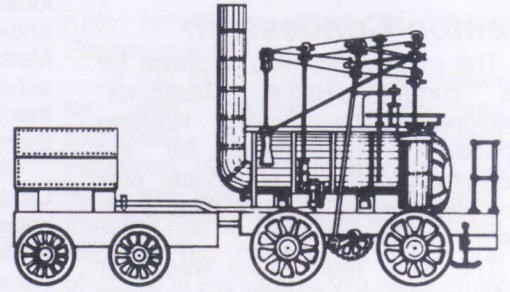


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2017

No. 125

Summer Fair Time

The Summer Fair is the major fund raising event for the Wylam Community Playing Fields Association (WCPFA), the proceeds of which are used to maintain and develop the sporting and leisure facilities on the Jubilee Field. It is only through such activities, together with successful grant applications and financial support from Wylam Parish Council that the Association was able to spend over £47,000 last year on Play Equipment and the Multi User Games Area.

This year's Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 24 June from 1.00 to 6.00pm. Admission will cost £3 for adults, £2 for concessions and 50p for children, although the charge for a family is £6.

Entertainment will be provided by Prudhoe Community Band, the Wylam Singers directed by Simon Fidler and Scottish Dancers. Other attractions include a Bogie Time Trial, a Tug of War competition, egg 'hoying' and a cake competition for men. The Book Stall will be held in the Methodist Church Hall, with a satellite stall on the Field.

Food may be purchased from a number of stalls, whilst liquid refreshment will be available in the Beer Marquee and a Pimms/Fizz Bar. It is requested that no unauthorised alcohol is brought on to the Field and no dogs will be allowed other than guide dogs.

Many of the plots for stalls have already been allocated, but if anyone else is interested please contact Trish Mytton; Tel: 07801913653, email: trishmytton@gmail.com

The WCPFA Committee is grateful for the support provided from the village for the Summer Fair and hope that this year's event will be as enjoyable and successful as ever. Organising and running the Fair is a major undertaking and the Committee would warmly welcome volunteers to assist, before, during and after the event and also new Committee Members.

Please contact Roger Francis:-
Tel: 01661 852642.
email: rmfrancis@compuserve.com if you are interested.



Hexham Morris Men at the 2016 Fair

Changes on the Council

We were delighted that ten residents put their names forward for the eight available seats on Wylam Parish Council in the election last month. This meant that for the first time for many years there actually was a contested ballot, in which the following people were elected or re-elected to serve for the next four years:-

Tom Appleby, Anne Francis, Jos Joures, Jim Martin, Tom Martin, Bill Nicholson, Colin Percy and Keith Trobe. Details of those elected can be found on the Parish Council website.

At the first meeting of the new Council, Anne Francis was appointed as Chair of the Council for the current year and Tom Martin as Vice-Chair, both having recently held these offices in the previous Council.

Four members of the outgoing Council decided not to stand again this time and we would like to take this opportunity to express our immense gratitude to Ruth Creighton, Maureen Gillis, Tony Mitcham and Brian Japes for their contributions, the service of the latter three spanning over 60 years between them and Maureen having also served as Clerk for 9 years in addition to two spells as a councillor. Stephen Barlow, who had served very faithfully for several years was unfortunately not re-elected and so we also thank Stephen for his very considerable contribution, particularly in the re-establishment of the Parish Council's website and as Chair of the Joint Burial Committee.

We also wish to express our thanks to County Councillor Paul Kelly, who stood down this time, having

represented the Bywell Ward on Northumberland County Council for the past 22 years, initially as a Labour representative and more recently as an Independent. Paul attended most meetings of Wylam Parish Council, reporting to the meeting and responding to questions. He has frequently prompted the County Council when the Parish Council experienced difficulty in getting things done and on many occasions has applied money allotted for use at his discretion as a County Councillor, to projects within the village, for which we are very grateful.

We wish Paul a happy retirement and welcome Karen Quinn, Conservative, who was elected this time and trust that she will develop an equally helpful and constructive relationship with the Parish Council.

Parish Council Wins Gentoo Concession

The original planning approval for the current "Hedley Meadows" development by Gentoo Housing included a requirement for the company to provide an on-site play area and to make a contribution to off-site play facilities.

The latter requirement was later removed and the County Council and Gentoo assumed that Wylam Parish Council would, in return for an initial lump sum, maintain in perpetuity the planned play area and all other green spaces around the site.

The Parish Council was not prepared to accept this requirement, for two main reasons. Experience has shown that maintaining play equipment and having the necessary safety inspections carried out, is expensive, as is grass cutting. In addition, the area designated for the play area was a small corner, right next to the busy Holeyn Hall Road, which the Parish Council considered to be unsafe and therefore totally unsuitable.

As a result of this, Gentoo applied to the County Council to have the requirement to provide a play area removed and for the maintenance of the open spaces to be covered by a contract paid for by contributions from the householders within the development.

Wylam Parish Council objected as a matter of principle to the removal of the play area but, following a series of meetings with the County Council and senior representatives of Gentoo, agreed to accept this amendment alongside an offer from Gentoo to provide a sum of £40,000 to the Parish Council, to provide and maintain additional play or recreational facilities at alternative sites within the village, primarily the Jubilee Playing Field.

We believe this to be the most acceptable outcome, which will hopefully benefit the whole community and an amended Section 106 agreement (which covers this type of provision within a planning agreement) has now been signed by all three parties.

Falcon Centre

Most residents will probably be aware that the Falcon Centre had to be closed, for safety reasons, when part of the Library ceiling collapsed in early March.

Although the Play Group has since been allowed to resume in the area they use, subject to weekly inspections, it was not before the Group had suffered severe losses of children and, of course, income. (See further article covering this story).

Wylam Library also had to be relocated, and the Librarians, Helena and Margaret, wish to thank Wylam Methodist Church for allowing them to set up a temporary home there during the closure, and also all readers for their continuing support.

As we write, repairs to the Falcon Centre are under way and a re-opening date for the library and other facilities will be announced as soon as the contractors are able to confirm the date, which we hope will be soon after you read this.

Will We See Red Soon?



Advisory 20mph speed signs, as shown here, have been in place in Wylam for nearly three years now and, according to Northumberland County Council, they are due to be replaced by mandatory (red) signs some time this summer, a move for which many have campaigned for a long time.

A scheme incorporating this change was proposed to Wylam Parish Council by the County Council earlier in the year. It will also include small repeater signs, on the main roads and on some connecting roads, within the Dene Estate for example. The addition of some 20mph markings on the road surface is also to be included, along with the "refreshing" of existing 30mph markings, where appropriate.

Two further proposed changes were rejected by the Parish Council. One was to install rumble strips within the road surface at the points where the 20mph limit begins. We know that these can cause very high levels of noise, particularly with passing lorries, to the annoyance of nearby residents.

The other element the Parish Council rejected was a proposal to create a built-out chicane, on the south side of the road just below the entrance to the Playing Field, with a requirement for traffic coming up into the village to "give way" to southbound traffic at this point. This would have necessitated double yellow lines to prevent parking in front of many of the houses in Ingham Terrace and beside the Mill Flats on the opposite side. Coupled with the inevitable noise and pollution that we believe would be created by vehicles stopping and pulling away from this feature, meant that the Parish Council would not accept this change without much wider consultation with nearby residents and time to observe the possible effects of additional traffic entering and leaving the new Co-op site when it is opened.

And, cycling on the bridge!

For a long time, pedestrians have complained about the conflict caused by cyclists who insist on riding their bikes on the pavement across the river, occasionally abusing those walking over the bridge but, at best, creating a potential hazard for all concerned.

The Parish Council has been seeking possible remedies to this issue for years without much success but we are now pleased to report that the County Council, with active support from Sustrans, has come up with a proposal that we are prepared to try.

The existing signs indicating that cyclists should dismount are considered to be misleading and will be removed. Instead, a series of arrows and cycle symbols will be painted on the ground, leading cyclists to the road rather than the footpath. Time will tell whether this will have the desired effect but we consider it to be worth a try.

It is expected that these markings will be introduced at the same time as the 20mph scheme described above.

The Big Tynedale Bake

Tynedale Hospice at Home has launched a "Big Tynedale Bake Campaign" in order to raise some 'dough' and is calling on people across the area to pull on their pinnies and get baking to raise valuable funds to support its work.

Cathy Bates, community fund raiser for Tynedale Hospice at Home, says "We launched our first Big Tynedale Bake last year and it was a great success, raising an incredible £5,600 to support our services. This year we're hoping to smash that total and raise over £10,000.

"Whether you're part of a community group, school, a local business or an individual wanting to host something for friends and family, we're appealing to everyone to get involved. We can supply you with our Big Tynedale Bake Fund Raising Pack, which includes everything you need to stage a great event."

Some ideas are suggested:- Host a coffee morning or afternoon tea; host a bake sale; hold a 'bake-off' or simply sell your baked goods in return for donations to the Hospice.

All funds raised will support the work of the Hospice which provides palliative nursing care to people in their own homes, Family Support Services and a Hospital Transport Service to people living in Tynedale, West Northumberland, Ponteland and the surrounding areas.

The Big Tynedale Bake is taking place throughout the summer. If you'd like to get involved, please email: fundraising@tynedalehospice.com, telephone 01434 606 444 or visit www.tynedalehospice.com.

Sam Smith, Local Hero



Grace Carden, a year 11 student at Ponteland High School, where Sam's dad works and who knows Sam, writes:-

"When asked who their hero is, many people would instantly reel off the name of a football player or a celebrity without even thinking about it. But are they really heroes? To me the real heroes are people who, despite all odds, push themselves to exceed expectations in order to find a way, beyond complications, to succeed in doing something they love.

Sam Smith is 17 years old and is in year 13 at Prudhoe High School. Next year he aims to study Journalism at Northumbria Uni-versity. The Smith family lives on Holeyn Hall Road and Sam is well known in Wylam. When he was a young boy Sam was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy which resulted in him losing his ability to walk.

When younger, Sam loved playing football and was a very active boy but due to his muscular dystrophy this became impossible. However, his family discovered the power-chair version of football, which Sam took up and began to enjoy.

Sam had begun his football career playing for the Wylam Rockets as an under-7 coached by Tony Wynne. When that was no longer an option he put in a lot of hard work playing for Northern Thunder, his local power-chair team. This team play in the Muscular Dystrophy UK Premiership and, after numerous trials, Sam has now been selected to play for the 2017 England FIPFA World Cup Squad.

When Sam heard that he had made the team he said; "It's definitely what I wanted to do when I started playing. It was always the goal to get onto the national team and I am really happy that I achieved it".

Sam's two brothers Joe (14) and Ben (20) are so proud of what their brother has been able to achieve. Sam's father, Danny Smith, said he was ecstatic about his son's achievements and he cannot wait to watch him play in the World Cup. Sam's mum Elaine is going too.

The FIPFA World Cup takes place in Kissimmee, Florida, in July and the eight England squad members will be taking on teams from around the world. Playing for the England squad is only one of Sam's outstanding achievements. In 2012 he carried the Olympic Torch which was a very proud moment for him and his family.

So, the next time you are asked who your hero is, think about it for a second. For me, Sam is a hero and I wish the England power-chair football team the best of luck in the World Cup. Nobody deserves to win anything more than those eight boys do and what Sam has achieved demonstrates that anything is possible when you set your mind to it."

Stephenson's Cottage

Our previous issue included a report on the local shock and disappointment following the decision by the National Trust to close Stephenson's Birthplace for a year.

In March, members of the Parish Council met with Andrew Poad, the National Trust Manager for the Hadrian's Wall Area, to discuss the issue. Although we remain concerned about many aspects of the closure, particularly the timing and handling of the decision, it must be acknowledged that we came away with a better understanding of the reasoning behind that decision and what we believe to be the Trust's genuine wish to re-open the cottage next year.

As a Council we suggested that the Trust should broaden the story about George Stephenson by incorporating more about the many other aspects of local railway heritage, perhaps linking more closely with the Parish Council's own Railway Museum, and this idea, at least in principle, appeared to be welcomed.

Andrew Poad was also guest speaker at the Parish Council's Annual Village Meeting in April, at which he gave an interesting presentation about the National Trust sites under his jurisdiction, from Bellister in the west to Stephenson's Cottage in the east.

He responded encouragingly to both criticisms about the Stephenson's Cottage closure and suggestions from those present. He also confirmed his willingness to come to a meeting later in the year to outline what he hoped would be positive suggestions from the Trust but also to hear the suggestions and views of local people to ensure that Stephenson's Cottage can be put back on the map.

Wylam Playgroup

Kate Henderson, Chair of Wylam Playgroup writes:-

"It has been quite a roller coaster for staff, parents, carers and committee members of Wylam Playgroup over recent months. As many are aware we were displaced from the Falcon Centre in early March following the collapse of a section of ceiling in the library. We were kindly allowed to hold sessions at Wylam First School instead, but due to OFSTED regulations we weren't able to open for our usual full sessions. This had a two-fold financial effect; staff had to be paid for their contracted hours but we also lost children as a result of the changed hours.

Following extensive surveys we were later allowed back into the building, which was a great relief. However, we had permanently lost a number of children in a year where numbers were already low and our bank balance had taken a serious hit.

Thankfully, a few months on we are now in a much better place. Donations through a "JustGiving" site, a very generous grant from Wylam Parish Council and a contribution from Gentoo combined with donations from parents and other members of the community, we have made up the shortfall from this awful event. Furthermore a fund raising event in April raised more money than we could have hoped. We are very grateful to Tom & Joe's for donating all the proceeds from their stall on the day, Steve's Emporium for lending us a coffee machine, Wylam Community Bakery and Adventures in Aude for bringing their delicious goods to the event and contributing to our funds. We also thank all those who donated raffle prizes - Wylam Community Bakery, The Wood Oven, the Fox and Hounds, Adam and Eve and the Car and Van Centre. Thanks also to parents (past and present), members of the community and the committee for their amazing help and commitment in making the event happen and to everyone who gave their support on the day.

It has been very heartening to see the community pull together to save our treasured Playgroup and, while fund raising events are crucial to our survival, we also need help with the ongoing administration of the Playgroup and desperately need new Trustees. If you could spare 1 or 2 hours a month of your time, please contact Kate Henderson on wylamplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk or 07979 818974."

St Oswin's Bells report 2016-17

Andrew Cairns, Bell Tower captain writes:-

"As we head into the quiet season of the church calendar, it seems an appropriate moment to reflect on the past year. We have built on the progress made in the previous year and have continued to work to improve the standard and quality of our ringing. In addition to ringing for the 10.00am and Festival services (inc. Good Friday (half-muffled), Ascension Day, Ash Wednesday), Monday night practices have continued. We were also asked to ring as part of the village 'Christmas Jolly'.

We have rung a quarter-peal most months, typically following the 10.00am service. Whilst these have given us the opportunity to consolidate learning, they have also marked significant events and Festivals. We rang quarters to mark: the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, the 130th anniversary of the first ringing on the bells, St. Oswin's Day, the centenary of the death of Private Appleby (a St. Oswin's bellringer), the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Bob & Wendy Doughty, the opening of the refurbished Hall by the Bishop, the Bishops' Tynedale Pilgrimage, and St. George's Day.

On 26th November 2016 a band of ringers from across the Diocese (inc. your tower captain) rang a peal consisting of 41 different methods. This is a particular challenge on six bells. Each ringer does *not* know the order of the methods in advance and must change pattern immediately on a call from the conductor. The weight of the bells at St. Oswin's makes this challenge all the harder. The peal was completed in 3 hours 11 minutes.

Our band remains involved with the regional association of bellringers and we came third (of seven) at the annual 6-bell Striking Competition, held at Ss James & Basil, Fenham in February. We progressed to the final, held at Holy Trinity, Darlington, in May. In April 2016 we began joint practices with the Newburn and Ovingham bands, held at St. Michael's Newburn on the first Wednesday of the month. This has helped boost numbers at the Newburn practices but has also enabled us to ring things that we could not do individually.

There have been four visiting bands to St. Oswin's, some local, some farther afield such as Oxford. In July, Wylam was host to the Summer Country Meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (an international bellringing society founded in London in 1747), organised by the Cairns family. As well as peals rung across the region, a striking competition was held on the bells at St. Oswin's and a meeting and ceilidh in the Institute on 9th July 2016.

We would be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to "have a go" or just come to have a look at the bells one night. If you would like the bells to be rung to mark a significant anniversary, then please get in touch."

That Road Closure!



There's no doubt that the closure of Holeyne Hall Road and Bluebell Lane for six weeks, the latter for safety reasons, caused a great deal of inconvenience for many. However, in spite of some widely circulating rumours to the contrary, the contractors completed the work in the allotted time.

The task, which involved the installation of a sewer to serve the new housing development and a water attenuation system, designed to avoid flooding at times of heavy rainfall, was not without problems. The excavation itself, part of which is shown here, was 4 metres deep along most of its length and 1 metre wide, with some hand work being necessary where existing services had to be carefully avoided – an attempt which was occasionally unsuccessful!



Further work, albeit involving a much smaller pipe, is required down part of Church Road and this may, by the time you read this, be under-way. Once again, rumours have been rife about the road having to be closed again. In this case the work will require traffic lights but, by using a system involving localised excavations and connecting drilling, closure is to be avoided.

Head to Retire

Lynn Johnston, who has been Head Teacher at Wylam First School for the past 13 years, is to retire at the end of the current school year.

During her time at Wylam Lynn has created a school that has been rated as "outstanding".

Her personal qualities and ability are widely recognised and many of our local teenagers and young adults will testify to her drive, enthusiasm and encouragement, which has been so important in setting them on their future paths.

We take this opportunity to thank Lynn for all that she has done for Wylam First School and its children, and for making the school a central part in the life of this community.

We wish her a long and very happy retirement.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Stephanie Gibbon, currently Head of School at the Central Primary School in Ashington, who is to take over the headship at Wylam in September.

Forthcoming Events

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

Mon 12 June Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 14 June

Men at Home, John Derry, "Napoleon", Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Sat 17 June

Film Club, "What we did on our holiday", 7.30pm

Sat 24 June Village Summer Fair

Sat 16 July

Film Club, (title tbc), 7.30pm

Mon 24 to Wed 26 July

Wylam & District Churches Children's Holiday Club, Methodist Centre, mornings.

Sat 30 Sept

Giant MacMillan Coffee Morning, 10.00am to 12 noon

Sat 7 Oct

Jumble Sale 2.00 to 4.00pm.

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 7 August

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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