



EDITION 54 SUMMER 2026



Look inside for your news, views and things to do! Wynyard Matters is your community magazine to keep you informed, engaged and busy.

If you wish to advertise or contribute an article, do get in touch via carolinetheeditor@gmail.com

www.wynyardmatters.org



Dear Resident,

Welcome to the Summer 2026 Edition of Wynyard Matters!

So much has been going on since the last edition, and our community goes from strength to strength with more happening all the time! Connection with each other is key.

Learn about what some of our residents have been doing and the plans going forward which enhance our community life and wellbeing. They show that from youngsters to teens all the way through to 80s, life can be fun, busy and fulfilling. This is also true at 100 years old as you will see from my chat with Mary on p 34.

See how the Easter Trail and Egg Design Competition went and the Craft and Flea Market (pages 19 and 33). Read about what 3 of our residents are doing with the Book Hut (p 23) and how another has valiantly taken up the gauntlet of the potholes and need for a new road surface on the Wynd. (p14/15)

Take a look at the interview with one of our young residents who at 14 years of age has put her head above the parapet and become our first Youth Councillor! (p 5/6) At 80 years of age another 2 residents have walked 152 miles for MND! (p 9/10) The Football Club is holding a charity match on 30th May for the haemophilia ward at the RVI in Newcastle and will be launching an all-girls team next season (p 12/13).

Talking of 30th May, take a moment to read about one of our resident's memories and memorabilia relating to the Easington Colliery disaster (p 3/4). There will be a concert in Durham cathedral on 30th May and a service at the Easington cemetery on 31st May to mark the 75th anniversary of this tragic event.

Then the Events team are putting on the highly popular Family Fun Day on 13th June (p 11) so come long to that with your picnic and enjoy all the games and activities. If you would like to help, drop me an email.

Read about the approval for a new primary school and the secondary school task group which has been set up (p 16.) There is also more information on the Wynyard Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (p 17).

We have a new bench outside the Co-op which has already been enjoyed! (p 39) I am also informed that the new Coop on the other side of the East roundabout will be fitted out in May and launched at the end of June! Again, all so good for Wynyard.

Enjoy Yours Truly's humorous ruminations about the mysteries of which button to press (p 31) Make the summer recipes on pages 6 and 15 and did you know there will be a solar eclipse on 12th August? Read about that and why it happens on page 22

As always, many thanks to our Councils and the WRA for their work in the community (see page 36) – they are tackling many issues on our behalf as you will see. Do go to the meetings and have your voice. They have to know about your questions and concerns to act on them.

Thanks also go to the Events team who give their time and energy so generously for our benefit.

Finally, don't forget the regular opportunities to meet up at the coffee group, Meet and Greet, the library van, Nordic walking, the woodland walks and park run all included in the Dates for your Diary which you can cut out and keep handy!

All of this connects us and builds our community!

I hope you enjoy this edition! Looks like we are going to get a great summer so have fun!

Very best wishes

Caroline

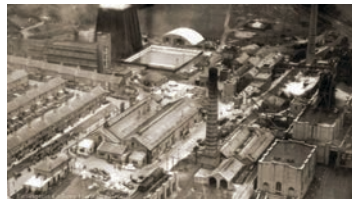
You can email me at carolinetheeditor@gmail.com and access an electronic copy of Wynyard Matters on the WRA website <https://wynyardmatters.org> or via the QR code:



If you would like to contribute an article or have ideas for one you would like me to explore do get in touch.

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1951 EASINGTON COLLIERY DISASTER



At 4.35am on 29th May 1951, a devastating explosion at Easington Colliery in County Durham killed 81 miners and two rescuers. Triggered by a spark at 4.20am from a coal-cutting machine igniting gas and leading to the collapse over 120 yards of underground roadway, it was the worst British mining disaster of the second half of the 20th century and the last to happen on the Durham coalfield. The conditions underground were described as "looking like an atomic bomb had dropped".

The 75th anniversary of the disaster will be commemorated on Sunday, 31st May 2026. A memorial parade and event will honour the 83 men killed with temporary road closures to facilitate the event. It will commence at 10.45 am at the Community Remembrance Garden at the entrance to the former Colliery site with a procession accompanied by the Easington Colliery Band to the Easington Cemetery where a service will be held to honour the memory of comrades lost and recognise the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of the mining communities.

I MET UP WITH a friend of mine, a resident of Wynyard, whose father was one of the miners killed on 29th May 1951. The tragedy left her mother a widow with 4 children aged 18, 14, 5 and 4 years of age. I asked my friend about it:



"The disaster happened a month after my 4th birthday, so I have very little personal recollection, but I am the custodian of a small suitcase containing memorabilia from my parents and grandparents including many items relating to the disaster. There are letters of condolence of which one is of particular interest as it was sent from a lady in Teralba, NSW, Australia. She was arranging gift parcels "to those of you who have lost dear ones" and wrote on behalf of a retired miner who had used £11.15 of his pension money to send a parcel to families with children who had suffered (see below).

There is information on the church services which were held locally and at Durham Cathedral. For example, there is a photo of a reserved seat ticket for the first memorial service on 8th July 1951 (see below). We lived on the main street, and my sisters told me that every day hearses were going past - the last of the bodies wasn't recovered until June 1951. They were made to wear black for a year after the event and to this day they hate the colour black. There is a photo of the memorial with a book of names, including my father's, in Durham Cathedral (see below).

In 1952 payments from a disaster fund began. My mother was awarded £4,200 for her, and her 4 children for the rest of her life (see below). In 1953, my mother received notice to quit the rent-free colliery house we lived in although this was later resolved by us being able to stay - as long as my mother paid rent.

It was my brother who was most deeply affected as he had been very close to my father being the only boy. He developed a nervous tic and when it came to leaving school and going down the mine as most boys did then he was unable to cope and was given a job in the lamp cabin. The mine closed in 1993.

Easington Colliery Brass Band
In Concert
**Marking 75 years since the
Easington Colliery Pit Disaster**
As part of the 'Our Lives' BBC Documentary
BBC
Featuring brass students from
the north east region

**30th May 2026, Durham Cathedral
19:00 Free Admission**

At regular intervals throughout my childhood, we went with other affected families to the memorial at the Easington Colliery for a service. Nearly every street had a family who had suffered. (see below for photos of the graveside in 1951 and 2011). I shall be attending the service on **31st May** and the BBC concert at Durham cathedral on **30th May** which will be aired on television as part of the BBC *Our Lives* documentary series".

Such a significant piece of history for our locality which deeply affected families then and still does so today.

(Reserved) C452

EASINGTON COLLIERY DISASTER

Memorial Service

DURHAM CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY, 8th JULY, 1951
at 3-30 p.m.

(Seats should be occupied by 3-10 p.m. at the latest).

14th August.

Dear Friend,

On hearing of the disaster at the Easington Colliery I was very distressed, as I had lived in the Easington Colliery for many years, and although my husband is a teacher, not a miner, I have many friends who are miners and know something of the miners' life.

I have tried to organise some gift parcels to those of you who have lost dear ones, and although I shall not be successful to arrange to send parcels to everyone, I hope to be able to send a gift to those of you who have children. The contents of this parcel are sent to you by an old retired miner (Mr. J. Hodgson, William Street, Searls, N.S.W., Australia) who has been good enough to send 12 parcels at a cost of £15 of his pension money. Please be good enough to write to the old man and acknowledge the parcel when it arrives.

My good wishes to you all,

Sincerely,
(Mrs) Marie O'Gellan.



WYNYARD'S FIRST YOUTH COUNCILLOR

Pictured here with our local MPs, Chris McDonald and Jonathan Brash, 14 year old Imogen Davies has become Wynyard's first Youth Councillor following the appeal to the community by Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) to form a Youth Council.



I met up with Imogen and her Mum, Joanne to chat and find out more:

C: Hi Imogen, it's lovely to meet you. What made you decide to respond to the proposal to form a Youth Council at Wynyard?

I: When I read about it, I was very eager to become a Youth Councillor as I feel that the Councillors know what is needed for adults, but the young people here should have a voice to say what they need too.

C: It's great to see such enthusiasm and purpose. Have you done anything like this before?

I: If I see something which I think is worthwhile and I can help, I do it. I am on the School Council at school, and I am also a year representative who, with the other year representatives, takes issues and proposals to the senior leadership at the school. For example, I have successfully pitched to the PTA Board for funding to set up an after-school club.

C: What ideas do you have as a Youth Councillor?

I: There are things for younger children and adults to do but not for teenagers. The only options are to get together at a few places around Wynyard. It would be great, for example to have the funds to arrange somewhere nice to meet up. We all go to different schools, so we don't have a sense of real community amongst us. I hope that the Youth Council can really help with that.

C: Sounds a great idea. Do you have any other thoughts at his stage?

I: I also want to encourage actual community work so that teenagers are getting together doing something to really contribute here.

C: Perhaps go along and support the Wynyard Village Football Clubs' charity football match on 30th May? The events team would also value help at the Family Fun Day on 13th June. Would that fit in with your thinking?

I: Yes, that is the sort of thing. I want to make a difference in the community, take this opportunity to be heard and to learn, gain experience in how decisions are made and put into action and put funds to good use. I also believe that being part of the Youth Council, one of the first in England, will stand me in good stead when it comes to preparing my CV and any college or university application in the future.

C: What has happened so far?

I: I attended a Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) meeting in April and will now be shadowing for another couple of meetings to understand the process and then set up our own meetings once we have more youth councillors on board. I have circulated flyers around the school and left one at the golf club to spread information about this so, hopefully, other teenagers will come forward.

C: Tell me about meeting our local MPs.

I: They attended a meeting at the primary school and were keen to meet and chat. I enjoyed meeting them. They want to improve things for teenagers and are very supportive of the Youth Council. I understand that as soon as there is a full complement of Youth Councillors, they will ensure that they will be invited to Parliament for a tour and see central government in action. I think this is a real opportunity for the teenagers at Wynyard.

C: I am very excited for you Imogen and it has been delightful to meet and talk to you and your mum today.

NB: I am informed by Val Bailey, Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) Councillor, who has spearheaded this initiative, that the Council has ring fenced a significant amount of money to enable the Youth Councillors to participate in such activities as a Parliamentary tour and training in all aspects of business management and also to fund activities for the young residents of Wynyard.

MAKE AHEAD TIRAMISU ICE CREAM CAKE

Ingredients

- 150ml/5fl oz espresso coffee
- 2 tbsp Marsala wine or coffee liqueur
- 500ml/18fl oz salted caramel ice cream
- 200g/7oz sponge fingers
- 3 tbsp coarsely grated chocolate
- 750ml/26fl oz coffee ice cream
- 4 tbsp caramel (such as Carnation caramel)
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- Chocolate sauce, to serve



Method

1. Line a 900g/2lb loaf tin with cling film.
2. Mix the espresso with the marsala or coffee liqueur in a deep plate.
3. Remove the caramel ice cream from the freezer and leave at room temperature for 10–15 minutes to soften slightly.
4. Meanwhile, one at a time, dip half of the sponge fingers into the coffee mixture and arrange neatly in the bottom of the lined loaf tin (depending on the shape of your tin, you may need to trim them to fit). Spoon the caramel ice cream on top and spread level with a palette knife.
5. Scatter with the grated chocolate. Place in the freezer for 20 minutes.
6. Remove the coffee ice cream from the freezer and leave at room temperature for 10–15 minutes to soften slightly.
7. Dip the remaining sponge fingers into the coffee mixture and arrange in the loaf tin on top of the grated chocolate. Spread the caramel on top of the biscuits and then spoon the coffee ice cream on top. Spread level, cover and return to the freezer for 2–3 hours or until firm.
8. To serve, invert the tin onto a serving plate and remove the tin and cling film. Dust the top of the cake with cocoa. Slice and serve with chocolate sauce.

No cooking required, serves 6-8 and is vegetarian.



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What stands out most is the strong sense of community. The smaller environment means my children are known as individuals and have been able to thrive.

The transition into Year 7 was very smooth, and I've really valued the balanced approach in Year 6 without the pressure of SATs, including opportunities like Forest School, Bikeability, and the F1 in Schools project.

Both of my children love the sport on offer, representing the school in fixtures and taking part in swimming galas.

Behaviour is excellent, so I know my children are in a calm and respectful environment.



Claire, Year 6 & Year 7 Parent

COASTING AT 80? – ANYTHING BUT!

Let me introduce you to 2 relatively new Wynyard residents I had the great pleasure of chatting to recently.

Katy Kilpatrick, who I can only describe as a fun, petite, powerhouse of energy, decided to celebrate her 80th birthday - yes, her 80th !! - by walking 152 miles to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



Accompanied by her husband Ken, she will, by the time you read this, have walked from Pilling near Fleetwood to Saltburn and put her feet in the sea to celebrate their triumphant finish! They will have followed the rivers Ribble, Aire, Wharfe and Nidd, then the Cleveland Way averaging 15 miles per day.

I asked why this particular route had been chosen and the answer was that whilst Katy has worked on her quads with squats and lunges to strengthen the muscles supporting her knees, it was important to select a route that wouldn't be too hilly! Katy says getting old is one thing, but she is determined to keep challenging herself and always keep going!

I was interested in their choice of charity and Katy explained that she has always been a big sports fan. She was previously married to a rugby player, and her great nephew now plays for Ulster and is training for the under 21s Ireland Squad. She is very aware of the risks to rugby players and the suffering of those affected by this cruel disease e.g. Rob Burrows. She was very moved by his best friend Kevin Sinfield carrying Rob over the finishing line at the inaugural Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on 14th May 2023 and wanted to do something active to help.

Katy has previously run a half marathon in aid of cancer and another in aid of spina bifida.

She and Ken will be up each day at 5.30am for a hearty breakfast and will take healthy lunches with them to keep them fuelled. I understand that peanut butter sandwiches and bananas will feature regularly! They will be walking on their own, doing their own cooking and be staying at Airbnbs along the way - no camping – some concession to age has to be made!!

They also told me that they started their training some time ago and were in Ripon in January when there was a storm so they couldn't walk. They went into Ripon instead to have a coffee, and they got chatting to a lady whose husband had been a professional footballer who had died of MND. Isn't that a coincidence? She gave them a £20 note then and there for their fund raising, which has at the time of writing has reached more than £5,000 for MND considerably exceeding their original aim of £2,500!

I kept in touch with Katy and Ken during their expedition. Starting off at the Irish Sea, as you can see in the photo above, they enjoyed wall to wall sunshine for the next 14.8 miles! In Garstang they were stopped by a passing driver who saw Katy's MND T shirt and wanted to donate. Katy attached her T shirt to her rucksack. She said it made it more visible but avoiding tan lines was nearer the truth! He was not the first as a waitress who served their coffee and a fellow coffee drinker all added their donations.

As they have continued, they have been given free coffees, scones and jam and even a Costa Coffee voucher to use on their way. As Katy and Ken said, it is really heartening when the kindness of strangers arrives unbidden. They have also experienced the wildness and beauty of nature on their way. Ever upbeat, they have persevered whatever the weather and the state of their knees!

I calculated that for a woman of Katy's build it will have taken 388,000 steps to complete 152 miles – what a personal achievement and a wonderful act of giving! To sum it all up Katy told me this has been

“The trip of a lifetime – the best adventure yet! So many kind, helpful and generous people. Both emotionally and spiritually uplifting. Thanks to everyone has so kindly and generously donated our chosen charity!”



If you would like to add to the fund already raised, you can go to [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) and search for **Katy Kilpatrick 80**

FAMILY FUN DAY!

A relaxed afternoon of
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! ♥



BRING PICNIC! ♥



2PM – 5PM



**SATURDAY
13 JUNE**



WHAT'S ON:



RUNNING RACES



FACE PAINTING



TUG-OF-WAR



RING TOSS



WELLIE WANGING



SPLAT THE RAT



BEAT THE GOALIE

...and loads more!



ICE CREAM VAN! ♥



**OPPOSITE THE PLAY PARK,
WYNYARD WOODS**



WYNYARD MATTERS
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bringing our community
together for great days out! ♥

WYNYARD VILLAGE FOOTBALL CLUB



Wynyard Village FC has been at the heart of the village for 28 years. The club was founded by Chairman Graham Parry and his wife Gill, who simply wanted to create opportunities for local people to come together through football.

Nearly three decades on, their vision is still very much alive. The club has grown from those early sessions into a thriving community organisation, now supporting 11 competitive teams — with an exciting milestone ahead as we prepare to launch our very first all-girls team next season, something of which everyone at the club is incredibly proud.

As the only football club in the village, that sense of community remains at the core of everything we do. Our weekly community sessions continue to welcome primary school children of all abilities, providing a safe, fun and inclusive environment to enjoy football. These sessions are going from strength to strength, with numbers growing each week, and we are proud to build lasting relationships with the players and families who attend.

On the pitch, it has been a fantastic season across the club. Three of our teams have reached cup semi-finals, our U11s secured promotion on the final day in dramatic fashion, and our men's team enjoyed a strong campaign, finishing comfortably mid-table in the Wearside League. Congratulations to our Under 7s and Under 14s who played in Cup Finals at Rockcliffe Middlesbrough Training Ground on 17th May. The Under 7s won the cup, Wynyard Village FC 7 v Billingham Town 6 and the Under 14s also won Wynyard Village FC 11 v Northallerton Reds 0 so fantastic results for both teams!



Off the pitch, we are continuing to expand what we offer to the community. Our recent Race Night was a great success, bringing people together for an enjoyable evening, and we are already looking ahead to our next 2 events - a Club golf day mid-May and a big charity football match on **Saturday 30th May**.



Organised by one of our U11 players, the match aims to raise money for the haemophilia ward at Newcastle RVI, and we would love to see the community come along to support such a meaningful cause.

Like many grassroots clubs, we have also faced challenges. Recently, our equipment lockup was broken into, causing significant damage. However, in true Wynyard spirit, the response from the community has been incredible. The support, kind messages and generous donations we have received have been overwhelming, helping us begin to replace what was lost.

Moments like these are a powerful reminder of what makes this village so special. The community's support has shown just how much the club means to people, and how much everyone wants to see it continue to thrive.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

If you would like any more information on how you can get involved or if you would like to support the club in any way, please don't hesitate to get in-touch via secretary@wynyardvillagefc.co.uk



SAVE THE WYND RESTORE PEACE OF MIND

Our home is where we should feel safe and secure. Its walls create our sanctuary, and this is never more so than during a time of loss. One of our residents, Louise Devlin, can certainly identify with this deeply. This is our conversation:

C: Hi Louise, tell me when you first noticed a problem with your home.

L: I was lying in bed one morning and the whole house shuddered; it was like a sonic boom. It then began to happen frequently and cracks in the cornice and plasterwork began to appear. I came downstairs one morning to find that a light fitting had fallen down. I did not know what was happening but soon realised, as having put the bin out one Friday morning, that when one of the big buses went by, I felt the house shudder as it went over 2 large deep potholes in the road. I called my neighbour and discovered that she was experiencing the same thing. I knew I had to do something.

C: What did you do?

L: I called Stockton Borough Council and eventually got put through to someone in the Highways department who said that they would come out and assess the situation. I then parked my car outside my house on the road adjacent to the potholes in an attempt to mitigate against any further traffic going over them which would lead to further damage to my home. I called Wynyard Security who were very sympathetic and who gave me cones to put around my car. The police assured me that this wasn't illegal. I was also concerned about an accident occurring due to the speed of traffic bouncing over the potholes. It was all very difficult and distressing.

I was so concerned that I wrote to the Mayor of Teesside on the Sunday night, and the next day received a phone call that the matter had been passed on to Highways. A Stockton Highways inspector came promptly, marked up the potholes and within days they were filled.

C: You achieved a speedy resolution then?

L: Yes, I thought so but then 2 to 3 weeks later more potholes appeared. Stockton Highways filled these using high friction material, told me that they had taken measurements along the Wynd and would set a budget to resurface the parts of the Wynd which were not fit for purpose.

C: What do you mean by not fit for purpose?

L: Due to the weight of the electric buses and of the industrial size wagons which use the Wynd as a cut through between the 2 roundabouts and the frequency of this traffic, the current road surface is unsustainable - it was never meant for this type of traffic. I have done some research and the stretch of road between Sedgefield and the Fishburn turn off on the A689 has a road surface made of recycled plastic and rubber tires which form a "crumb" composition which mixed in with bitumen provides a much spongier, resilient and quieter surface. I have suggested that Stockton Borough Council follows what Durham Borough Council has done in this regard.

C: I understand you have also taken this further

L: I wanted to know if others had experienced what I now know is a significant level of reverberation through the ground, and consequently the air, causing damage to their home. I attended a WRA meeting in March

SAVE THE WYND
Restore Peace of Mind

ARE POTHoles DAMAGING YOUR HOME?

CAUTION Potholes

Are you experiencing this?

- Shuddering or vibrations in your home
- Cracks in plasterwork, ceilings, or walls
- Movement in floor or window frames
- Walking doors or window frames

What could be causing it?

It would seem that the current surface on The Wynd is not robust enough to withstand regular use by heavy vehicles.

This may include:

- Electric buses
- Heavy trucks

Other large vehicles travelling regularly along the road

These impacts may contribute to vibration, noise disturbance and possible damage to nearby homes.

Action is being taken

We are in contact with Stagecoach, Stockton Highways and Cleveland Police regarding the current state of the road.

We need your help

If you have noticed any of the issues mentioned, or any others not yet identified, we would like to hear from you. Contact louise@devlin235@gmail.com.

We will leave with the Wynyard Residents Association.

and was offered a lot of support by the WRA, Robin Woolley, Chair of Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) and our Borough Councillor, John Gardner. It became clear that other houses were being affected too; for example, one resident told me that their double doors no longer closed properly. I now have cracks around my door jambs and my bathroom.

I created a leaflet which I delivered to everyone living on the Wynd and I received reports of more house shudders and feedback that there is significant speeding along the road which worsens the effect.

C: Do you have a plan going forward?

L: Robin Woolley has set up a meeting between Stagecoach and Stockton Highways to which I am invited to attend. I have notified Wynyard Estates too. Stockton Highways have now replaced the road surface on the part of the Wynd outside my house and along towards Wellington Drive with a much more hardwearing surface and I will continue to press for the appropriate surface to be laid all along the Wynd.

There is now a red sign high up and on the right-hand side coming into the Wynd at the East roundabout which states that works traffic is not to use the Wynd as a means to access Wynyard Woods. This must have been put up by Stockton Highways. It could be larger and more prominently displayed but it is something.



C: How would you sum up your message on this Louise?

L: I want to stress that I am not against the buses, traffic nor progress but the road surface must be fit for purpose for the vehicles now in use, it should not be used as a convenient cut though and the speed limit must be observed to protect our properties and prevent accidents. If anyone wishes to let me know of their experiences or lend their support, they can contact me at louisedevlin235@gmail.com

C: Thank you for relating all this to me Louise.

VEGAN PULLED BARBEQUE JACKFRUIT

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 red onion
- finely chopped
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 2 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 tsp chipotle
- Hot sauce
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 4 tbsp BBQ sauce
- 200g can chopped tomato
- 2 x 400g cans young jackfruit in salted water



Method

Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the onion until very soft, for around 10-12 mins.

Add the cinnamon, cumin and paprika to the onions and cook for a further 2-3 mins.

Next add the hot sauce, vinegar and bbq sauce and mix well before adding in the tomato, the drained jackfruit and 200ml water.

Leave to simmer gently, covered, for 30 mins stirring every 5-10 mins to help break down the jackfruit, then take the lid off and cook a further 10 minutes.

Once cooked, use a fork to make sure all the jackfruit is well shredded. Check seasoning and add another tbsp of bbq sauce if necessary for extra stickiness.

SUPPORT EDUCATION IN WYNYARD

After a successful appeal, St Joseph's Primary School in Wynyard was approved by the Department for Education on March 25, 2026! **Thanks to everyone who supported the appeal campaign.**

The school will be built between the Barratts/David Wilson Homes and Duke of Wellington Self Build developments on Wynyard Park. It intends to offer school-based nursery and Primary School provision, similar to the existing school.

At a public meeting on 27th March 2026, Roger Ward, CEO of Melrose Learning Trust, who will manage the new school in addition to the existing one, suggested that the new school may open for reception intake in September 2028, with years scaling up gradually, **but this is not guaranteed.**

Additionally, the Department for Education has not confirmed how many forms the school will accommodate. Both Parish Councils and Hartlepool MP Jonathan Brash are hopeful that a two-form-entry school will be delivered to meet the existing and growing need, alongside future housing developments.



SECONDARY SCHOOL TASK GROUP

With projections indicating that 4 full forms (120 children) of Primary School leavers in Wynyard will need to move up into Secondary each year by the early 2030s, work must start today if Wynyard is to secure an on-site Secondary school option in time to meet that demand.

For this mission, an informal task group has been established, initially comprising existing Parish Councillors. The group has the blessing and support of both Parish Councils, and is looking for residents who are passionate about delivering a local Secondary School to email wynyardsecondaryschool@gmail.com



Our petition remains active and open for signatures in support of a Secondary School bid and Wynyard Education. If you have not yet lent your support and signed the petition, please visit <https://wynyard-hartlepool-pc.gov.uk/petition> or scan the QR code on the left with your smartphone.

YOUTH COUNCIL INVITATION

As we move forward with the secondary school project in Wynyard, we need the voices of our young residents. The Youth voice carries infinitely more weight than that of the older generations on this topic. Please encourage your young family members to join the Youth Council, which welcomes anyone aged 11-18 who wants a genuine voice in shaping Wynyard's future. To get involved, parents and young people can contact the Wynyard Stockton Parish Clerk at wynyardparishcouncil@gmail.com and see the article on page 5 about our first Youth Councillor, Imogen Davies.

WYNYARD VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The Wynyard Village Neighbourhood Watch is a community-driven, volunteer-led initiative where residents work together with local Police and Security to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime.

It involves neighbours looking out for each other fostering community spirit, sharing information and reporting suspicious activity to the relevant parties.

KEY ASPECTS:

- Purpose: To create a safer, more secure community by improving home security and increasing vigilance.
- Structure: Primarily run by volunteers supported by the WRA, Police and Neighbourhood Watch Network in England and Wales.
- Activities: Sharing Information, crime prevention advice, fostering good relationships between the Community, working with the police
- Operation: The 'Wynyard Village Neighbourhood Watch covers South of the A689 irrespective of town boundaries. It is a mirror scheme to that operating on the North of the A689.
- Residents' registration: Email addressed to villagewatch26@gmail.com. Include mobile number, name and proof of address (utility bill or Wynyard community charge).
- Day to Day Communication: WhatsApp Group (details supplied on registration)

Useful links:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are>

<https://www.clevelandconnected.co.uk/>

Notes:

- Neighbourhood Watch is not a vigilante group; its role is to act as the 'eyes and ears' of the community, not to directly confront criminals or those committing anti-social behaviour.
- As with all WhatsApp groups, the information you share can be viewed by all members.
- Details of members will NOT be shared with any external organisations.

WHATSAPP GUIDANCE:

Please post:

- Focused comments on ASB / Crime prevention
- Security related alerts (Suspicious activity)
- Be supportive of others
- Relevant photos or videos

REPORTING:

Both the police and security **ENCOURAGE** reporting.

Please report in ALL instances by calling:

- Police on 999

Or

- Police on 101 to talk to a police officer, obtain crime prevention advice or report a crime which does not need an emergency response.

Also

- Security on 01740 645201.

Whilst the general advice from the police is to intervene if safe to do so, we urge caution when considering this step – see notes above.



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THE EASTER TRAIL AND EGG DECORATING COMPETITION



This was a wonderful day, such a fun time for everyone who attended!

Children of all ages and grown-up children too were transported into the Pete the Cat Big Easter Adventure, Easter bunnies, Easter eggs and it was all so exciting. At the start of the trail, a sheet of paper was given with lots of fun things on it that the children had to find as they walked along the trail. The trail itself was full of surprises, including Easter bunnies, baskets filled with colourful Easter eggs and even a monkey hanging in a tree surrounded by bananas. There were nests with birds, and every garden had fabulous displays. I heard lots of "look at that", "I found another thing on the list" and there were many ooh's and aahh's!

There were some very lovely adults who dressed in bunny costumes and added so much fun to the day, they were such great sports. Children and adults all loved having photos taken with them. Many children had bunny ears on their heads which they made with help at our crafting table, lots of colouring in and great fun was had by all.

We had a wonderful bake sale, a huge table full of gorgeous cakes and savoury treats which were lovingly baked by our fabulous residents, I call them our bakers extraordinaire, fantastic, each and every one of them, and everything was so delicious. There was also a tea and coffee station with juice for the children too.

There was also a competition, and people arrived with their wonderfully crafted items, each one was amazing, there really are some very talented and creative people here at Wynyard.

The day was so much fun and to see the children with their smiling faces melted my heart. Wynyard is such a special place to live. This event, as with our other Wynyard events was created by our dedicated events team who bring us all together in such a generous and unique way, thanks to all of you.

Our Egg design winners were Alyona Poletaeva in 1st place with her Faberge egg, Mabel Brown in 2nd place with her Rapunzel egg and Louis in 3rd with his Old McDonald's Farm designed egg. Other great entries include Millie's dinosaurs, Emilia's pig and sheep and Niamh's Minion.



Out of 84 quiz entries, the winners were Isla and Marleigh.

Well done to everyone and sincere thanks to everyone who puts so much work in, allowed their gardens and facilities to be used, baked, came to help, take part and enjoy this Easter celebration!

The event raised **£734.64 rounded up to £750 by the WRA** for Zoe's Place which is fantastic! The charity is a lifeline for families, providing expert, nurse-led care for babies and young children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.





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12TH AUGUST 2026

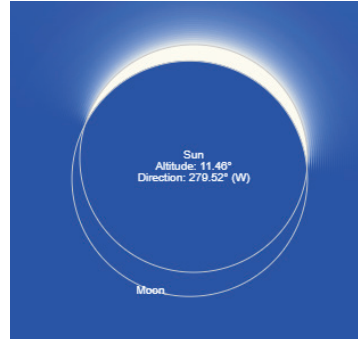


Did you know that the first solar eclipse for mainland Europe since 1999 will be visible on 12th August? I looked up whether we would be able to see it from TS22.....

In the UK it will be a 90% partial eclipse from 17.59 to 20.10. A total solar eclipse will not be visible from the UK mainland until September 2090.

Max View in Stockton-on-Tees (including TS22)

Global Event: Total Solar Eclipse
Local Type: Partial Solar Eclipse in Stockton-on-Tees, England
Begins: Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 18:15
Maximum: Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 19:12 0.927 Magnitude
Ends: Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 20:05
Duration: 1 hour, 50 minutes



What is an eclipse and why does it happen?

An eclipse of the Sun only happens when a new Moon moves between the Sun and Earth, blocking out the Sun's rays and casting a shadow on parts of Earth. This is when the Sun, the Moon, and Earth are aligned in a perfect or near perfect straight line.

But this does not mean that eclipses of the Sun happen every new Moon. The Moon's distance from Earth varies from a minimum of 221,000 to a maximum of 252,000 miles, meaning the Moon's apparent size in our sky varies by 13%. A total eclipse can only happen when the Moon's orbit is toward its minimum distance from Earth, therefore appearing visually as a larger disk than the sun.

SAFETY



Never look directly at the Sun without specialized safe solar filters, such as eclipse glasses or a pinhole projector.



Also, a solar eclipse always occurs about two weeks before or after a lunar eclipse.

On 28th August there will be a very deep (96.2%) partial lunar eclipse visible to residents of North and South America and parts of Europe, and Africa.... and in TS22!

Max View in Stockton-on-Tees (including TS22)

Global Event: Partial Lunar Eclipse
Local Type: Partial Lunar Eclipse in Stockton-on-Tees, England
Begins: Fri, 28 Aug 2026, 02:23
Maximum: Fri, 28 Aug 2026, 05:12 0.930 Magnitude
Ends: Fri, 28 Aug 2026, 06:15
Duration: 3 hours, 51 minutes



A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR WYNYARD BOOK HUT

The WRA has recently taken over responsibility for the book hut situated on the Wynd near the duck pond and 3 of our residents have stepped forward to give it a new lease of life and get it up and running smoothly for our community. They are Graham Monkman, Bob Jefferson and Pixie Tenenbaum.

I had the opportunity to chat to Graham about their vision and plans for the book hut.

C: Hi Graham, what made you decide to get involved with the book hut?

G: I had seen the email regarding the proposal to use the hut as storage and thought as I visit the book hut at least twice a week that I would like to see it kept going as a book facility. I am an avid reader; I love reading a physical book and it's so easy to pop into the hut rather than go to the library and of course it's free. Bob and Pixie felt the same and we each contacted the WRA individually. Tony Maxwell set up a meeting with us as a group, and we decided we wanted to keep the hut and would form a group under the umbrella of the WRA to manage and maintain it.



C: What is your vision for the hut?

G: We would like it to be a clean, tidy, inviting area for residents of all ages to find what they want to read easily and to enjoy visiting the hut.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a major UK-wide campaign led by the National Literacy Trust and the Department for Education to combat declining literacy and promote reading for pleasure. It is the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people of all ages to (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives.

We want to enable the book hut to be a small but effective part of this and for it to be a thriving aspect of community life at Wynyard.

C: How will you set about doing this?

G: First of all, we will clean it and re-sort the books to be kept in alphabetical order and provide a returns box so that we can place the books back on the shelves in the right places. We will pop in at least once a week to keep it in good order. We have made a good start.

C: This all sounds excellent and will hopefully revitalise this facility for Wynyard!

G: Thank you Caroline and if anyone has any questions or would like to help please contact us at wrabookhut2025@gmail.com. This will be checked daily, and the entry code provided on request.





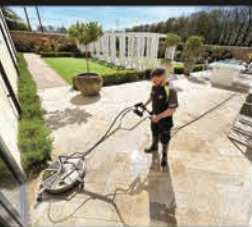
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Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) Update

Youth Council Update

We are still working towards creating a Youth Council to give young residents a genuine voice in shaping the future of Wynyard. We believe that involving children and teenagers will bring new energy, ideas, and perspective to our community. Young people have historically been underserved by developers and local authorities in terms of facilities, infrastructure, events, and opportunities, and we want to change that. You will read elsewhere in this issue that we have recently welcomed our first member, which we're really excited about. We have also received strong support from both local MPs.

We are still looking to fill the remaining places on the Youth Council and encourage all 11–18-year-olds to get involved. Parents and children can express interest by contacting the Parish Clerk at wynyardparishcouncil@gmail.com. Fliers have also been distributed via schools, local clubs, and volunteers to ensure every young resident has the chance to participate.

The Parish Council has ring-fenced a budget for this initiative, so Youth Councillors will have resources to help deliver infrastructure improvements, events, and activities that make Wynyard a place young people enjoy and can thrive in. Members will also gain first-hand experience of local, regional, and national governance, contributing directly to community planning.

We hope all parents and young residents will support this initiative. For more information, speak to a Parish Councillor or attend one of our monthly council meetings. Your ideas, energy, and involvement will help shape Wynyard that truly meets the needs of its younger residents.

Meeting with Chris McDonald MP

We worked closely with Chris during the appeal process for St Joseph's Primary School and have maintained contact since. He has offered to meet the Parish Council for a broader meeting on issues concerning Wynyard, which we have agreed to. During this meeting we will be raising issues such as the long-awaited crossing over the A689, the need for a secondary school, issues of road maintenance and road safety, as well as security/crime prevention. This covers the majority of concerns that we are regularly contacted about by Wynyard residents. A report from the meeting will be provided in the next issue of Wynyard Matters.

Stagecoach/Stockton Borough Council Meeting

As you will also read elsewhere in this issue, residents along parts of The Wynd, Wellington Drive and Wynyard Woods Road have been experiencing problems from large vehicles, including buses, causing damage to the road outside their properties. These problems include very strong vibrations, shifting driveways, cracked walls and internal doors no longer closing properly. This experience has obviously been deeply upsetting for those residents impacted.

One resident, Louise, who is interviewed elsewhere in this issue has been working closely with Stockton Borough Council to push for the road surface outside her property to be properly attended to, which she has experienced some success with. However, we're aware that this issue is widespread across Wynyard, and is linked with the new, heavier electric buses that Stagecoach have begun using on the routes that run through Wynyard. There has also been an increase in the number of HGVs taking short cuts through the village bypass the traffic lights on the A689.

As a result of this, we have arranged a joint meeting with Stagecoach and SBC to discuss these issues in more detail in order to see if there's anything that can be done. To be clear, this is not an anti-bus sentiment, but we need to ensure that these issues are on the radar of the bus company and the local authority. We will provide a further update in the next issue.

Bellway Adoption

The Parish Council has been regularly contacted over the past few months by residents who live in the early phases of the Bellway development concerning the adoption of the area by the local authority. Before Christmas, we were in regular communication with Bellway regarding this and were receiving positive updates towards adoption taking place. However, this communication ceased and despite numerous chases via email and telephone, we received no further updates between December 2025 and April 2026.

As a result, we sent a letter via registered post to the regional Bellway Head Office to express our concerns at both the lack of contact and, also, the continued slow pace towards adoption. This letter did prompt a response, and we are now back in dialogue and hoping to push for a resolution before too long.

Mobile Phone Signal

One of the longest-running issues impacting Wynyard over the last few years has been the poor mobile phone signal in many parts. This has become increasingly concerning as landline telephone services have moved from analogue to digital. We were recently contacted by concerned residents who were worried about being able to contact the emergency services in the event of their internet being unavailable.

As this is something that the Tees Valley Mayor has been quite vocal about in the past, we made contact with his office to see if there was anything in plan to improve the mobile signal across Wynyard. A reply was received from his office to say that they are acutely aware of the issues in Wynyard and are exploring options to improve things. With this in mind, we will be extending an invite for a member of the TVCA team to join us at a future PC meeting to discuss this issue in further detail.

Wynyard Football Club

The Parish Council was dismayed to hear about the vandalism and break-in suffered by Wynyard Football Club at their storage unit in Wolviston which resulted in destruction and damage to key pieces of equipment. The football club has been running training and matches for all ages across Wynyard for more than 20 years and is one of the most important community assets that we have. Representatives from the club attended the PC meeting in April to provide an overview of what had happened and the impact that it would have on their operations. Having heard all of the details, the PC agreed to provide a donation of £1300 to help the club recover from the losses and disruption caused by this distressing incident.

Education

Since the last issue of Wynyard Matters, and as you will read elsewhere, the appeal decision for St Joseph's Primary School was received and we were absolutely delighted that the government overturned their original decision, with the school now approved. It was a great example of all different parts of the community coming together, including residents, both local MPs, the local authority, both Parish Councils and the WRA. We will be keeping in touch will all relevant parties to ensure that this progresses as fast as it can.

The momentum doesn't stop there, however. Work has now begun to make the case for the much-needed secondary school. More detail on this is included in the specific article elsewhere in this issue.

Waste & Recycling

As residents will be aware, the new waste & recycling arrangements came into force at the beginning of April. These arrangements cover a new schedule for general waste collection, as well as changes to how recycling and food waste are collected and processed. We were contacted by residents who were experiencing issues with these new arrangements, including late or no collection of their recycling, a lack of provision of the appropriate bins/bags as well as a general concern about the switch to fortnightly collection for general waste, especially during the warmer months.

We communicated these concerns to the relevant department at Stockton Borough Council, who acknowledged that there had been some teething problems with the new arrangements. General concerns were noted and an assurance given that arrangements would be monitored and regularly reviewed. If residents continue to experience issues with any aspect of waste collection, please get in touch with the PC and we will always raise these accordingly.

Robin Woolley, Chair



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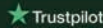


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by Sally

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Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) Update

Applications for the re-election of Wynyard Parish Council Councillors have been submitted and were re-elected. Councillor Liz Hurst, after several years of dedicated service to both Wynyard Parish and previously Elwick Parish Council, is retiring. The Parish Council extends its gratitude to Councillor Hurst for her commitment and service. As a result of her retirement, there is now a vacancy for a new Parish Council member.

With the growth of Wynyard, the parish council's responsibilities have expanded to address a range of ongoing issues. Local police, at the request of the Parish Council, have conducted and will continue to carry out community speed watches across the estate in response to residents' concerns. The Council is considering the installation of speed indication devices. Information regarding appropriate devices will be collated, and necessary permissions will be sought to proceed.

On 21st January 2026, several members of the Hartlepool Planning Committee visited Wynyard Park at the Parish Council's request to review traffic movements associated with the current road infrastructure. This coincided with Hartlepool Borough Council's consideration of a new application for additional housing. Wynyard Park announced the start of construction on the southern spine road, which is intended to alleviate traffic congestion throughout the estate and onto the A689. Work is underway, with completion expected in October 2027. The project will include cycle paths and footpaths, improving access across Wynyard Park.

A meeting was held on 24th February with representatives from Wynyard Park, Lichfields (Wynyard Park agent), Hartlepool Borough Council (represented by Kieran Bostock, Director of Neighbourhoods), and Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) to discuss unresolved issues affecting the estate. The next meeting is scheduled for 30th April 2026. Meetings will take place bi-monthly, alternating between face-to-face and virtual formats.

The Parish Council was asked to respond to an extensive questionnaire from central government concerning private estate management arrangements. The response was completed and submitted by the 12th March deadline.

On 18th March 2026, Helen Smith (Planning Policy Team Leader) and Richard Redford (Senior Planning Officer) from Hartlepool Borough Council made presentations to the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting of the Council. The Annual Parish meeting covered recently approved applications for Taylor Wimpey, Bellway, and Duchy 2 developments, which are related to the new southern spine road linking Wynyard Park West to David Wilson & Barratt Homes at Wynyard Park East. The Parish Council thanked Helen and Richard for their informative presentations and continued support.

Residents of Wynyard Park have expressed concerns about tree felling adjacent to the A689 and the access road west of the Meadows. Hartlepool Borough Council attended the site, and work has since been halted due to the issuing of a Tree Preservation Order.

Government and the Department of Education have granted approval for a new primary school. This topic is covered in a separate report within this edition of Wynyard Matters.



WYNYARD
PARISH COUNCIL
HARTLEPOOL

CODGERS CORNER - THE WRONG BUTTONS!

Dear Reader,

Yes, you're absolutely right, I should have learned by now how to press the right buttons. I may be leaning against an open door here, but I might not be alone in the daily challenge of "which one"?

Recently, I loaded up the washing machine (which has enough technology it could probably land itself on the moon) and turned the dial. You've guessed it, handicapped by varifocals necessitating bending over to look up and down simultaneously, the WRONG button was pressed! No going back, no stopping mid program, the washing pod was well and truly cast! Any intervention at this stage would inevitably result in both me and machine having a nervous breakdown and a swift emergency call for a "man to come out". After what seemed enough time to watch "War and Peace, Part 1" (1965: over 7 hours), I was finally allowed access to retrieve my clothes which looked as if they'd been run over by a steam roller and needed surgical tools to separate them.



On the plus side, at least I have yet to fall foul of the "Quantity" and "Size" buttons whilst ordering items on the internet. The less vigilant amongst us could inadvertently think they have ordered a squeaky boat bath toy and instead find themselves the owners of a speedboat which Donald Campbell would have been happy to race on Coniston Water.



T.V. remotes are an "A" level challenge – especially as many homes have more of them than the whole family plus dog! Generally, you need at least a year's intensive course on their multiple combinations, and in my case, I don't even know which remotes work what! It only takes the lightest brush of a finger or picking one up without pinpoint precision to go from happily watching Tom Cruise saving the world in "Mission Impossible – The Final Reckoning" (2025) to channel 972 in a nanosecond, showing us how to live to 150 on mushroom extract, sea moss, miso, pomegranates and the old school bone broth and beef tallow...WHAT?!!



Needless to say, the mysterious buttons on our all singing all dancing microwave never even come within touching distance and any in the oven's vast repertoire are given a wide berth. Changing the time display twice a year is as challenging as performing a backward flip for a Codger!

When messaging on the iPhone I am always very careful to use correct spelling and punctuation and press the buttons with surgical precision. Despite such precautions it always seems to think that it knows better and produces a version, which it prefers, bearing no similarity whatsoever to the original. How people who have hands as big as dinner plates and thumbs like Richmond Thick Sausages (our sausage of choice) can send any intelligible message at the speed of light is beyond me!

I do admit to "pure Codger" the other day when still on the sleepy side I pointed the remote button in the direction of the alarm and pressed...I know you're ahead of me now...you know it was round the wrong way. As I headed downstairs, a heart attack inducing alarm exploded into the silence waking at least half of Wynyard! Sorry everyone, but I can't promise it won't happen again.



It wouldn't surprise me if at some point in the future children will be born with just two thumbs, fingers long since made redundant, and one eye permanently looking down!

You heard it here first dear Reader!

And on that apocalyptic bombshell I'll see you all next time, hopefully by then with a less alarming update!

YT.



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WYNYARD CHARITY CRAFT AND FLEA MARKET



Despite the cold, the intrepid Wynyard Community Events Team, craft stall holders and residents collaborated to raise £391 for Daisy Chain on 25th April. This has been rounded up to £400 by the WRA.

There were many creative items for fun things for children on the craft stalls and certificates of appreciation handed out. Beautiful artwork, teddies and Ladro were amongst those wares sold by residents.

Many thanks to Wynyard Primary School for allowing us to hold this event in the school carpark and to Graham Parry for providing access on a Saturday! As always, thanks to the events team for their work and upbeat approach!

FUTURE EVENTS IN 2026

The next event is the return of the **Family Fun Day on 13th June.**

This was a great success last year and so come along, the more the merrier!

Thereafter, there will be the **Scarecrow Trail and Scavenger Hunt on 10th October** and the **Musical Celebration of Christmas on 10th December.**

These, along with the Family Fun Day, have now become embedded in our community life which is great!

Watch out for more details in the Autumn edition of Wynyard Matters.

Also, if you are willing to help with any of these on the day, please email me at carolinetheeditor@gmail.com



CELEBRATING LIFE!

I must tell you about a wonderful conversation I had with one of our most senior residents, Mary, who lives at the Wynyard Woods Care Home and who will be reaching her 100th birthday on 13th July.

We had already been chatting because she had told me that she had grown up in West Hartlepool. I asked her which school she had gone to, and she said the High School which intrigued me because my mother who was born in 1928 and my aunt who was born in 1924 both went there too. They were Bette and Olive Ridley and Mary remembered their names! She also knew Park Square where they had grown up and had worked at ICI where my mother had too!

I felt an instant connection, and this led to a longer conversation with such a lovely lady:

C: How do you feel about your upcoming 100th birthday Mary? What an achievement!

M: I have never thought about age. The years have just flown by, and I can't believe I have got to this age especially as my father died at the age of 48 when I was 8 years old and my mother died when she was 55 and I was 15. I had 3 sisters and she had been the centre of our world. Dad was a member of the Temperance Society, but my mother would sometimes sneak a sherry and even give us girls a nip to keep us warm on the way to school! Maybe that's why I have always liked sherry!

C: Do you remember much about the war?

M: War is horrible. My Granny was hit by shrapnel on the first day of the First World War and died on Christmas Day 1914. Growing up during the next war was hard and I remember I couldn't stand going to the shelters – they were so cold, it was like sitting on an ice brick! I am also a bit claustrophobic so I and my sisters would stay in the house with our heads under our bed covers instead. You don't realise what danger is when you are young. I remember seeing a bomb devastating a street of houses at the Burn Valley. They just disappeared.

C: Did you go into the forces or work?

M: I wanted to join the WRENS – I loved the uniform – but my older sister, Joan, wanted to keep me safe and wouldn't sign the papers, so I became a shorthand typist. I enjoyed going to work, it was fun and I liked having people around me. My friend Vera and I would go dancing at The Rink. I would just tell Joan that we were going out as she would have disapproved of us going to The Rink! Vera moved down south to St Albans and after leaving ICI, I went to join her and got a job there. Then I met my husband, Roy. I remember running for a bus and he held it up for me! Eventually he asked me out and after a few dates I was invited for tea to meet his mother! That was how it was done in those days. We got married in 1949 and I had my daughter Annette in 1950, my son Nicholas in 1954 and my daughter Diana in 1956. I had a very happy marriage and family life bringing up the children. When Roy retired, we moved back up to Hartlepool and it was such a surprise to discover that Vera had also moved back up the same year, so we just picked up where we had left off. There was so much to catch up on – I had grandchildren by then!

C: How do you view life Mary?

M: I have never been an unhappy person. I am very positive and life is funny if you want it to be. It gets you through life if you see the funny side and laugh. I have always been a happy person, never miserable. I have also always kept my brain busy and still do sudoku, crosswords and wordsearch. I love to read detective novels - they get me thinking! I love to go to Green Lane Garden Centre in Trimdon for a coffee with my daughter Diana.

C: How do you summarise your approach to life after almost 100 years?

M: Don't look back, make the most of life, fight for what you think is right and be happy when you can – that's what I do and I am.

C: You are an inspiration Mary, and it has been a delight talking to you!

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WYNYARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Although no WRA meeting was held 1 April, due to the school's closure for the Easter holiday, the business of the WRA continued.

Perhaps the most significant news was the confirmation of the provision of a new Primary School, on Wynyard Park. Everyone on Wynyard must have been shocked by the government being "minded" not to deliver the school that had been promised by the previous government. The parish councils, with the support of the WRA and residents provided sufficient evidence to ensure that the school would be built. The next focus would be a Secondary School provision.

The WRA continues to be a 'facilitator' for community activities and developments and the success or otherwise of any initiative depends on members of the Wynyard community taking responsibility for suggested developments. There will be more of this on other pages of the magazine, but the Wynyard Matters Community Events Team continues to go from strength to strength, and the new Neighbourhood Watch group are starting to develop in the community south of the A689.

The most recent addition has been the creation of a Book Hut management group maintain and develop the Book Hut, situated on the Wynd. It is a brilliant concept and feature of the Wynyard community but just needed some residents to take charge of it. Thankfully, three residents have done that and the future looks secure.

By the time you are reading this piece, the Village centre will have a new bench in place, outside of the shop, and replacing the old bench and planters that have been in need of replacement for some time.

On the roads, there has been a big improvement on the A689 road surface, but your representatives are still working hard to have appropriate repairs made to The Wynd and other roads around Wynyard.

There is still no update on the A689 crossing, but your representatives continue to meet with SBC to press the original developers to fulfil their obligation to have a crossing installed. It is interesting to note that over 1300 'Speeding Fines' were imposed on drivers, on the A689, in 2025! (Consider how infrequently the cameras are in place!)

The next WRA meeting will be held on 12th May, at 6.30 pm, at the school.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR WYNARD?

1. What does the word Wynyard mean?
2. How high is the obelisk and when was it built?
3. Who was the original owner of Wynyard before it was developed?
4. In the most recent census of 2021 what was the total population of Wynyard?
5. What are the names of the chairpersons for the WRA and 2 Parish Councils of Wynyard?
6. What does it say on the 2 inscriptions outside the Coop?
7. When and where is the Family Fun Day being held?
8. How often does the library van come to Wynyard?
9. Where and when does Meet and Greet take place?
10. What is the name of the Youth Councillor at Wynyard?

The first person to email me with the correct answers can choose a free pastry at the Coop!

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TAKE A MOMENT ON THE NEW BENCH OUTSIDE THE COOP

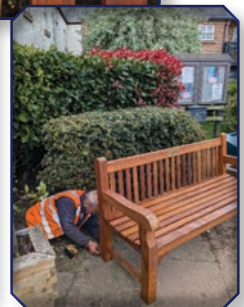
The WRA has replaced the old bench outside the Coop at Wynyard Village and its looking good! Sam, a resident and member of staff at the Co-op, cut the ribbon. The bench was immediately sat on by the gentleman below as he spoke on his phone and later that day a lady was pictured enjoying a quick break on the bench with her dogs. The next day I snapped 3 young children with their ice creams taking a rest from their bike ride whilst their dad looked on.



The WRA wishes to thank Alec Cowan of AW Cowan & Son and one of his groundworkers for collecting, preparing, delivering and installing the bench after coats of teak oil had been applied and hopes that it will be another opportunity to celebrate living at Wynyard.

Some residents requested that the original plate from the previous bench should also be retained., That was easily achieved as that dedication plate was attached to one of the retained planters., There are plans for the planters to be restocked with flowers and we are now looking for a local resident to take responsibility for looking after the welfare of the plants in the planters.

If anyone is willing to do this, please contact Tony Maxwell at maxweltony311@gmail.com





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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT A GLANCE

JOIN IN! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

JUNE 2026

- 2nd Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
- 3rd Wynyard Woodland Walk, 10am, café platform, Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House Visitors Centre
- 3rd Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 4th Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) meeting, Wynyard Hall 6.30pm*
- 6th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
- 7th Vine Church Service, Wynyard Primary School 3pm
- 9th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
- 9th WRA meeting, Wynyard Primary School 6.30pm*
- 10th Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 11th Library van outside Stables 2.30-3pm - come for a cuppa in pub after.
- 13th Hartlepool Farmers Market, 9am – 2pm, Hartlepool Marina
- 13th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
- 13th Family Fun Day 2-5pm opposite the play park in Wynyard Woods
- 15th Service at Wynyard Woods care home 2pm then tea and chat. All welcome
- 16th Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) meeting, STEAM Room, Wynyard Primary School 6.30pm*
- 16th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
- 17th Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 17th Wynyard Woodland Walk, 10am, café platform, Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House Visitors Centre
- 20th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
- 21st Wynyard Farmers Market, 9am – 2pm, Wynyard Hall Walled Garden.
- 23rd Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
- 24th Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 27th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
- 30th Meet and Greet 2 - 4pm, Golf Club

JULY 2026

- 1st Wynyard Woodland Walk, 10am, café platform, Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House Visitors Centre
- 1st Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 4th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
- 5th Vine Church Service, Wynyard Primary School 3pm
- 7th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
- 8th Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 11th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
- 11th Hartlepool Farmers Market, 9am – 2pm, Hartlepool Marina
- 13th Service at Wynyard Woods care home 2pm then tea and chat. All welcome
- 14th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
- 14th WRA meeting Wynyard Primary School 6.30pm*
- 15th Meet and Greet and Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
- 15th Wynyard Woodland Walk, 10am, café platform, Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House Visitors Centre

18th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
19th Wynyard Farmers Market, 9am – 2pm, Wynyard Hall Walled Garden.
21st Nordic walking 10am The Stables car park
22nd Meet and Greet and Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
22nd Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) meeting, Wynyard Hall 6.30pm*
21st Wynyard Parish Council (Stockton) meeting, STEAM Room, Wynyard Primary School 6.30pm*
23rd Library van outside Stables 2.30-3pm - come for a cuppa in pub after.
25th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
28th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
28th Meet and Greet 2 - 4pm, Golf Club
29th Meet and Greet and The Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**

AUGUST 2026

1st Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
4th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
5th Meet and Greet and Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
5th Wynyard Woodland Walk, 10am, café platform, Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House Visitors Centre
8th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
9th Hartlepool Farmers Market, 9am – 2pm, Hartlepool Marina
11th Nordic Walking 10am The Stables car park
12th Meet and Greet and Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
13th Library van outside Stables 2.30-3pm - come for a cuppa in pub after.
15th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
16th Wynyard Farmers Market, 9am – 2pm, Wynyard Hall Walled Garden.
17th Service at Wynyard Woods Care home, 2pm then tea and a chat. All welcome
18th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
19th Wynyard Woodland Walk, 10am, café platform, Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House Visitors Centre
19th Meet and Greet and Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
22nd Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.
26th Nordic Walking 10am, The Stables car park
25th Meet and Greet 2 - 4pm, Golf Club
26th Meet and Greet and Coffee Group coffee morning 11 am at the Glasshouse, Wynyard**
29th Parkrun Wynyard Woodland Park Station House café 9am. See <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>.

*** Please check <https://wynyardmatters.org>; wynyardparishcouncil@gmail.com; and <https://wynyard-hartlepool-pc.gov.uk/> respectively for updating information including meeting dates.**

**** Remember The Coffee Group also meets Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at 10.30 am at the Garden Café and Thursdays at 3pm at the Stables pub.**

**Otherwise for more information visit , <https://wynyardmatters.org>; [wynyardmatters_communityevents](https://www.wynyardmatters.com/communityevents); Wynyard Residents Facebook; and www.activehartlepool.co.uk/walking (wellbeing walks)
<https://wynyard.church> (Vine Church services/ groups)**



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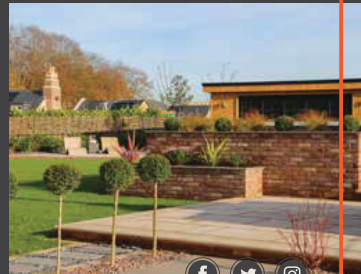




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