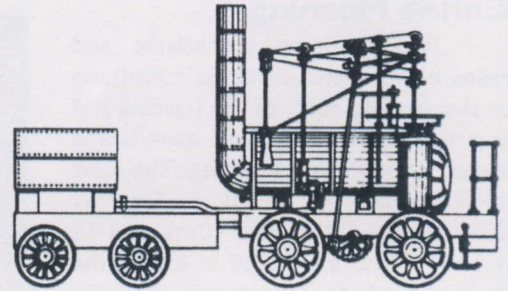


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 2009

No. 95

Risk to the Library Again

A salutary warning from Lesley Kelly, Area Librarian:- *

"The County Council is faced with unprecedented challenges in the coming year and must find savings in excess of £30m. Some very difficult choices are being considered, with a wide range of possible scenarios, including those impacting on library services.

No firm proposals have been made as yet, but over the coming months, as proposals are made clearer, consultation will take place with staff, councillors and the general public. Libraries provide a popular and well used service for the local community. Libraries in Northumberland will be in a stronger position if that community make use of the service to the full."

* Since we received this message from Lesley Kelly, the Parish Council has been assured that Wylam Library is not one of those currently under threat. However, this could well depend on the County Council continuing to receive income from other users of the Falcon Centre, particularly the Youth Club, Play Group and Museum (Parish Council), or income from other bookings. The Youth Club has itself been through a difficult time in the past year and its continuation at all is bound



to be one aspect of a full review of the Prudhoe Youth Service, planned for the coming weeks. The Parish Council would be pleased to hear the views of parents and particularly young people themselves, about the type of Youth Club they would like to see in Wylam, if any!

No Newts is Good News!

You may have read in the press that funding has been made available to repair the land-slip that led to the road closure at Hagg Bank 15 months ago. The County Council had completed the necessary geotechnical investigation and identified the repair options when it came to light that Great Crested Newts, which are a protected species, might be present at this location. If this had been confirmed it would have delayed the work but it has recently been found to be a false alarm and the contract is currently out to tender with an expectation of work starting in late January or early February 2010. The intention is to retain the original road width but to incorporate some measures to reduce vehicle speed. Timber fencing with an additional steel safety fence are also to be included.

Yellow Lines on the Way!

What has become a rather long-running saga is soon to be brought to a conclusion. There have been occasions when emergency ambulances have been unable to reach people living in Blackett Cottages due to vehicles parked within the access road at the southern end of the cottages and the police have also been concerned about indiscriminate parking nearby, particularly near the busy junction.

After widespread consultations the County Council has successfully applied for a Traffic Regulation Order which will see double yellow lines around the main road junction and along the access road to Blackett Cottages.

At the same time, parking along the road between the two rows of cottages is to be for "Resident Permit Holders Only" and residents will also hold a "Visitors Permit". Normally permit schemes of this type are paid for by an annual resident's fee but on this occasion, Milecastle Housing has agreed to meet this element of the cost.



Wylam Parish Council wishes readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year

Nature Notes

Peter Clarke writes:-

It's a real pleasure to begin these notes with a report that should delight many people; otters have been seen in the river on several occasions lately, the most pleasing sightings being near and under the "Points Bridge", where early one morning in September, three were seen on the downstream side. It's always a great pleasure to see these fine creatures playing in the water, but three at a time must be a rarity. If you want to try seeing them, you will have to go to Hagg Bank early on a fine morning and be patient - as will your dog!

The second treat, again on a fine morning's walk, is to see kingfishers. These wonderfully coloured birds are like bright jewels catching the light of the sun as they dive into the water after their breakfast. It is perhaps not such a spectacle, but keep your eyes open for the odd shrew crossing the footpath on your morning walk. These charming creatures are quite attractive if you like small mammals, but they move very quickly and don't wait for you to examine them for identification purposes.

There are some instances, perhaps as many as twelve around the parish, of trees which have disappeared in recent windy weather, and sadly a couple due to vandalism. These will be replaced in the coming weeks.

If you are one of those that look out for what is happening you will not have failed to notice a big change on the Nature Reserve. Our usual "mowing man" was unable to help this year but we were able to get Northumberland Wildlife Trust to cut the long grass on the meadow area. The extremely short cut will soon recover and this will be interesting to watch.

There will be some planting to do in the new year and, if you wish, you can help with this task in January. Keep in touch!

Deadline for the next "Wylam Globe" Friday 26 February

The Parish Council wishes to make it clear that anonymous articles or letters received for the "Globe" will not be considered for publication.

Recycle Your Christmas Cards

We would, once again, like to encourage people to recycle their used Christmas Cards in aid of The Woodland Trust. A box will be provided just inside the Institute during the first few weeks in January.

Wylam Calendars

Copies of the 2010 Wylam Calendar, this year depicting historic views of the village, are available from most Wylam shops. Please purchase one. Money raised will help to support the Pre-school Playgroup.

Playing Field Appointments

At the Annual General Meeting of the Playing Field Association in early November, Stephen Westgarth was appointed to take over as Secretary from Tony Mitcham and Jenny Guariento's offer to assist Stephen as Minute Secretary was welcomed. Anne Francis was appointed as Treasurer, and she will take over this role from Alan French.

Tony and Alan have been Secretary and Treasurer respectively for many years and thanks were expressed to both for their immense contribution to maintaining this very important village resource for the benefit of the whole village. Quite apart from the use by senior cricket and football teams, the Playing Field is used by numerous junior teams representing both sports and it is little short of a miracle that all of this activity can be fitted in alongside other basic activities.

It is hoped that work to complete the pavilion extension will become possible within the coming months if funds can be found.

Wylam Institute

At last the Institute Management Committee is able to apply for a Premises Licence which will enable the Committee to accommodate most bookings which require a licence for the sale of alcohol. Until now, each event has had to apply for a separate "Temporary Event Notice".

The Licensing Authority has agreed that a notice in this publication will meet one of the statutory requirements of this application and we are happy to oblige (see below). We understand that the application covers the whole week but is restricted to the hours of 11.00am to 12 midnight.

The official statement is below:-

LICENSING ACT - NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

Type of Licence—Premises Licence under Licensing Act 2003

Applicant—Wylam Institute Community Association

Postal address of premises for which licence is required—Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam

Details of existing relevant licensable activities—Theatre Licence Standard Conditions and Temporary Events Alcohol Licence

Details of additional/changes to relevant licensable activities—Vary use of Temporary Events Licences to a Premises Licence

Closing Date for Representations—12th January, 2010

All comments about the application must be made in writing and sent to: The Licensing Section (West), Northumberland County Council, Public Protection Service, Prospect House, Hexham NE46 3NH

Details of the application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Hagg Bank Play Area

Following a period of investigation and consultation with local families, the Parish Council has accepted a quotation to supply and install new play equipment in the play area at Hagg Bank, where the current facilities have become more than a little jaded. The Council has obtained one grant towards the cost and is currently looking for additional grants to enable the work to go ahead as soon as possible.

Forthcoming Events

The following events take place in Wylam Institute unless indicated otherwise

9 Dec

Westoe Brass Band with "JEMMS", performing in aid of Institute funds. 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (including refreshments)

12 Dec

Junior Film Club 2.00 to 4.00pm "Star Wars-Clone Wars"

13 Dec - Christmas Folk Concert 7.00pm

14 Dec - Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm

18 Dec

Carols at Charlie's Corner 10.00am with Santa and School. Refreshments in Methodist Hall afterwards.

20 Dec

Carols at Wylam Assembly 4.00pm

Village Carol Service at the Methodist Church 6.30pm

9 Jan 2010

Playing Field Jumble Sale 2.00 to 4.00pm

11 Jan

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00 p.m.

23 Jan

Playing Field - Burn's Night Ceilidh/Dinner 7.00pm

30 Jan

"Wine & Wisdom" Evening 7.00pm in aid of "ALD Life". (ALD is a degenerative disease.)

8 Feb

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00 p.m.

13 & 14 Feb "Scoutrail" (all day)

17 to 20 Feb

Green Shoe production of "A Slice of Saturday Night" 7.30pm

27 Feb

Concert by Gareth Davies-Jones at Methodist Church 7.30 for 8.00pm (details/tickets from D Featonby 853552)

8 March

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00 p.m.

12 April

Parish Council Meeting, 7.00 p.m.

13 June

"Jump for Joy" (Teddy Parachute Jump) St Oswin's Church Grounds

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@bt internet.com

Printed for Wylam Parish Council by the
Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4BA.
E.mail: gilpin.press@btinternet.com

Institute Members' Coffee Morning

The Institute appreciates and relies on its membership to contribute to the running costs of the building and as a thank you every year, everyone is invited to a Coffee Morning. The next coffee morning will be held on Saturday 20th February 2010 from 10am until 12 noon. Anyone interested in joining the Wylam Institute Community Association, please come along.

St Oswin's Church Hall

The Church Hall is available for parties, receptions and fundraising functions. It has excellent facilities and with it's own outdoor space as well is ideal for children's parties. Rates are very competitive. For further details please contact the Booking Secretary on 01661 852733

Women's Institute Celebration

On 21 August, Wylam W.I. proudly celebrated its 90th birthday in style. Champagne and canapés on the Institute lawn were followed by a splendid meal inside. Wine flowed and the members, guests and representatives from the County Executive had a most enjoyable evening. A cake, made and decorated by Ann Hardy, was cut by the two longest serving members. Everyone then enjoyed the evening with their friends. Roll on the 100th!

Step out to Better Health

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:-

Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease - Lower blood pressure

Reduce high cholesterol - Reduce body fat - Enhance mental well being

Details of more than 90 Northumberland walks that can be downloaded and printed free, plus loads more information, can be obtained from a new website:-

www.walkinginnorthumberland.co.uk So check out the website and get walking!

Wylam Features in Tour of Britain



The 2009 Tour of Britain Cycle Race saw hundreds of Wylam residents and visitors lining the route through the village on Sunday 13 September to see 100 or so riders and their support teams on the second stage of this eight-stage international race.

For riders the day began in Darlington and finished on the Newcastle Quayside - 153km later!

The winner of this stage was Dutchman Kai Reus, who actually finished 37th overall when the race ended in London on 19 September.

Those of us unfamiliar with this class of cycling could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that we were watching a motor-cycle race, with what appeared to be almost as many police and other escort motorcyclists as there were cyclists!

School Charity Support

Mouth-watering cakes and biscuits helped Wylam First School and Friends raise £150 from a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Pupils, parents and teachers joined forces to make the event, one of thousands held in the region as part of the "World's Biggest Coffee Morning", a huge success.

"It really is a case of every cup counts", says Macmillan Cancer Support which reports that every day in the UK 822 people are told they have cancer. Just £1 will ensure that one more person receives leaflets giving them information about their cancer and where they can get support. £22 will fund a Macmillan Family Support Worker for an hour, helping families who have been affected by a cancer diagnosis receive the support they need and £40 will help a cancer support group hold their first meeting. Thanks to everyone for their help.

Review of Village Plan

By the time you read this the process of reviewing and updating the Wylam Village Plan will be underway. An Open Meeting is called for 25 November and we hope that lots of people will have contributed ideas and that many will have agreed to help in some way. It's not too late to offer. Please contact the Parish Council Clerk as soon as possible if you would like to be part of this important process for our community.

Wylam Hills Farm

The security fencing recently installed around the site of Wylam Hills Farm has understandably stimulated much comment and speculation. The Parish Council has been advised by the Estate that the buildings are soon to be demolished in the interests of safety. The fence is a preliminary safety measure in itself. We have no date for this work and it may have commenced by the time you receive this publication but we can tell you that there are still no plans for the re-development of the site. We hope that the work will at least improve what has become an increasing eye-sore in recent years.



A Village Diary section is now operating on the Wylam Parish Council website:-

www.wylamparishcouncil.org.

To submit entries; go to "Events" on the home page and then to "Submit your local event". A form will appear for you to complete and submit. It's as simple as that!

1920's Night a Roaring Success

The 1920's evening held by the Wylam Housing Group in October proved to be a roaring success. Everyone who attended made a great effort with their costumes – there was even a Rudolph Valentino in attendance!



Guests were greeted with a complimentary sparkling cocktail to get the night off on the right footing. Great entertainment in the form of a 1920's Murder Mystery performed by the Red Herrings - 2 professional actors taking the parts from maids and butlers to Lords and Ladies of the era to great comic effect. The audience's attempts to solve the mystery by questioning the witnesses led to hilarious results. 1920's music was played throughout the evening with a grand finale dance of the Charleston. Thanks to all who donated prizes to the raffle, including Jane at the Fox & Hounds, Wylam Brewery and Jack Cain's Gin. A big thank you to Gary at the Black Bull for supplying a wonderful supper and to Ian at Millennium balloons for the lovely 1920's themed decorations which gave the Institute such a wonderful atmosphere.

Over £400 was raised on the night. Many thanks to everyone who attended and joined in so generously with the raffle and games. All proceeds to Shelter North East and other local homeless charities.

Another similar event is to be planned for next October so watch this space.

Another event organised by The Wylam Housing Group was the **Charity Christmas Card and Craft Sale** in early November, which raised over £1000. Beneficiaries included Shelter North East, Cards for Good Causes and other homeless charities. The organisers are very grateful for the support given by the local community.

Wylam Remembered

Following a packed service for Remembrance Sunday, this year in St Oswin's Church, representatives of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery (Welsh Gunners) based at Albemarle, together with the uniformed youth organisations from the village, led a parade to the War Memorial where some 400 people gathered for a moving Act of Remembrance, during which wreaths were laid.

Poppy Appeal People

Maurice McNicholas writes:-

Sadly, in the fullness of time, a parrot will, eventually fall off its perch this being a condition of biology. Unfortunately, Poppy Appeal people, despite sharing few genes with the parrot, are also very susceptible to this condition, and numbers have declined this being a condition of demography.

Worryingly, this trend of vanishing Poppy Appeal people means fewer cans being rattled and consequently falling income this being a condition of negativity. Regrettably, the underlying



reason for Poppy People to exist at all continues undiminished this being a condition of humanity.

Surprisingly, some trends are completely reversible. It merely requires the realisation that we can help those who believed they were helping the most this being a condition of humility.

Lately, required are shiny new faces, to go out and about round their local places, to seek out the coin of silver and gold and much better yet ... of "dosh" you can fold this being a condition of charity. Importantly, now a new leading face, to logic and move and put things in place, to point out the way, to say it's OK, and when all is done, to sum up the day this being a condition of authority.

Increasingly, you see, the bigger the team that rattle the cans the greater the number of smiley faces, and it all grows this being a condition of exponentiality.... Memorably, the width of the smile on the face, who once gave, that their giving is being recognised, by you and I, is beyond measure I have witnessed this. It is another condition of humanity happily!

Ring me, Maurice 852308

Christmas Celebrations

There will no doubt be many occasions when Christmas will be celebrated in Wylam but it is hoped that as many as possible will come along to Charlie's Corner on Friday 18 December at 10.00am for what has become a regular feature, with Carols around the Christmas Tree (assisted by children from Wylam First School), a visit from Santa (complete with sleigh) and refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall afterwards. We are very grateful to Tom and Lois Martin from Wylam Nurseries who have once again provided and decorated the tree. Another village event will be the Annual Village Carol Service, this year to be held in the Methodist Church on Sunday 20 December at 6.30pm.

At Wylam Assembly (Old Schools, Woodcroft Road), a Carol Service is also to be held on 20 December, at 4.00pm.

And yes more lights!

The many appreciative comments over the last few years about the decorative lights on trees around the Institute garden have encouraged the Parish Council to invest in more lights. By the time you read this we hope to have extended the display further towards the corner.

Trees at Charlie's Corner

The Parish Council has reluctantly decided that two substantial trees growing on land at Charlie's Corner, close to the east side of Blakett Court, should be felled. Several "generations" of residents have complained about the impact these trees have had on the natural light reaching their apartments and, over the years, several attempts have been made to thin the trees, so much so that they are beginning to look a rather odd shape! Even some residents have mixed feelings about this decision, as many others may do, but it is now thought to be the only satisfactory way to resolve this frequently recurring problem.

The row of Mountain Ash trees closer to the boundary and road are not affected by this decision.

