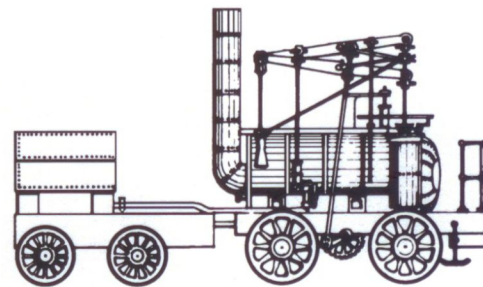


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer, 2007

Number 85

## Playing Field Fun Again

On Saturday 23 June, starting at 1pm, the annual Wylam Summer Fair will be held on the Jubilee Field. As well as a 'shop window' for village organisations there are numerous trade stalls, purveyors of fine foods and entertainments.

In temporary competition with the famous Hay-on-Wye event, the Wylam Second Hand Book Fair will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm in the Methodist Church Hall in Chapel Lane.

This year Wylam welcomes the Prudhoe Community Band, Merlin the Magician, Wylam Brewery, The Chart Toppers dance display team, Wylam Garage, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and much more.

Entry remains at £1 for adults and 50p for children aged between 5 and 16. The price has remained the same for at least 7 years, so it must be a bargain!

For further information contact Jennifer Power on 852834 or Tony Mitcham on 852128.



Gill Patterson and Rob Kevan, 2006 Summer Fair Masterchefs

## Village Centre Safety Scheme



This feature of the new Safety Scheme is proving popular

Work on the long-awaited scheme to improve safety for pedestrians and the appearance of the centre of the village was mostly completed by the end of April.

Comments have generally been very favourable, particularly about the "safe refuge" which allows pedestrians to look for traffic beyond the line of parked cars. At the time

of writing we are still awaiting restoration of the yellow lines in places, which is causing some inconvenience, and the connecting of the street lamp.

A number of people have commented along the lines that "it's a pity we didn't get a proper pedestrian crossing". It is perhaps worth repeating the reasons given by the County Council in response to the Parish Council's similar comments when the scheme was first discussed and which were given to last year's Annual Village Meeting when the plans were "unveiled". A light-controlled crossing cannot be placed close to a junction with a side road (Chapel Lane), there has to be a minimum line of clear visibility on the approach to a Zebra or Pelican Crossing (which our road does not allow) and there is evidence that a Zebra Crossing (without lights) can actually increase the likelihood of accidents, particularly amongst older pedestrians who tend to assume that vehicles can and will stop. On top of these arguments, parking is prohibited within the vicinity of a Zebra Crossing which would have eliminated virtually all parking near to both the Spar and Stobo's shops.

## Is Parking Like This Dangerous?



*Typical congestion when the Playing Field is busy*

Some of the main concerns of villagers relate to traffic matters, the responsibility of the County Council but which are issues the Parish Council regularly discusses with officers of the County Council and Northumbria Police. Problems with general congestion, roadside and pavement parking have been identified, especially when events take place at the Institute and the Playing Field.

In regard to the Jubilee Field, the success of the football and cricket teams and the increased reliance on the car has created a 'parking problem' at the field entrance on Main Road. This is mainly on Saturdays and Sundays when matches are taking place. The concern is that the cars obstruct the pavements and sight-lines for pedestrians and drivers. The counter argument is that the parking, as it narrows the road, has a significant effect on slowing traffic down. Suggestions of yellow lines and Zebra Crossings have been discussed with officers of the County Council but it is likely that either they would not meet the Council's criteria or would cause other problems for local commercial premises. As explained elsewhere, Zebra Crossings, can also lead to an increase in pedestrian injury accidents if located in the wrong place.

Before the Parish Council makes a formal approach to the County Council to investigate the options, we would be interested in the views of residents and users of the field, both car users and pedestrians. Contact the Clerk by email on [wylampc@btinternet.com](mailto:wylampc@btinternet.com) or talk to one of your parish councillors.

## Village Litter Pickers Welcome Throughout the Year

There was a good turn out of willing helpers to assist with the Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 17 March and we are very grateful to everyone who came along.

A large skip was soon filled with a mass of bin-bags and other assorted objects. Sadly it only took a few days before the accumulation of material along our verges and hedgerows began to show again, which makes us all the more grateful to those who very kindly take steps to continue removing litter from around the village as and when they see it. The Parish Council hopes to soon acquire a few new litter-picking sticks. If you are prepared to act throughout the year in this way and would find one helpful, please have a word with Diana Carney, our Clerk.

Since the Litter Pick we have received advice from Tynedale Council which expresses support for events of this kind, but draws our attention to the responsibility we have to carry out appropriate risk assessments, training and similar action prior to such activities. In due course the Parish Council will have to consider whether we can continue to organise a litter pick in the way we have in the past.

## Work to Start Soon on Wylam Bridge

The Parish Council has been advised by Northumberland County Council that the major work on the bridge, outlined in our last issue, is planned to start on or about 20 July. This is a little later than first advised and may still be subject to variation due to on-going work on the design detail, but the timing has been chosen to enable the first six weeks of work to be carried out during the school holiday, when experience shows that traffic flows are reduced.

## The "Run to Think" – a great team effort!

*John Green writes:-*

Wylam First School, parents and friends, excelled themselves last month, collectively running 70 miles from Bowness on Solway to Wylam First School along the Hadrian's Wall Footpath. Their aim was to raise awareness and funds towards the exciting "Space to Think" project.

There was a wonderful sense of camaraderie amongst all those who participated and fantastic support along the way for the 3 runners who completed the entire route.

Fifteen hours after leaving the west coast they arrived to an emotional homecoming, flanked by the 40 or so runners who had supported and encouraged them along the way. The day was completed by a celebratory barbeque, medal ceremony and rocket workshop for the children.

The day captured our great community spirit with everyone working together to achieve something amazing - Wylam at its best! A huge thank you to all who gave such generous support, raising nearly £2000 towards the project and making it a real "runaway success!"

Anyone wishing to find out more about the project, the run or to make a donation can visit:

[www.justgiving.com/runtothink](http://www.justgiving.com/runtothink)



*Dave Hicklenton, Phil James and John Green looking ready for another 70 miles*

## Co-Options to Parish Council

As explained elsewhere in this issue, there were only six nominations for the Parish Council in May and so two seats are to be filled by co-option. As we go to press we can report that interest has been shown in both these vacancies and it is hoped that they will both soon be filled. Vacancies on the Council do arise from time to time and it is always helpful to know of people who might be interested in co-option. If you are interested in this possibility, please contact the Parish Council Clerk by e.mail on [wylampc@btinternet.com](mailto:wylampc@btinternet.com), or through the office by letter or on 852498.

## Talking Rubbish!

This was the title that Philip Hindmarsh, Head of Waste and Transport Management for Tynedale Council, gave to his brief talk to the Annual Village Meeting, held in April. He reported that the Government's recycling target for 2007 is 20%, with Tynedale currently achieving approximately 25%. However, by 2010 the target will rise to between 30 and 40% and further action to improve on current performance levels will be inevitable if Councils are to avoid heavy financial penalties.

He produced some interesting figures specifically for Wylam (see below), based on a sample of records for June and December 2006.

	June 06 (tonnes)	Dec 06 (tonnes)
Household waste (for landfill)	46.7	44.7
Recycled (twin bins)	12.31	13.77
Garden Waste	16.96	1.9
Recycling banks	6.42	8.48
Miscellaneous (road sweepings, bulky items etc.)	9.00	9.00
<b>Total Waste</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>% recycled</b>	<b>43.4%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>

Before someone queries the maths, it should be pointed out that a proportion of the "miscellaneous" category is also recycled - including some of the road sweepings!

There is no room for complacency, but at least it appears that here in Wylam we are currently doing our bit to sustain the long-held reputation of a community that cares about these things.

So, what's to come? During the current year, a kerbside recycling scheme for glass is to be tested out in Hexham and Prudhoe, the garden waste scheme is to be extended and a scheme to improve waste handling and management throughout Northumberland will come into operation.

In the short-term, we are asked to stem the flow of waste wherever we can. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is the motto!

## The Country Park - a story of mixed fortunes

In the last issue we reported that Northumberland County Council was considering, as a cost-saving measure, the closure of the Country Park Visitor Centre at Low Prudhoe and the re-deployment of the Countryside Officer and other staff based there. Sadly this came into effect at the end of March, ending an era of close co-operation between the Parish Council and staff based there. We were promised that the new arrangement, with a centralised management team, would not affect the service provided previously but we have already come across things that are not being done that we have had to chase up to obtain action. Talks are currently taking place to determine the future of the Visitor Centre building, which it is hoped can be retained for use by community groups, of which canoeists are one of the main interested parties.



Steam comes again to the old railway line

On the positive front, "SUSTRANS", the national organisation promoting sustainable transport, has paid for the re-surfacing of the old waggonyway between Blayney Row and Hagg Bank, which is of course part of the Country Park. The drainage was improved in one or two notorious places and a new foundation laid prior to the top dressing. The technique used is similar to conventional road re-surfacing but the tar is mixed with special fibres, which are claimed to provide a softer and more suitable surface for paths and cycle ways.

## It's those Buses Again!

Shortly after our last issue, in which we reported another problem threatening the continuation of the 684 bus service to Newcastle, the County Council were successful in reaching an agreement with "Arriva" to keep the service going on a reduced frequency but back on its original route via Heddon and the west end of Newcastle. Our understanding is that this is a relatively short-term arrangement and, as has been said before, it is probably as much as anything a question of "use it or lose it". We hope that people do this.

The Parish Council did give its support to a group of Wylam residents who, having become used to a route to Newcastle via the Main Road, petitioned for the route to include a loop around the War Memorial Green, but this was not found to be possible.

No sooner had the 684 problem been resolved than the 686 service to Prudhoe ceased when Kimberley Coaches went into receivership. Once again, officers of the County Council worked quickly to fill the gap and we are grateful that their efforts have seen that service also taken over by "Arriva", at least for the time being.

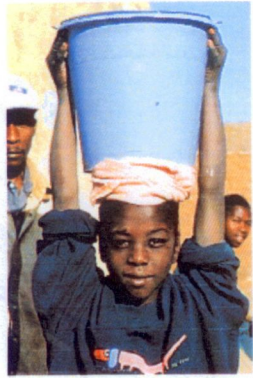
## Philip Brooks Retires after 24 Years on Tynedale Council

Philip Brooks did not stand this time for election to Tynedale District Council and it is appropriate that we make space to thank Philip for his long and distinguished service as a District Councillor for this community.

Philip has served Wylam continuously since first elected in 1983, probably a longer period of service to Wylam than any previous District Councillor. As an Independent he has worked hard to assist people and promote ideas from across the political spectrum and, during this time has served on most Council Committees, as Chairman of several and most recently a member of the Policy Management Board.

Philip writes: "I have much appreciated the excellent support I have always received from Wylam residents and the kind comments many people have made since I announced my decision to retire. I just hope that I have been able to ensure that Wylam has been well-served by Tynedale whilst I have been a District Councillor. I wish Tom and Nick every success as they represent the interests of the village now".

## Churches Exceed Their Target for Charity



to learn that the target of £3000 has been comfortably exceeded, with £3807 having so far been raised.

The photograph above is of Kadia Coulibaly, a ten-year old girl who is typical of those who are being helped by this project, in an area where children, usually girls, are the main water-carriers! She is quoted as saying, "Before I could not go to school until I had filled all of our earthen water jars. I would search from one well to another well, which were often a long way away, to try to find water. Now we have water I have time to do my jobs and go to school as well. I study well now".

## Local Council Elections

Unfortunately only six people, all existing members of the Parish Council, put their names forward for the Parish Council election on 3 May. Consequently no Parish election was necessary and it is hoped that the two vacant seats will soon be filled by co-option (see article on page 2).

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 21 May, Brian Japes and Tony Mitcham were both re-elected for a further year as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Jane Kevan and Peter Clarke were Parish Councillors who decided not to stand for re-election this time. We are very grateful to Jane and Peter for the loyal service they have given to the village over several years. Peter has kindly agreed to continue as Tree Warden and Manager of the Wylam Haughs Nature Reserve, for which we are immensely thankful.

In the election for Tynedale District Council, Wylam had four candidates for two available seats and we congratulate Tom Appleby (Liberal Democrat) and Nick Appleby (Independent) who were elected, with 499 votes and 380 votes respectively. The other candidates were John Woodman (Conservative), 255 votes and David Shaw (Labour), 150 votes. These figures represent a turnout of just under 50%, the lowest in Wylam for over 30 years.

## Nature Notes

Peter Clarke writes:-

May and June have always been the best months on the nature reserve for both quantity and variety of species of both plants and birds. The present year is exceptional. In all the years since the reserve was set up, I have never known such a time. The vegetation is almost unbelievably lush, and the main part of the reserve is practically impenetrable. Trees and smaller plants are in flower, the ground layer and shrub layer are both very dense, with many flowers.

It is particularly pleasing, even exciting, that the new trees planted in the last few months are all doing well. Most of the young trees have been planted to commemorate births or deaths and growth is, to put it mildly, enthusiastic. It is clear that the trees that do best on the site are rowan and silver birch, but bird cherry, crab apple, horse chestnut, hazel and the rest are all catching up. All the Scots pines are showing not only increasing height but the upright candle-like flowers which become cones are profuse. Along the north-south path, just inside the gate, we now have eight fine stout oak trees making an impressive show.

The reserve now boasts 146 species of flowering plants, and is visited by 68 species of birds, a remarkable tally by any standard. We do not have rarities as a rule, but such a huge variety of more common species is most pleasing. If only we could survey invertebrates, it is certain that we would find a similar range. In fact, there are many flying insects over the river, so look out for bats on your evening walks through the heavy scent of the scores of hawthorns. Whether you are interested in nature or just go for walks, do visit the reserve as soon as you can. You are sure to be pleased with what you see. (Note: An unusual looking tool has been found and handed in, and remains unclaimed. It seems to be a form of long-handled and bladed "slasher", perhaps useful for brambles. If you are the rightful owner, please contact Peter Clarke or the Parish Council Office.)

## Wylam Beavers

After several years, 1st Wylam Beavers Colony has been re established. On 1 March an enrolment night was held bringing 14 new Beavers, which has now grown to 19 with more signed up to start in the summer. The 21st birthday for the Beaver Scouts is this year, enabling our new Beavers to be involved with some great activities, including the "Beaver Party" at McCracken Park, Gosforth in July. For more information about Beavers or how to join in with the fun, contact 0845 094 5523 (local rate). Beavers is for 6 to 8yr old boys and meets on Thursdays from 5.00 to 6.15pm at St Oswin's Church Hall. Come and join the fun.

## Additional Resources – Wylam Library

As part of Northumberland County Library Service, residents have had free access to the internet for some time through the use of two computers in Wylam Library and now, in addition, free access to a Genealogy Site (Ancestry.com)

Northumberland County Library Service has recently subscribed to this site so that residents can access family history material free of charge. (Although any information printed out does carry a small charge of 20p per sheet).

Wylam Library is also now the only place in the village where children and adults can hire DVD's at a cost of just £1.80 per week.

The library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2 and 5pm and 5.30 and 7.30pm and on Saturdays from 9.am to 12 noon.

Drop in, or if you want to make sure you can have the use of a computer give the Librarian, Maureen Rogerson, a ring and book a slot. Tel 852174

## Advice from the Police

This is the time, almost every year, when for good reason the police warn us that thieves are likely to take advantage of the light summer evenings, open windows and unguarded garden sheds to steal from unsuspecting households in this area. They also repeat their warnings about leaving wheelie bins outside, which can assist thieves to climb into properties, carry away stolen goods or even hide in, not to mention the increased risk of "identity fraud" if we have been careless in discarding personal information.

This year, we are warned about a "new" crime which is increasing rapidly. Where car owners have a satellite navigation system in their vehicle it is common practice to remove the unit from view by placing it in the glove compartment or boot when not in use. However, if thieves can see the mark on the windscreen where the unit has been attached, usually with a "sucker" on the back, they are picking out those vehicles to break into. Don't be caught out!

Please also report anything of which you are suspicious. It is often the little detail that enables our local police to complete the jigsaw of clues that can lead to an arrest or even the prevention of crime.

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