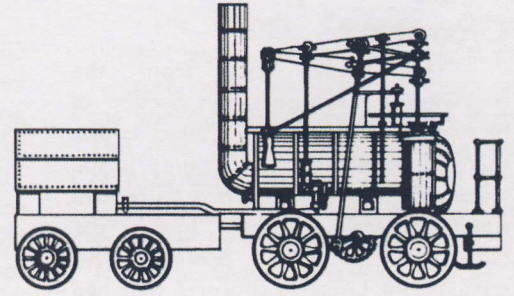


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2009

No. 93

Changes on the Parish Council

At the Annual Meeting of Wylam Parish Council on 18 May, Brian Japes, who has served as Chairman for the past five years and his predecessor Tony Mitcham, who had been Vice Chairman during this period, both stood down. Local businessman Tom Martin was elected Chairman for the coming year and Melanie Dunnett became Vice-Chairman. Fellow Councillors warmly thanked Brian and Tony for their contributions to the work of the Parish Council and both assured the meeting that their support would continue in whatever ways they could be of assistance.

Summer Fair

Yes, it will be Wylam Summer Fair time again on Saturday 27 June and we hope that there will be massive support for this big village fundraising day. As usual, a wide range of stall holders will include trade, charity and local organisations.

Each year this event raises thousands of pounds for good causes, not least the Wylam Playing Field Association, which does a fantastic job in maintaining the Jubilee Field, arguably the village's most precious open space and home to so many of our sports teams. This year's proceeds will also help to pay for the extension of the pavilion, along with other related work which is currently taking place.

Having said this, it has been of great concern to the organising committee that this year's event was almost cancelled due to a chronic shortage of volunteers - and as it stands, next year's Summer Fair is already in jeopardy.

Sion Barnard one of the main event organisers, says "We seriously considered cancelling the Fair because we had so few people prepared to help. It's almost unthinkable, not having a Village Fair after its long and proud history. Luckily a few volunteers came forward at the last minute to save things. It's a lot of hard work when it falls on three or four people to organise an event of this size but with a team, it's not arduous at all and can be quite fun."

Each year the fair draws thousands of visitors, many from outside the village. Attractions expected this year include Prudhoe Community Band, Wylam First School Choir, a range of children's crafts using recycled materials, a fancy dress contest with a fairytale theme and a magician. There's also the very popular second hand book stall in the Methodist Church Hall, the adult and children's fun-run, egg-throwing and tug of war.

Next to the beer tent will be a large marquee supplied by Wylam Green Street with various activities during the day followed by up to four local bands in the evening. A range of drinks will also be on sale including cider made from Wylam's own apples, alongside various delicious gins handcrafted by the new Heddon-based company, Northumbria Spirit and the usual range of Wylam Brewery beers from the Boathouse.

Wylam Green Street's Andy Haddon said: "The marquee was a big hit last year so this year we've decided to hire a bigger one with more bands and a wider selection of drinks. Tickets are selling fast so don't miss out on the 'Wylam Speakeasy' - have fun and lower your alcoholic carbon footprint."

WYLAM SUMMER FAIR



2009

JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD
SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
1.00 PM



FUN RUN/ LIVE MUSIC/ DANCE/ BEER TENT/ STALLS/
CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES/ LOCAL PRODUCE
BOOKSTALL IN METHODIST HALL FROM 10AM

ADMISSION
£1.50 ADULT / 50P CHILD

To buy or sell tickets for the 'Speakeasy' contact
wylamgreenstreet@hotmail.co.uk
or info@northumbriaspirt.co.uk or ring 07746 086924

The Summer Fair opens at 1pm and runs until 5pm, with the book stall open from 10am to 5pm. If you would like to volunteer to help safeguard next year's Fair, please contact Koby Bremer on 01661 852010.

Hagg Bank Road Closure

The latest news from the Highways & Transportation Section of Northumberland County Council is that there is no news! The County is still waiting to hear whether it is to receive supplementary funding from the Government, which promised to compensate Local Authorities that had highways damaged by the severe rain and flooding last September.

If and when that money is received, and if it is sufficient to include the Hagg Bank Road, we are advised that it will still take several months to design and construct the repairs, so don't expect any change soon.

Watch Out! There's a Thief About

This old slogan has been appropriate in our village in recent weeks as you may have seen from press reports. It may however be necessary to think of "thieves" rather than "thief" as it is well known that some act in pairs or even small groups.

Although it may appear to be common sense, it's perhaps appropriate to repeat the warning that we often receive from the local police at this time of year. Make sure that you don't leave your garage, garden shed or even your house accessible to intruders. Lock all doors and make sure, especially when you go out, even for a short time, that you close all windows.

Playgroup Celebrates 40 Years

Wylam Pre-school Playgroup recently celebrated its 40th birthday alongside its annual "Easter Eggstra". Quotes from the archives and old photos attracted former leaders and parents who reminisced over their Playgroup days. County Councillor Paul Kelly was invited to cut the birthday cake in recognition of his financial support for the Falcon Centre. Easter activities such as biscuit decorating and egg rolling were provided for the children.



"Tetrapaks"

In the previous issue of "The Globe" we told you that the Wylam Institute Committee had very kindly agreed to provide space for a container to take our empty "tetrapak" drink cartons. The scheme has proved extremely popular, so much so that it has now become almost unmanageable with the container having to be emptied every few days and, with warm weather approaching (we hope), the risk that wasps and flies will be attracted to it means it will shortly have to end.

The Parish Council has tried to get the County Council to agree to locate a permanent facility alongside those for other materials in the Country Park Car Park but unfortunately this has not yet been achieved, although the initiative by our community has been appreciated.

"Tetra Pak UK" are currently trying to promote the idea of kerbside collection of "tetrapaks" to all UK Local Authorities. In March 2009, 12% of the 434 Local Authorities were recycling these cartons at the kerbside, with several more due to start. Although the company is prepared to provide containers at places like our village site, they would not be able to cover the cost of these or the collection and bailing of the cartons.

In response to Parish Council approaches, County Council officers have agreed to look at the possibility of funding additional "tetrapak" bins but we will continue to press the Council to join the ranks of kerbside recycling for "tetrapak" cartons, ideally through our existing grey wheelie bins. In the meantime do please drain, squash and save all the cartons you can and take them either to the West Wylam Household Waste Recovery Site, or the car park at Prudhoe opposite the East Centre, where facilities continue to be available.

BUT..... having said this, Wylam Institute is going to host a scheme for recycling mobile phones and ink-jet cartridges. Income generated by this scheme will go to "Action Medical Research", the charity dedicated to improving the health of babies and children.

That Bird!

We apologise for misleading people in our last issue! Derek Gillis has written to say he hopes to upgrade his 1960 edition of "The Observer's Book of Birds" at this summer's annual bookstall after ornithological enthusiasts kindly pointed out that the 'Falcon' photographed was actually a large Sparrow Hawk.

Look Out for an Invasion!

Not an army but an invasion that needs to be rebuffed! There are a number of wild plants which can become particularly invasive and three of them can be found in Wylam.

The three, illustrated here, are Japanese Knotweed, which is often found along the old railway track but has nearly been eradicated; Giant Hogweed, mainly found along the river bank and particularly dangerous because contact with the skin can cause serious blistering; and Himalayan Balsam, which is an annual that can totally smother out other plants but can be controlled if pulled out in time to prevent seeding.

Denis Peel formed a mini "home guard" a few years ago to fight off this invasion and he could now do with a little help. If you would like to join the battle, please give Denis a ring on 853278.



Giant Hogweed



Japanese Knotweed



Himalayan Balsam

Wylam Women's Institute

The WI in Wylam is about to celebrate its 90th birthday in August. For 90 years it has been offering companionship, entertainment and education, plus the opportunity to take part in county and national events such as greyhound racing, archery and courses in painting, beadwork, canoeing, singing or gliding. Locally we meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the Institute at 7.30pm to hear a speaker, gossip and have a cup of tea or coffee. The speakers are very varied, and posters are put up each month to tell you who the next one is. On Sunday July 5th we are holding a Strawberry Tea in the Institute garden from 2pm - 4.30pm (indoors if wet.) The WI welcomes visitors - you can come along just for the one session that interests you. Hoping to see you -



Rail News

For several years Denis Peel has taken a very active interest in matters relating to the Tyne Valley Rail Line and has kindly represented our Parish Council interest on the Tyne Valley Rail Partnership. Amongst a number of matters he reported to the Annual Village Meeting was that the footbridges along the line are to be repainted in three years time, although it is the view of Wylam Parish Council that improvements on the Wylam footbridge are already overdue with several steps in a poor condition, a need for improved lighting on the north side and paintwork deteriorating rapidly. The Council has been pressing Network Rail on these and several other points for some time.

The station public address system has been repaired at last, although the cause of several recent failures of the barrier system apparently remains a mystery, although Network Rail are adamant that safety has not been compromised at any time.

Denis reported that the full range of fare options is not always widely known. He particularly identified a yearly season ticket which can be purchased by employers. This provides unlimited travel from Wylam to a specified destination at the equivalent cost of 40 weeks of travel. Allowing for average holidays, Denis believes this option offers a saving of some 10% and the cost can be deducted monthly from pay. Northern are also currently considering pre-selling tickets and multiple tickets (carnets) and Denis advises travellers to ask the conductor for the best option available.

In the longer-term, there is a possibility that signalling might be controlled from fewer boxes with the rest, including Wylam, no longer manned but with barriers overseen on a remote screen, as on the East Coast main line north of Newcastle.

Denis referred to the possibility, now confirmed, that barriers are to be installed at Newcastle Central Station to prevent "fare-dodgers". It is feared that this will create difficulty for passengers unable to purchase tickets on packed Tyne Valley trains but Northern have pledged to deploy more guards on the crowded trains to reduce this problem.



'Ofsted' Success for Playgroup

Wylam Pre-school Playgroup's hard working staff and parents were recognised by Ofsted's recent inspection report in which they received an overall rating of 'Good.' This recognises that provision is strong. Indeed two categories for 'provision of inclusive practice' and 'partnership with parents' received an 'Outstanding' rating.

Karen Storey, Playgroup Leader, commented "We are extremely pleased with our report and its reflection on the very hard work that the staff put into Playgroup." The Ofsted Inspector mentioned that despite having to move Playgroup twice in one school year the children all appeared happy and settled. Playgroup would like to thank all staff, parents and Wylam villagers for their support and encouragement and for helping to keep Playgroup going in this very difficult year.



Be Prepared

One of the last communications we received from Tynedale Council was advice about protecting homes and businesses from flooding.



The spirit of the message was that if your property has a history of flooding, and we know there are locations in Wylam with that problem, don't assume that the Fire and Rescue Service or Local Authority will be able to come instantly to your rescue with sandbags. The advice is to have a plan ready, not to wait for a crisis to arise but to anticipate what may be needed, whether sandbags or other permanent flood defence measures.

Copies of the advisory note can be obtained from the Parish Council Office or viewed on our website. Additional advice can also be obtained on the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Annual Village Meeting

The Parish Council's Annual Village Meeting, which took place in the Institute on Wednesday 13 May, saw the poorest attendance for many years. This was particularly disappointing as representatives of NHS North of Tyne had been invited to explain the proposals by Northumbria Healthcare Trust to develop hospital services in Northumberland and North Tyneside, in particular the provision of a new emergency care hospital in the vicinity of Cramlington, close to the A1 and A19 roads, which it is hoped will open in 2012.

The plans were explained in detail by David Evans, a hospital consultant who currently works between several local hospitals, and he was supported by Rachel Chapman, Director of Public Engagement and Communications.

We were told of plans to invest £200 million over 10 years, which would not only include the new hospital but a significant increase in medical staff, including nurses. The main objective of the new hospital will be to separate "emergency" care from "elective" care, in other words to make sure that those needing emergency treatment don't get in the way of those facing more routine surgery. The new hospital would provide the most up-to-date facilities and dedicated specialist teams to deal with emergencies. After as short a stay as practicable, patients would be transferred to their local hospital, which in our case would normally be Hexham.

It is not possible within this limited space to explain all the details. The public consultation remains open until Tuesday 28 July 2009 and full details can be seen on the NHS North of Tyne website www.northoftyne.nhs.uk/developinghospitalsservices, where an on-line response can be completed. A few copies of the proposals are also available from the Parish Council Office or you may wish to attend one of the many other public meetings, the nearest possibly being Hexham Auction Mart, Tyne Green on Tuesday 23 June at 6.00pm.



Wylam First School

On Wednesday July 8th Wylam First School will be celebrating the talents of every child in the school. There will be a showcase of all the exciting work done this year as part of the school's work with Creative Partnerships. The showcase will take place at Northern Stage in Newcastle, entrance will be free. The times are to be confirmed but it will begin around 5.30pm and end at around 7.00 pm.

There will be animated films by the reception class, made with animator Ellie Land. Year 1 have made silent movies with Arpeggio Film Company, Year 2 are going to be showing their writing talents (they will have worked with a team from Northern Stage and a sound recording engineer), Year 3 and nursery worked with Forest School leaders Kath and James Bedingfield, and Year 4 will have produced some fine prints having worked alongside local printmaker Josie Brookes. What a night it will be!

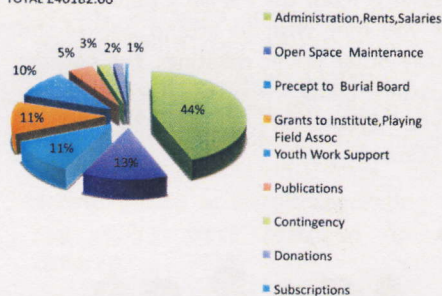
All are welcome to attend, but everyone will need a (free) ticket, which will be available nearer the time.

Parish Council Spending

As reported at the Annual Village Meeting, the Parish Council precept (the money from Council Tax that comes to the Parish Council) was slightly increased again this year. We believe it still remains low compared with many parishes of our size and stands now at an average of £42.32 per year for every Wylam household.

An outline of expenditure plans in the current financial year is illustrated by the chart below but this may be an appropriate opportunity to remind everyone that the Parish Council's accounts for 2008-09 will be available for inspection before long when, as required by law, the location and means of access will be publicly advertised.

WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2009/10
TOTAL £40182.00



Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe" is Friday 7 August

(please note, this deadline is not the date we wish to start receiving material!!)

Car Club Celebrates First Anniversary

The first anniversary has found the Wylam Green Street Car Club going from strength to strength. You may have seen the car dotting about as there are now members of the club who use the car for both work and leisure right through the week. Members have been overwhelmingly positive about the scheme and one Wylam resident, Bev Bookless, has commented: "The car club has been working very well for me. I have found it very efficient, the booking, invoicing and the email describing the hire time and mileage, all very impressive. I recommend it to others."

The Wylam car is part of a growing fleet of vehicles across the region and once you join the club you can use any of them. There are six vehicles in Newcastle, more in Durham and there is soon to be a second vehicle in Tynedale located at Prudhoe. The Wylam vehicle is based in the station car park.

Basically the Car Club service is offering affordable 'pay as you go' driving with cars available where and when you need them, without the hassle and costs of ownership. If you want to find out more contact wylamgreenstreet@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01661 854626.

Hagg Bank Play Area

In consultation with residents of Hagg Bank the Parish Council has been looking at ways to bring this play area to a more acceptable standard. An outline scheme has been prepared and we are currently investigating possible sources of funding to enable the work to be completed rather than carried out on a piecemeal basis.

This play area is relatively hidden on a plot just to the west of Front Street but, when restored, it will be available for all young children to enjoy.

Thank You

Some fifteen months ago the Wylam and District Churches embarked on a second project to raise money for Water Aid. This time sights were set on raising £5,000 for one of the poorest areas in Ethiopia, a country where overall life expectancy is 47 years, where a clean water supply is only available to 22% of the population and only 6% have proper sanitation. A total of £7,866 was actually raised and the churches wish to thank the whole community for the support that was given by so many.

Friends of Wylam First School

'Filmstars' Disco:

Do you fancy getting dressed up and dancing the night away? From a 'shaken not stirred' James Bond to a 'prrrfect Catwoman', or from a bespectacled Harry Potter to a masked Darth Vader, the sky's the limit at Friends of Wylam First School 'Filmstars' Disco on Saturday 18th July, 8pm - 11.30pm at Wylam Institute.

"Fones4Schools":

The Friends of Wylam First School is also looking for old mobile phones. Do you have any old mobile phones at home? What about friends, family or work colleagues? This is a great fundraising scheme. The phones can be handed in at Wylam First School and all contributions will be gratefully received.

The Library

It's only a very short time since we fought a successful battle to retain the library in Wylam, within the Falcon Centre, and although we don't know of any immediate threat there are warning signs!

Since the library re-opened after a few months closure for essential maintenance work, we hear that the number of books being issued each week has fallen sharply.

The slogan we have used before is "use it or lose it". We don't have to look far outside our own village to realise what has happened elsewhere and it would be a great pity if this facility was to come under threat again. Why not join today or renew your allegiance? This is the best way to ensure that our wonderful library is retained for the years to come.

Forthcoming Events

27 June - Wylam Summer Fair from 1.00pm (Bookstall from 10.00am)

5 July - WI Strawberry Tea in the Institute Garden 2.00 to 4.30pm (see details within article)

8 July - First School Celebration of Talents at Northern Stage (see details within article)

13 July - Parish Council Meeting in the Institute 7.00pm

18 July - Filmstars Disco at Wylam Institute 8 to 11.30pm (see details within article)

2 to 4 Sept - Holiday Club in the Methodist Hall, daily 10.30am to 12 noon.

14 Sept - Parish Council Meeting in the

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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