, slow traffic down and also make it safer for drivers joining the main road from the Dene Estate direction.

We know that most people would wish to see a pedestrian crossing in that vicinity and probably other locations too, but as we have frequently reported in the past, none of these places meet national criteria for a zebra crossing due to the proximity of junctions, bends and generally inadequate sight-lines.



St Oswin's Church Hall Reopens

Four years of planning and fund raising came to joyous fruition for the congregation of St Oswin's when the Bishop of Newcastle, The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, re-dedicated St Oswin's Church Hall on Sunday 6 November. This ceremony followed a church service led by the Reverend Angus Palmer, during which the Bishop preached. The service was attended by many young people from the groups that are regular users of the Hall. They had been without a home since July, while lots of improvements were being made.

The Hall now has a new and extended kitchen, a larger clear space for activities and a new window on the west end giving extra light to the Hall and access to the garden outside. There is also a new entrance lobby, new WCs including an accessible toilet and much better storage space, all designed to suit those who use the Hall.

Now so much more attractive than before – it was built in 1922 - the Parochial Church Council see the Hall as a facility for the use of the whole Wylam Community. There will be opportunities for any who wish to come and see for themselves and bookings for family and other functions are welcome.



Possible New Use for Telephone Box

Northumberland County Council has recently asked the Parish Council to comment on a plan by BT to remove the telephone box near the junction with Chapel Lane.

As you can probably imagine, boxes like this one are rarely used these days due to the extensive ownership and use of mobile phones. This is just one of dozens of phone boxes throughout Northumberland that BT propose to remove.

The Parish Council felt there was little justification to contest the plan but has requested that we be given the opportunity to retain the box for a completely different purpose.

A few years ago, we considered the possibility of locating a defibrillator at a central point in the village which could be accessed to provide emergency help for anyone requiring it. At the time we were frustrated by not being able to identify a suitable location, which requires easy accessibility and a power supply to keep the apparatus charged. The possible use of this phone box brings the possibility into focus once again.

It may be some time before this idea can be taken further but we are aware that similar provision has been successfully achieved in other communities.

So, watch this space and, just in case you think this type of defibrillator would require at least the skills of a trained first-aider to operate, be assured that they are designed to be used by anyone able to follow the very simple, step-by-step recorded instructions.



New Houses - an update

We recognise that the housing currently under construction at the former Wylam Hills farm site is of considerable local interest and we will try to continue providing regular updates.

Construction of the 11 affordable houses on the east side of the road is behind schedule but the Site Manager for the developers, Gentoo, remains optimistic that this time will be made up, weather permitting. It is expected that this group of houses will be completed by the end of March 2017.

A portable sales office has been positioned on the west side of the road, near to where the building of three "show houses", facing the road, has commenced within the last few weeks.

The work of converting the former stone-built stable block into a single dwelling has been let to a subcontractor, who is expected to commence work some time in December.

The Site Manager is aware that there have been issues from time to time about mud on the road and footpath, when heavy plant has had to be used to transfer materials between the two parts of the site. He promises that they will continue to employ a contract road sweeper to frequently clean the road, and the footpath where possible, but apologises for those short periods where there is a mess.

Governor Vacancies

We understand that there is still at least one vacancy for a Governor at Wylam First School and if you are interested in applying or would like to know more about the role, you are invited to contact Chris Linfoot, the Chair of the Governors, on 01661 853626 or email linfootmail@gmail.com. Governors play

an important part in the management of the school and individuals can bring a range of talents and experience, which is what is required. Governors don't have to have any current link with the school, which can sometimes be an advantage.

Policing Matters

Almost as soon as the role of Inspector Kevin Oates had been extended to cover East Tynedale in addition to West Tynedale, where he had served for many years, he was whisked away to other duties within the Northumbria Police force area.

Kevin was succeeded from mid-October by Inspector Pam Bridges, who takes command of the Tynedale Neighbourhood Policing Teams including the Prudhoe area, which covers Wylam.

Inspector Bridges has a very wide range of experience in many aspects of policing and our initial contacts with her suggest that she comes with a determination to continue the good work that has gone before, helping to keep Tynedale one of the safest places to live.

To this end, one of her first concerns relates to the continuing incidence of burglaries from garden sheds, garages, other outbuildings and from cars, many of these being left unsecured in spite of frequent warnings over the years. It is acknowledged that absolute security is almost impossible, but do think about your own situation and consider how your property could be better protected.

Another Police Officer who has moved is PC Charlie Cross, who has been our local Neighbourhood Team Officer for many years. Through his personality and dedication, Charlie had earned the respect of Parish Councillors and the wider local community and he will certainly be missed. Fortunately he remains within the Neighbourhood Team but now covers the Ponteland area. The area, including Wylam, is now being covered by PC Sharon Walton and PC Ruth Coll.

And there's more

Vera Baird, Police and Crime Commissioner, is currently seeking views from members of the public to ensure that Northumbria Police are tackling the issues considered to be a priority. One or two meetings have already been held but, until Friday 16 December, if you wish to make your views known, you can still complete an on-line survey. Go to

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/giveyourviews

As a guide, it might help to know that since 2012, priorities have been:-

- Putting victims first
- Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Reducing Crime
- Community Confidence

Going Batty at Wylam Orchard



There was added excitement this autumn down in Wylam Orchard. Not only was there a good apple harvest but also some wonderful visitors! Several years ago a number of bat boxes were installed there and the Orchard team are very grateful to Hazel Makepeace, from the Northumberland Bat Group, who has inspected them. This year everyone held their breath as Hazel opened one box to discover a common pipistrelle and three soprano pipistrelles present, one of which is shown here. On advice from Hazel, this winter some tree pruning will be carried out to ensure clear flight paths to the nest boxes and hopefully more similar visitors next year!

Come On! Come On!

Organisations Do Not Run Themselves

Wylam Institute and Wylam Playing Field are without doubt two of the most important assets within our village. They are maintained by small dedicated committees but in both cases some of the members consider themselves to be "time expired" and new members are desperately needed to refresh these committees. All that is needed is a small amount of time and a lot of enthusiasm.

"Ask not what your community can do for you, ask what you can do for your community" (adapted from John F Kennedy, 1961).

Expressions of interest to:- Sue Nicholson: Tel: 853315 (for Wylam Institute) Roger Francis: Tel: 852642, rmfrancis@compuserve.com (for Wylam Playing Field)

Christmas Lights

A year ago we apologised that a planned extension of the Christmas lights around the Institute garden had to be deferred until a few technical issues had been resolved.

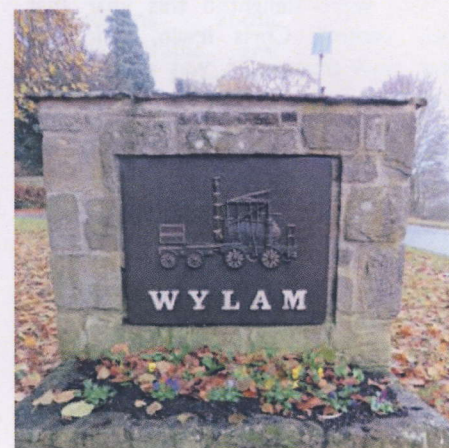
Although alterations were delayed until much later in the year than we expected, by the time you read this we trust the display will have been significantly improved and extended and will be enjoyed by both local residents and those passing through the village.

A Bit of a Mystery!

Now, come on: hands up those who have yet to notice that the commemorative boundary sign at the top of Holey Hall Road collapsed into a heap of rubble and disappeared from sight a few weeks ago!

Whether the stability was affected when a very large tree came down nearby some months previously or whether horses have used it as a rubbing post, we don't and may never know.

This sign, together with those on Ovingham Road and Station Road (shown here), was erected by the Parish Council in June 1981 as part of celebrations marking the bicentenary of the birth of George Stephenson.



The signs show the locomotive "Puffing Billy", designed of course by William Hedley and built in the Wylam Colliery workshops for use on the colliery waggonway.

When the signs were erected, a comment in the Wylam Globe pointed out that George Stephenson had no connection with "Puffing Billy" but the stone used for the plinths on which the signs are mounted apparently came from Stephenson's Cottage, where alterations had recently been carried out and an outbuilding demolished by the National Trust.

The Parish Council is currently investigating if and where the sign can be re-erected.

A Reminder

From time to time we feel it necessary to remind everyone that this publication is the newsletter of Wylam Parish Council.

We are happy to receive material for publication and, where space permits and when it is deemed to be of general interest, we will do our best to publish it.

Very occasionally we receive material which is sent anonymously. Please be aware that we will not consider such items for publication.

Remembrance

Local people, and visitors too, often remark about the very large turnout in Wylam for the annual Remembrance Sunday service and Act of Remembrance at the village War Memorial.

This year was certainly no exception, with a packed Methodist Church for a service led by Rev Jane Cook, followed by a procession to the War Memorial led by representatives of the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery from Albemarle Barracks who, with the rest of their Regiment, had paraded the previous day in Hexham, where they received the Freedom of Northumberland.

We were delighted this year that army veteran Chris Irwin, a former piper now trumpeter, was able to join us to play The Last Post.



Chair of the Parish Council, Anne Francis, laying a wreath.

And on the subject of Remembrance

Wylam's "Lest We Forget" Project, based around those from the First World War whose names are recorded on the Village War Memorial, has been a very successful and humbling experience for all those involved. At a recent meeting, the group of researchers who worked on that Project agreed to extend their work by looking now at the social history of Wylam at that time. They wish to invite anyone in the village who has any old photographs or information they could share with the group, to make this known. Photographs and articles would be scanned and returned straight back to the owner if the person concerned is happy for the information to be used.

Please email Helena Bates on helenabates@waitrose.com or wylam.library@activenorthumberland.org.uk or telephone 852463.

You can, of course, call in to Wylam Library with any information you have. The Library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.00pm to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am to 12 noon.

Bench at Hagg Bank



This photograph shows the new bench seat, recently installed within the play area at Hagg Bank.

This is part of an on-going plan by the Parish Council to progressively improve the provision of public seating in various locations around the village.

This one is perhaps more likely to assist younger parents keeping a watchful eye on their children, but is there something about an ageing population in the village?

Christmas Tree

We are very grateful to Tom and Lois Martin from Wylam Nurseries, who have again provided a lovely Christmas tree and erected it at Charlie's Corner for all to enjoy.

We hope that people will come along there on Friday 16 December at 10.00am, when children from Wylam First School will once again be singing a few carols around the tree to help us get into the true Christmas spirit.



Forthcoming Events

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

Mon 12 Dec Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 14 Dec

Men at Home, "It's a Funny Old Life", Glyn Evans, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Frid 16 Dec

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

Sun 18 Dec

Village Carol Service, St Oswin's Church, 6.00pm

2017

Sat 7 Jan

Playing Fields Jumble Sale, 2.00pm

Mon 9 Jan Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 11 Jan

Men at Home, "Younnan South of the Clouds", David Newbegin, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Wed 18 Jan

Wylam Discussion Group, Lunch at White Swan, Ovingham (12.11 bus)

Sat 21 Jan Burns Night

Frid 27 Jan to Frid 3 Feb

Wylam Winter Tales Festival - Institute and various venues (see article)

Wed 8 Feb

Men at Home, "The Flood of 1771 and the Tyne Bridges", Gordon Scorer, Methodist Centre 10.30am

Thurs 9 Feb

Wylam Discussion Group, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", Dorothy Eavis (39 Woodcroft Road) 2.30pm

Mon 13 Feb Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 8 March

Men at Home, "Oswald (the King in the North)", Max Adams, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Sat 11 March

Institute Member's Coffee Morning, 10.00am to noon

Mon 13 March

Parish Council, 7.30pm

Wed 15 March

Wylam Discussion Group, "Mental Health in Northumberland and Questions on NICE", Richard Tomlin (11 Dene Road), 2.30pm

Sat 25 March

Tynedale Matters Exhibition - traditional mats

Please note: In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute are held on the 4th Wednesday every month, 10.30am to 12 noon, (except in December) and "Friends of Wylam" Coffee Mornings continue fortnightly on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am.

Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe" Monday 6 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: wylampc@btinternet.com

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