



# Ulgham Newsletter September 2024

The village is colourful going into September and Autumn! Thank you to everyone who helps to make this possible.

The roadworks have certainly been thorough! Not the most comfortable of weeks with mixed information but hopefully worth it in the end. The work has finished mid-way and apparently will continue to the end of the Village at a later date!

Sadly, a very good friend and helper to the Parish died last month: Andy Guy, 42 years old, much more to have and give. Rest in peace now.

## World Schools' Cross-Country Nairobi Kenya by *Joe Dixon*

Whenever I think of Kenya, I think of Olympic champions; world champions and record holders. The home of some of the greatest distance running imaginable. When the possibility arose that me and my team had qualified to run in Kenya for World Schools cross country I was simply elated. In a frantic dash we had to gather up to £12,000 for the trip to be possible. Sponsors, benefactors, locals from the North East through the 'gofundme' made it all possible within record time.



(Left to Right Back row) - Joe Dixon, Bertie Marr, Will De-Vere Owen, Liam Roche, Mark Wickens (Head of Delegation), Richard Marr (Support staff, Medic)

(Front row Left to Right) - Juile Roche (Safeguarding staff), George Mavir, Eliot Mavir

Kenya is unlike anywhere else I have been. The drive to escape poverty and work ethic is unimaginable. However, this one competition united all as one, with multiple representatives from across the globe, it was truly a global competition. With a packed schedule from day one to five, including: team training, doping awareness courses, friendship relays and much more. The race itself knitted in-between all of this.

Our race that qualified us back in December 2023 in chilly conditions had now put us at the starting line at Ngong Racecourse in blistering conditions, what a contrast! We found out only days before that our team was going to mix with 'The Judd School' from Kent. We wore England with pride, finishing 7th team overall and 2nd European team behind Turkey.

Overall, the competition helped nurture the next generation of distance runners, including me and my fellow teammates. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the cause local to Ulgham and beyond, your kindness really helped us fulfil our dreams.

## Woodlands and Meadows

This month should see us finish our drainage work and path repairs through the Woodlands for the time being and we will be back to clearing the Blackthorn in the Meadows. The volunteers have done a great job during the Summer and we hope to keep up the momentum through the Autumn. There is still the opportunity to join in!

If your interests are more natural history related than hard labour, we would still like volunteers who can survey trees, plants, insects etc and produce an up-to-date record of what is going on in the Nature Reserve. As well as providing interesting information this can be useful if we bid for funding for developments.

Any enquiries or offers of help contact [dparkin@btinternet.com](mailto:dparkin@btinternet.com)

**'The Forge Inn, a Parish Council update'** is available on the additional sheet.

If you would like receive a digital version of the Newsletter instead of a paper copy, then please send us your name and address details via the village website 'contact us' page here: <https://ulgham.org/#Contact-us>

## Keeping in touch



Ulgham village together



[ulgham.org](https://ulgham.org)

