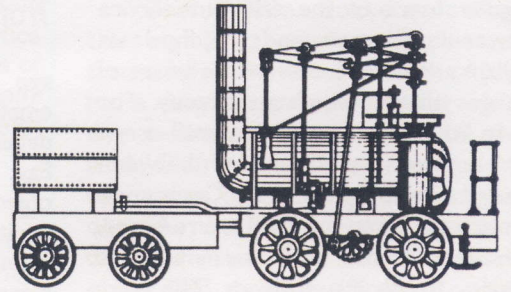


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 2009

No. 94

Centenary Celebrations

Centenary Celebrations are right up their street. Around 70 people took to the streets of Wylam on Sunday 19 July to sing Happy Birthday to Falcon Terrace. Most of the houses there were built 100 years ago and residents decided to mark the occasion with a street party.

Glorious weather meant that party goers were able to enjoy homemade food, tea, music, games, singing and "Pimms" outside.

One of the organisers commented, "Everyone contributed towards the organisation of the event which made it so easy to put on. We all had a fabulous day...from one of the oldest residents at 89 years to the newest addition at just 2 months old!"



First School at the Northern Stage

On Wednesday 8th July Wylam First School invited parents to a celebration event at Northern Stage, Newcastle when an exhibition and film shows provided an opportunity for parents to explore some of the work done by their children during this year's Creative Partnership projects.

The school planned the event to coincide with "Shine Week", a national festival celebrating all the talents in young people and encouraging them to find creative ways to showcase their achievements.

As many people will already know, creativity is at the heart of the Wylam First School curriculum, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to develop their true potential. The school provides projects that allow children to explore their imaginations, develop resilience and persistence and learn together the importance of team work and collaboration.

With the assistance of numerous experts, children from Nursery age to Year 4 produced a wide range of exciting work including films (in some of which they starred themselves) collages, wooden sculptures, dance, story writing and things featuring the natural environment.

As parents walked around the exhibition it was sometimes difficult for them to remember that the children who produced the work were aged between 4 and 9. Many were amazed, but not surprised, at what the children had achieved. Everybody is looking forward to the prospect of another exciting round of projects next year.



Another Wylam Map

Do you know where Welch's Backside is, or The Liberty? A map is being compiled with old names for places in the village and, if possible, the reason for the name. Do you remember a name that would not appear on an official map but would be familiar to your contemporaries? There is a list in the library of the ones that have been identified so far, so you can check if any you know are already in the system. If you have any suggestions, please contact Pete Dodman on 852550 or at peterdodman@hotmail.com or Lynne Petrie at dpetrie@tiscali.co.uk or on 852577.

The name Wyles Hill appears on the new public transport map in the Country Park Car Park. Have you heard of this one before, or even who/what was Wyles?

Tetrapaks "On-Off"!

Acting on information we had been given, we recently announced that tetrapak (beverage containers) were no longer to be collected at Wylam Institute. We are now told that the large bin will remain in the entrance porch to receive these and everyone is invited to make use of it. Volunteers take the contents of the bin to Prudhoe where they are transferred to one of the permanent recycling sites, either in the car park or at the Household Waste Recovery Centre.

Meanwhile, back at Wylam Institute, another recycling initiative is underway to collect used ink-jet printer cartridges and unwanted mobile phones. These can be placed in the box within the Reception area.

686 Timetable Changes

Regular users of the 686 bus service between Ovington and Prudhoe via Wylam and Crawcrook will be aware of changes that took place recently. For those who are more 'occasional' users, the numbers of journeys between Ovington and Prudhoe via Crawcrook remains the same but they are re-timed. The service also now terminates at Castle Road Prudhoe. The last afternoon journey back from Prudhoe is later now, at 2.23pm from the Co-op, whilst the 1.00pm journey runs a little later at 1.13 pm.

From 19th April, 2009
Ovington—Prudhoe Route 686
Via Wylam and Crawcrook

Mondays to Saturdays

Ovington, Jubilee Road	0935	1045	...	1235	1345
Ovingham, Bridge End	0940	1050	...	1240	1350
Ovingham, Windsor Crescent	0942	1052	...	1242	1352
Wylam, Charlie's Corner	0947	1057	...	1247	1357
Wylam, The Dene	0950	1100	...	1250	1400
Crawcrook, Old Main Street	0956	1106	...	1256	1406
Prudhoe, Front Street	1002	1112	...	1302	1412
Prudhoe, Castle Road	1007	1117	...	1307	1417
Prudhoe, Castle Road	1008	1118	...	1308	1418
Prudhoe, Co-op Store	1013	1123	1203	1313	1423
Crawcrook, Old Main Street	1020	...	1210	1320	1430
Wylam, The Dene	1026	...	1216	1326	1436
Wylam, Charlie's Corner	1029	...	1219	1329	1439
Ovingham, Windsor Cres	1034	...	1224	1334	1444
Ovingham, Bridge End	1036	...	1226	1336	1446
Ovington, Jubilee Road	1041	...	1231	1341	1451

Operated by Go North East

North East Explorers can be used on this service
This service is subsidised by Northumberland County Council

That Wall

Although this arguably attractive view of Holeyn Hall has now disappeared we are very grateful to the new owners of the land and associated wall, near the top of Holeyn Hall Road, for the speedy action in repairing the holes which have been an eyesore for so long and which were becoming a concern to many Wylam residents. We do hope that further road traffic accidents will not undo the good work. Thank you!



Ho! Ho! Ho!

On 9 December the Westoe Brass Band will be making a return visit to Wylam to perform a rip-roaring evening of Christmas music. This year they will be joined by young performers from "JEMMS", so, make a note of the date, sing some carols and get the holiday off to a jolly start while at the same time helping to raise funds for Wylam Institute.

Tyne Bridges and Related Traffic Study

You may recall that a year or two ago Northumberland County Council employed consultants to carry out a detailed study of traffic movements in the East Tynedale area. One specific objective was to assess the need for an additional bridge, or possibly a replacement for Ovingham Bridge, which many people feel is long overdue.

We have previously reported that no evidence was identified to justify a new bridge and engineers continue to state that, with routine maintenance, the Ovingham Bridge is still good for many years to come.

A second, later phase, of the study looked more closely at whether changes could be made to the existing road network which would alleviate congestion and lessen the environmental impact. Reporting recently to the new East Tynedale Community Forum, Dick Fraser, Northumberland County Council's Head of Policy and Information for the Directorate of Place (the new NCC department which includes highways), said that all the bridges are well utilised and busy, especially at peak times. (No surprise there!) He went on to state that most traffic was identified as "local" rather than "commuter", which makes it difficult to identify any specific traffic or road changes that would result in improvement. He did say that one identified point of congestion was the junction at the top of Holeyn Hall Road, partly due to poor visibility, but there is insufficient evidence to warrant significant improvement works.

It is something of an understatement to say that representatives of local Parish Councils on the Community Forum expressed disappointment that the study had produced so few positive suggestions. In Wylam we will continue to look at ways in which our local roads can be made safer and press the County Council for action whenever practicable.

Tacks on the Track

You may be one of many people who have been directly affected by this or it may be something you have read about in the local press. Whichever applies, it's no joke! It has become pretty obvious that someone has been scattering tacks on the Country Park cycle/walkway, which has caused immense inconvenience to many cyclists. We are well aware that a degree of "conflict" sometimes arises between cyclists and walkers but we sincerely hope that whoever is perpetrating this action will stop immediately, before a punctured cycle tyre, whether an adult or child's bike or even someone's foot, results in injury rather than inconvenience. Needless to say, the police are investigating.

Friends of Wylam

We are frequently reminded that average life-expectancy increases every year, which is just one good reason why an organisation like Friends of Wylam, which does so much for the older members of this community, deserves our support.

We hope that this issue will be circulated in time to encourage everyone to support the Autumn Bazaar in Wylam Institute on Saturday 19 September between 10.00am and 12 noon, which is the only Friends of Wylam fund-raising event. Admission is only 50p and this includes coffee! Why not come along, enjoy a coffee and a chat and have a look around the range of stalls? Donations for the stalls will be greatly appreciated and items will be collected if you phone one of the organisers, Ursula (852621); Jean (852569); Dorothy (852538) or Gordon (853470).

Coffee Mornings are held at 10.00am on alternate Tuesday mornings in The Institute. Anyone in the village who is over 60 is welcome to come.

Grow Jonny Grow

Over 150 Jonny Wilkinsons were at Wylam First School in July when their physical health and leafiness were subjected to rigorous scrutiny.

The fuchsias, named after the rugby star, were donated at the start of the summer term by Wylam Nurseries to local schools, including Wylam First and Ovingham Middle, to launch the Jonny Wilkinson Fuchsia Growing Competition.

The children were responsible for the wellbeing of the plants from initially re-potting them to watering, pinching out and feeding them, as well as checking for bugs.

Tom Martin from Wylam Nurseries judged the competition and awarded the prizes consisting of photographs, books, DVDs and Newcastle Falcons rugby balls - all kindly donated by Jonny Wilkinson and Newcastle Falcons to the budding gardeners.

Kieran Kitson and Zak Ridley won the award for the best fuchsias at Wylam First School whilst Wylam pupil Joseph White won the award at Ovingham Middle School.



Highway and Footpath Fault Reporting

Most of us can probably identify places near to where we live where a road or footway is in need of repair. We are all entitled to notify the County Council about such places and the Parish Council also does this on a regular basis. Experience shows that the Parish Council may be more likely to get something done, partly because we can sometimes get direct access to the Area Highways Inspector. We would therefore encourage you to notify the Parish Council Clerk when you see a problem but, please be absolutely clear about the nature of the fault and its precise location. Reporting of very minor faults is unlikely to achieve anything and could even be counter-productive, so please think carefully about this. Safety is the main consideration.

In addition to this on-going process, the Parish Council produces a detailed written report of highway and footpath faults every summer which covers the whole village and which is submitted alongside proposals we wish to be considered for inclusion in the County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP). This Plan actually covers rather more than the title suggests as it includes improvements to roads, bridges and integrated transport (pedestrians, cyclists and public transport).

We may sometimes think that little gets done by way of repairs but comparison of the reports we submit from year to year clearly shows that many things do get done. What does concern the Parish Council is that many repairs appear to be carried out very superficially and by the next year, or soon after, the work needs doing again!

Fun at the Falcon Centre

A reminder that the Falcon Centre is available and can be booked for children's parties or other events. Recent use has included a craft afternoon and a leaving party and activities planned for the autumn include a 'spooky party' and a pirate-themed party. To book the facilities please contact Lesley Kelly on 01661 832540 or by mobile on 07770984211.



Playing Field

Anyone using the Playing Field recently could not have failed to notice the two smart new picnic tables, one of which is shown here, which are already proving to be particularly popular with families.

They have been donated by Rowena Ward, having been paid for from the fund set up to celebrate the memory of her late husband Adrian, who was a supporter of the Playing Field Association.

Rowena says, "Adrian loved living in Wylam and prompted by the wonderful support we received from the community after his death we decided to raise some money to support facilities for the children and families of the village. We have donated to the Falcon Centre and the Playgroup and to the Playing Field but still have money left. If you have any ideas I'd love to hear them. My email address is rowena.ward@sps-consultancy.co.uk."



One of the two picnic tables in memory of Adrian Ward

Other Playing Field News

There has been a pause in the work being carried out to provide new paths and the extension to the pavilion for the storage of football and cricket equipment. It is intended to complete the work, funds permitting, in the near future.

News From Afar

We have known for some time that the "Wylam Globe" reaches many people in various places around the world and it's good to know that the Parish Council's website is also beginning to keep some of our "ex-pats" up-to-date with village affairs. One such person is Lawna Allen, who moved to the Bahamas several years ago and who many will remember.

Lawna had been fascinated by the flood advice we were reporting and wrote to tell us that in the Bahamas, until October, it's "hurricane alert" season. "On my bed" she writes, "I have rations of food and drinking water, piles of newspapers to soak up water, buckets of sand on the veranda and batteries and candles galore". She attributes these preparations to her years as a Girl Guide and Platoon Commander of 63 women!

No Dogs Please!

The Wylam Rockets football training programme, which was successfully run in the last week of July, had a delayed start one morning whilst dog excrement was cleaned off the pitch. Clearly some people are ignoring the notices on all the gates which ban dogs. As the Playing Field Association does not run to Park Attendants users of the field should feel free to remind errant dog owners, who choose to ignore the rules, that their dogs are not welcome on the field.

..... and No Golf !

Notices on the main gate and on the fence at the Bumbler Box bridge entrance remind users that golf is not permitted because of the danger it presents to other users and the risk of damage to neighbouring property. Please do not practice golf on the field!

..... finally, the Summer Fair

Wylam Summer Fair was once again blessed by wonderful weather which helped everyone to enjoy the wide range of events, activities and opportunities for fun.

Obviously important was the financial success for the Playing Field Association with almost £4000 raised, including a wonderful contribution of £1120, being half the proceeds from the Bookstall.

Even the Parish Council had a stall this year and the photograph below shows the Parish Council Clerk, Diana Carney, with Chairman, Tom Martin, not exactly looking rushed off their feet!



Village Plan

Work on the much heralded updating of the Village Plan is expected to commence very soon. Several people have already offered to assist the Parish Council with this process and, if you would like to join the team, please make this known to the Parish Council Clerk.

Toddler Group comes to an end, unless

Wylam Toddler Group, the mainstay of Tuesday mornings at the Falcon Centre for many years, has unfortunately been forced to close due to a lack of volunteers.

However, the premises are still available on Tuesday mornings and the toys not disposed of yet in case any willing volunteers come forward to help run the group.

This group differs from other "soft play" groups in that it offers crafts, from drawing to painting and the making of small craft items and event cards such as Father's Day or Mother's Day cards. It also provides an opportunity for young children to get used to the Falcon Centre should they wish to attend the Playgroup there. In the summer months it also allows the children to use the outdoor toys and enjoy water and sand play.

The group caters for newly born babies to toddlers aged 3 to 4.

If you are interested in helping to keep this group going, please contact Jayne Griffin-Stanton on 854382.



Nature Notes

Peter Clarke writes:

August seems to be a month when wildlife does not provide much in the way of "new" information, but when we declared, at a memorable meeting 15 years ago, that a block of disused allotments was now a Nature Reserve, there was plenty of material available just for the looking. It was a few years before the Reserve was in a fit state to invite English Nature, as it was then, to come and see it with a view to declaring the site to be an official Reserve, but two representatives did come to look around and were perhaps slightly surprised, even impressed, to see what we had done up to that time.

I rather think that many people were interested to note that in the summer of 1994 we had recorded seventy plants in flower and that thirty-six species of birds were either resident or visiting. Lists are still available and these, together with some other notes of environmental interest, will soon be available on the Parish Council website. Do telephone me at home (852297) if you have anything interesting that you would like to be reported in future issues of this column.

Quest for Summer Reading at Wylam Library

Over 75 dragons have descended on Wylam library in recent weeks as part of the "Quest Seekers Summer Reading Challenge", the largest reading promotion in the UK for the 4 to 11 age range, which has been taking young readers into a mysterious and wondrous land where they can discover the joy of reading and nurture a life-long love affair with books. It has also been promoting the library as a place of wonder and excitement.

Each member of the scheme has had their 3 stage magical journey through Quest Seekers plotted on the library wall using a green dragon with their name on. The aim has been to assist the three "Quest Seeker" characters, Raj, Belle and Louis, to find the golden book for Cadmus the Gatekeeper by completing the three stages of the journey. To become a successful Quest Seeker, each young reader must read six books from the library over the summer. They will then be awarded a certificate and a medal at a special ceremony to be held at Wylam Library at 4.30pm on Tuesday 29 September. Younger children have not been left out this year as they can also participate in the Quest Seekers Book Crawl, at the completion of which they will also receive a certificate.

This year's scheme has been extremely popular in Wylam, with librarian Maureen Rogerson having to order extra supplies of Quest Seeker stickers, posters and bookmarks.

A Village Diary section is being developed as part of the Parish Council's website:- wylamparishcouncil.org.

If you wish to take advantage of this facility, please send information to the Parish Council Clerk (contact details in next column).



**Deadline for the next "Wylam Globe"
Friday 6 November
(Please note, this is not the date we wish to start receiving material!!)**

Forthcoming Events

The following events take place in Wylam Institute unless indicated otherwise

- 14 Sept - Parish Council 7.00pm
- 19 Sept - Friends of Wylam Autumn Bazaar, 10am to 12noon
- 19 Sept - Film Club 7.00pm, "I've loved you so long"
- 26 Sept - Cricket Club Indoor Games 2.00 to 6.00pm and Band & Disco BBQ at 7.00pm
- 26 Sept - An "Open House" in the Methodist Church Centre - Craft exhibits and coffee, with craft activities for children, all from 10.00am, then 'Soup & Pudding' Lunches from 12noon
- 26 Sept - "Race Night" in St Oswin's Church Hall in aid of church funds
- 27 Sept - Children's Film Club. "Kung Fu Panda", 2.00pm
- 3 Oct - Wylam Housing Group, Charity Ball & Murder Mystery Night
- 10 Oct - Film Club 7.00pm. "Frost/Nixon"
- 12 Oct - Parish Council 7.00pm
- 17 Oct - Scouts fundraising event
- 7 Nov - Shelter Christmas Card & Crafts Fair
- 8 Nov - Remembrance Sunday
- 9 Nov - Parish Council, 7.00pm
- 11 Nov - Playing Field Association AGM, 7.30pm
- 14 Nov - Film Club 7.00pm, "Gran Torino"
- 22 Nov - Children's Film Club. "Cars", 2.00pm
- 27 Nov - Blood Donor Session 2.30 to 7.00pm
- 3 to 5 Dec - Drama Society Play
- 9 Dec - Westoe Brass Band with "JEMMS", perform in aid of Institute funds
- 12 Dec - Film Club 7.00pm. "Dean Spanley"
- 14 Dec - Parish Council, 7.00pm

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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