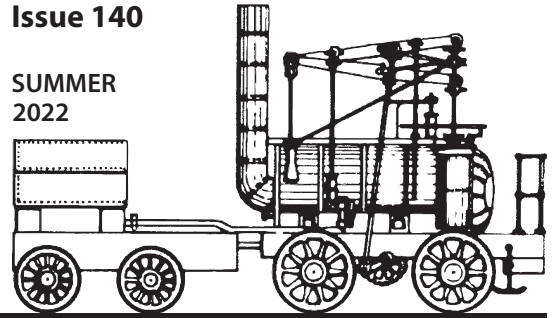


# THE WYLAM GLOBE

NEWSLETTER OF  
WYLAM PARISH  
COUNCIL

Issue 140

SUMMER  
2022



## ЛАСКАВО ПРОСИМО ДО УЙЛАМУ!

("Welcome to Wylam") Ukrainian guests are welcomed to Wylam - *see page 2*

## WYLAM ON WHEELS

Take part in Wylam's fantastic new cycling event - *see page 4*

## CLEAN TYNE GROUP

Local action is needed to clean up our river - *see page 3*

## PLANT A TREE!

Combat climate change by planting a tree. Find out how - *see page 6*

## WE FIBRE UPDATE

Work progresses to get Hyperfast Broadband installed in Wylam - *see page 7*

## PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

Details of the Parish Council's budget for 2022-2023 - *see page 8*



**COVER PHOTO** : *Horses at Hagg Bank as the early morning mist rises above Wylam, by Tina Hartas Geary*

## TACKLING THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS LOCALLY - SURVEY

**Barely a week goes by** without news of some "worst ever" storm, flood, drought, wildfire or lethal heatwave. The world is heating rapidly and scientists have no doubt that fossil fuel burning must be halved by 2030 to allow today's children to look forward to a decent future.

The prices of oil and gas are rocketing whilst the cost of solar and wind power has been dropping dramatically, so what's stopping us from reducing our energy bills and switching to "renewables"?

We recently published a special 'Green' issue of the Wylam Globe, which prompted a lot of discussion. We received many suggestions of ways to make our village greener and more sustainable, and we're grateful to everyone who contacted us with some great ideas and proposals.

As a next step, enclosed in this copy of the Wylam Globe is a survey on transport and home insulation/heating. We would be very grateful if your household could complete the survey and drop it off in one of the locations listed.

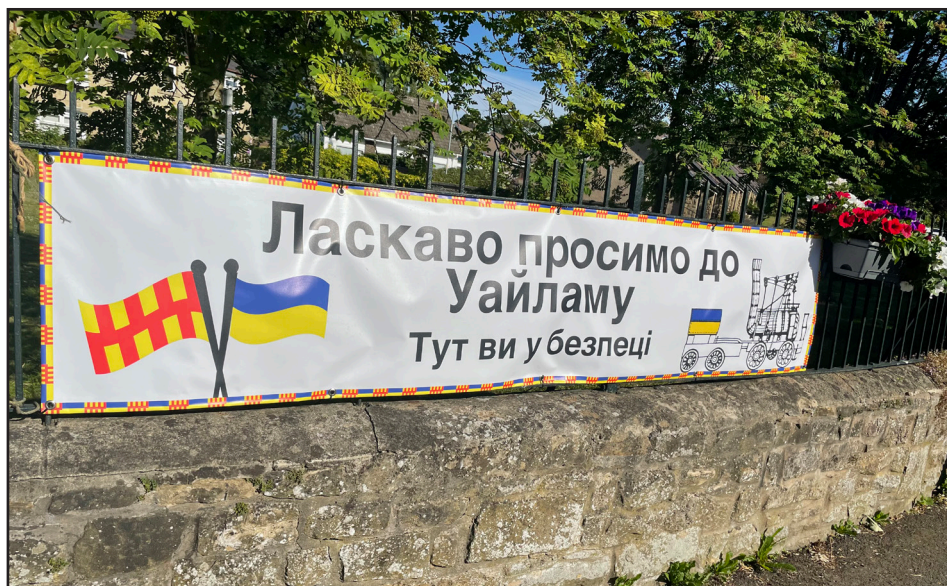
The results will help us to assess the scale of the challenge and gauge interest in potential community schemes to help people make the necessary changes to reduce our carbon footprint.

We hope this will be the start of an ongoing conversation within the village about how we can reduce our energy bills and move towards net zero. If you would like to get more involved, and are interested in joining the Climate Action Group, please contact the Parish Council Clerk (contact details are on page 8).



# WYLAM FAMILIES WELCOME GUESTS FROM UKRAINE

DAVID GRAINGER



A banner at Charlie's Corner reads "Welcome to Wylam. Here you are safe"

**"Welcome to Wylam. Here you are safe"** proclaims the fabulous banner on display at Charlie's Corner. Whilst a tragic humanitarian crisis is affecting the people of Ukraine, several Wylam families have shared their homes to host guests who have had to flee their homes in Ukraine.

At present there are at least 4 groups from Ukraine in Wylam (with another couple awaiting their visas), plus several others in neighbouring Tynedale villages. Our guests come from places in Ukraine such as Sumy, Kharkiv and Irpin, perhaps places we have only recently become familiar with through news reports.

How can the community of Wylam help? Some of the hosts may post on 'What's on Wylam' asking for donations of spare furniture, clothes, etc. Any responses would be gratefully received.

A challenge facing some of our guests is finding work. The community could help by identifying any jobs or work opportunities in the village or nearby.

We would also welcome invites for our Ukrainian guests to activities and groups in the village, or perhaps an organised trip to a place of interest in our region, to help the guests settle into their new environment.

Public transport here is very expensive compared to Ukraine, so offers of transport or lifts may be helpful.

Please contact Kate Hackett  
[zoomummy@gmail.com](mailto:zoomummy@gmail.com)  
or David Grainger

[davidngrainger@googlemail.com](mailto:davidngrainger@googlemail.com)

with any offers of help or suggestions.

This summer a group of 17 cyclists from the Wylam Sprockets will be cycling the length of Ireland, starting at Ireland's most southerly point, Mizen Head. Over seven days they will cycle 500 miles, ending the challenge at Malin Head in the north

The Sprockets would like to use their Ireland cycling trip as an opportunity to raise sponsorship funds to support the people of Ukraine. They would be really grateful if you would be kind enough to help raise funds for British-Ukrainian Aid, which supports people suffering from the war and the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine by aligning UK and Ukrainian efforts :

<https://british-ukrainianaid.org/>

You can donate at :

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wylamsprockets](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wylamsprockets)

## GRANTS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

In the financial year 2021/22 the Parish Council awarded grants to a number of local groups and organisations:

**1st Wylam Rainbows Unit** - £149.00 to purchase a flag and flag pole to represent the unit at occasions within the village.

**Wylam & District Churches Together** - £1,000 towards the cost of a part-time youth worker for twelve months.

**Wylam Womens Institute** - £271.00 to purchase a new PA system to be used at WI meetings and events.

**Wylam Artists, Makers and Creatives Community Organisation** - £1,200 contribution to the cost of two community arts events in Wylam in 2022.

In addition, Wylam Community Playing Fields Association and Wylam Institute received a financial allocation of £3,000 each for providing community facilities for the benefit of the residents of the village. A donation of £100 was also made to Wylam First School PTA to support the costs of the Santa's Sleigh Project 2021.

We received good news about the grant of £2,916.00 we made to St Oswin's Parochial Church Council in 2020/21 towards its Church Hall Centenary Extension project. They secured over £42,000 of grants in addition to their own fundraising to deliver a project valued at approximately £75k, a huge achievement!

Further grant funding will be available from the Parish Council later in the year so please look out for the information and application form.

## REPORTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

**The Parish Council is aware** of an unfortunate increase in crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in recent weeks.

Residents have reported thefts and damage to property. Motorbikes on the Waggonway continue to be an issue and the newly installed signs on the Haughs Local Nature Reserve were covered in graffiti. This was reported to the Police with images of the graffiti being shared with them to help them identify perpetrators.

Northumbria Police ask that

residents continue to report crime and ASB incidents to 101 or 999 where necessary. Alternatively, there is an online reporting tool at

[northumbria.police.uk](http://northumbria.police.uk)

Reporting such incidents ensures that the police have a true picture of the situation in the village and helps them to target resources. They ask that if motorbikes are seen riding illegally this should be reported to the Police immediately but stress that residents should not approach the riders themselves!



# BATHING STATUS NEEDED FOR THE RIVER TYNE

STEPHEN WESTGARTH

The Rivers Trust has just published a recent report about the state of England's rivers. It makes for shocking reading. For example, a whopping 86% fail to pass standards for ecological health, and 100% fail the chemical health assessment. Every single one fails!

The pollution is not just happening by magic. There are main polluters in every part of the country. Farming and wastewater are the biggest offenders. Agriculture harms 62% of England's water and more than 50% are harmed by sewage effluent from our water companies. In 2020 there were over 403,000 raw sewage discharges into England's rivers in what are called "storm overflows" - though it is standard practice for them to occur when there is no storm.

Many local residents who walk down by the river, play, swim, paddle or fish in it, will notice the state of the water. Comments to me have included the litter, smell, foam, and colour of the water. Fishermen have commented on reducing fish stocks and the poor health of the fish caught. It is time to clean up our river!

Another northern town has set us an example. Ilkley Clean River Group



The River Tyne at Wylam Bridge

were angry about the state of the River Wharfe. They decided to use new government legislation. They applied for, and were successfully awarded "bathing status" for the River Wharfe at Ilkley. They don't think the river is clean, quite the opposite, but being awarded bathing status means that the Environment Agency (EA) runs a much higher frequency and number of tests on water quality.

The EA is developing a plan to work with the main polluters to clean up the river. It's a mechanism, with some structure and teeth to clean things up.

We are doing the same on the Tyne. We will be running user surveys (swimmers and other water users) this summer and approaching local stakeholders for a consultation on the views of residents, businesses and local authorities too. The goal is to be awarded bathing status, and the monitoring and pollution clean-up plan that goes with it.

Please get in touch if you are interested in helping. Please get in touch if you have a view and want to be included or involved in the user surveys and stakeholder consultation.  
[drstephenwestgarth@gmail.com](mailto:drstephenwestgarth@gmail.com)

## AN UPDATE ON THE ONGOING WORKS TO WYLAM BRIDGE



Scaffolding surrounds Wylam Bridge, as re-painting work continues

**Essential repair works** to Wylam Bridge continue as part of a scheme which aims to paint eight bridges on Northumberland's highway network. The 126m long bridge has nine spans, and is comprised of a concrete deck supported by steel beams.

The works are being carried out in three phases, starting at the ends of the bridge and painting three spans at a time. Each phase involves encapsulating the spans with scaffolding and sheeting, blasting away the old paintwork, and carrying

out any necessary repairs before repainting the steel.

The old paint is removed by grit blasting, which also removes anything that would prevent the paint from adhering, such as dirt and grease. The new paint is then applied in three coats, each with different properties, that work together to produce a durable coating that will protect the bridge.

The first three spans, nearest to the railway, are now complete. The white wrap in this section will be removed, and the scaffolding will be taken down under those spans.

The remaining spans will be completed by late August, with the final sections of scaffolding due to come down in September. Northumberland County Council continues to work in close cooperation with Wylam Parish Council, Network Rail, Northern Rail and Wylam Angling Club to finish the project with as little disruption to the local area as possible.



## VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA



*Inga Tuigamala lived in Wylam for five years*

**Known as Inga Tuigamala** the famous Samoan-born Rugby Union and Rugby League player died on the 24th. February 2022, aged 52 years.

Inga lived in Wylam for five years, from 1997 to 2002 when he was playing rugby for the Newcastle Falcons. He represented New Zealand at Rugby Union, winning 19 caps and later played for Samoa at both Rugby Union and Rugby League. He had earlier made 102 Rugby League appearances for Wigan from 1993-1997.

Inga was renowned for his physicality and power when playing, and his friendliness and gentle nature off the field.

Whilst he was living in Wylam Inga took under his wing two 19 year old Pacific Island rugby players from Tonga, Epi Taione and Soa Otuvaka, who played rugby for Tynedale RFC at Corbridge from 1997 until 2000.

Epi made 68 appearances for Tynedale and Soa played 62 times, until they were offered professional contracts at the Falcons.

Epi later made 18 appearances for Tonga. Soa sadly died in 2004 from a brain tumour, leaving a wife, Jenny, and two children.

When the three men lived together in Wylam they were regular and conscientious attenders at Wylam Methodist Chapel. They were very popular members of the congregation, but, as bulky rugby players it was said that the three took up about six spaces on the Chapel benches!

## GUIDE DOG VOLUNTEERING



*Guide Dogs has over 14,000 volunteers*

**Why do people volunteer?** For some it's a way to give back to the community, to feel valued and be part of a team or to gain confidence through developing new skills. Here at Guide Dogs, it is our mission to welcome new volunteers from all walks of life and help them achieve their goal whatever that might be.

This year we are looking to expand our troupe of passionate and enthusiastic volunteers. Are you looking for a fresh and new opportunity that not only benefits you but could help fund the vital services that Guide Dogs provides? Look no further as we might just have the right opportunity for you!



*A variety of volunteer roles are available*

We are currently offering roles such as Puppy Raiser, Training Dog Fosterer and Fundraiser.

For further information please contact Volunteer Coordinator Lucy Prudhoe:

[lucy.prudhoe@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:lucy.prudhoe@guidedogs.org.uk)

or

**07464 533 096**

You can also visit the Guide Dogs website:

[www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering)

## WYLAM ON WHEELS

SARAH  
GRAINGER



**As the weather gets warmer** why not get yourself 'bike-ready' and enter Wylam's inaugural cycling event - **Wylam On Wheels**. The event will take place on **18th September 2022** and include three different routes to cater for all abilities, from novice cyclists to those with more experience. All the routes will be fully signed through quiet roads, starting and finishing in Wylam. Feed stations will be provided mid-way, and there will be a fabulous homemade afternoon tea on the Jubilee playing field to celebrate at the end of the ride.

All proceeds will go to the Wylam Community Playing Fields Association.

For further information including how to enter please visit:

[www.wylamonwheels.co.uk](http://www.wylamonwheels.co.uk)

To help get 'bike-ready', from June onwards we will be supported by a couple of local cycle mechanics offering pop-up workshops to help get your bike in good working order. Dates and further details will be posted on *What's on Wylam* and *Wylam on Wheels* Facebook pages.

If you want to help but don't want to cycle, we will need volunteers on the day of the event including people to register the cyclists, marshal and help with the afternoon tea. You could also pledge a bake for the afternoon tea (every pledge is entered into a prize draw with the chance to win afternoon tea vouchers for two donated by the Running Fox at Felton and Bradley Gardens).

E-mail us at [wylamonwheels@gmail.com](mailto:wylamonwheels@gmail.com) to register your interest or for more details of the event.



## REWILDING

Many of us are becoming increasingly aware of green issue terms. Frequent use in the media ensures that we know something of the following

- Reforestation
- Recycling
- Renewables
- Rewilding.

In this issue, I have chosen to explore **rewilding**. David Attenborough describes rewilding as, *“The process of restoring nature across the Earth, ensuring that biodiversity is sustainable.”*

We are often concerned for areas far away from Wylam, but vital for a healthy planet, such as the Amazon rainforest which is home to one tenth of all species on Earth.

But look around and we can see the damage closer to home, with the loss of local species of insects, birds, plants and mammals.

There has been some recent negative publicity about plans to reintroduce certain species, such as the wolf or lynx, but we are in an emergency situation and much care and science has accompanied those plans.

Of course, rewilding is not just restricted to land - our oceans and rivers are also suffering dramatic losses of biodiversity.

I must mention the importance of rewilding the soil which is essential for good food and health. Use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides has had a



*Planting flowers provides essential nectar and pollen for bees*

devastating effect on soil biology, depleting its carbon bank.

As Franklin D Roosevelt stressed, “The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself”.

How to help with rewilding :

- Plant a tree (see next page).
- Plant flowers to provide nectar and pollen for bees. Red poppies and blue cornflower seeds are inexpensive, and grow within weeks.
- Also plant flowers for the birds. Sunflowers provide a great source of food for birds when they set seed.
- Collect litter as you walk, or join an organised litter pick.
- Change the way you mow your lawn (see column to the right).
- Don't use weedkiller or pesticides.

For more information on how rewilding can restore our planet, George Monbiot's book *“Feral: Rewilding the Land, Sea and Human Life”* is recommended reading.

## CAREFUL HOW YOU MOW!



*Jane Tomlin, Lynne Wood & John Hampton promote “No Mow May” to encourage wildflower growth*

As Summer approaches it's tempting to trim our lawns regularly to achieve that classic British stripe. But our garden wildlife can benefit if we change our mowing habits.

An amazing diversity of wild flowers can be found growing on Britain's lawns, the most common being the daisy, white clover and selfheal, but also rarities such as meadow saxifrage, knotted clover and eyebright.

Some wild flowers are best suited to shorter grass. These plants stay low down with stems well out of the way of the mower blades. If these flowers are cut by mowing, it stimulates the plants to regularly produce more flowers, boosting nectar production.

Other species thrive better in tall grass. They grow upright and take longer to reach flowering size. They won't cope with being cut regularly, and will only bloom in grass which hasn't been mown for several months, or longer. Long-grass areas will also be home to a greater range of wild flower species, complementing the narrower range found in short-grass areas.

So when mowing, consider leaving different lengths of grass, ideally setting aside a large area for longer grass. Consider using a scythe or sickle instead of a mower to avoid harming wildlife living in the grass (e.g. mining and furrow bees) and cut down on energy use

If you notice the grass getting longer at the junction of Station Road and Wylam Wood Rd, this is because the Parish Council has asked County Council maintenance teams to only mow the edges of the grass in future, and leave the central area un-mown to promote wildflower growth and improve biodiversity.



*Only the edges of the grass at the junction of Station Rd and Wylam Wood Rd will be mown regularly*



# PLANT A TREE TO HELP COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

LIZ  
BRAY



*Planting a tree helps to capture carbon, combat climate change and improve biodiversity*

**We are all acutely aware** that urgent action is needed to prevent a climate catastrophe.

A small way we can help as individuals is to plant a tree. If you have a large enough garden, or any other suitable plot of ground, think about adding a new tree or perhaps a hedge, preferably choosing a species which is native to the UK.

Perhaps you've seen a tree somewhere which you like the look of. If you don't know which species it is, you can try to identify it with a tree book or online. Try this website or download the app :

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/how-to-identify-tree](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/how-to-identify-tree)

Choosing a tree is the first step. There are so many varieties and a visit to your local garden centre could be quite daunting, recognising the Latin names, and knowing which species will work in your space. Some species, particularly mature specimens, can also be expensive to buy.

Fortunately there are often free trees available, which usually come with planting and care instructions, a cane and protective tree guards.

Northumberland County Council has a "Free Tree Giveaway" for residents, community groups and Schools. Details can be found here :

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/Climate-Change/Free-tree](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Climate-Change/Free-tree)

The Woodland Trust charity also offers tree packs of various different mixes: hedgerow, urban, wildlife, copse, wildwood, fruit, bee-friendly

and many more :

[shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Why not apply for a pack of trees and share with friends and neighbours.

The Woodland Trust also offer help for farmers and landowners. Applications have closed for now but will soon be open for next winter planting.

Once you have chosen your tree, think about where you will position it. It is always a good idea to look around at the trees nearby and consider how large it will grow. Garden centres usually indicate on the label how big a particular tree will grow, but there can be much variation and it's not an exact science.

It is often logical to plant on the east or north boundary of your garden so that when the tree grows it will not cast too much shade, but be careful not to impact your neighbour's garden.

Also, don't plant too near to buildings. Woodland trees certainly shouldn't be closer than three metres to your property, preferably much further. This will avoid the risk of the tree canopy touching your property when it grows to maturity, which could cause damage, block light or impede access. Don't plant too near paths, drains or underground cables either.

Once your new tree is planted, water well, and continue to water regularly for the first year or two, especially if there is a dry spell.

As Wylam's Tree Warden I am happy to give advice on trees and tree planting. My contact details are below. My main role is to advise the Parish Council on the trees in their care and on planting, planning and tree preservation in the parish and, well, anything to do with trees really. I do a modest amount of tree work around the village now and again, but only with handtools, to keep paths clear and so on.

Wylam Haughs Local Nature Reserve is on Parish Council land and was originally conceived by Peter Clark, a previous Tree Warden, as a millennium project for the coming new century. He did a magnificent job and I hope that we can continue to manage the habitats and protect this special place for future generations.

I am working with councillors to

create a Management Plan for the reserve. We also hope to establish a Friends Group for the Reserve with volunteer members who can help to record the wildlife and do regular maintenance like coppicing, raking the meadows, clearing overgrown thorny scrub and pulling out invasive plants like Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam.

If you would be interested in joining a Friends Group please get in touch with me or Marie Moore, the Parish Clerk (contact details page 8).

[lizbray6052@gmail.com](mailto:lizbray6052@gmail.com)

## WYLAM HAUGHS NATURE RESERVE OPEN DAY



*Come and explore Wylam's Nature Reserve on July 3rd*

Would you like to find out more about Wylam's lovely Nature Reserve? It is a hidden gem and now is a great time to visit with lots of wildflowers, birdsong and trees in full leaf. The Reserve is open all day, every day and is managed by the Parish Council.

We are having an "Open Day" on **Sunday afternoon, 3rd July, 1pm to 4pm**. There will be lots of information on the flora and fauna of the Reserve and it's a great chance to ask questions and let us know what you think.

A **guided walk** will start at **2pm**. Hear how an old potato field was transformed by local people into woodland and wildflower meadows.

To reach the Reserve, cross the main road from the Spar, heading down over Woodbine Road and the "Bumbler Box Bridge". Follow the track round to the right past the allotments. The main gate to the Reserve is at the end of the track. We do ask that dogs are kept on a lead please, to reduce disturbance to the resident wildlife in the Reserve!



## AN UPDATE ON THE WEFIBRE INSTALLATION IN WYLAM

WeFibre has provided the Parish Council with an update on the installation of Full Fibre Broadband in Wylam.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) approved the project and associated voucher funding for Wylam. WeFibre is now beginning the work to build its network within the community.

The street cabinet that will service Wylam has been erected, and is situated on Woodcroft Road. Applications have been submitted to the other utility service providers to enable the activation of the cabinet. In addition, initial site surveys across the village are now complete and WeFibre has started the detailed design process.

This combined activity can take 3-4 months. Though it may seem that the project is progressing very slowly, WeFibre has assured us that behind the scenes they are working hard to get everything ready as quickly as



The new We-Fibre cabinet on Woodcroft Road

possible.

Once the design work is completed and the cabinet activated, teams will begin to check the existing duct infrastructure for capacity ahead of

installing the fibre optic cables which will distribute the service around the village.

Some residents have asked about whether services will extend south over Wylam Bridge. Northumberland County Council have confirmed that once the current painting work has been completed, WeFibre will be able to access the bridge infrastructure to install fibre optic cable to the south side of the river.

As the bridge works are ongoing, the plan is to roll-out network north of the river first. Once access is available to the bridge, the network will then be extended to the south.

If you have any questions and would like to contact WeFibre directly, they can be reached via email :

[helpdesk@wefibre.com](mailto:helpdesk@wefibre.com)

or phone

**0330 229 0222**

Additional information is available on their website :

[www.wefibre.com](http://www.wefibre.com)

## WYLAM WAGGONWAY RESURFACING AND REOPENING



Local children declare the Waggonway open again

**Sustrans, Wylam Parish Council and Northumberland County Council** worked together to organise an event to mark the official re-opening of the Wylam Waggonway, which was recently resurfaced between Wylam and Newburn. There are plans afoot to resurface the Wylam to Hagg Bank stretch, so watch this space!

As residents will know, the Waggonway is extremely popular both with locals and people who visit

from further afield. It is a well-used cycling route, part of the Sustrans National Cycling Network (Route 72) and also part of the Hadrian's Cycle Way.

The event promoted the idea that all users of the Waggonway should respect each other. "Share with Care!" suggests that cyclists should use their bells to let walkers know they are approaching, and slow down when passing. Walkers should not block the path completely if they are in a

big group and dog walkers should keep their dogs under close control when other walkers and cyclists are passing. Hopefully this approach will be adopted by all users.

Local children made some beautiful chalk drawings and there was a planting session to promote floral diversity along the Waggonway. Free bells were also given out to passing cyclists. The highlight of the event was the official opening ceremony.

There is a "bike bus" organised by local parents which goes along the Waggonway from Wylam to Ovingham Middle School every Friday morning. Over 20 children cycle regularly and many of the older children do the trip on their own on other days. One parent commented that the bike bus had increased the confidence of both children and parents and had generally encouraged more cycling. Six children who are regular members of the bike bus, were the official ribbon-cutters to reopen the Waggonway. The moment was captured on film both by Tyne Tees and local film maker Helen Walker :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmjChtxaw5U&t=123s>



## PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Following the resignation of Luke Hilliard from Wylam Parish Council there is a vacancy for one Parish Councillor. As there has been no call for an election, we will fill the post by co-option.

If you are interested in applying then please contact the Parish Council Clerk (details on this page) for an eligibility and application form.

Parish Councillors will consider applications at the regular meeting of the Council to be held on 11th July 2022.

## STATION CAR PARK CHARGE NOTICE ERROR

Signs recently appeared at Wylam Station car park advising that parking charges of £2.00 per day were in operation. The Parish Council has been advised by Northern that these signs were put up in error, and that there was no plan to introduce parking charges at Wylam Station.

## COVER PHOTO COMPETITION

Why not enter our front cover photo competition? Congratulations to **Tina Hartas Geary**, who was the winner for this issue.



Photos should be :

- Taken in, or around, Wylam
- Ideally landscape orientation
- JPEG format, as high resolution as possible
- Colour or black & white
- Your own work (no copyright images)
- Not manipulated (beyond minor retouch)
- Not containing identifiable persons

Please send entries to the Parish Council Clerk via email (see information to the right of this page)

Parish Councillors will choose a winning entry prior to publication. Note that there is **no cash prize**.

## SCAM PREVENTION



Free support is available for older people in Northumberland

**Age UK Northumberland** has launched a new Scams Prevention and Support Programme for older people in Northumberland. The programme provides practical advice and support, free of charge, to help older people identify potential scams, learn what to do if they are faced with a scam and support if they have been the victim of a scam.

Sophisticated scams have been on the rise during the pandemic with criminals devising ever more devious ways to target those they believe to be vulnerable. Scams can have a devastating effect, especially on older victims, and this important programme is intended to keep older people in Northumberland as safe as possible.

The programme offers two levels of support:

- Group Scams awareness sessions, delivered to older people and their trusted others.
- One-to-One Support.

Advice and support is free of charge, treated in the strictest of confidence and individualised to fit the customer's needs.

Home visits are available, or those interested can meet at a local community venue. Individuals can self-refer or a professional can make a client-approved referral.

For customers struggling with phone scams or for those who are more at risk through reduced cognitive functioning, it may be possible to install free call blocker units.

To find out more about Age UK Northumberland's Scams Prevention and Support Programme and what they do, please visit :

[www.ageuk.org.uk/northumberland](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northumberland)

then click on :

**"Fraud and Scams Support for Older People"**

## PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2022-23

The Parish Council's Budget for 2022/23 has resulted in a Precept of £54,000, £2,850 more than the previous year. This is an increase of £4.02 per year per Band D dwelling (approximately 7%) meaning an annual charge for a Band D dwelling is now £61.18 or £1.18 per week.

We did not increase the Precept in 2021/22 due to the impact of the pandemic on households. With the sharp increase in inflation, which has resulted in our costs being higher, and inflation already predicted to rise further, this increase in Precept is considered prudent.

Expenditure for the current year is forecast at just under £64,400, as follows:

- **Administration : £25,795** (including Clerk and Handyman salaries, insurance, office hire, IT costs, subscriptions and training)
- **Publications : £1,900** (The Globe)
- **Property, Open Spaces & Equipment: £19,092** (includes repairs and maintenance, grass cutting, trees, floral displays, Christmas lights, public toilets, Museum rent, Hagg Bank play area, the Haughs Nature Reserve and a project budget)
- **Grants & Donations : £10,200**
- **Ovingham Joint Burial Committee Maintenance Grant : £4,410**
- **Contingency : £3,000**

Income to the Parish Council is limited hence the need to call on the Precept for a significant proportion of our Budget.

## GET IN TOUCH!

**We'd love to hear from you!**

Please contact :

**Marie Moore**

*Clerk to the Parish Council*



[clerk@wylamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wylamparishcouncil.org.uk)



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**Wylam Parish Council**



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