

Methodist Church Improvements



This picture shows the new light and spacious entrance, just one of several new features within the Methodist Church Centre, which has also undergone considerable modernisation and refurbishment.

It is likely that by the time this issue is distributed, a series of events, including an "Open House" to which everyone was invited to look at the changes at the church, will have taken place, (9 to 11 September).

If you missed these opportunities, there is an invitation to a fun "Scrabble Evening" on Saturday 15 October and to a Concert by the Prudhoe Gleemen Male Voice Choir at 7.00pm on Saturday 12 November. Tickets for the Concert are £5, available from church members.

Meanwhile at St Oswin's Church

Work has been progressing well on alterations to the Church Hall. As reported previously, this work chiefly involves providing greatly improved toilet facilities, a larger and enhanced kitchen, a larger hall area and entrance.

Work is expected to be completed by the end of October with an official opening to be performed by the Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle, following a special service at 3.00pm on Sunday 6 November, to which all are welcome.

Parish Council's New Website Launched



Having announced the intention in the previous issue of the Globe to set up a Parish Council website, we are pleased to announce that the website is now live and can be accessed from the following address: www.wylamparishcouncil.org.uk

There is still a little more work and tidying up to be undertaken and that will be sorted in the very near future. The site has undergone a certain amount of testing and should operate on most mobile devices as well as PCs. Please let us know if you experience any problems.

We are very grateful to David Petrie for the photographs currently in use on the website.

Feedback would be most welcomed on all aspects of the site and the information contained within it. It is hoped that provision of the website will help the Council reach a wider audience and allow more interaction between the Council and the villagers it represents as well as providing further transparency regarding Council activities.

Forthcoming Events

The following events will take place in Wylam Institute, unless indicated otherwise.

Mon 12 Sept Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 14 Sept.

Men at Home, "The Extraordinary Gertrude Bell", Mark Jackson, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Thurs 22 Sept

Women's Discussion Group, "Brian the Birdman Little", 11 Dene Rd, 7.30pm

Sat 24 Sept

Community Orchard "Apple Day", Falcon Centre, 10.00 to 12 noon (see article)
Film Club, "The Kid With a Bike", 7.30pm.

Fri 30 Sept

Giant MacMillan Coffee Morning, 10.00am to noon

Sat 1 Oct

Jumble Sale in aid of the Zambezi Sunrise Trust. 2.00-4.00pm

Mon 10 Oct Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 12 Oct

Men at Home, "The History of Maritime Pilotage", Graham Blackler, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Sat 15 Oct

WI Table Top Sale, 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Film Club, "Spotlight", 7.30pm

Wed 19 Oct

Women's Discussion Group, "Armstrong, Craggs and the City", Maisey Maddison, 12 Dene Rd, 7.30pm

Wed 9 Nov

Men at Home, "The Pitman Painters", Jack Dawson, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Sat 12 Nov

Concert by Prudhoe Gleemen Male Voice Choir, Methodist Centre, 7.00pm

Sun 13 Nov

Remembrance Sunday. Methodist Church, 10.00am; War Memorial 11.00am

Mon 14 Nov Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 16 Nov

Women's Discussion Group, "Brummana High School", Averil Armstrong, 8 Stephenson Tce, 2.30pm

Sat 19 Nov

Christmas Fair, Methodist Centre, 10.00am to 12 noon

Film Club, "DHEEPAN", 7.30pm

Thurs 24 to Sat 26 Nov

"It Could Be Any Of Us", by Alan Ayckbourn, Wylam Amateur Dramatic Soc.

Thurs 8 Dec

Women's Discussion Group, Eileen Jones, Local Poet. Zaria, Elm Bank Rd, 2.30pm

Sat 10 Dec

Christmas Jolly (see article)
Film Club, "Florence Foster Jenkins", 7.30pm

Mon 12 Dec Parish Council, 7.00pm

Wed 14 Dec

Men at Home, "It's a Funny Old Life", Glyn Evans, Methodist Centre, 10.30am

Please note: In addition to the above events, Coffee Mornings in aid of Wylam Institute are held on the 4th Wednesday every month, 10.30am to 12 noon, and "Friends of Wylam" Coffee Mornings continue fortnightly on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am.

Deadline for material for the next "Wylam Globe" Monday 7 November

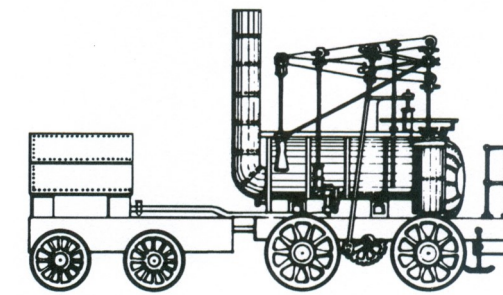
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THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



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County Council Promises Action

Parish Councillors are frequently frustrated by the fact that it's not the Parish but the County Council that's responsible for most of the services that residents complain about. At the same time, we have to recognise that, for several years, all Local Authorities have been under exceptional financial constraint, resulting in many services being "cut to the bone".

We can assure readers that Wylam Parish Council does everything within its power to press the appropriate County Councillor or Officer of the Council, in seeking improvement wherever this may be possible.

We can, for example, report a very helpful meeting and inspection of several sites around the village in July with the Neighbourhood Services Manager for this area.

Many issues were raised at this meeting, including the poor maintenance of some of the paths, behind and between properties on the Dene Estate and on some pavements elsewhere. As a result, spraying of weeds has already been carried out in some locations and better maintenance of the shrubs has been promised during the winter period. Work on the shrubs at this time of year would require men to be taken away from grass cutting, and we know only too well how that would be viewed!

Several other, relatively minor matters, have also already been dealt with as a result of this meeting and further action has been promised.

On the subject of grass cutting, the Parish Council is considering paying the County Council for additional cuts, and at the present time is awaiting details of the financial implications before agreeing to this.

Another major local concern is the condition of roads within the village. Although this comes under Highways rather than Neighbourhood Services,

we have been assured that our specific concerns will be passed to the appropriate local highways officer. As has been done for many years in an effort to highlight problem areas, the Parish Council is about to submit to the County Council the results of a comprehensive visual survey of all roads and pavements within Wylam. One particular concern, expressed by many, is the deteriorating condition of Wylam Wood Road which, as most people will realise, has been used as a "rat run" throughout the extended closure of Ovingham Bridge. This immediately, raises a dilemma. Most of this road is essentially a single-track road with

designated passing places. Excessive repair, particularly to the road margins, tends to make it effectively wider which, in turn, leads to greater use and higher traffic speeds. We are advised that no money has been set aside to repair roads affected by the bridge closure, but the Parish Council will continue to pursue this issue once the bridge reopens, and will try to ensure that its integrity as a single-track road is recognised.

Speaking of reopening of the Ovingham Bridge, the County Council is still saying "September, subject to river levels", but who would put any money on it after all this time?

Summer Fair Success

The annual Summer Fair is always approached with expectancy by the younger members of the community, more sanguinely by the older folk and a lot of protracted planning by

committee members of the Wylam Community Playing Fields Association.

This year's event began with heavy rain showers around lunchtime but thankfully the afternoon was soon to be blessed with clearer skies and fair weather.

The stalls included many familiar faces but also some new attractions, including livestock from Daniel Farm and a hugely popular bogie time-trial, sponsored by The Black Bull. Egg 'hoing' made a welcome return, although it was soon obvious that contestants would require more practice before starring for Wylam Cricket Club.

Entertainment was provided by the Prudhoe Community Band, Hexham Morris Men, seen performing in the photo here, and Matt the Juggler. A "beat the goalie" competition attracted budding male and female soccer stars while a competition organised by Ryton Rugby Club attempted to encourage use of the oval rather than round ball. The well-



established book sale ran throughout the day at the Methodist Church Centre.

There was no evening event this year and so, as expected, overall profit was down, to about £6,000. None of this would be possible without huge efforts on the part of the Playing Fields Committee, who just about manage to maintain their sanity through the months of planning and on the day of the Fair.

Our thanks go to this committee but also to the many volunteers who help on the day and to the local businesses for their support.

It's very encouraging to see that the new play equipment and games area is being widely used. High-level fencing has had to be installed to prevent damage to adjacent premises but the committee would still be grateful if children would avoid this area for target practice! The committee hope to arrange an "official" opening ceremony for the new play area in the Autumn, when the generosity of the grant awarding bodies will have a chance to be acknowledged.

Church Bells

Andrew Cairns, Bell Tower Captain at St Oswin's writes:-

"We have been pleased to welcome two new members to our band in recent months; one an existing ringer and her fiancé, who are "learning the ropes". Over the summer we have rung for St. Oswin's Day on 20 August and, looking to the autumn, we intend to ring for the following occasions:-

On 18 September, following the morning service, a half-muffled quarter peal will be rung to mark the centenary of the death of Private Appleby, a Wylam bell-ringer who died at The Somme. The 1911 census shows Joseph living at his grandparent's house at 11, Ingham Terrace (aged 19) and his occupation given as Apprentice Compositor in the printing trade. He married Elizabeth Mary Jackson in 1915.

A band of visiting bell-ringers will be coming to St. Oswin's on Wednesday 21 September, to ring from 10.30 to 11.30am

On the afternoon of Sunday 6 November we will be ringing to welcome the Bishop of Newcastle who is due to open the refurbished Church Hall.

A full peal will be attempted on Saturday 29 November, which should last about three hours. If successful, this will be a significant achievement consisting of 41 different methods (bell-ringing tunes) which must all be memorised.

If you would like the bells to ring for your special anniversary or event, please get in touch".

A Christmas Jolly

Don't panic! Plenty of shopping days are left. This is just advance information from Lynne Petrie that Wylam will be having a celebration of everything that is "Christmassy" on Saturday 10 December.

There will be mulled wine in Chapel Lane, cribs in St Oswin's, Christmas trees in the Methodist Church Centre, a tree on the corner for each family to add a decoration, seasonal flowers, hand-made cards, needlework, cake decorating, stories for children – and lots more, including coffee and a cake stall of course!

There will also be bell ringing and live music. So far, five performers are lined up but, ideally, a couple more, whether individuals or groups, vocal or instrumental, would be welcome. Performance will be in Chapel Lane for up to 20 minutes (fingers tightly crossed for the weather.) If this could be you, please get in touch.

It is intended to pack as much Christmas spirit and joy as possible into one day, so if you have any ideas or want to be involved in any capacity, please let Lynne Petrie know (01661 852577)

Dene Road Congestion Coming Up!

The Parish Council has been advised by Northumbrian Water, as we understand local residents have, that a length of Dene Road, mainly a relatively short length across the junction with Bluebell Close, will be affected for a time while a flood risk reduction project is implemented.

The risk of possible future flooding has been identified and the work is intended to reduce the amount of surface water entering the foul water sewer.

This length of road will be dug up to enable a new and larger surface water sewer to be installed.

At the time of writing the work is scheduled to take place some time between 1 November 2016 and 31 March 2017.

Access will be maintained during the work but traffic lights are bound to cause delays and congestion for a time. As the planned date for this work gets nearer, updates about the work and its timing can be obtained from the Northumbrian Water Community Portal, www.nwlcommunityportal.co.uk

Guiding in Wylam Needs You

Guiding in Wylam is desperate for volunteers. Whether for an hour or two every few months or a regular weekly commitment, there are lots of things for which you can volunteer. No experience is necessary, as training will be given. It's all about having a positive attitude and a willingness to get involved.

Last year, Wylam Brownies celebrated their 50th Anniversary and wish to continue to offer the next generation of girls the opportunity to fully participate in weekly meetings, work towards badges, play games and see their friends. There are adventurous activities, special events, day trips, sleepovers, camps and even holidays.

Some of the Brownies (aged 7 to 10) were asked to say why you should come along and volunteer with us; here's what they said:-

"There is always something to do" (Shinade, 9)

"It's fun and exciting", (Eleanor, 8)

"We do lots of activities like tennis and crafts", (Hannah, 8)

"It's not too hard and it's good fun", (Jenna, 7)

"Brownies is amazing, we do lots of fun things ... warning, we can be very loud!" (Isla, 9)

If you think you would enjoy being a volunteer and joining in all the fun activities, or if you think you can offer any of your skills a few times a month, they would love to hear from you. Please make contact via www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer/register_your_interest.aspx or, call Clare Overton on 01661 854242.

Riverside Path



In the previous issue of the Globe we reported the current status of the landslip that has closed the footpath at the end of Stephenson Terrace, below Wylam Nurseries.

With the help of a grant from the Government Flood Alleviation Scheme, Northumberland County Council was able to commission a geo-technical survey involving the drilling of boreholes around the slip, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph, taken in August.

Core samples have been extracted to a depth of 20m and these have been sent for laboratory testing by consultants.

It is expected that the results will be available to the County Council soon, when the consultants will consider what remedial action, if any, could be taken to rectify the problem. However, as there have been a number of similar problems around the County, the Ovingham to Bywell road being just one example, there is considerable pressure on resources and we have been advised that hopes should not be raised that action to re-instate the footpath will necessarily be possible in the near future.

"The American Songbook"

This is the title of a series of meetings being offered by Ron Guariento, looking at the showcased singers and musicians who "sold" us the finest 20th Century music. Meetings will be held at Wylam Institute on five Tuesday mornings, commencing at 9.30am from 4 October. Anyone interested is invited to contact Ron at ronguariento@btinternet.com

Wylam First School Governor Vacancies

Wylam First School is an integral part of this community and the governing body currently has vacancies for Co-opted Governors and is looking for people to join. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the governing body and do not have to have any current link with the school. In fact, having some members who have no close ties with the school is beneficial in ensuring that the governing body has sufficient internal challenge to carry out their strategic function. This ensures a balance with the Parent and Staff Governors.

The need is for individuals who are prepared to commit some of their time to the running of the school and who can bring their skills and talents to bear in the strategic planning and management that is required.

Governors are appointed to the body for a set period of time (normally four years), but can step down earlier if they need to.

It is a volunteer position that is both challenging and rewarding in equal measure.

Information on the role of a governor can be found at: <http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Chris Linfoot, Chair of Governors (01661 853626 or email to linfootmail@gmail.com)

Community Speedwatch



We provided details of this Northumbria Police initiative in our Spring 2015 issue, but are unaware what response there was from Wylam residents, if any, to the invitation to volunteer.

Briefly, after vetting and training, volunteers carry out high visibility speed checks at approved sites within their home area, using the normal police speed detection equipment. They don't stop vehicles but speeders receive warning letters.

PC Lee Davison, who co-ordinates the scheme in this area, is holding a meeting at Wylam Institute on Thursday 15 September at 7.00pm for anyone interested in learning more about the scheme and who might wish to volunteer. This meeting is to be advertised elsewhere by the Police, but if you read this in time it may encourage you to go along.

Development of Stanley Burn House

Although we don't normally comment here on individual planning applications, we did refer in our previous issue to a significant proposal to convert the former Stanley Burn Care Centre on Station Road into 14, one to four bedroom apartments.

This development has now been approved by Northumberland County Council subject to certain amendments, although the number of apartments remains the same, in spite of a number of local objections.

Wylam Parish Council, together with several residents living nearby, expressed concern about the adequacy of the planned parking spaces. This appears to have been addressed by the addition of a further four spaces above those shown on the plans.

Other concerns, chiefly raised by owners of nearby properties and mainly relating to privacy, light pollution and provision for refuse have, according to the Planning Authority, been considered and either dismissed or accepted, with amendments, where considered appropriate, to cover the objection.

Full details of this application and the associated documents can be seen, along with any other planning application, by going to the Northumberland County Council website:- www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-applications/Search.aspx

Orchard "Apple Day"

Members of the Wylam Community Orchard are holding an "Apple Day", based at Wylam Library, in the Falcon Centre, on Saturday 24 September between 10.00am and 12 noon.

There will be a "squeezing session" (of the apples we assume) and a chance to taste some of the wide variety of fruit from the orchard.

Everyone is invited to come along and to learn about the orchard project, which now has over eighty fruit trees and over two thousand square metres of wild-flower meadow on the lower half of the field at Wylam First School.

Wylam Hills Development

The planned housing development on the site of the former Wylam Hills Farm is clearly running later than expected.

Several months ago we were advised that demolition of the farm buildings, followed by the process of grouting to fill old mine workings below the site, was expected to be finished in time for building to start in March.

The most recent information given to the Parish Council confirms that the necessary grouting has proved to be far more extensive than expected, although the end of that process is now in sight!



Preparations have been progressing on the east side of the road, as can be seen in this picture. This is where the "affordable" houses are to be built. Work here has included the burying of electricity cables and the installation of drainage, which includes a substantial water retention system, designed to prevent the over-burdening of local sewers when there is heavy rainfall. Concreting the foundations for the first of these houses was recently started, but a late requirement for these to be reinforced with steel has apparently caused a further delay.

Himalayan Balsam

We announced in the Summer issue that the campaign to eradicate as much Himalayan Balsam as possible from the Nature Reserve and riverside areas, would be tackled in June and July.

When that time came it was soon obvious that the heavy silting in the December floods had deposited far more Himalayan Balsam seeds than expected and the team of volunteers had to revert to a 'Plan B'. Pulling out the thousands of individual plants was never going to be practicable and so the attack reverted to scythes and cutting machinery. Several of the larger grass areas were cut and completely cleared. This was very heavy work but it did achieve removal of the plants before they seeded and has opened up the site, creating a more varied habitat.

There's little doubt that the problem will emerge again in future years but we are very grateful to those who helped this year. Without their efforts there was a risk that the Wylam riverside could have become completely overwhelmed by this plant, as unfortunately remains the case in several other locations further upstream.

