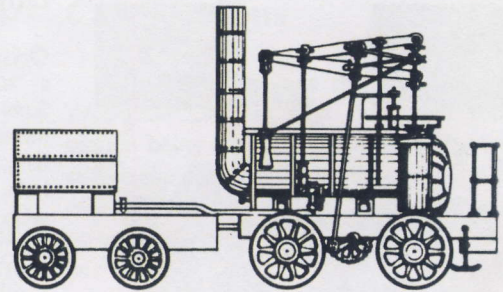


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 2010

No. 98

Wylam Summer Fair Breaks Records

Wylam Summer Fair was truly blessed with glorious weather, which greatly contributed to the success of the event which raised over £10,000. The Fair featured many of the regular activities such as the excellent second hand book stall at the Methodist Church (which itself contributed over £1,400 to the total), the fun run, children's races, many regular stalls and the evening event aptly entitled "Wired for Sound". This year also saw the welcome return of the Tug o' War, a hotly contested lemon drizzle cake competition for men and of course the highly successful village scarecrow competition.

Koby Bremer, Chairman of Wylam Community Playing Fields Association, wishes to thank all businesses and residents who helped make this such a fantastic community event. Proceeds will be used to maintain the facilities on the Jubilee Playing Field including the pavilion, on which work to extend it is planned to start in the autumn, providing the recent vandalism/theft (reported elsewhere in this issue) does not impact on this.

Methodist Ministers Depart and Arrive

After seven years as the Methodist minister based in Wylam, Rev Maureen Lloyd retired in July having made a very valuable contribution to the life and work of that church and of the Wylam community, where she had become loved and respected for her care and concern for everyone.

Maureen's successor is Rev Jane Cook. Jane is Darlington born and bred and comes straight from college to this, her first ministerial appointment, having spent some 20 years as a civil servant working in a variety of government departments. Jane is resident in the Methodist Manse at 17 Stephenson Terrace and is looking forward to getting to know the village and its people over the coming months. We offer Jane a warm welcome and our very best wishes.



Farewell to Maureen



Welcome to Jane

Blackett Court Closure Plan Rumbles On

Regardless of local opinion and particularly that of the tenants of Blackett Court, Anchor Housing appears to be pressing ahead with the closure and sale of the building. At the end of August the majority of tenants had accepted moves to alternative accommodation but a petition expressing opposition to the closure and signed by 500 local people was sent to the Chairman of Anchor Housing last month. This was copied to Guy Opperman, our local MP, who has shown strong support for the campaign and, as we go to press, we hear he has requested a meeting with the Chairman of Anchor Housing. We are also aware of individuals in the village who are still

maintaining correspondence aimed at persuading the organisation to call off its plans and the Journal newspaper has also taken up the cause. We continue to hope that this collective pressure will lead to a change of heart, although it has to be said that this does not look too promising at present.

That Appeal to Trim

We included an appeal in our last issue for householders to trim back any hedges, trees, shrubs or other vegetation overhanging the footpath or road outside their property. From observation and the number of complaints that the Parish

Council has continued to receive, many people appear not to have heeded this request. Please don't wait for the Parish Council to contact you, which is usually a last resort before reporting offenders to the County Council. Yes, it is an offence to allow vegetation growing from your property to obstruct footpaths or roads and the County Council can (and will sometimes) carry out work for which you are then liable to be billed!

Please also bear in mind, especially if you are not very tall, that many people are well over six feet and, in wet weather, vegetation often hangs much lower causing even greater inconvenience to passers by.

.....and those Scarecrows!



Can you spot the difference?

Wylam must have been crow free the week preceding Wylam Summer Fair. Everywhere you looked there appeared a scarecrow, in fact more than 60 eventually adorned the village. First prize was awarded to the floating Mary Poppins in South Wylam, where the second prize winner was also to be seen in the form of a very creative "policeman", which succeeded for some time in reducing the speed of passing traffic. Other imaginative creations included climbers, builders, a burglar escaping with a bag of swag, "Spiderman" climbing a tree and some motley looking characters outside the Black Bull, and Stobo's shop. The scarecrow idea certainly caught on and the committee are very grateful to all the individuals, families and local businesses that entered into the true spirit of the event. Next year, it has been suggested that prizes should be awarded as a result of a public vote and rumours already abound that there may even be mechanised characters emerging in 2011.



The winning Scarecrow

Community Orchard Planting Day Looms

The plans for a Wylam Community Orchard have continued to progress with a successful public launch at Wylam Summer Fair. Varying forms of membership have been designed, with a basic level for those who are not able to help with the various workdays but who wish to be involved, to a full level of membership for people who can offer physical help and who will benefit from an eventual share in the harvest.

Planting is due to take place in National Tree Planting Week at the start of December and, in the meantime, there will be at least one workday, starting on the afternoon of Saturday 18 September to prepare the ground for planting the orchard of nearly 60 trees. It is envisaged that the orchard will feature varying types of fruit from apples and pears to soft fruit, nut trees and vines for "Chateau Wylam" wine.

For more information please contact wylamcommunityorchard@googlemail.com or attend one of the regular meetings, the next one being on Wednesday 8 September at 7pm in the "Fox and Hounds".

Updates on the orchard will be available from the autumn term on the Wylam First School website.

Falcon Centre 100 Celebrations

Wylam's former school, now familiar to us as the Falcon Centre, celebrates its 100th birthday later this year and will witness a few celebratory events to mark the occasion towards the end of the year. The building was officially opened on 23 December 1910, although the first intake of pupils was in the previous month.

The afternoon of Wylam Summer Fair provided a foretaste of the celebrations with the appearance of various record books borrowed from Wylam First School in which it came to light that several current village names made regular appearances in what proved to be the very entertaining punishment books!

These books and other exhibits will be on display on regular occasions between September and December.

Bob Bows Out

Bob Brotherton has for many years emptied the litter bins around the village and disposed of the bags of litter that village handyman, Matthew Haddon fills and leaves for collection. Originally Bob was employed by Tynedale Council and latterly of course by the County Council. Bob was originally due to retire this summer, however this has been postponed until Christmas (unless the powers that be change their minds!) Rather than miss the opportunity we would like to thank Bob for the cheerful and pleasant way he has carried out his duties in Wylam and wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.

Be Warned!

We are frequently told that Wylam and the local area in general is a "low-crime" area, which is reassuring. Recorded crime in Northumberland was down by more than 14% between April and June this year, which equates to 562 less victims of crime. However, as you may have read in the press there have been several instances recently which illustrate that we are not immune from crime and to lower our guard against the possibility of being victims is a risk too far! We have, for example, been contacted by a Wylam resident who tells us that, against her better judgement, she responded to a "flier" that came through her door and ordered work to be done on her house for which she paid a significant deposit. The work was totally unsatisfactory and, even though additional work was cancelled the "tradesman" has refused to return any of her money in spite of a County Court judgement against him. This experience should be a lesson to us all and particularly to those who perhaps live alone or may, through advancing age, be more inclined to ask for work to be done for them.

Northumbria Police continue to support local communities in an effort to reduce crime and this is perhaps a good opportunity to remind everyone of several useful contacts:-

A new "Community Messaging Service" has recently been established through which anyone can receive neighbourhood updates, crime prevention information and police alerts. To be included in this scheme you will need to forward your name, address, email details, mobile and landline phone numbers where applicable to

easttynedale.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk or telephone 03456 043043 ext. 61593

To contact the police:-

For emergency response Tel. 999; for non-emergencies and for advice or for officer contact Tel. 03456 043043.

Our local (Wylam) police neighbourhood beat manager is PC Charlie Cross, who is based at Prudhoe. Charlie operates in a team led by Inspector Kevin Oates and supported by Sergeant Michael Stephenson and he is usually available at Wylam Library between 10.00 and 11.00am on the first Saturday of the month.

If it is illegal bonfires, noise, fly-tipping or stray dogs that you observe, the correct procedure is to contact Northumberland County Council on 0845 600 6400.

Whilst crime is the main focus of this note, fire is another risk we should always try to eliminate and the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service remind us to test our smoke alarms regularly or, if we don't already have them, ask for them to be fitted, free of charge, by the Fire and Rescue Service by calling 01661 834598.

KEEP SAFE!

Hagg Bank Play Area

As our picture shows, the refurbishment of the children's play area at Hagg Bank has brought a fresh lease of life to this area, which we hope children living at Hagg Bank and elsewhere in Wylam will be able to enjoy.

Access to the site is from the track between allotments on the west side of Front Street.



Wylam to Prudhoe via Hagg Bank Road

Following our report in the last "Globe" about the re-opening of this road after landslip repairs, the Parish Council continued to press Northumberland County Council for measures to improve safety along the route, particularly for pedestrians, and we have recently been advised about proposals which, although they don't go as far as we would have liked, we hope will be of some help.

There is to be new and upgraded signage along the whole length of the road, including additional warning signs, weight limit signs, and "slow" markings across the road surface.

Salsa Comes to Wylam!

Wylam Playing Fields Association is holding a "Salsa Night" in the Institute on Friday 8 October. Can't Salsa? No problem! You can come along to learn some steps from scratch with a Latin American instructor. These practice sessions will take place at 7.00pm prompt in the Hall at the Methodist Church Centre on Thursdays 16th, 23rd and 30th September - come early to get your shoes on! £5 per session, pay at the door.

Ticket prices for the main event are being kept low as a thank you to everyone who supported the Playing Fields Association Summer Fair, £15 per single ticket or two for £25. This price includes a three course meal! Tickets will be on sale soon.

Protect Our Children

The Internet has proved to be of immense value to people of all ages but we must all be aware from stories in the press that there are a few people around who seek to use the power of the internet to contact, "groom" and subsequently abuse children and young people through the various "social networking sites". The consequences of these actions are not things we wish to portray here, but if you think that your children are safe from all possible harm, think again! Evidence coming from our local schools suggests that children using many well known and readily accessible websites are being contacted by strangers often purporting to be anything but who and what they actually are. Prudhoe Community High School is trying to get local communities to recognise this risk, to raise awareness and advise people how to minimise the risks.

The Wylam and District Churches have taken up this challenge and on Thursday 14 October at 8.00pm, Bryan Wade, Assistant Head Teacher at the High School, will speak to an open meeting to be held in the Methodist Church Centre to which parents of children of any age are invited. And it's not just parents that might benefit. How much time do your children spend on a computer at the homes of grandparents or other relatives? They too are welcome. The meeting is free of charge and coffee/tea will be served afterwards.

War Memorial Green

The Parish Council has been concerned for some time about the damage being done to the War Memorial Green by "overrunning", primarily by heavy lorries trying to access local properties or the Country Park Car Park, where the recycling skips require regular collection. Parked cars in that vicinity often make it impossible for such vehicles to avoid the grass, which in an area that is attractive to both residents and passers-by is something we very much regret.

Northumberland County Council engineers have carried out "sweep" assessments for vehicles up to 12 metres in length and 2.5 metres wide moving around the green from both directions and have produced drawings to show the road changes needed to prevent further damage.

Obviously this is a big step forward but it is estimated that the work will cost in excess of £10,000 and we must stress that the scheme has so far only been added to a programme of possible "minor improvements" for the whole county, which in due course will be prioritised.

Woodvale Celebrations

It's fifty years since the first part of Woodvale Gardens was built, the top section being added in the following year, and so the current residents of the whole estate, along with several past residents now living elsewhere in the village, decided it was a good excuse to celebrate! Towards the end of August they put up decorations and held a barbecue and street party, shown here, with games, quizzes, music and lots of fun for everyone.

Viv Smith's research has revealed that the development was originally to be called Florist Hall Estate but the road at the bottom, where the first houses were built, was initially called Shelford Avenue and the ones at the top were to be called St Aidan's Grove. Nobody seems to know exactly when (or why) the present name was adopted for the whole road. It may surprise some people that the creation of this small estate was very controversial at the time, more so, it is said, than when the much larger Dene Estate was built several years later. Not only were people appalled by the breaking through of the clinker wall, still evident along part of Main Road but much of the site had been a productive orchard belonging to Florist Hall for many years, something which is still recognisable today by the few remaining trees that were left, no doubt in an attempt to appease the many angry locals!



Tynedale Hospice at Home

This local facility has now been operating for many years and provides a free Hospice at Home service to patients and their families, living in Tynedale, Scots Gap and Ponteland. The aim is to provide care and support to patients with a life limiting illness to remain at home for as long as possible.

There are many ways to support the hospice but we have been particularly asked to bring to the attention of our readers a new booklet, "Geordie Tales Ti Mek Yi Smeyle", which is available for £3.50 at Wylam Post Office or by telephoning 07792 539 362, with all proceeds going to the hospice.

More information about the hospice and its work can be obtained through their Care Office at Selegate House, 1 Hencotes, Hexham.
(Tel: 01434 604321)

Ovingham Road Repairs

The temporary closure of the Wylam to Ovingham road a few weeks ago enabled the County Council to complete a much needed repair to a section of this road and footpath towards and just beyond the Wylam parish boundary. The work included new kerbs and improved drainage in addition to the re-surfacing work, the final part of which is shown here.

There are still many areas of this road, particularly further towards and within Ovingham village, which remain in a poor condition with numerous repair patches of a dubious standard and we hope that they will also receive attention in the near future.



Vandals Again!

We have been deeply concerned to learn recently about a mindless attack on the pavilion at the Jubilee Playing Field, which was broken into on the night of Sunday 22 August. Thieves ripped out two water heaters and several lengths of copper pipe, leaving the pavilion completely flooded and resulting in serious damage to the floor, floor

coverings and fittings, quite apart from causing immense inconvenience to the sports teams using the pavilion at this time of year. Police believe that the perpetrators had taken a vehicle along the old railway track footpath to below the pavilion. If you did see anything suspicious which may help catch those responsible, please notify the police, whose contact details appear elsewhere in this issue.

Help for "Water Aid"

The "Big National Ceilidh" has become an annual event and is now even going international. However, you won't have to travel far to support the event in Wylam Institute on Saturday 16 October (7.30 to 11.00pm) when local band "Cherry Tree" have very generously agreed to play free of charge. Tickets will be £7.50 but no more than £20 for a family ticket, and this price includes supper. We are all invited to support what is expected to be a happy occasion which will also provide much needed help for Water Aid.

Get Caught in the Web

The website of Wylam Parish Council has been up and running for some time now and we encourage everyone with access to the internet the make use of the site.

www.wylamparishcouncil.org

.... is the address you need to access the website where you can find a wide range of information including details of your Parish Councillors and Council Clerk, meeting dates and minutes of meetings, forthcoming village events (including a facility to submit others for which you are responsible), information about local organisations and businesses and much more! You can also see a weather forecast for Wylam and follow links to news stories and yes, you can even read past copies of this newsletter, the "Wylam Globe".

The website will continue to be developed as the need is identified and time allows so, if you do have any comments or suggestions, please bring these to the attention of Diana Carney, our Parish Council Clerk.

A Slight Dilemma

We are frequently asked to include advertisements in the "Globe", particularly for courses taking place at Wylam Institute and sometimes for events outside the village. As a generalisation, especially where these events are of a "commercial" rather than charitable nature, we will not include these. We do try to include locally run events but recognise that the distinction is not always easy to make and, with the limited space available, apologise to anyone who at any time feels this to be unfair.

Forthcoming Events

The following events take place in Wylam Institute unless indicated otherwise

18 Sept

Friends of Wylam Bazaar 10am to 12 noon

18 Sept Wylam School PTA Ceilidh

19 Sept

Wylam & District Churches Harvest Festival (Methodist Church) 10am

25 Sept

Cricket Club. All day sports fun and evening disco

25 Sept

"Open House" events at Methodist Church Centre 10.30am to 1.30pm

1 Oct

St Oswin's Church Concert with Consett Citizens Choir 7.30pm

8 Oct

Playing Field Assocn. "Salsa Evening" 7.30pm

9 Oct Wine and Wisdom Evening

11 Oct Parish Council Meeting 7pm

13 Oct

Institute Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

14 Oct

"Are Your Children Safe with IT?" Methodist Church Centre 8pm

16 Oct Water Aid Ceilidh 7.30pm

18 Oct

Blood Donor Session 2.30 to 7pm

23 Oct

Fabric Sale (for "The Smile Train") 10am to 12 noon

30 Oct

Shelter Christmas Fair 10am to 1pm

8 Nov Parish Council Meeting 7pm

10 Nov

Institute Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

20 Nov

Wylam Cricket Club "Dining in Night"

2,3 & 4 Dec Drama Production.

"Waiting in the Wings" by Noel Coward

8 Dec Institute Coffee Morning

13 Dec Parish Council Meeting

18 Dec Film Club

Have a look at the Parish Council's website for more information about these and other events planned for the coming months (see note on this page).

Deadline for the next

"Wylam Globe"

Friday, 5th November

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to:

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