

Supporting Community Awareness with Public Photo Displays

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Introduction

- ① Understanding how public digital displays can support community
- ① Foster a sense of identity and history
- ① Considering boundaries, relationships and change
- ① Exploring the display as a probe

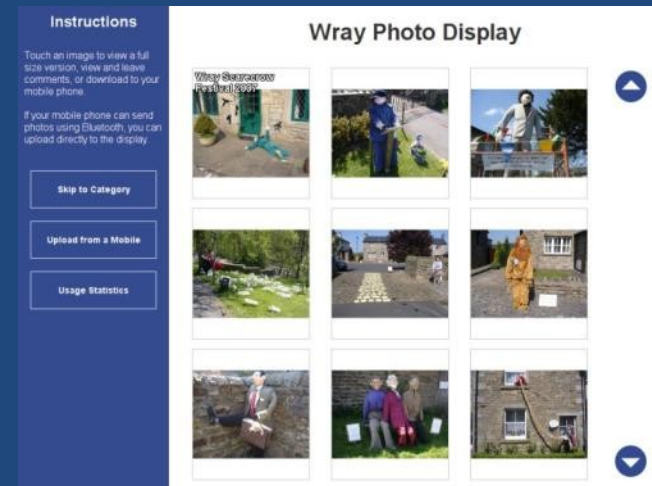
Wray, Lancashire

- Rural community
- 16km from Lancaster city
- Population under 500
- Around 120 houses
- Experimental wireless mesh network



The Wray Photo Display

- Cycles through image galleries
- Touching an image opens larger version
- Post and read comments.
- Deployed in village hall, then post office



Display Content

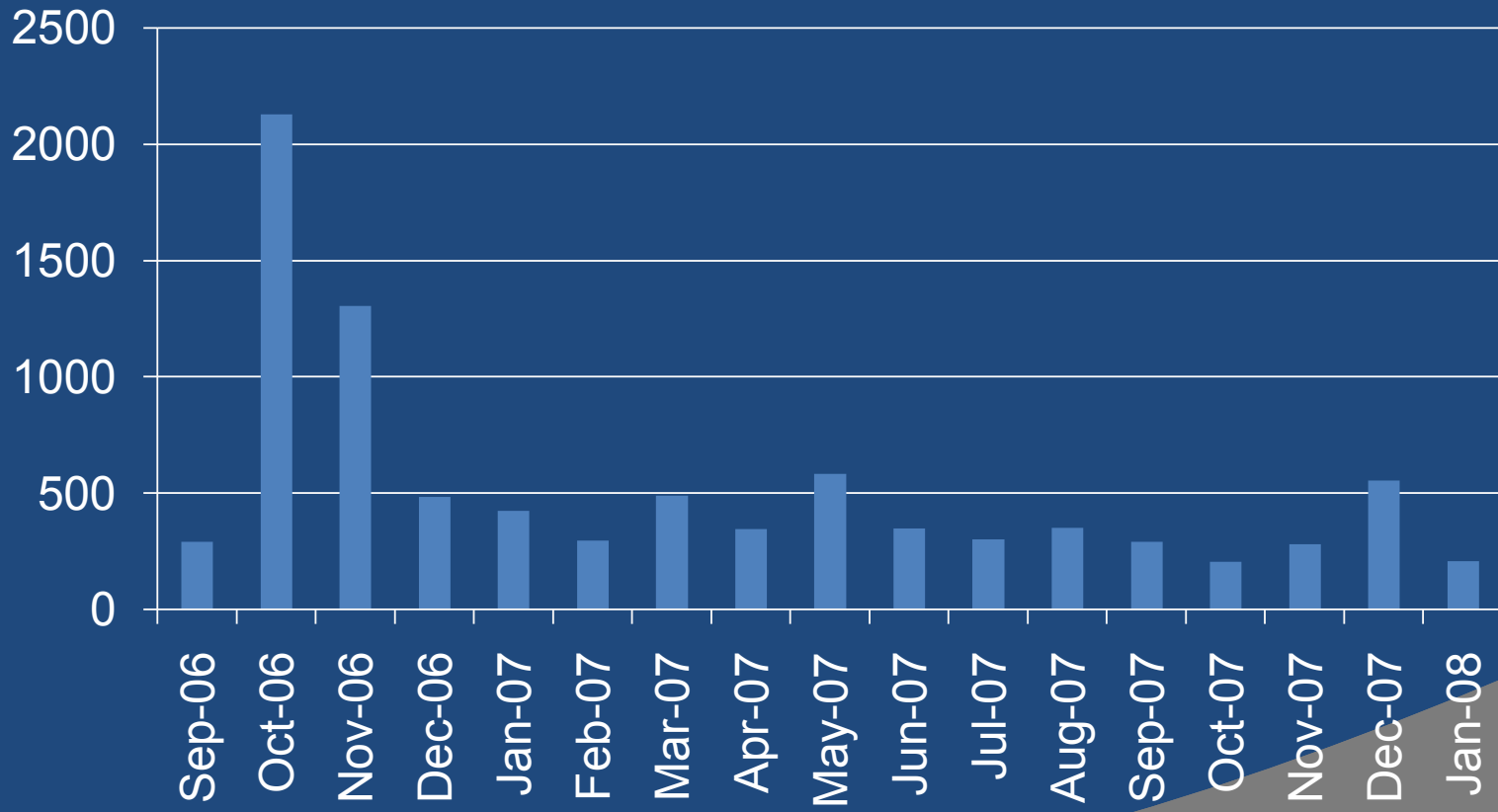


MAIN ROAD, WRAY
Bridge End - before 1932 when the road beyond the cart was widened.



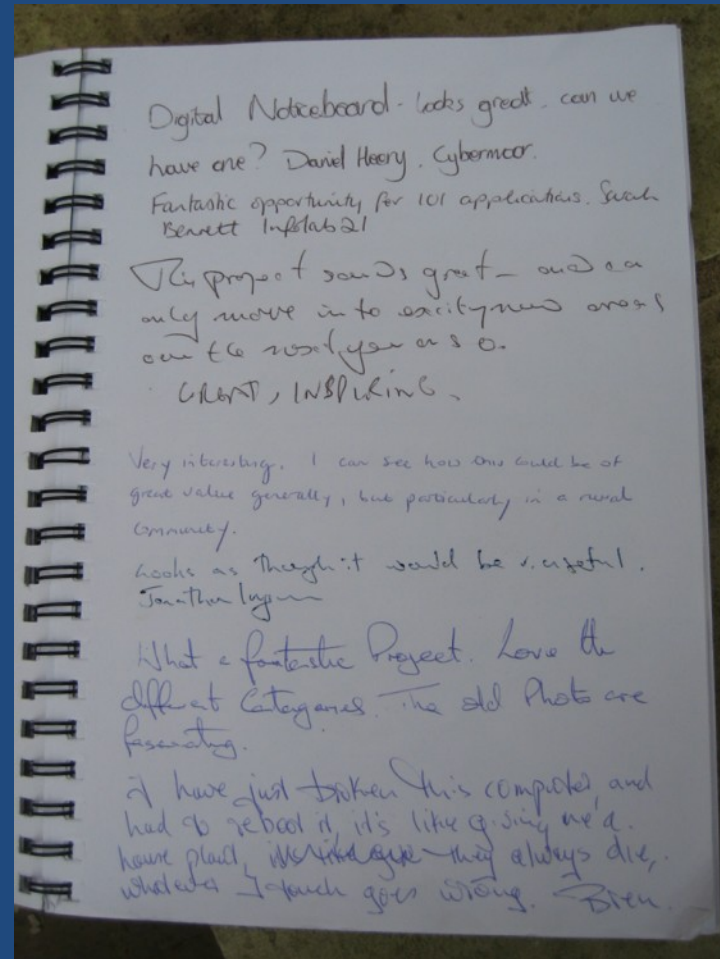
Usage Data

View Events per Month



Feedback

- ◎ Praise for historical photos
 - Frequently suggested type of content
 - Hundreds uploaded
 - *“A great way of recording a living history of Wray”*
- ◎ Current events were also popular
 - *“...opportunity to see some of the activities and scarecrows I missed”*
 - *“...especially for those who are new to the village”*



Observations

- Use of the display at community events to observe use
- Acts as a conversation piece
- Supports reminiscing between friends, and fosters discussion between strangers



Supporting Ties

- ⦿ Awareness of current events
- ⦿ Catch-up with missed events
- ⦿ Former residents can keep in touch
- ⦿ Discover historical roots, family history etc

Issues

- ⦿ Boundaries and Control
 - Who should have access?
- ⦿ Appropriateness of Content
 - Moderation
 - Privacy
 - Copyright
 - Child protection

Summary

- ① The display shows promise for fostering a sense of local identity and history
- ① Supports community relationships across distance and time
- ① Useful as an investigative tool for learning about deployment environment
- ① Social issues surrounding image display need careful consideration