

Tree Warden Report for PC on 13 May 2024

- 1 **Hagg Bank Play Area** – following a request for trees to be removed to prevent shading of an allotment to the west of the play area. I met the plot holder on site and have passed my notes to the clerk. This is complicated but an initial site inspection suggests the trees may be on a neighbouring plot south of the play area. The trees are sycamores and do not currently overhang the complainant's plot.
- 2 **Jackson Road** – renovation tree thinning and coppicing of tall laurels complete. Professional arboricultural assessment and remedial pruning required to the large veteran oak on The Dene frontage: this may require including pollarding of the open upper crown if deemed necessary. A resident has suggested planting some new trees. Northumberland Great North Forest team hope to have free trees available to order late summer but are still looking for sponsors.
- 3 **Green Spaces Walkabout** - advised on possible locations for “Bee Squares” and other nature friendly planting on some areas owned by Wylam Parish Council and Northumberland County Council. The Parish Council may wish to look into possible community-based projects.
- 4 **Northumberland Council** - will plant some new trees (winter 2024-5) in the car park verges, along the wagonway and at the riverside near Stephenson's Birthplace.
- 5 **Riverside Walkabout** – following an approach from a local resident, the river banks within Wylam were walked and inspected for damaged / dying trees, listed invasive plant species, litter and flood debris. Options are limited by practicality, accessibility and costs plus further complicated by the different land ownerships. We noted the following.
 - Many collapsed crack willow, damaged by storms and high river levels.
 - Flood debris lodged in riverside trees and shrubs.
 - Presence of increasing quantities of invasive Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. Local volunteers try to keep the nature reserve and adjacent areas free from these alien species. Of particular concern is the Giant Hogweed infesting the north bank of the

Tyne, west of Points Bridge. (Land owned by Northumberland County Council.

Land owners where known are being contacted. However there is no legal responsibility to control vegetation or invasive species growing “in the wild”. Most of the Wylam waterfront has no Public Right of Way, though many people like to walk and picnic close to the river.

The resident has suggested that the Tyne Rivers Trust could help and initial contact has been made. I recommend that the Trust be invited to advise on the condition of Wylam’s river banks and perhaps attend a future Parish Council meeting.

Liz Bray Wylam Volunteer Tree Warden