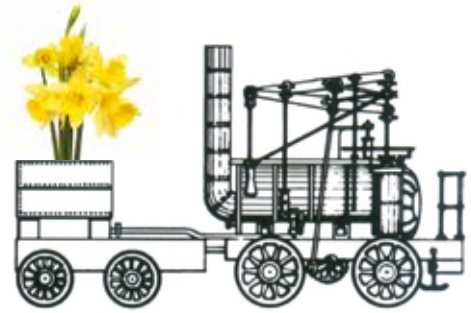


THE WYLAM GLOBE

Newsletter of Wylam Parish Council



Autumn 2019

No. 134

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On the Centenary of the first Remembrance Day, veterans, serving military from 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery at Albermarle Barracks, residents, Parish Councillors, schoolchildren, Scouts, Brownies and other community groups gathered in for the village's Remembrance Sunday parade.

After a joint worship at St Oswins, the parade made its way slowly along Main Street towards the war memorial. The Last Post sounded out and was followed by the two-minute silence, reveille, wreath-laying, prayers and a rousing hymn 'O God our help in ages past'. Afterwards people gathered for tea, coffee and biscuits back at the Methodist Church.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Local Transport Plan - We have now submitted our priorities for Northumberland County Council (NCC)'s 2020/21 Local Transport Plan. As previously indicated, our overall priority this year is to improve road safety in the village. Following representations from residents and the Wylam Road Safety Group, we put forward the following priorities:

1. To improve road safety by introducing speed limits and controls in and around Wylam, in particular (a) the introduction of 40 mph limits on all approach roads to the village and (b) improved signing, road markings and controls to reinforce the existing 20 mph speed limit zone.
2. To repair/replace the driver feedback signs that no longer work at Ingham Terrace and Station Road, and to extend provision to other areas of the village where speeding occurs.
3. To introduce parking restrictions and speed control measures in the vicinity of the Fox and Hounds and the Co-op.

We are aware that there are other potential safety hotspots in the village. We took the view that to be successful in NCC's works prioritisation process, we needed to put in specific practical proposals of the work we need to resolve specific road safety issues. We continue to press NCC to work with us in developing a overall traffic flow/ road strategy for the village and are happy to continue to discuss with residents what specific measures they would like to see in other areas. The full text of our letter is on our website (<https://wylamparishcouncil.org.uk>).

FORMER POST OFFICE

Following a successful marketing campaign, we received a range of bids to purchase the premises, located at 3-4 Laburnum Terrace. The Council considered all the bids carefully and are grateful to all those who showed an interest. We have chosen our preferred bid and the legal process of sale is underway.

The property was originally purchased with money received in a generous donation from the Reece Foundation. In line with the charitable aims of the Foundation, the Council intends that the proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit the local community. More information will be available in the New Year.



CYCLISTS ON WYLAM BRIDGE

You may have seen an article in the Hexham Courant reporting discussions by the Council on cyclists using the pavement on the road bridge over the river. Some time ago, NCC removed the "Cyclists Dismount" signs at each of the pavement as part of a refurbishment of the road signs and markings around the bridge, reassuring us that new signage would be included in the refurbishment to ensure effective cycle traffic management. They failed to deliver on this.

Complaints from concerned residents about cyclists using the pavement on the bridge have increased and we have continued to press NCC to deliver on their promise. Despite a video survey showing that, in a specific five-hour period, a cyclist used the pavement to cross the river every 4.7 minutes, NCC continue to refuse to take any action. We have now written to Peter Jackson, leader of NCC, to express our dissatisfaction with NCC's conduct and ask for his intervention. A copy of the letter is on our website (<https://wylamparishcouncil.org.uk>).



INCIDENT AT THE WEIR

There was an incident below the river bridge in September where a young person was pulled from the water below the weir. Without the quick thinking of a passer-by the consequences could have been extremely serious. This has prompted us to remind everyone that:

- The river around the village, and especially around the weir below the river bridge, is extremely dangerous. No-one should enter the river in this area for any reason. We would encourage you to remind young people in particular how dangerous the river is here.
- There is a throw-rope, situated on the corner of Stephenson's Terrace and the path running down under the road bridge over the river that should be used to assist anyone in trouble in the water near the bridge. This was used in the recent incident and has been replaced with a new rope.

The signs around the bridge are now old. NCC have agreed to renovate the signs to ensure they are clear and visible.

VACANCIES

As we highlighted in the last Globe, we are looking for two new parish Councillors. We hope to complete this process in November and will hopefully have good news for you soon.

GLOBE DELIVERIES

We deliver 950 copies of the Globe around Wylam, and as we are short of a couple of Councilors we would appreciate help from anyone willing to act as posties in their street (once every 3 months). Please drop an email to Marie the Parish Clerk and we'll be in touch.

FROM UNUSED APPLES UNDERFOOT TO WYLAM APPLE DAY

Howard Johnson reports



The concept for this event sprang from Wylam Community Orchard's opinion that there was too much wasted fruit in the village and that fruit trees could be better used.

The event held on Charlie's Corner was well supported by Paul and Kelly and staff from The Ship, children from Wylam First School and villagers. Food offered included new and old recipes and Woodvale Garden residents were offered a free new cocktail. Wylam First School

children exhibited their exploration of fruit and seasonality in art, writing and cooking. Volunteers from Wylam Community Orchard worked tirelessly, manning an information stall, serving pressed drinks and engaging in discussions around tree mapping.



Tom Gledhill's expert enthusiasm focussed on tree behaviours and identification of species. He was extremely impressed with the event and would be keen to return to future Apple Days.

Amongst general plant sales was the judging and selling of some handsome chilli pepper plants.

The sun shone down on Charlie's Corner and to quote one of Wylam's older residents "I have never seen it used like this before, it's wonderful". In addition the event showcased the value of "cross pollination" of working across varied community groups.

WYLAM PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

On Saturday 14th September, Wylam Preschool Playgroup held a very successful jumble sale at Wylam Institute. Our day coincided with the first ever Apple Day held at Charlie's Corner and both groups benefited from 'cross pollination'.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who donated, helped, advised and bought on this day. Special thanks must go to Angelique Favraud for masterminding the operation as well as The Orchard Society, The Playing Fields Association, Wylam Institute and The Labour Party. We are thrilled to have made over £1,000 which is invaluable to us in the current climate.

We are very pleased to have been able to recycle any unsold goods from the day by donating them in turn to the Relate charity shop in Prudhoe and any unsold school uniforms to The Miners Lamp Cafe and Community Hub in Prudhoe.

The goodwill for the Playgroup was evident in the help that we received on this day and we ask that, in order to preserve this village institution, anyone who feels that they could help us further by joining the committee gets in touch with Kate Henderson on the email address below.

For those of you who don't know about us, we are a warm and welcoming playgroup for children aged 2 - 4 years old. We are open term-time from 9:10 to 12:10 in the Falcon Centre (where the library and railway museum are located). If you would like any further details please contact us on wylamplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Wylam Women's Institute celebrates its Centenary this year. Members decided to give a gift to the village as part of their celebrations and have commissioned a specially made Story Telling Chair for the Library. This has been made from native woods with a carved design of the different leaves, and is big enough for an adult and a child to sit in together. It has a comfy cushion, the facility to have fairy lights for added effect, and will be available for informal use as well as special events.

The inauguration of the chair formed part of a free village coffee morning arranged by the W.I. when professional storyteller and illustrator Liz Million did the honours. She also held illustration workshops

for children during the morning. Children from Wylam First School have been working on different methods of storytelling



leading up to the event. Thanks are due to all those who contributed to the fund raising by buying tickets for the Grand Centenary Draw in the summer and by donating the many generous prizes. The Library has also become home to an exhibition highlighting the activities of the W.I. both in the village and nationwide over the last one hundred years. Many people are not aware of the campaigning aspect of the W.I., and the exhibition showcases this work from Keep Britain Tidy to more modern concerns such as the scourge of plastic in the oceans and the decline of rural bus services. Wylam W.I. has a new initiative this year of an informal scheme in which small groups of people meet to go to theatres, gardens or do anything else in addition to a lively programme of monthly meetings featuring interesting speakers, lunches and visits.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Institute. New members and visitors are always welcome.

JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS

We are pleased to report that the Wylam Community Playing Fields Association (WCPFA) who own the field in trust is continuing with its extensive programme of work to the Jubilee Field. As most of you know the Jubilee Field is home to the Wylam Rockets and Rockettes, the Wylam Cricket teams and the Black Bull adult football team. This success however puts a considerable strain on the playing surface and this year it was subject to an FA inspection which suggested that the pitch and the field would benefit from 'maintenance' of the overhanging trees and hedges, particularly to the river side. We are advised that clearing the overhanging branches etc. would open up the area allowing more light and air into the field thus improving the drainage and playing surface.

The original hawthorn hedge is around 50 years old and WCPFA has opted to take a more environmental and conservation approach to its maintenance. A Northumberland based contractor, well practised in traditional hedge maintenance will lay the hedge and plant a 2 year old stock mixture of varied plants in the sparse areas. Laying a hedge and subsequent management will not only give an aesthetic appeal but will provide a haven for wildlife to travel through, feed and live in.

In addition to the hedge activity, branches from the trees on the river bank will be cut back to a point which would cause least effect to the tree. We are aware that a footpath runs adjacent to this hedge and the work will be planned in such a way to ensure the safety and minimal impact on users of the path.

A number of organisations have been made aware of our activity including Northumberland County Council and the Parish Council. We look forward to the improvement to both the field and to the flora and fauna. If you have any queries or comment these can be made via our email wylamplayingfield@gmail.com.

A FOND FAREWELL

It is all too easy for a friendly smile and efficient service, expressed on a daily basis over years and years to be overlooked. Commentators talk about 'social capital', but it is often noticed most, by its sudden or gradual absence, rather than its day to day presence.

So, it was a matter of luck that a random group of Wylam residents, on learning that Gill Fairless was leaving the Spar that same weekend, got a hasty collection together to recognise her contribution to village life over many years. As there were 2 events going on that Saturday, they were able to ask Ken John to do the honours. Once he got over the surprise, felt by many, at Gill's imminent departure from the Spar, he was happy to oblige.

A truer measure of Gill's contribution to Wylam Village life was subsequently revealed when the "What's on Wylam" Facebook was notified. The photographs and notices received nearly 130 likes/loves and 28 comments, some of which are highlighted below:

"She will be missed. Always smiling and courteous" – "Will miss our happy chats" – "oh no, Gill was my Sunday morning buddy"- "First smile of the day, so often from you" – "You have always been so helpful and friendly"- "Thanks for making everyone that bit happier" – "For providing more than a service" – "Such a lovely lady"

Not a bad testimony, thanks Gill.



CHARITIES

Cancer Research UK – Wylam Branch

Since March 2012 the Branch has sent £17,040 to Cancer Research UK. This is a remarkable achievement, given that we are a small committee. Much of the money comes from donations placed in collecting goblets in the village shops and elsewhere. The Committee is looking for more volunteers so if you are interested please get in touch with Ken John

LIGHT UP A LIFE

Light up a Life

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES TOGETHER THIS CHRISTMAS

Join us for one of our Light up a Life services this Christmas and support Tynedale Hospice at Home. To take part and dedicate a light in memory of a loved one please call us on

01434 606 444

Light up a Life Services:

7th December 2019, 3pm
Prudhoe Methodist Church
Allendale Methodist Church
Haltwhistle Methodist Church

8th December 2019, 3pm
Hexham St Mary's Church
Ponteland St Mary's Church

for more information visit www.tynedalehospice.com

Gibson & Co. SOLICITORS
proud sponsors of Light up a Life 2019

CHRISTMAS FAIR

On November 16th from 10am -12 there will be a Christmas Fair in the Methodist church. The money raised will be used to fund the 'Churches Together' youth worker in Wylam and the

care of patients suffering from brain tumours here in the North East. Apart from cakes and gifts there will be a super craft stall and new and nearly new clothes and accessories for sale.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

A note from Tom martin

Please join pupils from Wylam First School round the Christmas Tree at Charlie's Corner on...

Friday December 20th 10.00am

We need plenty of loud voices to compete!

I promise we will have carol sheets this year!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**At the Institute, unless otherwise stated.
Every Wednesday Wylam Carpet Bowls 2pm-4pm**

NOVEMBER

- Tue 12th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Wed 13th** Men at Home 'Dive into River Wear' at 10.30am at the Methodist Centre
- Sat 16th** Christmas Fair at the Methodist Centre 10am - midday
- Tue 19th** Wylam Bird Club Walk and Survey 9am-12. Methodist car park - WI 2pm
- Wed 20th** Wylam Bird Club Indoor Meeting, Methodist church 7.30-9pm
- Sun 24th** Christingle at 3pm at St Oswin's church
- Tue 26th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Wed 27th** Wylam Institute monthly coffee morning 10.30am - midday
- Sat 30th** Christmas Fair 11am - 4pm at the Institute

DECEMBER

- Tue 3rd** WI Christmas lunch
- Tue 10th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Sat 14th** Film Club at 7.30pm
- Tue 17th** Wylam Bird Club Walk and Survey in Wylam 9am-12. Methodist car park
- Tue 17th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Wed 18th** Wylam Bird Club Indoor Meeting, Methodist church 7.30-9pm
- Tue 31st** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am

JANUARY 2020

- Tue 7th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Sat 11th** Playing Fields jumble sale - 2 - 4pm
- Tue 14th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Wed 15th** Wylam Bird Club Indoor Meeting, Methodist church 7.30-9pm
- Fri 17th** Playing Fields Burns Night 7pm
- Sat 18th** Wellbeing Fair at St Oswin's church hall 11am - 4pm
- Tue 21st** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
WI 2pm "Assistance Dog and Handler"
Wylam Bird Club Walk and Survey 9am-12.
Methodist car park
- Wed 22nd** Coffee Morning in Aid of Wylam Institute 10.30am-12
- Tue 28th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am

FEBRUARY

- Tue 11th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am
- Tue 18th** Wylam Bird Club Walk and Survey 9am-12. Methodist car park
- Wed 19th** Wylam Bird Club Indoor Meeting, Methodist church 7.30-9pm
- Tue 25th** Friends of Wylam Coffee 10am - 12am - WI 2pm
- Wed 26th** Coffee Morning in Aid of Wylam Institute 10.30am-12

Please address correspondence related to this issue to:

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Tel: (01661) 852498 **Email:** wylampc@btinternet.com
Website: wylamparishcouncil.org.uk

Deadline for next issue is 31st January 2020 (already!)