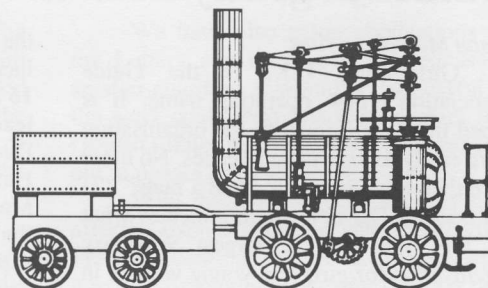


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2002

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Study of traffic and transport is required

County Councillor Kelly's ideas for a new bridge across the Tyne in the vicinity of the waterworks to replace the existing bridge at Ovingham, with a new road up to the A69, provoked strong and mainly hostile reaction at a packed public meeting in the Institute on 14th March.

The plan displayed at the meeting showed three alternative routes, starting from the roundabout at the eastern end of Princess Way then crossing the river on a new bridge, with three possible routes for a road running northwards up to the Horsley-Heddon road; one route to the west of Horsley Village, one to the east of Horsley Village and the third to Holeyn Hall cross roads. (A copy of the plan and the minutes of the meeting of 14th March can be seen at the Parish Council Office in the Institute).

When the Parish Council considered the matter at its April meeting it was agreed to write to the County Council expressing opposition to the proposed schemes as now put forward by Councillor Kelly, but to urge the County Council to commission a comprehensive study of traffic and

transport in the eastern Tyne Valley.

This study should examine the present and likely future traffic and transport need within the area, and consider the possible solution, including the need, or otherwise, for a new bridge crossing the Tyne.

In exploring these issues and possible solutions it will be essential for the County Council to work closely with the neighbouring authorities on Tyneside responsible for traffic, transport and planning, and to involve the public in local communities in the whole process.

Enjoy the Jubilee Fair

The Golden Jubilee Fair is being held on the afternoon of Saturday, 22nd June. There will be long-standing favourites, such as the Second-hand Bookstall in the Methodist Centre, the Hexhamshire Lasses, Mr. Merlin and pony rides. Why not show your fitness for the Fun Run - there will be commemorative Jubilee medals for all who pass the finishing post! Some popular attractions from last year will be here again, particularly the Beer Tent with its varieties of real ale, a Raffle (excellent prizes including a football signed by the Newcastle United team and a weekend for two in the Lakes) and the Bouncy Castle. Let's hope that last year's glorious weather can also be repeated.

We are still looking for someone to organise a tug-of-war between village teams. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Power on 852834.



Unfortunately we don't have a picture of the Coronation celebrations held in the village in 1953 - but the Queen's Silver Jubilee was celebrated with enthusiasm at a splendid event in May, 1977. How many of these youngsters do you recognise? All now 25 years older! We hope that this year's Golden Jubilee Fair will be as much fun.

We shall need your views about the village

At the Annual Parish Meeting Chairman of the Parish Council, Tony Mitcham, explained the proposal to prepare a Parish Plan. This will involve seeking information from local residents on the issues that affect them, and their views on existing services and community facilities in the village. In this way the needs can be identified and possible solutions can be considered.

The Parish Council will be working closely with various organisations and groups within the village to try and identify

issues which need to be investigated, and it is intended to carry out a household survey in the near future. All residents will have opportunities to make their views known about problems - and solutions.

The aim will be to produce a Village Action Plan on what needs to be done, and how it might be achieved. The Countryside Agency is providing funding to support the Parish Council in undertaking the work which will be involved in preparing this plan.

Guides urgently need two new leaders

Alison Malcolm writes:

Girlguiding U.K. is the Guide Association's new operating name. It is hoped that it will identify the organisation more easily to external audiences. No more "Are they town guides?" "Is it a map?" "Is it a book?" The new name indicates what we are. We are the largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women in the U.K. We have nearly 700,000 members in the U.K. alone with over 600 of those in Tynedale. Half the women in this country have belonged to the organisation at some time in their lives. Wylam happily boasts nearly 60 girls in Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

Being a "no boys zone" enables girls to be themselves - having a chance to do activities and be outrageous, not having to worry about their appearance whilst they are knee deep in mud! This doesn't mean we close our eyes to change. Guiding has developed in many directions from its beginnings in 1910. There isn't a total ban on mixing with boys and many girls have experienced mixed international camps in Northumbria, the Peak District and this summer near Liverpool.

Guiding gives girls the opportunity to enjoy experiences that may not normally be available through other channels. Girls from Wylam have, over the years, experienced international camps both in this country and abroad. In recent years we have had Guides and Rangers represent the County and the North East Region in Mexico and Japan. Wylam Rangers have also been successfully gaining Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, showing commitment, working in the community, gaining in personal development and participating in expeditions.

Over the last three years, due to an influx of girls of Brownie age, the village has been running two Brownie units. This will come to a natural end this summer with

the numbers in the Guide age group increasing as the girls move on. **There are 16 keen Guides at present who need new leaders at the end of the summer term.** Due to personal commitments, Julie Hutchinson will be taking a back seat. Marilyn Harding will be happy to continue for the autumn term providing she gets support, but ideally, the Guides need two new leaders willing to become Guide Guiders. Support and training is available to anyone who would like to take up the challenge. All we ask is someone who likes working with the girls, who has enthusiasm, energy, a sense of humour and a bit of time to give. Leaders come from many walks of life. You don't need to have been involved in Guiding in the past providing you agree with its principles. At present the Guides meet on a Tuesday night but there is a possibility this could be changed to a Monday if necessary.

Please contact Alison Malcolm (District Commissioner) on 853328 if you would like to have a chat about this or any other involvement you might like to have in Guiding.

Updating the "A-Z" List

Early last year the Parish Council published an "A - Z" list of the shops, businesses and services available locally to Wylam residents. Printed on pale yellow card this was distributed to all houses and businesses in the village and has been well received and appreciated by residents, but it is now 12 months old, and needs to be updated. There may also be local residents who can offer services not listed in the first edition which they would like considered for inclusion in a supplement or a new edition of the A - Z list.

Please check the details on the list and if anything needs to be changed - or added, please let Karen Webster know at the Parish Council Office at Wylam Institute (Tel: 852498)

First School wins an Achievement Award

Adrian Rees, Chair of Governors at the First School, recently sent this letter to parents and we thought we might include it in this newsletter and offer the congratulations of the whole village to Mrs. McSorley and her staff.

"I am sure you will want to join me in offering warmest congratulations to Mrs. McSorley and all her staff on the news that the school has won an Achievement Award from the Department for Education and Skills. The award is given specifically to reward and celebrate the efforts of all the staff for the School's outstanding performance. Awards are made for a number of reasons. In Wylam's case it is for the excellent results the School has achieved, judged against other schools in similar circumstances and with a similar catchment area. Wylam is grouped with the top 8% of first schools in England and our

results were well above the threshold for an award.

Behind a successful school lies a tremendous amount of hard work. Excellent teaching in the classroom is of course vital, but there is also a huge amount of preparation, planning, administration and organisation to be done. All this depends on a great deal of effort and dedication on the part of teaching and support staff. When a school performs consistently well, it is sometimes easy to take this level of commitment for granted, particularly with respect to what goes on behind the scenes. The governors are therefore delighted that the staff's efforts have been formally and tangibly recognised by this award.

On your behalf I would like to thank Mrs. McSorley and every member of staff for their contribution to the team effort that enables our children to benefit so much from their first years in education."

Items in brief . . .

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, the Blakett Trust have kindly donated a public seat to each of the four local villages supported by the Trust. The Parish Council is planning to fix this new seat on the open space at the entrance to The Orchard, in a pleasant sheltered, south-facing position, where it can also be used by people waiting at the bus stop opposite the Vicarage.

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Welcome to any new residents who have moved into the village recently - we hope you enjoy living in Wylam.

If you have not yet been given copies of the Village Information Card (blue) or the A - Z Card of local shops and services (yellow) you can obtain them from the Parish Council Office in the Institute, Church Road (Tel: 852498).

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Thank you to the 100+ residents of all ages who took part in the village Spring Clean and Litter Pick on 16th March. The weather was kind and everyone worked very hard - so that the skip was piled high with rubbish by the end of the morning, and the village certainly looked much tidier.

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Local residents who have been fundraising for the charity Christian Aid have been delighted with the support given to their events held this year. Over £500 was raised at a splendid Craft and Hobby Exhibition and workshop, £165 at a joint ecumenical service, and £100 at a special breakfast, this was in addition to the door to door house collection. Thanks to all who helped in any of these events - as workers or donors!

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Linda Slowther of 12 Woodcroft Road (Tel: 853666) is pleased to have your old Christmas or birthday cards, postcards or calendars. Give her a call and she will collect them.

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If you have any usable items of furniture or white goods which you want to dispose of, the Links organisation who provide Housing advice to young people, may be able to collect them and use them. Contact Mr. Young at the Register Office, 82-83 Front Street, Prudhoe (Tel: 834836).

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Northumbrian Water will be carrying out work on some of their pipes under the western end of the playing field during the summer. Efforts will be made to minimise disruption and to reinstate the ground as soon as possible.

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Rumours that several men with dogs have been seen acting suspiciously in some of the woods and denes around the village, has raised fears of badger digging. Anyone who sees anything suspicious is urged to contact the Police on 872555.

Exciting new play equipment planned for Jubilee Playing Field

Jennifer Power of the Wylam Community Playing Field Association writes:

In Golden Jubilee Year, there are plans afoot to improve and modernise areas of the Playing Field. An exciting scheme is underway to modernise the old play area which was first put up in 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, when the field was officially opened. The plan follows consultation with parent groups and the local youth group. It includes doubling the number of swings, providing a pedal roundabout and a new climbing unit com-

plete with slide and fireman's pole. The current tiles will be replaced with continuous hard surfacing and we will add new benches. For young people who use the field, we are exploring the possibility of providing a shelter on the far side of the pavilion.

How much will all this cost? Well, a far cry from the £10,000 needed to enlarge the area in 1990. The total cost of the project is £46,000! We already have £12,000 promised from the Parish and Tyndale Councils and our own savings.



Work in progress on renovating the distinctive bridge cabin signal box at Wylam Station. An important feature of the village's railway heritage, the work was funded by the Railway Heritage Trust. The signal box was constructed by the NER in 1897.

Learn about computers at your own pace

Most people will have seen Learndirect on T.V. and now Learndirect is coming to Wylam through Wylam Institute Computers. If you want to learn more about computers, the Internet or improve your business skills in your own time and at your own pace, then Learndirect is the answer.

Many of the computer courses are free and are designed for everyone from beginner to expert: you can learn anything from the components of a computer to word processing, web publishing and everything in between. General business courses such as customer service, communication skills and management skills are also available.

The great thing about the Learndirect way of learning is that you aren't committed to attending a class every week. You complete your chosen course at your own pace anywhere you have access to a computer - at home, the office or at Wylam Institute for example, meaning you can fit learning around all your other responsibilities.

Sign up to learn at Wylam Institute Computers, then simply log on, look at the computer screen and work through the course following the instructions. It's all explained very clearly and you tackle it at your own pace. If you miss a bit, just go back and repeat it as often as you like until

you're happy. If you need help come along to Wylam Institute Computers' weekly open meetings and talk to Learndirect and local representatives.

Come and see a demonstration at this year's Summer Fair on 22nd June, or drop in to the Open Evening on Wednesday, 26th June from 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. in Wylam Institute.

Wylam Institute Computers is open to everyone on Wednesdays from 10.00 a.m.-12 noon and 6.30 p.m.-8.30 p.m. Further information is available from Wendy Wright (Tel: 852721).

Thank you Fiona

We're always sorry to lose residents who have made important contributions to village life during their stay in Wylam.

Fiona Stevenson who is shortly moving to Durham has served in several key positions including being Church Treasurer, and leading the young people's group at St. Oswin's, and also as leader of both Guides and Rangers, during her eleven years in the village.

We thank her for the valuable work she has done, which has been much appreciated and we wish her good luck for

We have also made applications to the Lottery and the Pools, as well as to smaller charities. It would be wonderful if the work could start this year to mark the Golden Jubilee but it may have to be carried out in phases as funds arrive.

With the renovation of the Pavilion after the arson damage last year, the Playing Field will continue to provide villagers with a wonderful outdoor space for the next few decades. This is largely thanks to the efforts of many volunteers who maintain the field and fund-raise throughout the year. There are still vacancies on our committee which would especially welcome young people. Anyone interested should contact our secretary, Linda Morton (tel: 852137).

Fund raising for bells

St. Oswin's has had its bells for over 100 years. They were last refurbished in 1936 and the time has come for further work to be done - work which will put them in good working order for the next fifty years.

A specification has been prepared and initial estimates suggest that the work could cost over £20,000. The church has known for the last year that work was required and fund-raising has been underway since then.

So far £5690 has been raised through a sponsored sleep-in at the top of the tower followed by an abseil down by two of the ringers, a coffee morning, a race night and a Chinese meal. There have also been a number of donations for which the church is very grateful. Applications for support are to be made to a number of trusts. It will be necessary to dip into church funds to make up any short-fall but the church is continuing to fund-raise and, of course, remains happy to receive donations!

Fairly-traded goods

Barbara Brooks writes:

For several years Traidcraft fairly traded goods have been available at the Methodist Church. Traidcraft is an organisation set up to help producers in poorer countries receive a guaranteed fair price for their goods. This extra money improves the conditions in which they and their families live and work. These goods include teas, coffees, chocolate, muesli, snacks, biscuits etc. and various other non-edible items.

We have now decided to have a stall on the first Saturday of every month. This will be held in the foyer of the Methodist Church Centre - entrance in Chapel Lane, between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon and is open to everyone. Please come along and see what we have. There is a catalogue and we can always order other items for you. The next stall will be on July 6th.

For further information please ring Barbara Brooks on 853520.

Celebrations to mark the Parish Centenary

In October this year St. Oswin's celebrates the centenary of the establishment of the Parish and of the consecration of the church.

Those with long memories may ask 'Surely you celebrated in 1986?' That is true, but the celebration then was of the hundredth anniversary of the building and opening of the church for worship. For the next sixteen years the church remained part of the Ovingham parish and the vicar of Ovingham was also responsible for St. Oswin's. It was not until 1902 that the authorities in the diocese and in London got around to sorting out the problem.

In October the church plans a week of celebrations with events during the weekend of 4th - 6th and culminating in a Festival Service conducted by the Bishop of Newcastle on Thursday, 10th October at 7.30 p.m. There will be a number of events including an exhibition of memorabilia from the last 100 years - and David Cant would welcome items for display. The church hopes to contact as many people as possible who have had links with the church, especially those who were married or baptised there; lists and copies of Registers will be displayed. Further information will be available soon.



Compare this picture taken several months ago while work was in progress on modernising the Black Bull Inn, with the impressive completed premises which you can now see - and enjoy using - on the Main Street.

Handyman still wanted

Unfortunately the "Village Handyman - Job Vacant" advert in the news-sheet distributed in March, following the retirement of Ron English, has not produced a flood of applicants!!

The job is flexible and involves just a few hours each week, doing a variety of outdoor tasks, general maintenance, repairs, light gardening and similar duties.

Anyone who thinks they might be interested or would like more information is asked to contact Karen Webster, Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel: 853619) or call at the Parish Council Office at Wylam Institute, Church Road (open Mon., Wed. and Fri., 12.30 - 3.00 p.m. Tel: 852498).

If no-one from Wylam is interested in this job, the Parish Council may have to try and find someone from outside the village.

Footpath obstructions

Anyone who has used the public footpath from the county boundary on Station Road, across the farmland to Bradley Farm recently, will have encountered problems with fallen trees, flooding and damaged stiles. Gateshead Council have been asked to arrange for the necessary remedial action to be taken.

Wylam at 1901 Census

Anyone wanting to trace their ancestors who lived in other parts of the country at the time of the 1901 Census will have been very frustrated by the continuing difficulties.

However if you know that your relatives lived in Northumberland, and roughly where they lived in the County, you can examine copies of the 1901 Census enumerators returns for the whole of Northumberland at Hexham library in the Queen's Hall, Hexham.

If you think that your ancestors lived in Wylam, Philip Brooks has a copy of the detailed information on Wylam residents from the 1901 Census and would be happy to give you relevant details (Tel: 853520).

Parish meeting problems

Matters raised by residents attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May included "lost" traffic on Falcon Terrace, a request for an extra lamp in the Country Park car park, the cobbles behind the Ship Inn and speeding traffic.

The Parish Council agreed to investigate these and several other problems mentioned at the meeting.

Parish Council vacancy

We're looking for someone who would be willing to join the Parish Council for at least a few months, until the elections next May.

Our youngest member, Angela Porter, has served for several years, but has now decided she must concentrate on other priorities. We thank her for her contribution to the work of the Council.

Ideally another young mother to replace Angela would help to maintain a good mix on the Council, but anyone interested in this vacancy, or wanting more information, should contact the Chairman, Tony Mitcham (Tel: 852128) or the Clerk, Karen Webster at the Parish Council Office in the Institute (Tel: 852498 or 853619).

Businesses expand

Congratulations to Paul Bowes and to the Craven family, who have both extended and improved their business premises in the village over recent months.

The Black Bull has probably had the most extensive makeover in its 200 year history, creating very attractive additional living accommodation and letting-rooms for guests, and greatly improved rooms on the ground floor for the new restaurant and bar.

At Wormald House part of the property was converted into a butcher's shop soon after the house was built in 1886 and it remained as a butchers until shortly before the Cravens bought the premises.

With its smart new extensions it will certainly improve local shopping facilities.

We wish both businesses success in their new premises.

Cancer charity success

Earlier this year two major Cancer charities merged - the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, are now known as Cancer Research U.K. The good work done by both charities will continue in the new organisation. Last year the Wylam Cancer Research Campaign Group raised £3,500 and special thanks are due to Michael Fulthorpe for the London Marathon, Ken John for the Great North Run and Sarah and David Furniss for their hard work in hosting "Lunch on the Lawn" in the grounds of Wylam Hall. Over £480 was raised at a very successful Spring Fair held in the Institute in May.

Correspondence relating to this Newsletter should be addressed to

Mrs. K. Webster, The Clerk to the Parish Council, Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam NE41 8AP.

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