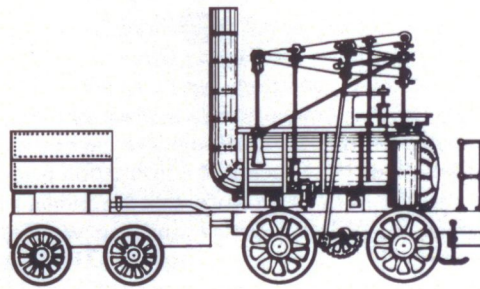


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter, 2006

Number 83

## Community Week Declared a Hit

Sue Nicholson, Chair of Wylam Institute Community Association writes:-

I think everyone would agree that Community Week, revived this year and held in the first week of November, was a great success. Most of the events were very well attended and justified the hard work put in by all the various groups and the Institute Management Committee.

The Table Top Sale suffered because of the weather but those involved had a lot of fun on the day. Hang on to those unsold items, we may do it again some time. I am only going to single out one or two particular events, which is no reflection on the others. The Film Club's showing of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was a huge success. Both children and adults thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Because it was so successful the Film Club are considering showing other children's films so keep your eyes open for future dates.

"Riff Raff", the local AC/DC tribute band on the Saturday night was a tremendously popular event which made a magnificent contribution to the overall success of the week. At the time of going to press we are still calculating exactly how much the week has raised for the Institute but a current estimate is in the region of £2000, which is hugely gratifying.

Thank you to everyone who organised the week and to those of you who supported the many activities and spent so generously.



Drama Society models in some of the Historical Costumes



Table Top buyers defy the wet day to clinch a deal

## Watch Out, There's a Scam About!

We have received a warning from Northumbria Police about a scam that has been used in the Berwick area although apparently originating in Belize. Briefly, it involves a card being passed through the door of homes from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) stating that they were unable to deliver a parcel to that address and advising the occupier to call a given telephone number. The number is actually a premium rate one and callers hear a recorded message which costs them £15. If you should receive such a card you are advised to telephone Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 239 6655 or contact ICSTIS (the Premium Rate Service Regulator) at [www.icstis.org.uk](http://www.icstis.org.uk)

## Train Stops

We have recently learned through the Tyne Valley Rail Users Group that from June 2007, all passenger train services on this line will stop at Prudhoe. This suggests progress in the development of the planned train/bus interchange at Prudhoe.

The change is unlikely to help Wylam residents as all trains that currently stop at Wylam also stop at Prudhoe but the TVRUG are continuing to seek additional stops at other stations, including Wylam.



## Another Library Update

In October, every household in Wylam received a questionnaire from the County Council, which Parish Council representatives believed was heavily loaded towards acceptance of a mobile service in place of the present library. It was also felt that the questionnaire did not fairly explain the background or the process of consultation prior to that date. The Parish Council therefore called a public meeting on 30 October in Wylam Institute and we were delighted that something like 120 people turned up. The Head of Libraries for Northumberland County Council had been invited but did not appear and so it was left to County Councillor Paul Kelly to take the flak and respond to the many questions and comments from the floor.

There was clear support for the Parish Council's view that everything should be done to try to save the library and to resist the possible option of the local community having to take full responsibility for the Falcon Centre with still no guarantee, if that did happen, that the library would be retained, at least in its current form.

Ironically, although still ahead of the closing date for return of the questionnaire, news had been received earlier that day that a report had already been sent out to members of the County Council's Executive, due to make a decision the following week about all the libraries under threat, which included a recommendation that Wylam Library should be retained.

The exact wording for Wylam read "To ensure that appropriate income is realised from occupants within the Falcon Centre at Wylam. To be implemented by 1 February 2007. Current Library provision to remain".

## Tennis Club Celebrates 100 Years

This has been the centenary year for Wylam Lawn Tennis Club which was founded in 1906 with 16 members and one grass court. Now with three all-weather courts and floodlights at the Club in Elm Bank Road, tennis in Wylam has become an all-year-round sport.

The club caters for players of all standards with adult and junior teams playing in the Northumberland and Durham leagues as well as social tennis and other activities.

As part of the centenary celebrations a midsummer barbecue was held, which was a great success, with music provided by two local bands, Mild Peril and Midlife Crisis.

There is now an established coaching programme for both members and non-members, with the services of two professional coaches catering for all ages. As a result, the club was able to have an under-12 girls team in the league this year. Congratulations also go to two members, Clare Wiseman and Debs Noble, who won the ladies doubles at the County Handicapped Tournament, with Debs and her partner Bob Ainsley also runners up in the mixed doubles. Membership of the club is open and new members are welcome. Please contact Mrs Anne Francis at 4 Dene Road (Tel: 852642) if you are interested in knowing more.



Tennis Club members celebrate with a barbecue

When it came to the meeting of the Executive on 6 November, any decision on the libraries was deferred to a future date on the grounds that new ideas had emerged from the later stages of the "consultation" which justified further consideration.

The County Council has stated for some time that current users of the Falcon Centre have not been required to pay for that use, but it emerged at the public meeting that the Playgroup and Toddler Group have both been paying for many years.

In the face of all this we can only hope that when the County Council's Executive comes to re-consider this issue they will accept the original recommendation for Wylam. The public meeting appeared to support the view that local volunteers would be prepared to help in the library, which may be one way forward but, from the start, one of the County Council's concerns has been that the number of books withdrawn at Wylam has been low. It therefore follows that the greatest help would be for the library to become more widely used. **Why not call in at the library soon and start making a difference, especially if you are not already a regular user?** Joining is a very simple procedure and borrowing books is free! The library is open on Tuesdays and Thursday between 2.00 and 5.00pm and 5.30 to 7.30pm, and also on Saturdays between 9.00am and 12 noon.

### STOP PRESS

**We have just heard that the County Council's Executive has (on 4 December) accepted the recommendation that the Wylam Library should be retained.**

*(The full wording of the recommendation was as quoted in italics earlier in this article).*

## Repairs at Hagg Bank



Work in progress on the bridge

Some inconvenience and disruption has been caused at Hagg Bank recently, where contractors for Network Rail have been carrying out major repairs to the road bridge across the railway, which connects the community there with the outside world.

The work has involved renewal of corroded bolts which secure the metal structure below the carriageway and complete replacement, with a new waterproofing membrane, of the original underground structure designed to deflect water from the lower part of the bridge.

This is believed to be the first major work on this bridge since it was built so perhaps it has not done too badly.

The work is expected to be finished soon, along with repairs to the Hagg Bank end of Wylam Wood Road which has also been closed for a time recently to enable Northumberland County Council to carry out repairs to the road edges.



## Wylam Pre-School Playgroup

The Pre-School Playgroup has produced a very attractive 'Wylam Calendar' and copies are now for sale in various shops around the village and from committee members.

The calendar, which features a series of beautiful colour photographs of Wylam, has been created and designed by parents to raise money for the Playgroup.

Copies went on sale for the first time at the Community Week Table Top Sale and created quite a stir, selling like hot cakes to young and old.

Numbers are limited so, if you would like a calendar either for yourself or to send to relatives and friends in time for Christmas, please contact either Emma Andrews on 852644 or Melanie Dunnett on 852106.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who came along to our Fireworks Party at the Falcon Centre which raised over £600.

## Hadrian's Cycleway

*The following is part of an article received too late for our autumn issue but thought to be still of interest to many.*

A warm and sunny Saturday in July saw around 150 cyclists representing 'Sustrans' and including several from Wylam, pass along the wagon-way as part of a week-long celebratory ride to mark the official opening of the Hadrian's Cycleway. The route closely follows Hadrian's Wall, beginning at Ravenglass on the Cumbrian coast, stretches northwards to Silloth, then east to Carlisle ending at the Arbeia Roman Fort at South Shields. The route forms part of the National Cycle Network, set up and run by the charity 'Sustrans', whose work promotes sustainable transport, encouraging people to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment.

The eastward route from Wylam passes along the fantastic new Newburn Riverside pathway adjacent to the Enterprise Park and on into Newcastle via the cycle path on Scotswood Road, along the Quayside and into the heart of the city before heading on to South Shields.

Many of us appreciate the benefits of the cycle track as a traffic free space and it is now easier than ever to cycle into Newcastle. (You can always get the train back!)

You can find out more about the Hadrian's Cycleway and other parts of the National Cycle Network by visiting the Sustrans website at

[www.sustrans.co.uk](http://www.sustrans.co.uk)

## Going Green

A group to take action on climate change has been formed called "Wylam Green Street". If you want to get involved or wish to know more about this initiative, contact Andy on

[topbanaman@hotmail.com](mailto:topbanaman@hotmail.com)

## Your Chance Soon!

Elections for our District and Parish Councils are due to take place on 3 May 2007.

**Now** is the time to be thinking seriously about how you might be able to make a contribution. Long-serving District Councillor Philip Brooks has given advance notice of his intention to retire from Tynedale Council and so there will certainly be at least one opportunity for another committed local resident interested in the future of Wylam and Tynedale to take on this challenge.

For several years your Parish Councillors have been returned unopposed, with just sufficient people to fill the eight places. It could be good for democracy and good for our village if more people would be interested enough to stand.

Please give this matter serious consideration. Nominations will be required in March and this warning should give you time to talk to people who could assist your decision. We are sure that Philip or any Parish Councillor will be happy to discuss their respective roles and answer your questions. Please don't leave it until the last minute!

## Wylam Arts

Wylam Arts is an organisation that was set up in memory and honour of three local, very talented and well-respected friends who tragically died in 2005. Julia Darling was a poet and playwright, Keith Morris and Joe Schofield, two internationally renowned folk musicians.

Made up of a group of community minded people, Wylam Arts stages occasional musical and cultural events for people of all ages, raising money for both national and local charities.

One event last year raised £1200 for a local breast cancer charity and the Musicians Union and proceeds from two events earlier this year, featuring music by Tango Zapatito, supported the three charities nominated following the Wylam Bridge tragedy.

Wylam Arts is not a registered charity but is registered with Newcastle CVS (Charity No. 226263). If you are interested and would like to know more about Wylam Arts, please contact Helen Walker on 852248.

## Crawcrook Composting Plant

Our Autumn issue contained a story about an application to Gateshead Council to carry out "controlled composting" of garden waste on a commercial scale at Building Farm, which is on Stannerford Road, between Crawcrook and Clara Vale.

We have heard very recently that this application has been turned down by that Authority but we have yet to hear whether the applicant intends to appeal against this decision, which happened when a similar previous application was turned down.

## Events for Water Aid Continue

"Splashing Out" was the theme of an event on 14 October in Wylam Institute organised by the Wylam and District Churches. The event was well supported and £700 was raised for a 'Water Aid' project in the Yelekebougou area of Mali in West Africa. This area is home to a community of some 3900 people living between 16 small villages. The whole area has only two schools and one public health clinic and water stress is a feature of every dry season. The climate is characterised by temperatures of 42 degrees C with two seasons, one wet and one dry. The mean annual rainfall is 600mm but the main problem for these people is that ground-water levels cause what water there is in the wells to become easily contaminated by both human and animal excreta. In partnership with "PAISA" (Support Programme for Food Security in West Africa), this project aims to provide improvements to the traditional wells, refurbishment of existing pumps and installation of sanitation facilities in 8 of the local villages.

The Wylam churches are hoping to raise a total of £3000 for this project over 12 months. Further small events have already been held and others are planned. If you would like to help by taking part in a sponsored swim at Prudhoe Waterworld in the New Year, please contact Anne Cant on 853254 but look out too for details of other opportunities that will be published in the coming months.

## Whither the 684?

A meeting between the County Council and affected Parish Councils on 21 November, following the re-routing of the 684 bus service, revealed that negotiations are continuing between the County and 'Arriva'. The possible diversion via the West Road route of two or three journeys a day is a possibility but probably at the cost of the Friday and Saturday evening journeys currently paid for by the County Council. Any change is not likely to take place until the New Year, if at all, but discussions continue.

A suggestion by the County Council that the local Parish Councils might consider contributing to the cost of subsidising journeys via the West Road met with a mixed reaction. There was concern about the precedent that could be set and the effect, both in the short and long-term, on relatively modest parish finances.

Due to the time that has elapsed since the service was changed at the beginning of September many users have been forced to make changes to their travel arrangements whilst others have found the direct link to the Metro Centre in particular a useful additional journey opportunity.

## Forthcoming Events

Two events early in the New Year in aid of Wylam Playing Field Association deserve our support:-

**Sat. January 13** - Jumble Sale in the Institute at 2.00pm

**Sat. January 27** Burns Night Ceilidh, in the Institute

For more information about either of these, contact Jennifer Power on 852834



## Wylam First School

A new orchard is now taking roots at Wylam First School. Pupils, parents and teachers joined forces to help plant the new apple orchard which is funded by the "Alan Titchmarsh Gardens for Schools Foundation".

A £500 grant from the Foundation paid for a mini-orchard of six trees which will give pupils a chance to explore seasonal change and grow their own fruit to eat in school.

This is exactly the sort of project that celebrity gardener Alan Titchmarsh is proud to support: "Gardening has been a passion of mine ever since I was a child," he said. "Capturing children's interest early on is vitally important in sustaining not only gardens and gardening skills but also the environment as a whole. I want schools to apply for funds to help finance worthwhile gardening and nature-related projects so that gardening and nature study both have a bright future."

The new orchard is the latest in a series of environmental projects at the school which is very proud of its beautiful Early Years' Garden which is maintained by parents and well-used by pupils.

Copies of the school's best-selling "What's Cooking" recipe book are still available - but you need to be quick if you would like one in time for Christmas as stocks are running out fast. The book, which costs £5.50, features favourite recipes from pupils, parents, grandparents and staff to suit all tastes and occasions.

Copies are available from the school office.



Young tree planters need support - for the tree

## Making a Clean Sweep

Wylam has recently received a welcome visit from a pavement sweeping machine, seen here in action in the village. This is one of two currently hired by Tynedale Council prior to the arrival of a new machine. Paths throughout the District



No, not the replacement 684 bus

have been or soon will be covered by way of demonstration but, before you build your hopes too high, areas will be prioritised according to use and it is expected that paths in many villages will only be swept once or twice each year. The Wylam visit coincided with the early stages of autumn leaf fall and consequently, after only a few days, it was difficult to see where the machine had been. So, Matthew Hadden, employed by the Parish Council for a number of jobs around the village, primarily helping to keep the place clean and tidy, need not worry about becoming redundant! However, it should be said that much of the underlying pavement dirt should be removed by the machine and take a lot longer to build up again. We anticipate that the mechanical sweeping will prove of great value.

## "Globe" Deadlines

We continue to welcome contributions for the "Wylam Globe", including brief articles of local interest, reports of events or dates of things that are coming up. The newsletter is published quarterly and the dates for material to be in the hands of the Parish Council for the next couple of issues are:-

**8 February 2007 for a March issue**  
**18 May 2007 for the June issue**

It helps if you can avoid leaving contributions until the last minute because we cannot always guarantee that space will be available. Material may be sent by email or other written form to the Parish Council Office or to any of the current editorial team:-

Peter Clarke, Maureen Gillis, Brian Japes and Tony Mitcham.

## Nature Notes

Peter Clarke writes:-

November and December are just the right time for planting young trees and, here in Wylam, we have for some years followed the practice of putting in a few young trees to increase cover, replace lost ones and responding to requests to commemorate new babies, marriages and sometimes the death of a loved one. Some people simply like planting trees and these are, of course, welcome too. The nature reserve is the obvious place for planting and silver birch, rowan, willow and wild cherry do particularly well there, as do oak, beech, Scots pine and others, although these after perhaps a slightly slower start.

This autumn, we have so far accommodated most of these and others are in the pipeline. It is not too late for more and planting can be extended into January and February if the frost keeps off.

We feel that more ornamental species, often with highly coloured flowers, are more appropriately restricted to parks and gardens!

There is now a flourishing avenue of oaks in the reserve which were planted in memory of people who lived in Wylam and who passed away some years ago. (To visit this area, go through the five-barred gate and turn immediately left. Names can be supplied, but we do not label the trees because of possible vandalism.) Parallel with this, on the other side of the path, is a corridor of hazels which we hope will encourage red squirrels and other small mammals. The corridor will be lengthened down to the river and also thickened this season. If any reader has a suggestion for the development of our natural history list, please do not hesitate to let me know.

**Late news** - As we prepare to go to press in late November a Red Kite has been reported circling over the Playing Field.

*Wylam Parish  
Council wishes all of  
our readers a very  
Happy Christmas  
and New Year*

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Printed for Wylam Parish Council by  
The Gilpin Press,  
Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA.