

IVERURIE URY RIVERSIDE PARK

Spring / Summer 2026 Issue 16

Welcome to the Ury Riverside Park SCIO Newsletter.

As the days become longer and the park moves out of winter, Ury Riverside Park is once again becoming a busy and welcoming place for walkers, families, volunteers and wildlife.

Spring brings renewed activity across the park - from community events and volunteering days to the return of outdoor learning and recreational use. This newsletter shares some of the recent developments, planned improvements and ways you can get involved over the coming months.

Photography Competition



The **Ury Riverside Park Photography Competition** invites photographers of all ages and abilities to submit their favourite images capturing the beauty, wildlife and changing seasons of the park. Entries are warmly welcomed and will be judged by a panel of judges, with thirteen winning photographs selected to feature in the **Ury Riverside Park 2027 calendar**.

One overall winner will also be chosen, with their image showcased

on the front cover of the calendar.

Closing date **31 May 2026**

Email your entries to ury.riverside@gmail.com or scan the QR code in the graphic above.

Park Improvements and Ongoing Projects

New seating, bike racks and resting points

In the next few weeks, a new **buddy bench, leaning posts and bike racks** will be installed across the park. These additions are designed to make the park more inclusive and accessible — offering places to pause, rest, meet and enjoy the surroundings.

Thank you to everyone who supported the funding and installation of these improvements.

Souterford entrance works

Entrance seeding has been carried out at the Souterford end of the park, helping to freshen the approach and improve first impressions as visitors arrive. Work is also continuing behind the scenes to explore options for a **longer-term entrance feature**, with ideas focusing on a simple, attractive gateway using local granite materials.

Looking after the River Ury and Floodplain



As many residents will have seen over the winter, Ury Riverside Park continues to play an important role as a **natural floodplain**, helping to protect Inverurie during periods of high rainfall.

Trustees and partners are monitoring areas of riverbank erosion, with site discussions planned to better understand how the river behaves and what future management may be appropriate. Flooding can sometimes be inconvenient for park users, but it remains a vital part of how the park and river function naturally.

Nature, Wildlife and Learning



Spring is a busy time for wildlife across the park. Birds return to nesting areas, plants begin to regenerate, and the river environment becomes increasingly active.

See our photos above showing | bumble bee on a dandelion | sand martin | silver birch | skylark | cuckoo flower | small tortoiseshell butterfly| dandelion | giant hogweed

Outdoor learning with local schools

Earlier this spring, one of our trustees visited pupils at **Kellands School** to talk about the River Ury and its wildlife. These sessions are a great reminder of the value of the park as a living outdoor classroom and a place to connect young people with their local environment.

Welcome to the Park



Ury Riverside Park chair, Martin Auld with Sandy and Barbara Manson during their visit to the park on 7 April 2026.

It was a **pleasure to show the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire**, Sandy Manson and his wife Barbara, the park on a wonderful sunny day with skylarks singing and lots of people out enjoying the early spring weather.

Park Users Update

Inverurie Angling Association

The trout fishing season has now begun, with the **Inverurie Angling Association** continuing to work closely with Ury Riverside Park to support responsible use of the river and surrounding paths.

Tight lines from all at Inverurie Angling Association!



Ury Riverside parkrun

Despite a challenging winter with flooding affecting parts of the route, Ury Riverside parkrun continues to be a hugely popular community event.

We celebrated our 200th event on the 28th of March and one of our regular participants, Barbara reached her 500th parkrun milestone

Now that Spring has sprung, regular Saturday mornings (0930 start) once again offer a welcoming space for walkers, joggers, runners and volunteers alike.



Cycling Without Age Inverurie at Ury Riverside Park

- Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS) Inverurie offers free trishaw rides for anyone of any age
- After winter weather disruptions, **Cycling Without Age** rides are re-starting. These rides provide supported outdoor experiences for people who may not otherwise be able to access the park independently, helping everyone enjoy time outdoors.

Stay Connected

You can keep up to date with news, events and wildlife sightings by:

- Following **Ury Riverside Park on Facebook**
- Visiting www.uryriversidepark.com
- Getting involved as a volunteer

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Ury Riverside Park, together we are creating a space for people and wildlife to enjoy, now and into the future.

Volunteering and Getting Involved

Johnston Carmichael Corporate Volunteering Day

This spring has already seen successful volunteering activity, including a **corporate volunteering day** with **Johnston Carmichael**, supporting practical tasks such as entrance seeding, tree tube removal and litter picking.

Further volunteering opportunities will continue through spring and summer, from habitat management to general park care. Whether you have a few hours to spare or would like to get more involved, help is always welcomed.



Granton Developments Lend a Hand with Litter Picking

We were delighted to welcome a group from **Granton Developments Inverurie** to Ury Riverside Park this spring, who spent an afternoon helping to tackle litter across the park. The group worked hard in improving conditions for both park users and wildlife, and everyone involved reported that they really enjoyed the experience.



Granton Developments plan to continue litter picking at the park on a regular basis, alternating with other local sites and working flexibly around the weather. Their continued support is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference, particularly as spring and summer bring increased use of the park.

Thank you to everyone involved for giving their time and energy to care for this shared community space.

Volunteer Safety and Visibility



Thanks to grant support from Aberdeenshire Council, the park now has **new branded hi-viz waistcoats** for volunteers. These help ensure volunteers are visible and easily identifiable while working in the park.

Events and Community Outreach

Ury Riverside Park will be represented at several **local events and community gatherings** this spring and summer, helping to raise awareness of the park and share information with new audiences.

Look out for us at the **Garioch Pipe Band Championship** in **May** and other local celebrations.

Awards and Recognition

Applications have been submitted for **Inspiring Aberdeenshire**, **Green Flag** and **It's Your Neighbourhood** awards. These schemes help recognise well-managed, community-led green spaces and support continual improvement of the park.

Fundraising and Support



Recent fundraising activities - including bingo events and calendar sales - have helped support park projects and ongoing maintenance.

Every contribution, whether through attending events or sharing information, helps keep the park growing and improving.

Photo of our Bingo Night at Ashvale

Inverurie on 26th March 2026.