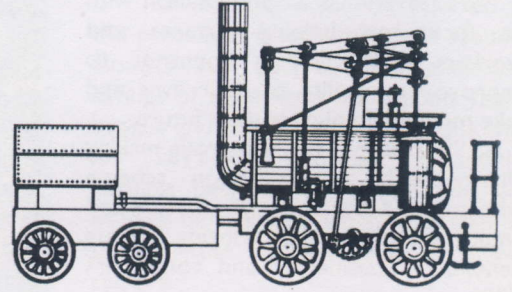


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Winter 2010

No. 99

Flood Defences Complete

In the Summer issue of the Wylam Globe we reported on plans by the Environment Agency to raise much of the left (downstream) bank of the Oakwood Burn to reduce the flooding risk to several properties on Holeyn Hall Road and others, mainly in the Denecroft/Engine Dene area.

Work started as planned in late September and, as we go to press it is approaching completion, in spite of appalling weather at times which has caused some delays and has turned parts of the site into something of a quagmire. In due course the embankment, known as a bund, will be seeded to encourage the re-growth of native species which will add to the biodiversity of the site. The work, at a cost of just under £55,000 which has been met by the Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee, is expected to reduce the potential flood risk to 78 Wylam properties.



Merry
Christmas

A Blckett Court Update

Despite the efforts of several local people, a well supported petition and the active support of our Member of Parliament, Guy Opperman, Anchor Housing still appears to be intent on overseeing the closure of its Blckett Court facility in Wylam.

At least the Chief Executive of Anchor has now admitted that they had failed to consult properly and that, as a consequence, their national policy for consultation will now be changed.

Although one or two residents still remain and we do not wish to pre-empt what will happen while this situation continues, we understand that Anchor Housing are now in some form of negotiation with one or more interested parties about the possible transfer of the site, although Anchor's Chief Executive has stated that if an individual wished to take

over Blckett Court and work with another social housing organisation, this would be acceptable.

The Parish Council continues to hold the view that, whatever happens, the long-term interests of Wylam people will best be served if the site remains for some kind of "affordable" housing rather than being turned over to a private developer.

Inspector Vera Stanhope Shot in Wylam

In October the Countryside Car Park filled with the wagon train of a film location unit. The cause of the kerfuffle was the filming, over a couple of days, of scenes for a new TV series for ITV starring Brenda Blethyn as Detective Inspector Vera Stanhope. Locations included a house in Elm Bank Road and the Falcon at Prudhoe. Look out for familiar sights when the series is screened in the new year.

Yes, Salsa Came to Wylam!

A fantastic night of fun was had by all who joined in the Playing Field Association's "Salsa Night" at Wylam Institute on 8 October.

Three fabulous courses of food were served, every table clothed and candle-lit to complete the effect as guests danced the night away to a Latin beat! The Dance Teacher, Hector Rios, was there to give Salsa tips on the night, getting various lucky ladies up to dance with him whilst his beautiful assistant was dancing with the men.

Look out for details of next year's event in September 2011, when the organisers are sure that ticket sales will be hot!



"Fairtrade" in Wylam

"Fairtrade" is an organisation with its focus on helping farmers and workers in developing countries to improve the quality of their lives and take more control over their future.

"Fairtrade" is a non-profit making charity with a certification scheme whose purpose is to tackle poverty and empower producers, bringing unique benefits to businesses and consumers alike.

Did you realise that a "Fairtrade" Group exists in Wylam, raising awareness of fair trade by making fairly-traded goods available to the local community?

Their stall, staffed by volunteers, is available at the Methodist Church Centre during the twice weekly "soft play" sessions on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons and also on the third Saturday each month between 10.30am and 12 noon and the third Sunday from 12.00 to 12.30pm. A stall is also available at St Oswin's Church Hall on the first Sunday of each month between 10.45 and 11.45am and at other times by arrangement.

The stall sells a wide range of fairly-traded products including food, household items, gifts, toys, jewellery and Christmas cards, with many more items that can be ordered from the "Traidcraft" catalogue.

Fairly-traded goods are now available from many supermarkets. However, all profit produced by sales from the local stall is donated to the charity, most recently £250 to help new and existing businesses in developing countries.

The group would like to thank all their existing supporters and invite everyone to do at least some of their Christmas shopping on the doorstep, while at the same time helping producers to get a fair deal for the goods they produce.

Why not come and help? If you could spare some time (even just occasionally) to help with the stall or if you could perhaps take a catalogue to work or to show to friends and family, please contact Jackie on 853051.

A Milestone is Looming

Observant readers of the "Wylam Globe" will have noticed that this is the 99th issue since the first one was published in July 1973. We are hoping to do something a little "special" to mark the 100th issue, which we expect to be published in March. If you have any bright ideas that will enhance the publication, please let us know.

Further Change to the Youth Service

It's only a few months since, in the Spring issue of the Wylam Globe, we wrote about Youth Service plans to replace the more traditional Youth Club, formerly held at the Falcon Centre, with a "mobile" service provided from a caravan, visiting Wylam and two other local villages on one night each week for an hour each! We were very sceptical about this at the time but the plan has been overtaken by further developments before it even got started.

As part of a scheme to improve the effectiveness of Northumberland's county-wide Statutory Youth Service, but also in anticipation of a further budget cut which could be as high as 30% from April 2011, it is now proposed that the Youth Service should be re-structured, with a central management team taking over responsibility from the previous local management. It is anticipated that this will release staff who will be re-organised into "Area Clusters", to concentrate on delivering the service at grass-roots level. There will still be staff based at the East Centre in Prudhoe but they will work collaboratively with other staff at Hexham and Haydon Bridge as part of a West Area Cluster which, it is claimed, will overcome the type of problem experienced at Prudhoe recently in which it became impossible to provide adequate cover for a member of staff on maternity leave.

The current budget is inadequate and the inevitable conclusion is that any provision in a village like Wylam, or similar neighbouring community, will go completely unless the local Parish Council is prepared to provide, or obtain from some other source, the substantial sum of money needed for it to continue.

At the same time, Wylam Parish Council has been canvassing local young people attending Prudhoe Community High School as part of preparations for a new Village Plan (see elsewhere in this issue) and has discovered that there appears to be very little interest in the type of Youth Club that has been held in the village in the past. Interest has been expressed in one-off events, such as a music festival, but this type of activity does not meet the statutory targets that the County Council's provision has to satisfy and so is unable to be funded from the NCC budget.

As ever, the Parish Council would be pleased to hear the views of any young people (or their parents), particularly young people in the 13 to 19 age range at whom the statutory Youth Service is aimed. Do please get in touch.

Rockets to Rockettes!

Have you seen the Rockettes on the Community Playing Field?

The Rockettes are Wylam's own girl footballers, founded two years ago and now numbering 45 players in teams for under-10s and under-11s from Wylam and around this area.

You may see the girls on the Playing field at the weekends with the boy Rockets, although they train here on Wednesday evenings during the summer.

This year the Rockettes are playing all their matches in the Northern Girls League at "Complete Football" in Gosforth. Both the under-10 and under-11 teams have been very successful against bigger clubs such as Blyth, Bedlington and Cramlington and in fact the under-10s are currently top of their group.

Next season the matches will be played on a home and away basis, so we'll hope to see the girls in action on our own ground.

The teams have great parental support including three qualified FA coaches. If you are interested in taking part in this fastest growing British sport, please phone coach Bob Spragg on 854711.

Another Warning

In our last issue we reported the personal experience of a Wylam resident who had suffered as a result of a "rogue tradesman" who not only took advantage of her trust but also took off with her money! That resident asked us to make readers aware of the risks when getting what appear to be legitimate tradespeople to carry out work on their property.

Another lady has contacted us within the last few weeks, similarly asking us to warn others based on her experience which involved an opportunist thief who attempted to gain entry through an unlocked front door. The police, who were called, suggested that local people should be reminded once again, especially with longer hours of darkness at this time of year, that security and safety should be our priorities - even though statistically we live in a relatively low-crime area.

Christmas Celebrations

We hope that as many people as possible will come along to Charlie's Corner on Friday 17 December at 10.00am, for carols around the Christmas Tree (led by children from Wylam First School), an exciting visit from Santa and refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall afterwards. We are very grateful to Tom and Lois Martin from Wylam Nurseries who have, so very kindly, once again provided and decorated the tree.

Another village event will be the Annual Village Carol Service, this year to be held in St Oswin's Church on Sunday 19 December at 6.30pm.

Wylam Pre-School Playgroup

Do you have a child aged between two and four years or know of someone who does?

Wylam Pre-School Playgroup is OFSTED registered and offers high quality pre-school education right here in the village! The Playgroup is open on five mornings a week from 9.15 to 11.45am and can cater for between one and five sessions a week.

For more information please visit the Playgroup at the Falcon Centre on any morning or phone Karen on 852174.

Have you got your 2011 "Wylam Past and Present" Calendar - helping to raise funds for Playgroup?

Burns Night - Help Needed

Another ever-popular Playing Field Association event will be the Burns Night celebrations on Saturday 22 January and we are happy to pass on a request for help in providing donations of tartan material to dress the tables for that occasion. Any colour combination is acceptable and "we will be happy to collect", says Secretary, Maggie Stamp, who can be contacted on 854249.

Cancer Research UK Needs You!

Would you be willing to help keep the Wylam Branch of Cancer Research UK active?

The group has been flourishing since 1985 but we currently have vacancies on the Committee for Chairman, Secretary and ordinary members. Over the years, £50,149 has been raised at events such as barbecues, wine tastings and of course our annual Spring Fayre - all organised by the Wylam Group. We've also been left very generous bequests totalling in excess of £100,000.

The next AGM will be held on Tuesday 1 February 2011 at 7.30pm in Wylam Institute, so do come along and meet us. If you can't wait till then, please contact Pat Harrison (Tel: 853113) for more information.

Wylam Village Plan - an Update

As you may remember from last autumn's Globe, the Parish Council is seeking to update the Village Plan of 2003. After a period of fresh consultation which has included the Annual Village Meeting and meetings with the Women's Institute, Friends of Wylam and young people from Wylam First, Ovingham Middle and Prudhoe Community High Schools, the Parish Council is now formulating a new questionnaire and would like to invite Wylam residents to participate in a Steering Committee to help take this forward. To offer your involvement or for more information, please contact Wylam Parish Council Office on 852498 or by email at wylampc@btinternet.com

One Down - 64 to go!



The first sod has been cut and the first tree has been planted so, with only another 64 to go, Wylam Community Orchard is now underway. On 30 October a small team of volunteers carefully prepared the ground, added the finest compost and lovingly placed the first tree, a Bramley apple, in the new orchard site at Wylam First School. Hopefully by the time this issue is circulated the full complement of 65 trees will be in place.

In the New Year, the volunteers will be monitoring and tending the trees and looking at what additional fruit and nut trees can be planted to supplement the orchard of mainly apples and pears. In addition, an access path to the site will also be constructed.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member or generally helping out, please email wylamcommunityorchard@googlemail.com or speak to Jennifer Power, Tom Martin, Roy Kroese, Mel Jones or Melanie Dunnett.

Thank You!

Rachel Robinson wishes to thank all those who helped her to raise the money which enabled her to sail on the North Eastern boat "James Cook" in the 2010 Tall Ships Races. Rachel was particularly touched by the generous donations for the jumble sale she organised in March.

"We sailed over to Kristiansand in Norway", Rachel says, "and had a fantastic four days of celebrations, festivals and parades. We then raced back to Hartlepool and managed to come fourth over the finishing line in our class. They were two of the best weeks of my life", says Rachel, "and it wouldn't have been possible without the village's support. Thank you once again".

Budget Issues

It has been widely reported in the press that Northumberland County Council has had to find additional savings of £10m from its current year's budget and there are expectations that for 2011-2012, further reductions totalling between £40 and £50m will have to be found to achieve the level of savings that Government cuts will require.

At the same time, the County Council are not allowed to raise Council Tax above current year levels.

It is widely expected that the net result of these factors will mean that some services provided by the County Council and which we currently take for granted, could disappear or at least be severely cut back. We do not wish to be accused of scare-mongering and we are confident that key services will continue. However, the Northumberland Association of Local Councils has advised Parish Councils to consider whether to pick up the cost of a service that will go, where it is believed to be in the interest of local people. For this reason, although Wylam Parish Council may have prepared a provisional budget for next year by the time you read this, it will not be confirmed until nearer the deadline in January, by which time we expect to know what the effect of the County Council's budget cuts will be on local services.

Better Bus Services

Much against the trend in recent years, the bus services in Wylam have, from the 7 November, been dramatically improved and are being promoted under the title "Tynedale Links" which is displayed on the new bright yellow buses. Service 684 now provides a regular hourly service between Hexham, Corbridge, Ovingham, Heddon and Newcastle (Monday-Saturday) and even two journeys on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Journeys on weekdays and Saturdays call at Charlie's Corner at 26 minutes past each hour to Newcastle and 40 minutes past to Hexham, return journeys departing from Newcastle at 10 past the hour and Hexham at 50 past. The 686 Prudhoe service increases to 5 journeys a day, from Charlie's Corner hourly between 1018 to 1418, returning from Prudhoe between 0938 and 1338.

Further information can be obtained from Go North East on 0845 60 60 260 and at www.simplygo.com

Falcon Centre Reaches its Centenary

Wylam's Falcon Centre, built as the village school on the site of the old ironworks received its first pupils on 14 November 1910. To mark the centenary, the Library Service and Parish Council hosted a celebratory exhibition and party on 13 November. The library was awash with reminders of the building's past. Pictures of school classes dating from the early days of the building, to more recent pictures from the 1970s were exhibited along with a report on the 1911 Census, showing who lived in Wylam the year after the school opened.

On loan for the occasion from Wylam First School were log books, registers and the infamous punishment books, which featured many of the village's past residents! Wylam Pre-school Playgroup was also on hand with photos of some of the younger users of the building over the years. These photo albums were eagerly thumbed through by younger visitors.

The event culminated in a very entertaining performance by Wylam First School Choir which performed a repertoire of local songs. County Councillor Paul Kelly cut a birthday cake and a light buffet was enjoyed by all. We are very grateful to Maureen Rogerson, from the Library Service, for organising much of the event.



The First School Choir



County Councillor Paul Kelly cuts the cake with some eager helpers

Remembrance Sunday

A packed service for Remembrance Sunday at the Methodist Church, led by new minister Rev Jane Cook, was followed by a procession to the War Memorial, where still more had gathered and where Rev David Cant led the Act of Remembrance, which included the laying of wreaths by representatives from the community, both young and not so young.



Tom Martin lays a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council

Do You Wish To Be On The List?

Parish Councillors were recently surprised to learn that there are currently only the names of 12 Wylam residents on what is usually referred to as the "Housing Needs Register", whereas there were 40 names in 2006. We can only speculate why there has been such a fall but, do you realise that in order to qualify for some form of "social/affordable" housing in the future, you must have your name on the "Northumberland Homefinder Register"?

For this you need to complete an application form, obtainable locally by telephoning Milecastle Housing on 01434 611 400 or on-line at www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=985

Northumberland Homefinder aims to provide an open, fair and transparent housing allocation service and, once you are registered you can apply for any property that is advertised on the system. Once registered, you will be advised how this works. Since the last Village Plan, Wylam Parish Council has been aware that there are people of all ages who occasionally express an interest in this type of housing and, sadly, with the likely loss of Blckett Court we wish to ensure that people have this opportunity when that time comes. It is very unlikely that accommodation of this type will ever be built in Wylam if few people have their names on the Housing Register. Please think about this.

Forthcoming Events

The following events take place in Wylam Institute unless indicated otherwise

Many more events and much more detail is now available in the Diary Section of the Parish Council's website:-

www.wylamparishcouncil.org

December 2010

- 17 Dec Village Christmas event at Charlie's Corner 10.00am
- 18 Dec Film Club, "Up", 7.30pm
- 19 Dec Village Carol Service at St Oswin's, 6.30pm

January 2011

- 8 Jan Playing Fields Jumble Sale 2.00 to 4.00pm
- 11 Jan Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- 12 Jan Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon
- 15 Jan Film Club, 7.30pm
- 18 Jan Women's Institute "House of the 100 Windows", 7.30pm
- 20 Jan Gardeners Club, "Grow your own Veggies", 8.00pm
- 22 Jan Playing Fields "Burns Night"
- 26 Jan "Journeys into Healing", 7.30pm

February 2011

- 7 Feb Blood Donor Session, 2.00 to 7.00pm
- 8 Feb Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- 9 Feb Institute Coffee Morning, 10.30am to 12 noon
- 12 Feb Institute Members Coffee Morning 10.00am to 12 noon

March 2011

- 5 Mar Gardeners Club Major Event
- 8 Mar Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
- 9 Mar Institute Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12 noon
- 17 Mar Gardeners Club "Restoration of Leazes Park". 8.00pm
- 19 Mar Film Club, 7.30pm
- 26 Mar 60s Disco in aid of "Spirit of Africa"

Deadline for the next "Wylam Globe"

Friday 18 February

Wylam Parish Council wishes you all the best for 2011

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