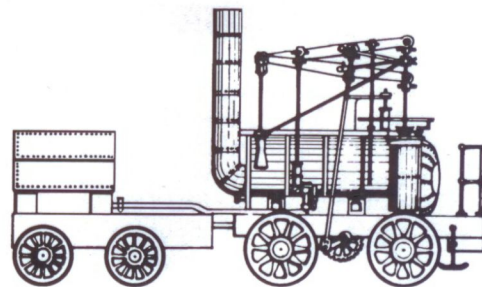


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer, 2008

Number 89

Summer Fair Here Again

Wylam Summer Fair on Saturday 28 June at 1 pm on the Jubilee Field betrays its 1970's origins in the Fun Run which, with other sporting events on the day such as Children's Races and Egg Hoying, reflects the purpose of the event which is to raise money to maintain and enhance the Playing Field and its facilities.

The day also acts as a showcase for village societies and local charities offering a broader audience than they would otherwise reach. Prudhoe Community Band, the Chart Toppers Dance Display Team, the Hannon-Murphy School of Irish Dancing, and old-favourite Merlin the Magician will lead the entertainment while there will be amusements, including a 'bouncy castle', a climbing wall, food and trade stalls to provide refreshment. Wylam Brewery will again have their Beer Tent and a selection of local real ales.

The Second-hand Bookstall in the Methodist Church Hall, open from 10 am to 5 pm, has become one of the traditions of the Summer Fair where a vast range of books at bargain prices provides everyone with the opportunity to seek out that undervalued rare edition or simply top up their holiday reading.

Entry to the Field and the Bookstall is with a programme available at the Playing Field gate or Methodist Hall. Regrettably after many years entry charges have been increased to £1.50 for adults, children up to 15 years remain at 50 pence and a Family ticket at £3 for 2 adults and up to 4 children is a bargain! Have a Nice Day!



These lads were pulling together for the Summer Fair

And those books If you have any reasonable quality books that you are prepared to donate to the Book Stall, please drop them in to the Methodist Church Centre during the five weekdays before the Summer Fair, preferably early in the week. If you would like someone to call to collect books, please telephone Brian Japes on 852151.

The Robert Stephenson Trust

Margaret Hague writes:-

Although most Wylam residents will be familiar with George Stephenson's birthplace on the old railway line, some of you may not know about the Robert Stephenson & Co. Works, situated at 20 South Street in Newcastle, just behind Central Station ('Doves' is at the bottom of the street). This historic building is open most weekends during the summer between 11.00am and 3.00pm for free public viewing. Knowledgeable guides are on hand to provide information about the activities that took place at the Stephenson's Works between 1823 and 1904. This is where Robert Stephenson (son of George) designed the 'Rocket' locomotive winner of the famous Rainhill Trials held in 1829. There are many

displays and artefacts of interest for history lovers but for those of you into steam engines, the building also houses the original grasshopper-type stationary beam engine that drove the works machinery. The next open weekend is June 14th & 15th, so come along and have a look at what was one of Newcastle's greatest engineering companies, which exported all over the world.

Stephenson's Works was rescued from dereliction in the late 1980s by a small group of volunteers, who work tirelessly to keep this important heritage site open, but like most small museums we are under-funded and need to raise more income to meet costs this year. If you feel able to help or would like to become a Friend of the Trust for a small annual donation, please contact Margaret Hague on 853609 or Mike Johnson on 852681.

Home Library Service

Did you know that if you are unable to get out yourself to visit the library and have no-one to visit on your behalf, then the library can come to you?

Well, not quite as literally as that but a team of volunteers are willing to bring books to your home, currently during the afternoon of the first Tuesday of each month. You can choose what you want to borrow, books, CDs, videos, DVDs or talking books. You will have the opportunity to say what sort of things you like and don't like and can then borrow up to 20 items at a time! This service is absolutely free!

If you would like to be helped in this way or would just like to find out more, just give the library a call on 852174 at any time when staff are there, usually Tuesday/Thursday 2.00 to 7.30pm or Saturday 9.00am to 12noon.

"HOPE 08" Comes to a Place Near You

"Hope 08" is a national initiative to Do more – do it together – do it in word and action, and the Wylam and District Churches have committed themselves to doing just that. Since the Easter weekend events when free coffee and hot-cross buns were served on one day and breakfasts on another, they continue to contribute to the national "Million Hours of Kindness" Scheme with the following offers:-

Meals - for **anyone** in the village requiring a meal to be cooked.

Shopping - for **anyone** requiring this kind of help.

Cuppa and Chat - for **anyone** in the village who would like to share in this way.

If you would like help or assistance of this kind, please contact Margaret White, the "Hope 08" Co-ordinator, on 852508, and watch out for further events during the year.

Enjoy "Selefest" 2008

On Saturday 12 July between 12.30 and 6.00pm young people in Tynedale are invited to a "supercool free Festival" which will take place within the Hexham Parks and to which Wylam Parish Council has made a small financial contribution.

There will be fearless professional skateboarding by Team Extreme, with jamming, competitions and coaching. There will be live bands on The Sele, Hang Trapeze Act, stilt workshops, Terpsichore Dance, a graffiti wall plus a full programme of acoustic acts and much, much more! The whole Festival, which is aimed at 8 to 25 year olds, will be an alcohol-free zone. Young people under the age of 13 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Watch for more details on Tynedale Council's website

(www.tynedale.gov.uk),
phone the Council on 01434 652344 or, on the day itself, phone Hexham Tourist Information Office on 01434 652220.

Change and No-Change in Local Election

Elections for those to serve on the new Unitary Authority for Northumberland took place on Thursday 1 May. Paul Kelly, who has served the Bywell constituency (which includes Wylam) as a Labour Councillor for many years, was again elected but he was standing this time as an Independent candidate.

The full results were:-
Paul Kelly (Independent) 599
Nick Appleby (Liberal Democrat) 506
Nick Athey (Conservative) 463
Mary Pidock (Labour) 94

We congratulate Paul Kelly and express the hope that he will continue to represent our local interests with fairness and integrity.

The 67 elected members across the county have now formed the new Council for Northumberland and their initial task will be to provide a smooth transition to April 2009 when the District Councils, including Tynedale, will disappear.

Tynedale Council continues to provide services and on this Wylam is represented by sitting Councillors Nick and Tom Appleby.

Carclub Drives Ahead

Wylam Green Street have been working on getting a Carclub going in Wylam for some time and we included details about this in the last issue of "The Globe".

One fundamental barrier has been finding a dedicated space for a Carclub vehicle but Andy Haddon tells us that Network Rail have now agreed "in principle" to provide a dedicated space at the station for a Carclub vehicle. "We are now making arrangements to source our vehicle over the next 4 weeks" Andy says, "so if you want to join the Carclub get in touch on

wylamgreenstreet@hotmail.co.uk
or ring Andy on 854626".

Green Street are also emphasising the importance of keeping things local with a range of activities in a marquee at this year's Summer Fair. The marquee will highlight local green initiatives including the Allotment Association with their carbon offsetting project and there will be an opportunity for children to have a go at junk modelling. A music event is also being planned for the evening in the marquee.

Drop Your Speed!



At last, the vehicle-activated speed limit signs we have waited so long for on Station Road and Holeyn Hall Road have been installed. Let's hope that now they're up they will prove to be an effective reminder to drivers who so frequently appear to ignore the speed limit.

Northumbria Police have also launched a new initiative in the Prudhoe area with an electronic speed indicator mounted on a police vehicle, and this has also been deployed in Wylam, as can be seen in the photograph below.



Its all Rubbish!

We are very grateful to all who turned out on Saturday 15 March to help with the Annual Village Litter Pick. A good collection through most areas of the village was achieved and a large skip provided by Tynedale Council was filled. We are also grateful to the staff of the County Council's Country Park, who helped collect up many of the bags with a Landrover and trailer.

Sadly it didn't take long before some areas began to show signs of the total disregard that some people show to the problem of litter. Even more worrying is the evidence that within our own community there are some people who apparently feel they have a right to tip their garden refuse and occasionally other rubbish wherever they feel inclined. We should not have to remind everyone that dropping of litter is an offence as is the "fly-tipping" of larger quantities of rubbish. People can and will be prosecuted if found to be committing this type of offence.

On a brighter note, we continue to be very grateful to those who voluntarily pick up litter throughout the year. If you are interested in joining this activity please contact the Parish Council Clerk who will be able to provide equipment to assist you.

Nature Notes

Peter Clarke writes:

In recent weeks the weather can be described as having been confusing, not only to wildlife but possibly to humans too! After some late cold spells when nothing much seemed to happen, the slow growth of flowers and the late emergence of leaves on the trees made us wonder if spring would ever come.

This was followed by a period of very warm days which led to a burst of activity and we realised that nature had not forgotten us after all.

A surprising number of species of birds and flowers appeared within the space of a few days, and one single walk around the Nature Reserve revealed 20 species of birds and the same number of flowering plants. I can provide lists to anyone that asks - just phone (852297). As usual there were no rarities, just reasonable numbers of each. Exceptions were warblers, whose numbers seemed on the low side but blackbirds have been very common, making their presence known in characteristic song.

Two red kites, possibly a pair, circling over the nature reserve recently gave me a great thrill and sense of satisfaction that we might now be able to regard these wonderful birds, with the others, as 'birds of Wylam'.

There now seems to be plenty of bird food about, both natural and provided, and we have consequently stopped providing food at the feeding station, at least "officially". Some people are continuing to supply table scraps, bruised fruit etc, and they don't last long. It may be of interest to readers that we know of groups of students from at least two university courses that currently make use of our nature reserve as part of their studies. We are pleased to welcome them to this splendid resource.



A few delights recently to be seen on the Nature Reserve

Note: Peter Clarke has recently asked the Parish Council to consider the creation of a small pond within the nature reserve, which would certainly be attractive to a new range of both flora and fauna. He also advocates provision of a hide to make it more interesting for bird-watchers. If you have any particular views on these suggestions please make Peter or the Parish Council aware of them. Neither idea is likely to be achieved instantly and they are, at least for the moment, just possibilities.

Going for the Big Soak!

A year ago we reported in these columns that the Wylam and District Churches had exceeded their target and had raised almost £4000 for a Water Aid Project in Mali. Buoyed by this success and challenged by Water Aid having raised the stakes to a minimum of £5000 for groups wishing to sponsor a specific project, this is now a fresh target that, with everyone's help, they are hoping to achieve by 31 March 2009.



Ethiopian children learn the basics about hygiene

This time the money will go towards a project in Tena, an area of Woreda, in Ethiopia. At present 83% of the 64000 inhabitants of this area have to carry water from rivers with the remainder relying on springs which frequently dry up in the dry season. 60% of urban homes in the area have no latrines, resulting in a high incidence of stomach and intestinal problems. 25% of the rural population spend up to an hour each day in dry times obtaining water and this figure rises to 57% in urban areas.

Well over £1000 has already been raised but the organisers hope that we will all help by supporting the churches display at Wylam Summer Fair and by coming along to a special event based at the Methodist Church Centre on Saturday 20 September, when there will be coffee, followed by soup lunches with many stalls and exhibits to see, including lots to interest the children. If you're fit (or trying to become so) watch out for details of a sponsored swim at Prudhoe Waterworld, early in 2009 and for other events that are currently being planned.

Wylam Institute needs our support for Community Week and at other times

We announced in the last issue that The Wylam Institute Community Association is holding another "Community Week" this year, between 1st and 8th November, primarily to raise funds for The Institute. The programme continues to be firmed up but please make a note of dates that interest you and make sure you come along:-

Sat 1 Nov

Annual Christmas Charity Card and Gift Sale.

Sun 2 Nov

A Community Service in St Oswin's Church

Mon 3 Nov

A Soup Lunch and afternoon Bridge Drive

Tues 4 Nov

A Cookery Demonstration by Sandra Heard and tea

Thurs 6 Nov

A Film Show and tea organised by the WI

Frid 7 Nov

Junior Disco for the under-13s

Sat 8 Nov

A "50/50" Sale and later a Family Evening with Music by "Mid-life Crisis" and their Junior Band.

A "Mystery Photos and Objects" Competition will be running throughout Community Week.

At the recent Institute AGM tributes were paid to Sue Nicholson who is to continue as Chairman and to Edna Beatie who has stood down after many years as one of the Vice Chairmen. David Monaghan was appointed to succeed Edna. Alison Wilkinson was also thanked for her service as Treasurer. Alison has moved from the village and is succeeded as Treasurer by Denis Peel.

The future of Wylam Institute depends on two main sources of income, membership subscriptions and hire charges. It was clear from the accounts and reports that whilst there is no immediate threat, the Institute struggles to break even and last year actually made a small loss.

If you are not already a member of the Institute (and only about one third of Wylam householders are) your relatively modest subscription could make a big difference. The facilities provided by the Wylam Institute are comparatively vast and flexible and remain an exceptional asset to our community although, as an old building, heating and maintenance costs are relatively high. If you are not currently a member, do please think about the way your subscription could help. Either call at the office some time and 'sign up' or telephone with your contact details so that someone can get back to you. (01661 852498). If you are able to pay your subscription under 'Gift Aid', all the better.

Water Mains Near Completion

As we are about to go to press we have been assured by Northumbrian Water that the months of disruption in Wylam due to work to replace the water mains are coming to an end. One of the last sections to be tackled was part of Holeyn Hall Road where the technique of "direct drilling" was used to minimise interruption to traffic. The "Ditch Devil" drilling machine used for this method and shown here, represents a



£100,000 investment by the Middlesbrough Company that owns and operates it. The drill can cover lengths of up to 120 metres at a time without resorting to the alternative techniques of trenching or "pipe bursting", which are much slower and more disruptive. After drilling a hole through the ground, the new pipe is pulled into the space as the drill shaft is withdrawn.

Many people continue to express concern about the apparent lack of repair and restoration work, especially on grass areas around the village. For the moment we can only repeat the assurance the Parish Council receives every time we raise this issue with Northumbrian Water, which is that these areas will soon be attended to.

Parish Council AGM

At the Annual General Meeting of Wylam Parish Council on 19 May, Brian Japes and Tony Mitcham were re-elected for a further year as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. A full list of other appointments and representatives to other bodies can be seen in the minutes of that meeting.

The Parish Council has, for many years, met at intervals of approximately six weeks but it was agreed to change this to monthly (with the exception of August) for a six-month trial period.

The remaining dates planned are:-
Tuesday 15 July, Monday 8 September, Tuesday 14 October,
Monday 10 November and Monday 8 December.

All of these meetings are held in Wylam Institute commencing at 7.00pm and are, of course, open to members of the public.

Youth Club Needs Young People

We tend to make the assumption that all families know of the Youth Club for young people of 13+ years, which currently meets at the Falcon Centre on a Wednesday evening between 7.30 and 9.30pm.

At the moment sessions are not well attended and you may have seen posters around the village which, in "youth-speak text" say:-

"Nwt 2 do? Then Wylam Youth Club cud b 4 u"

These sessions are an extension of the Prudhoe Youth Association which is part of the County Council's provision although also supported financially by Wylam Parish Council.

There's pool, table tennis, music, advice and support, with lots of fun and much more! All sessions are supervised by qualified Youth Workers. As with many things, the future of the Youth Club could be in jeopardy if it remains under-supported. In the past Wylam has had as many as three sessions each week and it would be wonderful if demand became sufficient to justify an increase again. For more information contact Carol at "The East Centre" in Prudhoe on 832343.

Phone Box May Go

The Parish Council has been asked to comment on a proposal to remove the public telephone at Hagg Bank, which BT claims is no longer viable. All households at Hagg Bank have been invited to pass comments to the Parish Council but if anyone else wishes to express a view, please do so promptly.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 28 June

Wylam Summer Fair and Bookstall

Tuesday 26 August to Friday 29 August

Churches Children's Holiday Club

Saturday 20 September

Churches Water Aid Event, Methodist Centre

Saturday 20 Sept

Friends of Wylam Bazaar in the Institute

Saturday 11 October

"Scout Rail" in the Institute

Saturday 1 November to Saturday 8 November

Community Week

The Deadline for the September "Wylam Globe" is 15 August

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.*