



Ulgham Newsletter

March 2026

'In March, Winter is holding back and Spring is pulling forward'. Let's hope Spring pulls forward quickly after so much rain last month!

The UVA AGM confirmed the events for this year: a March Matinee, the Easter Saturday trail and Rendezvous, the Duck Race at the end of May, the Picnic in the Park in August and Fireworks in November. St John the Baptist Church and the WI provide social events too.

The Ulgham Survey highlighted the issues that have been discussed many times at the Parish Council and with the County Council. It reminded the Parish Council to continue questioning and pressing the authorities for answers and help around: speeding through the Village, care of footpaths and rights of way, street lighting, improvements to Ulgham Lane, confirmation of school catchment and transport, and any future planning changes. Ed Dungait, the County Councillor, will help get the information about these matters. Parish Councillors are attending the March Joint Town and Parish Conference, where advice and answers about concerns in the survey will be sought.

The Parish Council will respond to these issues this Spring:

- There will be a new bin at the top steps of the Meadows
- 5 Villagers have qualified to operate a speed gun. It is hoped they will be working on the main road through the Village
- When the weather improves, walkers have volunteered to explore the rights of way and report on signage and condition, so the Parish Council can formalise a plan
- The bus shelters will be cleaned
- Councillor Barton is researching possibilities for the tennis court.

There is an excellent team of volunteer litter pickers who tidy the Village environment. A big Thank you to them! Deb Wilson is the contact for Neighbourhood watch (07775 4803703), crime is low in the area however it is best to be diligent on behalf of neighbours.

It is noted from the survey that there is strong and consistent support for the Forge Inn as a community based facility (pub, cafe, shop). The Forge Inn is a live issue and is discussed often at the Parish Council. The Ulgham Community Benefit Society (UCBS), have open communication with the agent for the owner. The UCBS reports any developments around the situation to their shareholders and the Parish Council when they occur. There is little support for more houses in the village and recognition that over development spoils the village setting.

Peter Clark, owner of the caravan/camping park, near the bridge, is keen to make a community garden at the end of the site. More information in April.

The Parish Council will update residents on progress around concerns cited in the survey as information is received.

Women's Institute

Thank you to everyone who attended our Valentine's Dance, a great night thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! Our WI is grateful for your support. The Band 'Shaken not Stirred' will be performing next February for the final time. Thank you, Paul and Mark for 25 years of fantastic entertainment!

The February meeting stayed on the Valentine's theme and saw members crafting heart button bookmarks, Valentine's cards and fabric decoupage hearts. Messy but fun! The bookmarks will come in particularly useful as we are launching a WI book group which will meet in the hall on alternate months.

We are preparing for better weather (fingers crossed) as our March meeting will enjoy a talk by Jen Stephenson from the Hedgehog Rescue Centre. We also relaunched our monthly Walking Group with a walk around Hauxley Nature Reserve at the end of February.

Ulgham WI is a friendly and active group. Anyone interested in joining us can come along for up to three meetings for free to find out more. New members are always warmly welcomed. For more info contact: janreed.wi@gmail.com