

# News Release

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## **Heritage fairs set to celebrate Aberdeenshire's cultural history**

The cultural history of communities across Aberdeenshire is to be brought to the fore with the launch of a series of heritage fairs across the area.

Aberdeenshire Council has been working with schools and a range of arts, heritage and community groups to create a series of six fairs running until the end of November.

Heritage fairs celebrate the culture and traditions that are unique to each community and encourage individuals to engage with the community and take pride in their heritage.

It is hoped that the community will be as broadly represented as possible with a variety of stalls and activities to bring the event to life.

These may include heritage related displays, traditional music and performance, craft demonstrations, storytelling, historical re-enactment and other activities that will provide a rich and diverse event for the enjoyment of the whole community.

Local schoolchildren will embark on a range of projects to explore their local culture and traditions that will be showcased to the broader community at the Fair.

Projects might include artwork, stories, performance or 3D exhibits that tell stories about the traditions, heroes and achievements that characterise their community.

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The communities hosting Heritage Fairs this year are: Banchory, Peterhead, Inverurie, Fraserburgh, Laurencekirk and Ellon.

Cultural Co-ordinator Ingrid Turner said: "Aberdeenshire has a wide range of materials and expertise available within its schools, museums, libraries and visitor attractions, and the heritage fairs are a way making the most of these valuable resources.

"The response from communities has already been very encouraging and, as a result, visitors to the fairs should get a real impression of the cultural history of each area."

The first of this year's events is the Banchory St Ternan's Heritage Fair on Saturday, June 14, running from 10am-4pm.

Anne Lamb, a member of the organising committee and Curatorial Assistant at Banchory Museum, said: "We are proud to be the opening event for the Aberdeenshire Heritage Fairs.

"St Ternan's Fair tries to combine local heritage and culture with community issues such as health and environmental awareness, and we are particularly keen to encourage the links between the schools in this part of Deeside and the many volunteer and community organisations that take part in St Ternan's Heritage Fair."

A range of exciting activities will be taking place, including a medieval encampment, traditional music and falconry displays in the central park.

Banchory museum and Library will also be hosting activity based open days including workshops on traditional toys and playground games.

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A number of Banchory's local schools have come forward to participate with some exciting project ideas to develop.

These include a performance-based activity entitled 'Old Drumoak' by P4-5 pupils at Drumoak Primary at 2pm, creative writing pieces themed around Crathes Castle by P3 pupils at Hill of Banchory School, and a variety of artwork.

These ideas will be developed making use of local resources, community groups and other cultural providers. The completed projects will then be presented at the fair to be enjoyed by all.

Education, Learning and Leisure Committee chairman Councillor Richard Stroud said: "Aberdeenshire has a wealth of cultural history that is celebrated to varying extents across the area.

"The heritage fairs will be a way of further expanding that celebration, by building links within communities and encouraging everybody to get involved, particularly within the younger generation."

Peterhead will host a heritage fair on Saturday, July 19. Thereafter, the fairs will take place in Inverurie (September), Fraserburgh (October), Laurencekirk (November) and Ellon (November).

It is anticipated that the fairs programme will be extended and developed as part of the Homecoming Scotland series of events in celebration of Scotland's past, present and future, which will take place next year.

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Corporate Communications Unit  
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If you would like to get involved with the Heritage Fair in your community please contact Cultural Co-ordinator Ingrid Turner on (01224) 665514 or [ingrid.turner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ingrid.turner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**ENDS**

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