

INVERURIE URY RIVERSIDE PARK

SCIO Charity Number: SC046919

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

ISSUE 6

A park for people and wildlife to enjoy together

Covid-19: Restrictions continue to affect our daily life but we are greatly encouraged by the increasing numbers of visitors to the Park and will continue to make this a safe and welcoming area for essential exercise.

Please visit our Website:

This Newsletter will appear in full on our Website / Facebook pages and a copy posted at the entrance to URP.

Information Boards....



We are indebted to the LEADER funding and our Team headed by Ian Talboys, which has enabled us to install these very attractive information boards around the Park. Our thanks too for those who dug the holes and installed them regardless of the flooding, rain, wind and ice! Many people have already commented very favourably about them and they have greatly enhanced the area.

KEEPING IN TOUCH ONLINE

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Ury Riverside Park SCIO Steering Group meetings are currently taking place online - second Tuesday of each month at 6–7 p.m. All are welcome – if you wish to join in, please email your details so we can send the appropriate links.

ON-LINE:

WEBSITE: www.uryriversidepark.com
www.facebook.com/uryriversidepark

EMAIL: ury.riverside@gmail.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN 2021

Please send details of your wildlife sightings, pictures and stories about URP to our email/website by end August 2021.

PROJECTS IN THE PARK:

Benches: Inverurie Rotary has organised supply, renovation and painting of two benches for the Park. This project is now nearing completion, and installation is planned for April / May this year. We are very appreciative of their generosity and look forward to visitors being able to rest-a-while in the park.

Talks / Activities in the Park / School interaction: Still in planning stages, enquiries invited for post-Covid-19.

Granite-built Entrance and Children's Play area: Plans continue to be on hold due to Covid-19.

RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards : We are pleased that Ury Riverside Park's nomination for an award was listed as one of the finalists in the Community Initiative category. We did not win on this occasion (which was streamed online on 25 November 2020) - but as one of the runners up, we are very proud of our achievements to date and look forward to entering in future years as the Park develops and our progress is seen on the public stage.

MORE URP NEWS

FUND RAISING: URP can receive donations when customers shop locally at the **Co-op** and online at **Amazon-smile** and elect to give a small amount at the till or basket. Details are on our Website or follow the links:- smile.amazon.co.uk and make **Ury Riverside Park SCIO** your chosen charity.

Co-op: <https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes> Every year the Co-op chooses 3 local charities to support through their 'Co-op Causes' scheme. Ury Riverside Park has been chosen as one for 2021. It is really easy to help: if you're already a Co-op member, select Ury Riverside Park as your chosen local cause. If you're not a Co-op Member you can join up for £1 and select your cause. The Co-op will then donate 2p for every £1 spent on selected Co-op products and services.

Everyone is welcome to participate and all donations received are very much appreciated - these will add up to help maintain and develop the park for the benefit of the community, park users and wildlife.

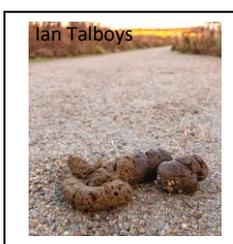
SITE MANAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERS: At the time of writing, organised volunteer days continue to be on hold. However when Covid-19 restrictions lift, we look forward to putting dates for specific tasks such as tree planting and litter picking on our Website and Facebook pages. A small number of volunteers from the Steering Group will continue (distancing observed!) to mow path edges, strim around newly planted trees, litter pick and monitor wildlife.

Anyone interested in helping us in the future, or would like to be considered for training to use our equipment is invited to email their details to us: ury.riverside@gmail.com



LITTER and DOG WASTE:

Sadly, after a period of relative improvement, litter and dog waste are being dropped in the park in increasing amounts. We wonder at the mindset of people who think tree shields make a handy place to leave their litter or those who tie up little bags of poo, only to leave them neatly placed on the paths. It is a sad fact that wildlife can be killed by litter e.g. choking on plastic, poo bags and getting stuck in metal cans.



Please consider your fellow visitors to the park who do continue to take their rubbish and waste away with them. Think of those volunteers who have to pick up **your** rubbish. Think too of our visitors from afar who come specifically to see our park and how you would feel if you took that much effort to visit somewhere so special, only to see rubbish lining the pathways! Families, dog walkers, cyclists, walkers and joggers are all enjoying the park as an essential local resource in these times of Covid-19 restrictions and **thanks go to those who have taken their litter home.**

Invasive Species

Giant Hogweed: With summer coming, please **avoid** these plants found mainly along the river banks. Contact can cause severe damage to skin and paw pads. Plans to control this plant are in place and will continue to be carried out subject to Covid-19 restrictions in Spring/Summer.

Mink have been spotted and are being monitored.

Adverse Weather Conditions

Frequent flooding during winter 2020/21 has caused the river banks to soften. As the water subsides, care should be taken when walking near flooded areas as the ground can be very boggy. This is planned use of the land to protect Inverurie from flooding.

If the footbridge becomes impassable, use of the alternative route from town to the Osprey estates via Oldmeldrum Road may be preferred during times of flood.

Ury Riverside parkruns Weekly events are on hold still, but it is hoped as soon as restrictions are lifted, it will be possible to restart - **latest updates** can be found on parkrun website: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/uryriverside>

Please visit Trip Adviser and Like our Facebook page, where we welcome pictures and comments and observations about the Park.

If you would like to receive this Newsletter via email, please send your email address to us. We do not share information with other organisations and Data Protection terms apply.

If you see any creatures in distress in the park, please phone Scottish SPCA
Tel: 03000 999 999 for advice

URY RIVERSIDE PARK – PICTURE GALLERY

Everyone is welcome to contribute to future editions of the Newsletter, contact details on page 1.

IN THE PARK THIS AUTUMN AND WINTER 2020/21:

Flooding – more flooding and ice – snow! : Some pictures to show the effects on Ury Riverside Park



Taken from Osprey Village, showing Bridge at the Howford end of the Park on a lovely day with Bennachie at its best.

DECEMBER 2020

Inverurie Cubs collecting litter around Inverurie and in Ury Riverside Park on 5th December. Despite chilly, damp weather and suitably dressed up in Santa outfits, this group gathered several bags of litter –

Well done to all!



Ian Talboys

CONSERVATION MONITORING and WILDLIFE in URY RIVERSIDE PARK:

Various projects are being introduced into the Park to monitor wildlife to see who does visit and how often. Organised by local Rangers and Conservation experts on our Steering Group and others also interested in our work, we are learning more about the lives and lifestyles of the wildlife.

Projects include footprint identity and these are 'captured' on prepared surfaces when animals or birds walk on them to see what activity there is. These include otters which are rarely seen but are a treat for those lucky enough to spot them as they fish in our river.



Ian Talboys

AND FINALLY, A GLIMPSE BACK TO THOSE WARM AND SUNNY SUMMER DAYS - so we can look ahead to warmer days when the volunteers can get back to working in the Park to maintain and develop this wonderful space.

If you are interested in what goes on in the Park and want to join in, our contact details are on the front page of the Newsletter. Once Covid restrictions allow we hope to be posting Volunteer dates on-line.

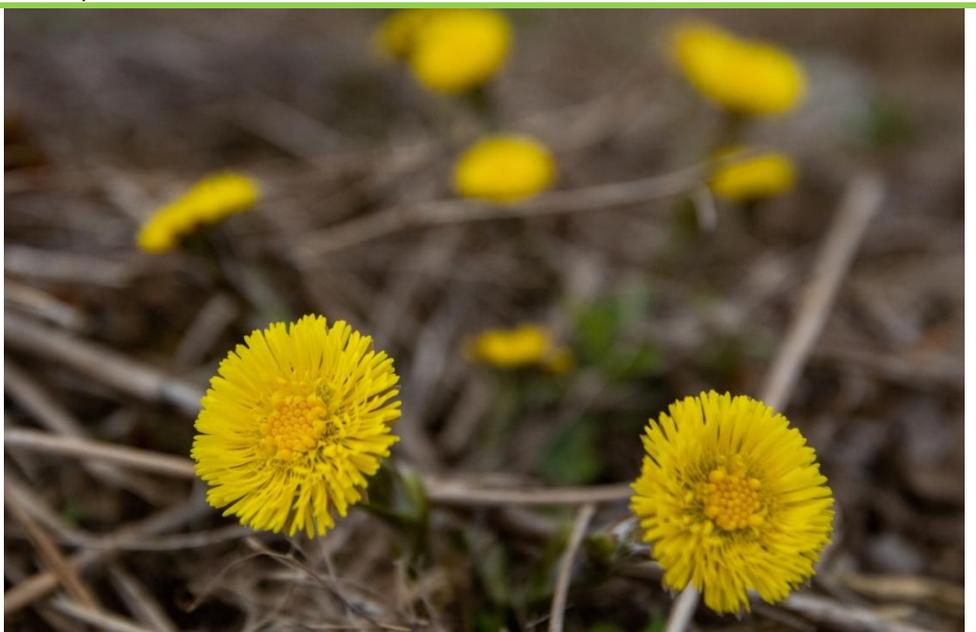
Everyone is welcome – come and visit and see what is happening in the Park.....



Ian Talboys

.... and look forward to seeing the newly planted trees and wild flowers growing and how the wildlife is doing after a long, wet and snowy winter!

We would love to see your pictures too, please post them online, or send via our email.



Ian Talboys