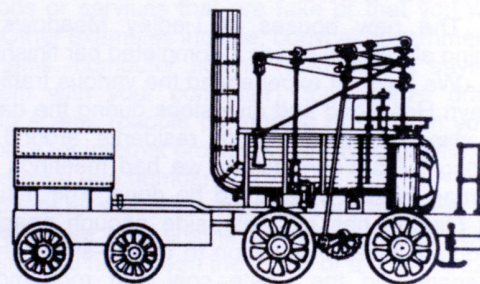


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 2017

No. 126

## Riversdale Surgery

Many will be aware of the proposed closure of Riversdale Surgery in Wylam. On the information received, the Parish Council wrote to the Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) raising significant concerns about the impact of the closure. The Parish Council asked for details of any studies of the issues that might arise for Wylam residents, and told them of our worries. In particular that there seems to be little or no thought given to alternative arrangements or studies in place to decide how to lessen the impact of the closure. Our letter expressed our concerns that the proposed alternative arrangements (that patients can travel to Prudhoe by public transport) appear to have been put forward without:

- A consideration of the demographics of the population affected (not just in Wylam but other parishes along the north part of the Tyne Valley) including characteristics such as age, disability, family make up and so on.
- A study of the nature of demand for GP services in the area and the impact this may have on people's ability to travel,
- Consideration of the true nature of the transport infrastructure that we currently have and whether this offers adequate access to healthcare, given the nature of the population, their needs and the wide area needing to be covered.

WPC is particularly concerned about the impact on access to healthcare for elderly residents, disabled people, families with young or school age children, and families with low incomes. Furthermore, we are worried that there appears to be no assessment of the impact on the sustainability of the broader healthcare infrastructure in the area – for example, whether the proposed arrangements will have a detrimental impact on the long term future of dispensing services and what this might mean for those residents affected. We await a clear and detailed reply.

## Summer Fair

The Summer Fair is the largest event of the year in Wylam. Despite the windy conditions, the Fair attracted a record number of people and raised over £8,000, which the Wylam Community Playing Fields Association will use to maintain and develop the sporting and leisure facilities on the Jubilee Playing Field. Under the watchful eye of Ken John, the Master of Ceremonies, the Fair was opened by Robin Piette, Amber Ewart, Peter Greenfield and Imogen Leahy.

Ken was assisted in his compering duties by his 'apprentice' Adrian Sutcliffe, who has a similar relaxed style. Entertainment during the afternoon was provided by Prudhoe Community Band, the Wylam Singers directed by Simon Fidler and by Scottish Dancers.



*Bogie Time Trial - Old Skool flat out - No Fear!*

As usual there were a number of competitions, including the Bogie Time Trial, won by Tom Robinson in the First School Category, Ben Robinson in the Middle/High School Category and Chris Robinson in the Old Skool Category! David Coady was named the 'Mary Berry' of Wylam, his ginger sponge cake taking the top spot in the all-male bake-off competition. The tug of war was won by the Beer Tent Heroes, who no doubt enjoyed their liquid refreshment prize! The winners of the Egg hoying were Craig Little and Dominic Robinson, whose reward did not include scrambled eggs!

The commercial and charity stalls were busy, as were the food outlets, Beer Marquee and Pimms Bar. The Book Stall in the Methodist Church raised over £600, half of which was donated to WCPFA and half to Wylam and District Churches to support youth work. We are grateful for the support of the stall holders, villagers who attended the event and volunteers, who all helped to make the Summer Fair such a success. WCPFA are always looking for additional volunteers and potential Committee Members, who would be welcome to attend the AGM in Wylam Institute on Tuesday 14th November at 7.30 pm.



## Gentoo build

The new houses at Hedley Meadows have been coming along with phase 1 completed bar finishing touches.

We have all experienced the various traffic holdups on Holeyn Hall Road and diversions during the daily commute. Following complaints from residents around the site re parking by sub-contractors, we had meetings with the site foreman to see what could be done. The main problem is that Gentoo has not set aside enough space for all the various vehicles in addition to the on-site room needed for materials and the waste coal and rock mound at The Orchard road end.

It is not illegal to park on a public street, but folk were getting upset after almost 2 years of this and it was good to clear the air with Peter Wood (Foreman) and we have seen a big improvement since August. Extra on-site parking is being arranged and more space will be available as the rubble mound gets carted away. Peter also added:

- Gentoo hire in a sweeper to clean the main road and this can be used to clean neighbouring streets if needed.
- Call the Police on 101 if you have concerns re vans parking dangerously on the main road. This has been done in the past and they do respond pretty promptly.
- The next set of single lane closures will be in the Autumn as they connect up the water and sewage at the Orchard end. This involves mole drilling under the main road down to the junction chamber opposite St Oswin's.
- The main entrance / exit from Hedley Meadows onto Holeyn Hall will be 50m uphill from the current Dene Terrace West one. The kerbing has been adjusted to give better sight lines.
- Main building works are due to end next February.



## Comings and Goings

Helena Bates - A familiar figure in Wylam Library having worked there since 1993, Helena said goodbye at her retirement party on 22 August 2017.

Helena was brought up in Warwickshire, studying Business at Sunderland where she met her husband. After moving to Wylam with her family, Helena applied for a 6 months part time post at Wylam Library, got the job and stayed!

Highlights for Helena include the Puffing Billy Festival in 2013, where the library worked with the Parish Council and many other organisations to celebrate the first running of Wylam's most famous locomotive, topped off by the visit of the replica PB itself from Beamish Museum.

In 2014 the library hosted a series of displays by local historians commemorating World War One - Lest we Forget, Call to Arms and Men at the Somme. Helena can remember how much people were affected by these stories.

More recently, the library played its part in the successful Wylam Winter Tales Festival, hosting a lively discussion with Ann Cleeves, author of the Shetland and Vera crime novel series.



Helena Bates (centre)

Helena mentioned that she will, of course, miss the library and the lively presence of the Wylam Railway Museum, the Preschool Playgroup and the Community Bakery. Living nearby she will be popping in!

## St Oswin's New Priest

On the 18th September, we welcomed the arrival of Tom Birch and his family. His appointment links the two parishes of Ovingham and Wylam.

Tom is a Scot and married to Jessica with 3 children: Harriet aged 5, Geoffrey 3 and Benjamin 10 months. They live in Wylam vicarage where alterations to make it more family friendly have been carried out over the summer.

Having read Economics at the University of Glasgow and Ecological Economics at the University of Edinburgh, Tom worked with the International Institute for Environment and Development, a job that took him to Southern and Eastern Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean.



Tom Birch and family



## Lynn Johnston

Headmistress at Wylam First School who retired this Summer after 12 years with many thanks from the Governors, PTA, staff, pupils and the Community Orchard.

## New Parish Council

Following the May elections the Council has a lively mix of new and old faces in post for the next 4 years.

The Council are all long-time residents with a wide range of skills and experiences and the common goal of making Wylam a great place to live and work. Council meetings are held in the Institute (each month bar August) and anyone can come along to see what goes on - see the (newly repainted!) Parish Notice boards and website for times and agenda.

Any items that you would like us to cover please get in touch. All our details are on the website [wylamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://wylamparishcouncil.org.uk) or you can pop in to see Diana at the Institute office every Tuesday and Thursday.



back row L-R we have:

Jim Martin, Keith Trobe, Jos Joures, Tom Martin, Tom Appleby, Diana Carney (Clerk), Anne Francis (Chairman), Colin Percy and Bill Nicholson

## Community Grants

There is a new 'Community Chest Scheme' available for parish groups being run by Northumberland County Council. They welcome applications from: WIs, Scouts, sports clubs and so on. Of particular note is the new Help For You scheme which provides grants of up to £200 for a young person under 18 to achieve an ambition. Each Grant panel is able to award at least 10 of these Help For You grants.

Note that the deadline for this first tranche (of 2) of applications is Friday 29th September. All the forms and guidance are available on the County Council website <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Business/Grants/Grants-Funding.aspx#communitychestscheme>

## Advice re Scams

July was Scams Awareness Month and the problem is widespread with a phone scam recently conning a local man out of £10,000. Scammers try to steal money, personal information or data from a person or organisation. Usually people are called and hassled until they provide their personal details or agree to buy a product or service. They can cause distress, misery, and lead to a widespread loss of consumer confidence. They can also happen to anyone, with individuals and businesses being targeted.

The deceptions range from pretending to be your bank to selling you goods or services that are fake or that you will never receive. Other examples include; copycat government sites, ticket scams, computer scams (cold callers saying there is problem with your computer), lottery/prize draw scams, phishing scams (people pretending to be from your bank, or the Police, or internet providers) smishing (inviting you to call a premium rate number)

Only 5-15% of all scams are reported, probably due to feeling embarrassment and shame for 'being fooled' Our advice if you think you have been the target of a scam is to get advice from Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 04 05 06 or [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

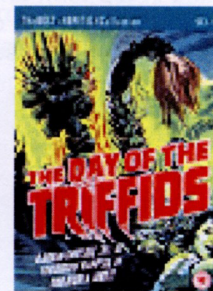
## Wylam Station House

Mary Bythell, a director of Wylam Winter Tales Festival, is currently working with Network Rail, Northern Rail and the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership to try to bring the disused part of Wylam Station House into community use. While the photographs of Wylam Station were being taken for the 'Hidden Wylam' photography exhibit for Wylam Winter Tales, it was discovered that the old waiting room area in the station house is not in use. Ideas for using the space include a co-working hub for people who work from home, with a meeting room, large monitors, a high-spec printer and fast broadband.

These hubs are very popular with start-ups as a great way to reduce initial capital costs. At this early point in the project, the group are keen to hear from those who might use a co-working space and other ideas for how the space might be used. We are also looking for volunteers to join a working party for the Station House project. Please contact Mary Bythell (mobile 07799 266 566; home 01661 598 479; [marybythell@hotmail.com](mailto:marybythell@hotmail.com) to discuss or to volunteer.

## Overhanging vegetation

Our thanks go out to all residents who trim and cut back their bushes, hedges, shrubs and trees that overhang footpaths and pavements. It is really helpful for those who can't hop onto the road or duck to avoid the 'Triffids'. The North side of the Main Road looks particularly lovely this year.



## Wylam Rockets

Each Wednesday evening you can see the royal blue squad of happy (and sometimes muddy) players as you wend your way home or pay a visit to the fish and chip van in Chapel Lane. These are the ace footballers of the Wylam Rockets.

The Rockets were founded back in 2003 with a vision to provide inclusive, non-competitive football training and match opportunities for our First School pupils. The emphasis is on training and playing together to maximise our squad and team achievements. The added benefits are building individual confidence and team values such as fair play, club loyalty, mutual support, self-discipline and respect.

The boys move on to other teams in the area when they reach about 11 and the girls' Rockettes teams stay together and run on all the way through High School. This year we are proud to have an under 18s' squad for the first time! The four leagues we play in this year are:



- Gateshead Youth League - under 7's mixed, u8 mixed, u10 boys, u12 boys
- Pinpoint Junior League - all nine girls teams
- Tynedale mini-soccer league - under 9 boys
- North East Youth Development League - under 11 boys

Thanks to the great support we have had from the kids, their parents and the volunteers, we now have a massive 16 teams turning out each season. This gives over 150 local children the chance to play in our matches. It is a real success story for Wylam and as they say - we are over the moon!

The Rockets / Rockettes Records last season were fantastic and included:

#### 2016-17

- Pinpoint league top division winner – U11's Eagles girls
- Pinpoint league Cup runners up- U11's Eagle girls
- Pin Point league Cup final runners up - U13's girls
- Blackpool tournament Shield winners - U13's girls

All support is welcome and the noisier the better, so if you want to cheer us on, get involved or spot the future premier league players (!) come along to the Jubilee field on Saturdays. For the players, we aim to keep our subs as low as possible and they are much lower than any other team in the area. To do this and as mentioned above, we rely on the goodwill of our parent coaches and helpers on match days and during the week with training and general admin. If you want to join the Rockets and help out, we are looking for assistant coaches to build on the skills that we already have. If you would like to become a referee, no prior experience is needed - just a love of the game - and we will support you to get the qualifications and experience you need.

One of our big challenges this season is to keep our teams in top form and match fit during the winter, so if any readers have ideas or can offer the use of all weather or indoor grounds please get in touch.



*Wylam Rockets FC U10s,  
sponsored by Daniel Farm*

Of course, with the success of the Rockets, we are picking up a lot of local press coverage and there are several sponsorship opportunities if any local company would like to be more formally associated with our club.

To find out more you can email our secretary Sophie (sophiejewitt@sky.com). For regular updates on whats going on, future events and matches you can also sign-up to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Wylamrockets/).

## Forthcoming Events

**Wylam Institute 2017 major dates** – all events at the Institute unless otherwise stated

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 23rd

Wylam Community Orchard Apple Juicing Event, Falcon Centre, 10-12am

Sunday 24th

Joint Harvest Festival Eucharist at St Oswins, 11.30am

Wednesday 27th

Institute Monthly Coffee Morning from 10.30am – 12noon

Saturday 30th

Giant Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon

### OCTOBER

Saturday 7th

Jumble Sale from 2 – 4pm

Saturday 14th

Film Club at 7.30pm 'Hunt for the Wilder People'

Wednesday 25th

Institute Monthly Coffee Morning from 10.30am – 12noon

Saturday 28th

Women's Institute Table Top Sale from 13.30 - 4.30pm

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 12th

Remembrance Day Service at 10:45 am at the War Memorial followed by a service in St Oswin's at 11:30am

Saturday 18th

Film Club at 7.30pm 'A Separation'

Wednesday 22nd

Institute Monthly Coffee Morning from 10.30am – 12noon

### DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd

Voices of Hope concert in St Oswin's followed by Dinner at Wylam Institute

Sunday 3rd

Christingle in St Oswin's at 3pm

Saturday 9th

Christmas Coffee Morning at the Methodist Centre 10am – 12 noon

Film Club 7.30pm 'Edward Scissorhands'

Sunday 24th

Crib Service at St Oswin's at 6pm

Wednesday 27th

Institute Monthly Coffee

**Please note:** In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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"  
Tuesday 15 November**

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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