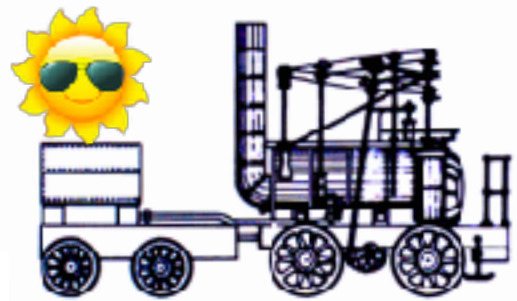


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Summer 2018

No 129

Summers here!

It's official !!

Wylam's very own Summer Fair opens on the 23rd June, 1-6pm, down on the Jubilee playing field. A small entrance fee (50p kids, £2 concessions, £3 adults, £6 for families) lets you indulge in our old favourites such as the Beer Tent or Pimms Bar, then sing and jive along with the Wylam Singers and the Prudhoe Community Band. For the brave (crazy) pilots and their dedicated back up teams, the famously scary 'Bogie Time Trials' are on again with the Robinson F1 gang looking to defend their podium places.

Out on the fields, the Beer Hall Heroes will be digging in for a tough tug of war against all comers. Come and have a go if you think you have the muscle (or weight!) to beat them.



Wylam Summer Fair

Along with our wide range of food outlets, artisan stalls and chocolate cake competition for men, we have the final of the Wylam Wellies competition. This is the chance to show off all the superb designs and artwork we have seen around the village.

A good time is guaranteed for all, even if we cannot say the same for the weather!

We are grateful for the support of the village and Parish Council in our fundraising activities and the

hard work of all our volunteers. If you want to help with the Summer Fair or take part in any other WCPFA fundraising events please contact Roger Francis via e-mail: rmfrancis@compuserve.com

Parish Council Annual Village Meeting

The Parish Council held its Annual Village Meeting in St Oswin's Church Hall on 23rd May. It was well attended with a lively debate about the future priorities for the Council and the village. We would like to thank all those who attended and made such a positive contribution to our work. Our guest speaker, Fiona Forsythe from the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership gave an interesting presentation on local railway issues, including proposals for Wylam community groups to "adopt" our station with funding potentially available for decoration, flowers or to promote the village. Colin Percy, the lead Councillor, can provide more information if you're interested.

The Council also started three "conversations" with the village, covering:

- A discussion of the resources available to the Council and the constraints we work under.
- Village input into a new set of "guiding principles" that the Council is adopting to ensure we spend our time and money in the areas most important to you and a set of "current priorities" which spell out the specific activities the Council should focus on at the moment.
- Village input to help the Council improve the way it engages with the village to ensure all your voices are heard in all we do.

We want you to join in the conversation too! Copies of the presentation, together with the draft guiding principles and draft current priorities can be obtained from our Chairman Jos Joures, from the Parish Council office or online. Tell us what **YOU** think. The Annual Report (available online) was also given out and the main points are:

Wylam Winter tales -Through the efforts of local residents, this remarkable local cultural activity continues to thrive. The Parish Council supported WWT through grant aid aimed at helping to develop the work WWT do with children and families in the community.

Litter pick - This annual event attracted over 30 helpers on a sunny day in March and we filled a large skip and Tom Martin's van with rubbish including a huge amount of dog poo bags! Please do not throw these bags into the deepest, darkest undergrowth as someone has to get scratched to bits digging them out again! Drop them in one of the many bins that we have in and around the village.

Speaking of which, the Parish Council are funding four new bins - at the west entrance to Jubilee Field, the Algernon Terrace entrance to Engine Dene and at Ingham Terrace. All to be installed later this year.



Trees, flowers and grass - The Parish Council pays around £3,000 to Northumberland County Council to cut grass in Wylam and the Hagg Bank Play Area. In addition, a local resident kindly keeps the grass at the War Memorial in trim and looking splendid.

Nearly £3,500 went on floral displays, tree and gardening work last year. The floral tubs are renewed in May and October and during the Summer the hanging baskets add to the pretty appearance of the village. Other works have included tree work, strimming and work to the hedges on Holeyn Hall Road, at the Chinese Field and Hagg Bank Play Area.

Wylam Haughs Nature Reserve lies to the west of the allotments and was recognised by English Heritage as a 'Local Nature Reserve' fifteen years ago. In this time it has matured to include delightful areas of woodland, scrubland and open meadow. Each year we monitor the site, undertake tree pruning and grass cutting as needed. For this year we are getting the paths cut three times, undertaking a tree by tree survey and cutting areas of meadow and scrubland in a phased system.

A lot of hard work was put in by Dennis Peel and volunteers to manage a Himalayan Balsam invasion (a result of Storm Desmond flooding) and in 2017 we were delighted that only a few seedlings emerged. The uprooting session this year is planned for the 1st July (see 'Forthcoming events').

Damaged riverside path and Waggonway - The big storms of recent years has led to a slide on the riverside path from Stephenson Terrace below Wylam Nurseries. The Parish Council has met with Northumberland County Council. The initial survey indicated that the river is eroding the 'toe' of the slip and that this will continue with river surges. NCC has asked contractors to provide design solutions to the problem but so far no tenders have been submitted. NCC is keeping the Parish Council informed.

In the mean time please avoid that section of the path and detour along the Waggonway. The Waggonway is a popular path well used by cyclists, walkers and dog owners. We have had issues raised by local residents with some heated 'discussions' along the route at busy times! We are speaking with the NCC and Sustrans to improve the signage and remind **all users** to show mutual respect for each other.

Changes on the Parish Council -

Anne Francis stepped down as Chairman in May. In her 8 years as Councillor and 4 years in the role, Anne has done a great job in a fairly hectic time and apart from thanking her for that, we are pleased to say she will be staying on as Vice-Chairman.



Jos Joures was unanimously voted in as Chairman. We also welcomed 2 new co-opted members, Suzi Robinson of Hagg Bank and Jacqueline Henderson of Algernon Terrace.

Tom Martin stood down from the Parish Council in March and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the village and his continued support.

Liz Bray takes over as Tree Warden. Liz has over 30 years of relevant experience in landscaping and regeneration.

Wylam, Past, Present and Future!

At its Annual Meeting in May the Parish Council widened the remit of the new Railway Museum and Heritage Advisory Group. The group will be taking the 'Wylam: Past Present and Future' (WPPF) initiative under its wing alongside looking after the museum. Terms of reference will be agreed at the June PC meeting, but we welcome expressions of interest from residents and those working in the village wanting to join the group. We might meet quarterly formally, with actions carried out in between. Contact us at wylampc@btinternet.com

This initiative has been gathering momentum since the start of 2018, prompted in part by discussion with the National Trust over George Stephenson's Birthplace, which was closed for visits in January 2017.

The Trust is making no promises on reopening the house (apart from a special open day on 24 June), but its reps have been working hard with us to see how together we can revitalise the understanding and promotion of our wider village history and heritage. This might include improving directional signing in the village and along the Waggonway, organising guided walks, revisiting walks and heritage leaflets, renewing interpretation and information boards and social media.

We have held two relatively open-ended meetings with organisations and interested individuals so far this spring. We have lots of ideas about what to do, but now wish to get down to some specific short-term projects, with others in mind for the longer term.

Community history – ‘Last Train to Wylam’ -

As part of the WPPF we are also starting an oral history project to gather memories and we hope, related photos or memorabilia, based around the closure of North Wylam Station 50 years ago, in March 1968. We held a small gathering on the site of the old station on 28 March 2018 to commemorate the closure and had coverage in the Hexham Courant – search on the internet for ‘Railway memories of the North Wylam Loop’ for text and photos.



Diesel at old Wylam Station



50 years on...

Guided walk including visit to George Stephenson’s birthplace -

As a special one-off (though we hope it will be repeated), the National Trust is organising a guided walk around the village on Sunday 24 June, starting at 10 am from Charlie’s Corner. This will take in the Railway Museum, specially open for the day, and also a visit (inside) to the cottage where George Stephenson was born, along the Waggonway towards Newburn at Street Houses. Trust staff will be at the property to answer questions and update us on the work they have been doing. Watch out on social media and the PC noticeboards for details and how to book for the walk (you can also pop along to the cottage for a visit without booking).

Parish Council at the Summer Fair !

We will be taking part in the Summer Fair this year with a couple of gazebos and will be concentrating on discussing ‘Wylam: Past Present and Future’ and ‘Last Train to Wylam’. We would be delighted if, on the day, you would come and share with us any photos or memories you or your relatives have from around this time, of the station or of Wylam generally. So start digging out those old photos and pop into our gazebo. One of us will be there all afternoon to answer questions and discuss wider PC business.

Come and see us!

Wylam Playing Fields update

2018 is promising to be another successful year for the Wylam Community Playing Fields Association. In addition to a financial grant from the Parish Council, the Jumble Sale in January raised over £1,100, which will be used to help to maintain the sporting and recreational facilities on the Jubilee Playing Field. This was swiftly followed by the Alternative Burns Night Event, when over 90 people enjoyed the traditional ‘Ode to the Haggis’, a delicious boxed haggis meal, dancing to the Prudhoe Ceilidh Band and consuming a surprising amount of alcohol!



Winners cup!

In May, 75 people attended the sixth Annual Music and Entertainment Quiz, where teams of between 4 and 8 people competed enthusiastically for the prize of two bottles of Prosecco and the prestigious trophy. The U9 Team led by Deborah Wilkie won the Quiz by a narrow margin and no doubt celebrated with the prize. The final round of questions comprised of 'Dance Floor Fillers', which generated some 'dancing', which included at least two Parish Councillors!

Pump track news -

Thanks to excellent lobbying and a petition from younger schoolchildren in the village, WCPFA sought funding to install a Pump Track, adjacent to the Multi User Games Area (MUGA). We successfully received a grant of £40,000 from the Housing Developer Fund for Sport and Play at Northumberland County Council, which together with funds generated by our fundraising events will be used to install the Pump Track and 3D Climbing Blocks close to the MUGA.

It is envisaged that children will use the Pump Track on skateboards, scooters, bikes and other wheeled kit. The climbing blocks are of different heights and suit children of all ages. The old climbing frame close to the Waggonway will be replaced with Climbing Blocks, funded by a £7,000 grant from the Masons last year. We hope that the new equipment will be in place in time for the Summer Fair on Saturday 23rd June.



An example of a Pump Track

Wylam Tennis Club Reveal Ace New Courts

In March this year Wylam Tennis Club completed a £50,000 court resurfacing project meaning the club now benefits from some of the best quality courts in the whole of the North East. The project, completed by Synthetic Turf Management, saw the installation of state-of-the-art synthetic turf on all three courts.

The club, located at the top of Elm Bank Road, was founded back in 1906 and has hosted tennis continuously for more than 110 years except for a short break during the war. The courts have been flood-lit since 2004 so members can play all year round.

The new courts have been extremely well received by existing and returning members, whilst visiting teams from other clubs have also been very impressed! Club Chairman, John Wiseman, was heavily involved with the project and commented:



Newly resurfaced courts

"We are absolutely delighted with the new courts. Everyone at the club hopes that the fantastic new facilities will encourage more people from Wylam and the surrounding area to pick up a racquet and get involved in tennis."

The new court project was generously supported by the Parish Council, the Northumberland Children's Trust and the Community Foundation. The club will be holding an official opening ceremony with sponsors and club members in June. To help celebrate the

completion of the new courts the club held an open day in May as part of the Lawn Tennis Associations 'Great British Tennis Weekend'. The day was a great success (helped in part by some lovely weather!) and the club were delighted to see a number of new members join as a result.

The club are always looking to attract new members so if you are interested in getting involved with tennis they would love to hear from you. The clubs packed weekly programme includes:

- Monday - Coaching (all ages and abilities)
- Tuesday - Mixed club play
- Wednesday - Ladies night
- Thursday - Men's night
- Sunday - Family friendly club play

If you want to find out more about your friendly local tennis club or fancy a visit to try out the new facilities please come along to two drop-in sessions that the club have planned between 10:00 and 12:00 on Sunday 17th and 24th June. Alternatively, you can contact the club on facebook or via www.wylamtennis-club.co.uk

Gentoo Update

Parish Councillors Colin Percy and Jim Martin have been in touch with Gentoo at Hedley Meadow. The large drainage pipes along Church Road were completed on time in March, but the expected completion date has been delayed until the Summer when the finishing teams will move in.

One area that Colin and our new Tree Warden - Liz Bray - are involved with concerns the trees bordering onto The Orchard. Following a report commissioned from Dendra by Gentoo in Dec 2017, it has been agreed that the 5 trees - 3 Ash and 2 Elm - bordering the site wall will be removed in stages and replaced elsewhere in the village (all costs on Gentoo) with 2 saplings planted for each 1 felled. This will allow the old stone wall to be repaired. A temporary fence has been put up until then as the trees are now in leaf and work to remove them could not be authorised until late summer or autumn.



Wylam Village Open Gardens

For those of you who enjoy walking around lovely gardens, there is a treat in store for you on Sunday June 24th as we are holding Wylam Village Open Gardens, a charity event in aid of Crisis Skylight Newcastle.

Thirteen village gardens will be open for you to wander around at your leisure and hopefully inspire you with ideas for your own garden, whether postage-sized or half an acre! Morning coffee will be available at Elmhurst, Holey Hall Road and delicious cream teas served in the afternoon by Janice at East Hill, The Crescent. There will also be a well-stocked plant stall and a raffle to help you spend your money further!

Our chosen charity, Crisis, aims to give practical help and support to homeless people to get them out of homelessness and make a fresh start with their lives. They offer education, training in practical skills such as catering and horticulture as well as advice at their centre at 1-3 City Road Newcastle.

Tickets cost £5 and are available now from

- Stobos, Wylam
- Marian on 853980 or Wendy 852721
- On the day in the war Memorial car park

Wylam First School

In May 2018, the Regional Schools Commissioner approved academy orders for 9 schools in the Prudhoe area including Wylam First School to form a Multi Academy Trust. The working title for the Trust is the 'Excellence Learning Trust'. All schools will retain their names and their independence. It is the intention to form the trust on 1 April 2019.

Wylam First School is now seeking applications for a new co-opted governor to help with the governance of the school as it heads towards membership of the Excellence Learning Trust. Applications are welcome from all members of the public particularly those who have some financial experience. If interested please contact the school for more information: Tel 01661 852771 or email admin@wylam.northumberland.sch.uk

In addition, the school would like to advise that from September there is Early Years provision for 30 hours every week and this is led by the Assistant Head Teacher. The school also offer daily wraparound care from 7.15am to 6pm.

1st Wylam Scout Group Recruiting

The 1st Wylam Scout Group always welcome new members. We have 3 thriving groups:

- Scouts (age 10½ - 14yrs) meet Mon. at 7pm
- Cubs (age 8-10½yrs) meet Thurs. at 6.30pm
- Beavers (age 6 - 8yrs) meet Thurs. at 5pm

We are keen to recruit a Scout Leader. We have adult volunteers supporting the troop's activities, and we're looking for a volunteer co-ordinator. Perhaps you were a Scout and would like to get

involved again? No previous experience is required – enthusiasm is all that's needed.

For more information Please contact Emma Watson via email:

emma.watson@wylam-scout-group.org



Volunteers needed for Wylam Institute

Wylam Institute is a large Victorian building which often requires repairs and renewals ('a stitch in time'). The Parish Council gives financial grants towards this. The Institute committee are now looking for someone with some experience to act as voluntary Buildings Supervisor working with the

Chairman and Treasurer and reporting to the main committee (Trustees) of the Institute. Anyone interested please get in touch with the Institute office on 01661 852498.

Forthcoming Events

June 2018	
Tue 19th 8am - noon	Wylam Bird Club. Meet at Methodist Centre car park
Tue 19th 10 am - noon	Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning, at Institute NE41 8AP
Wed 20th 7.30 - 9.00pm	Wylam Bird Club Indoor meeting 7:30 - 9:00pm. Methodist Centre
Sat 23rd 1- 6pm	SUMMER FAIR Jubilee playing fields
Sun 24th 10.30 - 5pm	Wylam village open gardens
Sun 24th 10 - noon	National Trust guided walk
Wed 27th 10.30-noon	Coffee morning in aid of Wylam Institute (at Institute)
Fri 29th 7.30pm	St Oswalds church. Musica Johannis vocal octet sing a summer concert
July 2018	
Sun 1st 09:30am	Tackling Invasive plants,- identifying sites. Volunteers meet at Old Station car park. Volunteers led by Dennis Peel
Tue 3rd 10 - noon	Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning, at Institute NE41 8AP
Thu 5th 7,30 - 9 pm	Wylam discussion group planning meeting, Hollyn Dene Acomb Drive
Tue 17th 9am - noon	Wylam Bird Club walk and survey. Meet at Methodist Centre car park
Tue 17th 10am - noon	Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning, at Institute NE41 8AP
Wed 18th 7.30 - 9 pm	Wylam Bird Club Indoor meeting 7:30 - 9:00pm. Methodist Centre
Wed 25th 10.30 - noon	Coffee morning in aid of Wylam Institute (at Institute)
Tue 31st 10am - noon	Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning, at Institute NE41 8AP
Aug 2018	
Tue 14th 10am - noon	Friends of Wylam Coffee Morning, at Institute NE41 8AP
Wed 15th 7.30 - 9pm	Wylam Bird Club Indoor meeting 7:30 - 9:00pm. Methodist Centre
Tue 21st 9am - noon	Wylam Bird Club walk and survey. Meet at Methodist Centre car park

**Deadline for items for the Autumn Wylam Globe is Tuesday the 14th
(high resolution pictures welcomed)**

Please address correspondence related to this newsletter to:

Mrs. D. Carney,

The Clerk to the Parish Council

Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam NE41 8AP

Tel: (01661) 852498

email: wylampc@btinternet.com

Website: wylamparishcouncil.org.uk