

# INVERURIE URY RIVERSIDE PARK

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Welcome to the Ury Riverside Park SCIO Autumn/Winter 2024 newsletter. As the year wears on and heads into winter we can reflect on a busy year in the park. We've had some exciting new developments with the extension to the play area to provide exercise equipment for kids of all ages and work starting on the path to the new bridge. Ongoing maintenance has continued with real progress being made in the war on invasive species: the combined efforts of the sheep, the mowing contractor funded by Aberdeenshire Council and the volunteer sprayers has seen the giant hogweed brought under control. The Himalayan balsam also got a shock when a bunch of willing volunteers set to pulling up large areas. This year has seen the trees planted by community volunteers in 2018/19

put on some good growth such that many are now ready to have their protective tubes removed. This work was started by a team from Goal7 and will continue with upcoming volunteer days. Recognition is also due to the litter pickers and grass cutters who keep the park tidy and safe for all our users. Particular thanks are due to Inverurie Garden and Machinery Centre who have cut the areas around the play park on a regular basis all season. A lot of hard work goes into maintaining the park, much of it by volunteers from our community. If you'd like to help, keep any eye on our social media feeds for volunteering opportunities, or help us by buying one of our 2025 calendars. The proceeds of which go to help maintain the park for people and wildlife to enjoy together.

*Rod Adams*

Trustee - Secretary

## In this newsletter you can expect:

URP Calendar  
2025

Volunteer for  
Tree Tube  
Removal Event

New Path at  
Portstown  
Bridge

Read about the  
Park Users

Recreation  
Survey

New Equipment



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## Photograph Competition Winner

We were delighted to announce the winner of our 2025 Ury Riverside Park Photograph Competition. Monica Martinez has captured the essence of our beautiful park with her winning photograph.

As a reward for her stunning entry, Monica was presented with a voucher for a lunch for two at the Fennel Restaurant in Inverurie by Emma Cowie. We extend our sincere thanks to the Fennel Restaurant for generously providing this year's competition prize.

Congratulations to Monica and thank you to all who participated in our calendar competition.

## Purchase a Calendar

Our 2025 Ury Riverside Park Calendar is now available for sale!

Inside, you'll find a collection of other fantastic photographs submitted by talented winning photographers, highlighting the diverse landscapes and wildlife that make Ury Riverside Park so special.

The 2025 Ury Riverside Park Calendar is available for purchase at just £10. Pick up your copy at the following locations – **Garioch Heritage Centre, Strachan's Inverurie** and **Inverurie Garden Centre**.



Our calendar makes a wonderful Christmas gift for friends and family. It's a thoughtful present that celebrates the beauty of our local park and supports a great cause.





Aberdeenshire  
COUNCIL



## Volunteer Spotlight

On September 11th, we were joined by a group of 18 volunteers from the local company **Goal7** who joined forces with the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service, Aberdeenshire Council Environment Team and our volunteer park trustees to tackle the vital task: of removing tree shelters from some of the park's young trees.

Despite challenging weather conditions, including heavy rain showers and strong winds, the volunteers persevered, successfully removing hundreds of tree shelters. This crucial work will allow the young trees to grow and thrive without the constraints of the tubes.

To minimise waste, the volunteers carefully inspected the tree shelters and stakes, reusing any that were still in good condition. The remaining materials were responsibly recycled, demonstrating the team's commitment to environmental sustainability.



## Event News



26 October 2024

Come along and help us remove the tree tubes at Ury Riverside Park! We are looking for help and would be very grateful if you can give us a few hours.

- Date: 26 October 2024
- Time: 10.30 – 3.30 (or as long as you can spare)
- Sign up: [https://URP\\_Volunteer\\_TreeTubeRemoval.eventbrite.co.uk](https://URP_Volunteer_TreeTubeRemoval.eventbrite.co.uk)





## Path Update

Construction of the new path from the Portstown Bridge started on 7 October, 2024. This 3-metre wide tarmac path will connect the bridge to the main entrance at Oldmeldrum Road and is designed to avoid regularly flooded areas.

Works will take approximately 12 weeks (weather permitting), and sections will be closed during construction; please follow all signage.

We appreciate your patience during this time. For safety, be cautious of heavy vehicle traffic and please supervise children and pets.

## Awards



The park has done extremely well in the last couple of months, we won Beautiful Scotland Discretionary Award – Garden for Life Biodiversity, the Discretionary Keep Scotland Beautiful Award and It's Your Neighbourhood Level 5 Outstanding.

We were also one of three finalists in the Beautiful Aberdeenshire Environmental Award category in the Aberdeenshire Council Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards



At the Pride of Inverurie Awards, huge congratulations to Beryl Robinson (pictured), our diligent litter picker, minute taker, and invaluable member of our group, who won the Unsung Hero Award sponsored by Mathieson Financial. Beryl's commitment and hard work have truly made a difference to the park. Martin Auld, our Chair, was shortlisted for the Community Champion Award, recognising his dedication and contributions.



# Park Users Update



The **Inverurie Angling Association** is dedicated to promoting and preserving the rich fishing heritage of the River Don and the River Ury, known for its exceptional salmon and brown trout fishing. Members enjoy access to prime fishing spots while participating in conservation efforts to maintain the river's health.

**Bug Sampling Summary:** Since May, we've monitored river insect life monthly with Riverfly, noting a peak of 1,855 bugs in September but no mayfly larvae. Despite healthy bug numbers, anglers report limited activity, raising ecological questions. We plan to continue next season, inviting participants for bug separation and counting, with training provided. Join us to explore our river's aquatic life!

**Water Quality Sampling Summary:** Earthwatch Europe's new initiative monitors UK river water quality. Our team sampled the Don and Ury rivers, finding low Nitrate and very low Phosphate levels. We use our kits to monitor key locations. Interested participants can learn more at [www.freshwaterwatch.org](http://www.freshwaterwatch.org) and the Great UK WaterBlitz.



As **parkrun** marks the 20th anniversary of its inaugural Bushy Park Time Trial, Ury Riverside parkrun, which was established in November 2019 continues to thrive as a popular local event.

We are a free, fun, and friendly weekly (Saturday 9:30am) 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you!

The timed 5km run welcomes individuals of all ages and abilities, providing a fantastic opportunity to connect with the local community while enjoying the park's stunning natural beauty.

However, please keep an eye on Ury Riverside parkrun's social media for updates, as upcoming events will be impacted by the new path construction, potentially leading to changes or cancellations. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this time.





## Litter

Thanks to go to those kind folk who continue to pick up litter in the park and who take their own litter away. However, there is still quite a lot of litter found on the main paths particularly dog waste bags.

We would appreciate it if litter was taken home or put in the bins provided at the Birch Drive and Oldmeldrum Road entrances. Please remember that even biodegradable poo bags can take 3-6 months to decompose, and plastic ones can take hundreds of years!



## Sheep

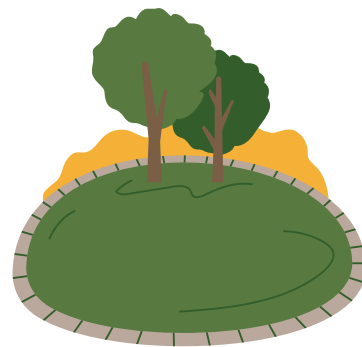
The sheep have now left Ury Riverside Park for this year, we say thank you to both the shepherd and the flock for their hard work!

Their efforts have significantly contributed to reducing the giant hogweed population in the area, promoting a healthier environment for local flora and fauna.

The sheep's grazing has played a crucial role in addressing the giant hogweed problem at Ury Riverside Park, showing an innovative approach to invasive species management.







## Inverurie Recreation Survey

The Inverurie Recreation Survey is currently underway, seeking input from local residents about recreational facilities in the town. This initiative is being conducted on behalf of Evolving Inverurie, a local charity focused on making Inverurie a better place to live, work and visit by enhancing the town's social, cultural and economic aspects.

The survey is open to anyone who lives, works, or regularly visits Inverurie. You can take part by visiting [Inverurie Recreation Survey 2024](#). This information will be used when applying for funding applications, but it needs around 500 responses. Please help get there by completing this survey.

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## Scotland Loves Local – Town of the Year Award 2024

We were thrilled to learn that Inverurie has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Scotland Loves Local Awards, competing for the coveted title of **Town of the Year**. This recognition highlights the town's commitment to community development and sustainability, showcasing its vibrant local spirit and initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Inverurie is one of five towns shortlisted including Broughty Ferry, Darvel, East Kilbride and Oban. As we look forward to the announcement of the winners, Inverurie's nomination serves as a proud testament to the hard work and commitment of its residents and local organisations. Results will be announced on 25th October.



**25 October 2024**

**We are on the shortlist!**

Scotland Loves Local Awards  
Town of the Year 2024



lovelocal.scot/awards

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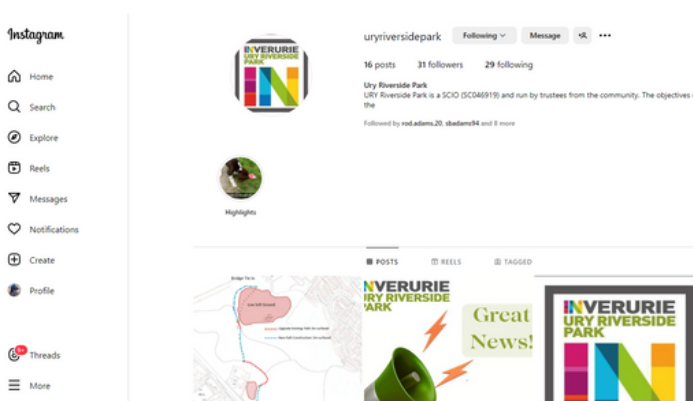
# Drone Footage

Ian has been out with his drone taking some fantastic pictures of the park – have a look on our [Facebook page](#) to see more but below is a sample of the pictures.



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## New Instagram Page



In addition to its Facebook page, the Park now has an official Instagram account. This new platform will further enhance engagement with visitors and residents alike.

Follow Ury Riverside Park on Instagram to stay connected and celebrate the beauty of this vibrant natural area in Inverurie.

<https://www.instagram.com/uryriversidepark>





# New Agility Equipment

The new agility equipment installed at the park has been met with enthusiasm from park users, enhancing the park's appeal as a recreational space for older children and adults .

The park had existing equipment aimed at a younger age group so in response to community feedback the park trustees were looking for equipment to cater for a variety of age groups and abilities which promoted exercise and social interaction between users of all ages. An additional requirement was that the equipment had to blend in with the park environment – a semi wild place in an urban setting.

Wicksteed Leisure were recommended to the trustees by Aberdeenshire Council, a partner in the park management organisation. Wicksteed were very accommodating to our needs and worked with us to ensure we got the best value for our fixed budget.

Feedback from users of the new play area has been very positive. The equipment's design and layout encourages outdoor play, which is particularly valuable in today's digital age where children of all ages spend more time indoors. The equipment is well used by those exercising in the park and many joggers can be seen stopping off to add some variation to their exercise routine. Many users have also commented on how well the equipment sits in its environment, it looks just right, like it belongs there!

Overall, the new play equipment at Ury Riverside Park represents a significant enhancement to the park's offerings. It not only enriches the recreational opportunities available to families in Inverurie but also fosters community engagement. We hope to add additional equipment in the future as funding allows.

