Aberdeenshire Council
Ranger Service

Events Programme

April – September 2015
Welcome to the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service programme of events for April to September.

Why not try something different this summer – take a walk through time, discover more about your local wildlife or enjoy a puppet promenade. Whatever your age, interest or ability, there’s something for everyone.

**Booking** – many events need to be booked in advance. To reserve your place simply contact the event organiser. Some events may have a waiting list, so if you find that after you’ve booked you are unable to attend, please call and let us know.

**Cost** – the majority of events are free to attend. Where there is a charge it can be paid on the day (unless stated otherwise).

Walks are offered at a variety of sites with varying degrees of difficulty. Please read the description of the event to determine if it’s the walk for you. If in doubt, please contact the Area Ranger.

Please remember that for safety reasons you should come appropriately dressed for the event you are attending.

**Dogs on walks** – dogs are welcome on some guided walks – please ask when booking.

For more information about the work of the Ranger Service and other summer events visit www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/rangerservice/index.asp

Find us on Facebook

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/facebook/rangerservice
www.facebook.com/bennachiecentre.trust
April

Wednesday 8th April 1.30 – 3pm

SIGNS OF SPRING AT ARNHALL MOSS

Let us be ‘Spring Detectives’ we will be hunting and searching to see what we can find to let us know that spring is upon us. Please wear warm clothing. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the tennis court car park, Arnhall Moss, Westhill

CONTACT: the Garioch Ranger on 07786 021781, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470

In Aberdeenshire we are fortunate to have 35 sites that are recognised as being good for wildlife on an international scale and these have been designated as Natura 2000 sites under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. These sites are good for a variety of species from freshwater pearl mussels to seabirds, lichens and plants and cover a variety of habitats from sea cliffs to rivers and lochs and the moorland and peat bogs of the uplands. On several of our events you’ll get the chance to visit and explore some of these special places.
Thursday 9th April  2 – 4pm

MAMMAL DETECTIVES

Discover who has been out and about as we look for animal fur, food, prints and poo on a short walk (up to 2 miles/3km), including checking and refilling squirrel feeder boxes for the Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels project. We will also see what has been caught on a trail camera set up previously and find out how to send your own sightings to the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre mammal atlas project. Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather, stout footwear and if you have them, binoculars. N.B. Unsuitable for anyone with severe peanut allergy (i.e. reaction to being in close proximity).

MEET: at old visitor centre/new scout hut car park, Haughton Country Park, Montgarrie Road, Alford

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Event in support of NESBReC mammal atlas project.

Saturday 11th April  11am start

SPRING CLEAN ON THE BEACH

Take part in the Clean-up Scotland campaign organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful, and help to remove and record the rubbish from your local beach. A fun and rewarding morning for all the family. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Gloves and rubbish bags will be provided. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at Fraserburgh Esplanade car park

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Saturday 11th April 11am – 12noon

BIG NORTH EAST POND DIP

Come to the pond in Denlethen Woods and discover what creatures are lurking in the waters. What are they, how do they survive and what do they turn into? Join in on a survey of the pond life and help record the ponds of the north east. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the pond in Denlethen Woods, Laurencekirk

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

This is a joint event with the Forestry Commission and Friends of Denlethen. Event in support of North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership ‘Pooling our Ponds’ project.

Tuesday 14th April 1.30 – 3pm

SIGNS OF SPRING at Gauchhill

Let us be ‘Spring Detectives’ we will be hunting and searching to see what we can find to let us know that spring is upon us. Please wear warm clothing. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at Birch Wood Road, Kintore

CONTACT: the Garioch Ranger on 07786 021781, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470
Thursday 16th April 10.30am – 12noon

SIGNS OF SPRING at Insch Meadows

Let us be “Spring Detectives” in the Meadows, we will be searching the wildlife pond to see what we can find at this exciting time of year. All equipment will be supplied by the Ranger. Please wear warm clothing and wear wellies for the pond dipping. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: just off the High Street along from Costcutters

CONTACT: the Garioch Ranger on 07786 021781, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470

Friday 17th April 7.30 – 8.30pm

AN EVENING DIP!

See the Moss in a new light and join the Ranger for an evening pond survey on Portlethen Moss. What wildlife and signs of spring will we encounter? Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the entrance to Portlethen Moss on Bruntland Road

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Event in support of North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership ‘Pooling our ponds’ project and National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme.
Saturday 25th April 11am – 3pm

DISCOVER BENNACHIE

Bennachie is an iconic, special place, full of history, wildlife, peace and excitement. Come along for a day of discovery and fun with the different people that make it so special including Forestry Commission Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council, Bailies of Bennachie and Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tuesday 28th April 6.30 – 8.30pm

WATERFALL WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a gentle family walk. We will have a look at several interesting historic features along the way. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. The walk is low level and approximately 2 miles in length.

Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
May

Saturday 9th May
10am – 4pm

BEGINNERS SPRINGTIME PHOTOGRAPHY – LANDSCAPE, WILDLIFE AND MACRO

Do you own a DSLR or bridge camera and struggle to take it off auto and onto manual?

The Donside Camera Club joins the Rangers to guide you through your camera’s functions and how to use your camera for macro, wildlife and landscape photography. Places are limited so booking essential. Cost: £15.

Run in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland and Donside Camera Club.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Forestry office on 01466 794161, moray&Aberdeenshire@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Sunday 10th May
10 – 11.30am

COASTAL CAPERS

Join the rangers as we discover the fascinating world of rock pools. Find out about the suckers, gluers and swimmers lurking beneath the waves. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at New Aberdour Bay

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Saturday 16th May  10am – 12noon

WINGED WONDERS OF THE NIGHT

Encounter the amazing diversity of moths and learn about their roles in nature. We will unveil last night’s live moth trap catch to see some spring-flying species found in the area. Children aged under 16 must be accompanied.

Booking essential.

MEET: at Burn o’ Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

*Event organised in partnership with SNH, Butterfly Conservation & Cairngorms National Park Authority as part of Cairngorms Nature Festival.*

Saturday 16th May  2 – 4pm

WINGED WONDERS OF THE DAY

Discover our native butterflies and find out how you can help them. We will take a short walk (up to 2 miles/3km) to look for butterflies and other insects, including the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, a speciality of the Cairngorms. Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather, stout footwear and if you have them, binoculars.

MEET: at Cambus O’ May Forest Walks car park, near Ballater

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

*Event organised in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, Butterfly Conservation & Cairngorms National Park Authority as part of Cairngorms Nature Festival.*
The Marr Ranger will be leading two walks (Tarland, Drummy, Tomnaverie, Culsh; Cambus O’ May, Dinnet, Kinord) for adults featuring natural and social history as part of this annual festival. Booking Essential.

Contact Ballater (RD) Ltd.: 013397 55467, info@royal-deeside.org.uk or www.royal-deeside.org.uk/RDnews/walkweek.htm

Saturday 23rd May 10am – 2pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: CRUDEN BAY TO LONGHAVEN

Enjoy a spectacular coastal cliff walk past the ruins of New Slains Castle, the Bullers of Buchan, Longhaven quarry and the Scottish Wildlife Trust nature reserve. At this time of year the cliffs are home to hundreds of seabirds, stunning displays of wildflowers and we may be lucky enough to see dolphins, seals and puffins. You’ll hear about some of the gruesome history of Cruden Bay, the castle and other legends of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing and sturdy boots. Bring lunch, drink and binoculars if you have them. Minimum age – 12 years. Sorry no dogs. Mainly coastal cliff path – occasionally steep and rough so reasonable fitness required. Booking essential.

MEET: details on booking

CONTACT: Sarah Gosden, on 07831 178184, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Saturday 23rd May  11am – 3pm
ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: SEABIRD WATCH AT BULLERS OF BUCHAN

This is a drop-in session, the Ranger will set up a telescope on the cliff top and hopefully we will get close-up views of Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes and Fulmars, which come ashore in the summer months to breed and raise their young. If we are lucky we may also get a chance to spot Puffins and Dolphins.

Car parking is available at the lay-by on the A975, a couple of hundred yards from the junction with the A90 near Longhaven. As this is a drop in event there is no need to book, but please be aware of the cliff-top location, this is not a place for young children or those who don’t like heights.

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 01771 622857, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 24th May  10am – 4pm
ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: COLLIESTON TO WHINNYFOLD WALK

This fascinating walk will take you along cliffs covered in seabirds, including – kittiwakes, guillemots and puffins which make spectacular and very noisy displays. At this time of year the cliffs should be awash with colourful flowers which provide valuable food for butterflies and moths. You will also hear stories of smugglers and shipwrecks and we will pass the ruins of Old Slains Castle – the original castle of the Earl of Erroll, until it was blown up by James VI. Not suitable for dogs or children under 12. Booking essential.

MEET: Cransdale car park, just as you enter Collieston (first left after the church). Bus will be provided to take you, at the end of the walk, back to start point.

CONTACT: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417 / 07786 021780, formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sunday 24th May 11am – 12.30pm
ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: ROCKPOOLING AT GADLE BRAES

Join the Buchan Ranger on a rockpool rummage to discover the secrets of this fascinating world between the tides. Find out how plants and animals survive the constant pounding by waves and changing conditions. Are they suckers, gluers or tanglers? Learn how you can use seaweed to forecast the weather and if you’ve ever eaten seaweed without realising. All equipment will be provided. Enclosed footwear and a change of clothing may be advisable for younger participants. All welcome but not suitable for buggies. Sorry no dogs. Booking essential.

MEET: details on booking

CONTACT: Sarah Gosden on 07831 178184, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tuesday 26th May 6.30 – 9.30pm
MILLSTONE CIRCULAR WALK

Please come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a circular family walk up Millstone Hill, there are wonderful views up the Don valley and the Bennachie Range from this popular hill. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. This walk has some gradual climbing on route and will be on well-maintained paths. The walk is approximately 3 miles in length.

Booking essential.

MEET: at the Donview car park, Lords Throat, Monymusk

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
June

Saturday 6th June 10.30 – 11.30am

SEASHORE EXPLORE

With World Oceans Day celebrations on Monday 8th join the ranger and discover what creatures can be found clinging to the rocks at Muchalls. Find out what they need to survive and take a closer look at this dramatic rocky coast. Please be aware that the cliff path is steep and uneven. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

MEET: in Muchalls – details on booking

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 7th June 11am – 12.30pm

WORLD OCEANS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Come and join the Rangers celebrating World Oceans Day investigating the rock pools below Macduff Marine Aquarium. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at Macduff Marine Aquarium

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sunday 7th June 1.30 – 4pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: THE SHIFTING SANDS

Discover the hidden treasures of this award winning beach on a circular walk along pristine sands and dunes. You will see special sand dune features such as Balmedie’s “Dune slack” and “Blow-out”. As well as the flora and fauna that make this area so unique you will also see the fascinating 2nd World War pill boxes and tank traps that have lain undisturbed for over 60 years. Booking essential.

MEET: Balmedie Country Park main car park.

CONTACT: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/07786 021780, formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 13th June 10am – 12noon

MARVELLOUS MINIBEASTS

Meet some of the wee beasties of the woods and help survey what’s in the pond at Burnett Park! Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and sensible footwear.

MEET: at tennis court car park, Burnett Park, Banchory

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Event in support of NE Scotland Biodiversity Partnership ‘Pooling our Ponds’ project as part of Banchory River Festival.
Sunday 14th June 1 – 4pm

FRASERBURGH GARDEN PARTY

We’ll be spending the afternoon maintaining the community wildlife garden at James Ramsay Park. Why not join us and help to give the garden a makeover. Afterwards you’ll be able to sit back, relax and enjoy the garden with a well-earned cuppa. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Gloves and tools will be provided. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Fraserburgh Community Centre car park

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 21st June 11am – 3pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: SEABIRD WATCH AT BULLERS OF BUCHAN

This is a second chance to come to this drop-in session, the Ranger will set up a telescope on the cliff top and hopefully we will get close-up views of Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes and Fulmars, which come ashore in the summer months to breed and raise their young. If we are lucky we may also get a chance to spot Puffins and Dolphins.

Car parking is available at the lay-by on the A975, a couple of hundred yards from the junction with the A90 near Longhaven. As this is a drop in event there is no need to book, but please be aware of the cliff-top location, this is not a place for young children or those who don’t like heights.

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 01771 622857, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Saturday 27th June  2 – 3.30pm

MINIBEAST MAYHEM

Join us as we search for some of the smallest inhabitants around Fordyce. Find out what makes these flying, creeping, crawling, slithering, sliding and swimming beasties so special. Please wear wellies and suitable clothing. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Fordyce Church car park

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tuesday 30th June  6.30 – 9.30pm

MITHER TAP AND CRAIGSHANNOCH FROM ROWANTREE

Join the Garioch Ranger on a family walk along the Maiden Causeway to Mither Tap, there are excellent views and many interesting features to look at along the way. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. This walk will be on medium gradient and on well-maintained paths. The walk is approximately 5 miles in length. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Rowantree car park

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
July

Saturday 4th July 11am – 1pm

BIG BOG EXPLORE

Join the ranger and explore the living bog. What keeps it living and what is a key species? Meet the bugs and beasties that hang out on the Moss. Come prepared to get wet as we head into the bog for a closer look. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the entrance to Portlethen Moss on Bruntland Road

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thursday 9th July 1 – 2.30pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: ROCKPOOLING AT GADLE BRAES

Join the Buchan Ranger on a rockpool rummage to discover the secrets of this fascinating world between the tides. Find out how plants and animals survive the constant pounding by waves and changing conditions. Are they suckers, gluers or tanglers? Learn how you can you use seaweed to forecast the weather and if you’ve ever eaten seaweed without realising. All equipment will be provided. Enclosed footwear and a change of clothing may be advisable for younger participants. All welcome but not suitable for buggies. Sorry no dogs. Booking essential.

MEET: details on booking

CONTACT: Sarah Gosden on 07831 178184, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Friday 10th July 10am – 4pm

WILDERNESS SKILLS DROP IN

Drop by to learn a few skills to help stay dry and comfortable when far from the nearest visitor centre! Learn how to tie the knots to enable you to put up a lightweight tarp without damaging the trees; have a go at whittling; have a peek in the moth trap. No booking required.

MEET: follow the signs from The Pheasantry, Haddo Country Park

CONTACT: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/07786 021780, formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Friday 10th July 12noon – 4pm

MUIR OF DINNET FUN DAY

Come and join the fun at Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve. Lots of games, crafts and activities for all the family based at the visitor centre. The Marr Ranger and Dee Catchment Outreach Officer will be promoting responsible countryside access to help everyone enjoy the outdoors this summer. Under 18’s must be accompanied. Booking not required – just drop in.

MEET: at Burn o’ Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet

CONTACT: Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

*Event organised in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and Dee Catchment Partnership/River Dee Trust.*
Saturday 11th July  11am – 12noon

**WONDERFUL WATER WORLD**

Dip into the burn in The Den at Auchenblae and discover a fascinating underwater world. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

**MEET:** at The Den via Kintore Street, Auchenblae

**CONTACT:** the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

*A joint event with Auchenblae Parks Committee.*

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Sunday 12th July  10am – 2.30pm

**ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: ‘THE DRONE OF CATTLE TALK, FLY-HUMMED AND BITTEN’**

Take a historic walk from Udny Green along woodland paths to the N.T.S.’s Pitmedden Castle, on along a footpath to lunch at Historic Scotland’s Tolquhon Castle and nearby art gallery. Then carrying on along the old drovers’ road to the tomb in Tarves churchyard. Children 12+ only with an adult. Dogs are welcome; they do not have to be on a lead but must be under control. Booking essential.

**MEET:** the village green at Udny Green

**CONTACT:** the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/07786 021780, formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tuesday 14th July  

MARVELLOUS MINIBEASTS

Slaters and slugs, beetles and bugs come along and discover the smaller residents of the Deeside Way at Drumoak. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

**MEET:** at the playing fields down by the river, on left off the road to Park bridge, Drumoak

**CONTACT:** the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, 
kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Friday 17th July  

ROCKING ROCKPOOLS

Get up close to the fascinating world of the mysterious creatures in the rockpools at Stonehaven. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

**MEET:** at the Cowie end of Beach Road, overlooking the beach behind the outdoor swimming pool, Stonehaven.

**CONTACT:** the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, 
kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Friday 17th July  2 – 4pm
MINIBEASTING IN THE MEADOWS AND DIPPING IN THE DEVERON

Have fun encountering some smaller residents of Huntly Meadows and the River Deveron! Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and sensible footwear (wellies for river dipping).

MEET: at riverside car park between castle and Nordic Ski Centre, Huntly

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Wednesday 22nd July  10.30am – 12noon
ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: ROCKPOOLING AT St COMBS

Join the Buchan Ranger on a rockpool rummage to discover the secrets of this fascinating world between the tides. Find out how plants and animals survive the constant pounding by waves and changing conditions. Are they suckers, gluers or tanglers? Learn how you can you use seaweed to forecast the weather and if you’ve ever eaten seaweed without realising. All equipment will be provided. Enclosed footwear and a change of clothing may be advisable for younger participants. All welcome but not suitable for buggies. Sorry no dogs. Booking essential.

MEET: details on booking

CONTACT: Sarah Gosden on 07831 178184, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Wednesday 22nd July 1 – 3pm

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAYS

Why not come along to the Bennachie Centre and have some fun doing various activities such as pond dipping and minibeast hunts. All equipment will be supplied by the Ranger. Please bring along wellies for the pond dipping activity. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thursday 23rd July 10am – 12.30pm

MOTHS IN THE MORNING

Discover the marvellous moths caught in the live traps set up overnight in the woods on the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve, followed by a search for day-flying moths and butterflies as time allows. Find out how you can take part in this year’s Big Butterfly Count. Under 18’s must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Burn o’ Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet

CONTACT: Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

Event organised in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and Butterfly Conservation.
Thursday 23rd July 10am – 12noon

BESIDE THE SEASIDE

If you go down to the beach today...you’re sure of a fun-packed morning for all the family! Take a dip into a selection of marine-themed activities, from arts and crafts in Portsoy Library to scavenger hunts along the beach. With opportunities to find out more about life in the sea, who knows what amazing aquatic facts we’ll discover! All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Portsoy Library

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 25th July 10am – 12noon

FAMILY FELT MAKING

Felting is fantastic fun, full of colours, textures and possibilities for all the family. Bring along the kids to learn how to create some fantastic felt. No experience necessary. All you need to bring is imagination! Cost: £20 each. Places are limited so booking is essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Friday 26th July  11am – 5pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: GET ON YOUR BIKES AND RIDE!

Cycle along the Formartine and Buchan Way amidst peaceful countryside straight into the Country Park for a long lunch and then back to the sea. 20 miles in total. Adults only. Booking essential.

MEET: Community Centre car park in Peterhead

CONTACT: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/07786 021780, formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tuesday 28th July  6.30– 9.30pm

OXEN CRAIG WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a family walk to the highest top of the Bennachie range – Oxen Craig, this walk is on well-maintained paths with lovely views once above the tree line, there is gradual climbing on this walk. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. This walk is about 3 miles in length. Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Back O’ Bennachie car park, Oyne (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Wednesday 29th July  1 – 3pm

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAYS

Why not come along to the Bennachie Centre and have some fun doing various activities such as pond dipping and minibeast hunts. All equipment will be supplied by the Ranger. Please bring along wellies for the pond dipping activity. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thursday 30th July  2 – 4pm

BUTTERFLY BONANZA – NATURE EXPLORERS CHILDREN’S EVENT

Discover the colourful world of butterflies and moths in Glen Muick. Come along and take part in the Big Butterfly Count as well as storytelling and games. Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and sensible footwear.

MEET: at Church Square car park, Ballater

CONTACT: the Balmoral Estate Rangers on 013397 55059

Event organised in partnership with Balmoral Estate Ranger Service and Butterfly Conservation.
Tuesday 4th August  2 – 4 pm
EDIBLES AND MEDICINALS: WILD FOOD WALK

Long before supermarkets and pharmacies, people had to feed and doctor themselves with the plants around them. Join us to find out which plants they used and try some wild foods! This event includes a walk of up to 1.5km/1 mile on good paths with some inclines. Under 18’s must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and sensible footwear.

MEET: at Burn o’ Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

Event organised in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Wednesday 5th August  1 – 3pm
WILDLIFE WEDNESDAYS

Why not come along to the Bennachie Centre and have some fun doing various activities such as pond dipping and minibeast hunts. All equipment will be supplied by the Ranger. Please bring along wellies for the pond dipping activity. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
**Friday 7th August**  
2 – 3pm

**ROCKING ROCKPOOLS**

Can you see claws and tentacles waving in the rockpool? Find out who they belong to at the rockpools of Stonehaven beach. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

**MEET:** at the Cowie end of Beach Road, overlooking the beach behind the outdoor swimming pool, Stonehaven.

**CONTACT:** the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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**Saturday 8th August**  
11am – 12noon

**MINIBEAST MAGIC**

Take a closer look at the smaller creatures of Fettercairn. How many minibeasts can you find? Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

**MEET:** beside gardens on Old Military road off Cairn O’Mount Road, Fettercairn

**CONTACT:** the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sunday 9th August performances at 11am and 2.30pm

**RAMSHACKLE’S ROUND THE WORLD SAFARI**

Join our intrepid explorer and wildlife expert Professor Davina Attenborurrel and fearless wildlife wrangler and tracker Mike ‘Snakebite’ Erwin on a nature trail covering the major continents of the world! A promenade performance, this international safari will teach you about animals from all over the world, as well as native British wildlife and the importance of conservation. However, the animals will all be puppets! Very realistic puppets! The show will go on whatever the weather so please come prepared. Tickets £6 adults, £4 children, £15 family ticket (2 adults, 2 children). Numbers are limited for each performance so please purchase your tickets in advance from the Bennachie Centre.

**MEET:** at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch

**CONTACT:** the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

*Event kindly sponsored by the Bailies of Bennachie.*

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Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th August 10am – 3pm

**WILD ABOUT ADEN**

The Buchan Ranger will have a stall at this hugely successful annual event which offers two great days of fun with something for all the family to enjoy. This year’s event will feature a range of new and different family friendly activities. See the website below for more details.

http://www.adencountrypark.org.uk/eventslisting/150-wild-about-aden
Tuesday 11th August 11am – 12noon

BUMBLEBEES, BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER WILD POLLINATORS

Bumblebees and butterflies and other minibeasts keep our gardens flourishing. Join in on this minibeast hunt around the community garden. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Community Garden, Johnshaven

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns ranger on 01569 768292, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

*Event organised with Johnshaven Community Gardeners.*

Wednesday 12th August 10.30am – 12noon

WATERY WONDERS

What is lurking in the pond at Haughton Park?! Find out about the amazing web of life in and around the water – who eats or gets eaten by whom? Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and sensible footwear.

MEET: at first car park on right-hand side of entrance drive opposite pond, Haughton Country Park, Alford

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

*Event in support of NE Scotland Biodiversity Partnership ‘Pooling our Ponds’ project.*
Be a River Don Detective

Why not come along and have some fun doing activities along the River Don in Inverurie, you will find out about the Don and what lives in and on the river as well as the riverbank. All equipment will be supplied by the Ranger. Please wear suitable clothing and wellies. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Don Bridge between Inverurie and Port Elphinstone

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Night Hunters and Their Prey

Get up close and personal with bats and moths. Come and dispel all your fears of these intriguing animals. Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring warm clothing, stout footwear, sunglasses/wide-brimmed hat (to shield eyes from bright moth trap light), midge repellent and torch.

MEET: at car park by Visitor Information Centre, Crathie

CONTACT: the Balmoral Estate Rangers on 013397 55059

Event organised in partnership with Balmoral Estate Ranger Service and Butterfly Conservation as part of Ballater Victoria Week.
Tuesday 25th August  6.30 – 8.30pm

MILLSTONE BASE CIRCULAR WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a low level circular family walk around the base of Millstone Hill, this walk is on a mixture of well-maintained paths and forestry track with some lovely views along the way. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. This walk is easy and is about 4 miles in length.

Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Donview car park, Lords Throat, Monymusk

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 29th August  8.30pm start

NIGHT FLIGHT

Celebrate European Bat weekend, and come out after dark as we discover some of the fascinating sights and sounds of the night around the woods at Duff House. Please wrap up warm, bring a torch and wear sturdy footwear. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Duff House car park

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sunday 6th September 9.30am – 4pm

GORDON WAY WALK (Brindy to Bennachie Centre) in conjunction with the Bailies of Bennachie

You are welcome to join the Garioch Ranger from Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service and the Bailies of Bennachie on a walk along part of the Gordon Way, meeting at the Bennachie Centre a bus will take you to Brindy Car Park, Keig, this is a lovely walk with superb scenery along the way, please wear suitable clothing and footwear along with waterproofs, also bring snacks, drinks and a packed lunch. Only suitable for adults. Tea and coffee will be provided at the Bennachie Centre at the end of the walk. This walk is strenuous and approximately 6 miles in length. Places on the bus are limited so booking is essential. Cost will be £5 to cover transport costs. No dogs allowed.

MEET: at the Bennachie Centre 9.15am, leave on bus 9.30am (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

CONTACT: the Bennachie Centre on 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sunday 6th September  12.15 – 1.30pm
SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL: STONES GREAT AND SMALL

Come and take a fresh look at Daviot Recumbent Stone Circle, hear the latest theories about these enigmatic megaliths and learn about the objects from Aberdeenshire’s prehistoric past that will be brought along courtesy of the Museum Service. Booking essential.

MEET: at Daviot village Scout Camp car park

CONTACT: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/07786 021780, formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Friday 11th September  7pm – late
BATS, MOTHS AND STARS AT BATTLEHILL

Discover how to use smelly mixtures and bright lights to attract moths and contribute to this year’s national ‘Moth Night’ survey, plus bat detectors to locate and identify bats. A local astronomer will also be on hand with a telescope to view the wonders of the night sky (or demonstrate what would otherwise be visible if it is cloudy)! Children aged under 16 must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring warm clothing, stout footwear, sunglasses/wide-brimmed hat (to shield eyes from bright moth trap light), midge repellent and torch.

MEET: at Battlehill car park, Huntly

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Event organised in partnership with NE Scotland Bat Group and Butterfly Conservation.
BEACHWATCH

On the weekend when beach litter surveys are happening all over the world, why not come along and do your bit for your local beach? Organised by the Marine Conservation Society in Britain, this annual event monitors litter found on beaches and uses the information collected to improve the state of our beaches for people and wildlife. Join in the UK’s biggest beach clean and help to remove and record the rubbish from a beach near you. A fun and rewarding morning for all the family. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Gloves and rubbish bags will be provided. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

Saturday 19th September 10am start
MEET: at the Spotty Bag Shop car park
CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 19th September 10am – 2pm
MEET: at Buchan Ness, Boddam
CONTACT: Sarah Gosden on 07831 178184, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Saturday 26th September (times TBC)

SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL: SHAPING THE STRATH

Learn how nature and man have together shaped the Strathbogie landscape we see today, from ancient volcanoes to Pictish settlements and beyond. This will be a moderate guided walk suitable for adults, mainly on tracks and quiet roads with gradual ascent/descent. Booking essential. Bring suitable outdoor clothing including waterproofs, stout footwear and food/drink.

MEET: at The Square, Rhynie

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 013398 80868, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 27th September 11am start

SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL: FOOTSTEPS THROUGH FORGLEN

Enjoy a 4-mile circular walk through this beautiful estate, with sightings of red squirrels and other wildlife always a possibility. There will also be an opportunity to take a step back in time as we take a closer look at life in times gone by as part of the Scottish Archaeology and Heritage Festival. Sturdy footwear and suitable clothing required. This walk is only suitable for adults and booking is essential.

MEET: at Forglen Hall – Landranger Map 29 Grid Ref: NJ683519

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 01261 813299, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
What is our role?

Rangers promote the enjoyment, understanding and care of Aberdeenshire’s outdoors through: the first-hand provision of information, advice and activities; interpretation; the management of sites and facilities; and seeking to secure responsible behaviour.

What are our aims?

In common with other Ranger Services in Scotland we have three primary aims:

- To ensure a warm welcome and provide support to help people enjoy the outdoors
- To increase awareness, understanding, care and responsible use of the natural and cultural heritage
- To support the sustainable management and use of the outdoors to meet a range of social, economic and environmental objectives

These aims enable the Ranger Service to deliver the Scottish Government strategic objectives of creating a Scotland that is Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger and Greener.

Find out more

Webpage  www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/rangerservice
Facebook www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/facebook/rangerservice
Contact information for event booking is inside this leaflet.

The Bennachie Centre is managed in partnership with the Bennachie Centre Trust.
Contact the Centre on 01467 681470 or bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk