

**Aberdeenshire Council
Ranger Service**

Events Programme

April - September 2016

year of innovation - architecture - design



**Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL**





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

2016 is the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design and we've lots of events taking place this summer to celebrate. Take a walk through time, discover architecture on your doorstep or simply enjoy a family day out; whatever your age, interest or ability we hope there's something for everyone to enjoy this summer.

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 walk to determine if it's 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're 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/leisure-sport-and-culture/ranger-service/

Find us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireCouncilRangerService
www.facebook.com/bennachiecentre.trust

NEW Bennachie Visitor Centre website

www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk



April



Tuesday 5th April

11.00am – 2.00pm

GO WILD IN THE WOODS AT HADDO

Join us for some seasonal outdoor fun - learn basic skills and use them to make crafts and creations from natural materials. Some activities may involve use of hand tools and may not be suitable for very young children. Drop by to learn a few skills to help stay dry and comfortable when far from the nearest visitor centre! Older children can learn how to tie the knots to enable them to put up a lightweight tarp without damaging the trees and have a go at whittling. Drop-in event, booking not required. Cost £2 per child.



MEET: follow the signs from the main car park, Haddo Country Park, Ellon

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

Wednesday 6th April

1.30 – 3.00pm

SIGNS OF SPRING AT ARNHALL MOSS

Let us be 'spring detectives' as we go hunting and searching to see what we can find to let us know that spring is upon us. Please wear warm clothing. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

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

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



Thursday 7th April

11.00am – 2.00pm

STEP BACK TO THE STONE AGE

Archaeological remains at Aden have shown that people have been living here since the Neolithic period and the remains of Bronze-age hut circles have also been found at Aden. Join the Ranger and leave your hi-tec, digital life behind for a few hours and discover how our ancestors lived in the past. We will learn about the foods they gathered and ate and how to make simple items from sticks and natural materials. This event is suitable for children aged 10 to 14, as we will be using sharp tools the event is limited to 6 and booking is essential. Please wear old clothes, stout footwear or wellies, bring a waterproof coat, a packed lunch and a mug.

MEET: in the Rangers Cabin in the first car park, Aden Country Park, Mintlaw

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 10th April

2.00 – 4.00pm

SPRING FORAGER



What foods can the forest supply and what might our distant ancestors have eaten? A short walk with the Forestry Commission and Garioch Rangers to look at some of the spring edibles that can be found in the forest. This time of year is great for fresh salad type leaves. Edible plants that are not yet in season,

foraging etiquette and possible uses and recipes will be discussed.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: Forestry Commission Scotland on 01466 794161, Neil.taylor@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Tuesday 12th April

1.30 – 3.00pm

SIGNS OF SPRING AT GAUCHHILL

Let us be 'spring detectives' as we go hunting and searching to see what we can find to let us know that spring is upon us. Please wear warm clothing. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at Birch Wood Road, Kintore

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



Wednesday 13th April

2.00 – 4.00pm

MAMMAL DETECTIVES

Find out who has been about in the park as we look for clues of animal fur, food, prints and poo on a short walk (up to 2 miles/3km), including checking squirrel feeder boxes for the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project. We will also see what has been caught on camera traps set up previously. Under 16's must be accompanied. 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*). Booking essential.



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

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Thursday 14th April

10.30am – 12noon

SIGNS OF SPRING AT INSCH MEADOWS

Let us be 'spring detectives' in the Meadows. We'll 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. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: just off the High Street along from Costcutters

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Friday 15th April

7.00 – 8.00pm

WILD WET AND WONDERFUL

Join the Ranger for a fun evening finding and recording the underwater life on the Moss and discover who finds this wetland the place to be. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bruntland Road entrance to Portlethen Moss

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



Tuesday 19th April

6.30 – 8.30pm

MAIDEN CASTLE AND PITTODRIE QUARRY WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a gentle family walk. We'll 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 approx. 2 miles in length. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Rowantree car park

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 23rd April

11.00am – 3.00pm

DISCOVER BENNACHIE

If you've never visited Bennachie before or haven't been for a while why not come along to our Open Day. Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service, the Bailies of Bennachie, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Bennachie Centre Trust and Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels staff and volunteers will all be there to give advice and information. Enjoy a variety of fun activities for all the family – see posters for details and times. Also a chance to see and comment on the Forestry Commission's proposals for the new Bennachie Land Management Plan.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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



Saturday 23rd April

1.30 – 5.00pm

SECRETS OF STRATHDON



Discover Strathdon's rich history and natural beauty on a walk linking waymarked trails around the village, including the formerly fortified Doune of Invernochty and impressive Poldullie Bridge. Suitable for

adults and accompanied children aged 8+ able to walk about 5.5 miles mainly on surfaced paths or minor roads + some rough track sections with gradual ascent/descent. Bring suitable outdoor clothing including waterproofs, stout footwear + snack/drink. Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park/picnic site on the A944 between the war memorial & Doune, Bellabeg, Strathdon

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 30th April

7.00 – 8.30pm

CELTIC STORYTELLING EVENING



Discover the myths and legends of Celtic Britain. Enjoy an evening stroll on this magical night of the year, then settle down around a campfire (or indoors if necessary) and listen to ancient stories of May Day, the Mabinogion and other tales. Suitable for adults and older children (7 yrs+).

Refreshments provided. Booking essential. Cost: £5 per person including refreshments.

Call 01651 851041 or email haddo@visithaddo.com to book.

MEET: at Haddo Country Park's main car park.

Contact for information: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/ 07786 021780



May

PORTLETHEN COMMUNITY WOODLAND MANAGEMENT EVENINGS

Over the summer months Portlethen Moss Conservation Group organise woodland management sessions at the community woodland. Usually on a Wednesday evening once a month from May to September. Come along and join in with a little light exercise, socialise and get involved in caring for your local wildlife site.

MEET: at Portlethen Community Woodland

For dates and times and some fabulous photos please visit the group's Facebook site www.facebook.com/portlethenmoss

Saturday 14th May

10.00am – 12noon

MARVELLOUS MOTHS

Discover the amazing diversity of moths and their roles in nature. We will unveil last night's live moth trap catch

to see some spring-flying species found locally. Find out how to attract moths



and other pollinators in your own garden too. Under 16's must be accompanied. Booking essential. Event organised in partnership with Butterfly Conservation and Cairngorms National Park Authority for the Cairngorms Nature Festival: <http:// Cairngorms.co.uk/>

MEET: venue TBC (Ballater area)

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976,
marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 14th May

11.30am – 1.00pm

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, booking essential.

MEET: at New Aberdour Bay

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

Saturday 14th May

2.00 – 4.00pm

WINGED AND WATERY WONDERS

Encounter forest minibeasts on a short walk (up to 1.25 miles/2km) and go pond dipping to find what lurks in the lochan! Weather-permitting, we may see the beautiful Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly, a speciality of the Cairngorms area. Under 16's must be accompanied. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather, stout footwear and, if you have them, binoculars. Booking essential. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, Butterfly Conservation and Cairngorms National Park Authority for the Cairngorms Nature Festival: <http://cairngorms.co.uk/>

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

CONTACT: Forestry Commission Scotland on 01466 794161, moray&aberdeenshire@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Sunday 15th May

10.00am – 3.00pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: FORVIE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



The Forvie Sands National Nature Reserve boasts towering sand dunes, coastal heath, sea cliffs, several lochs and a huge range of wildlife. This walk will take you to prehistoric hut circles and cremation sites, down the Ythan Estuary to look at Eider ducks and other birds, on to Forvie Kirk, then back across the moorland to the starting point. A truly spectacular and fascinating walk. Booking essential.

MEET: at Waterside car park, just by the north side of Newburgh Bridge

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



Tuesday 17th 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 is approx. 3 miles long. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Donview Centre, Lords Throat, Monymusk

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 22nd May

from 11.00am

BRIDGE OF ALVAH WALK



Celebrate Scotland's Nature Festival with a 5 mile walk through Wrack Woodlands and down by the Deveron, as we discover more about the natural and social history of the area. Please bring a packed lunch for our stop by the magnificent Bridge of Alvah. Suitable clothing and footwear required. This walk is only suitable for adults and booking is essential.

MEET: at Duff House car park, Banff

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



Saturday 28th May

12noon – 3.00pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: SEABIRD WATCH AT BULLERS OF BUCHAN

Much of the Aberdeenshire coast is designated as a Natura 2000 site because of its international importance for breeding seabirds. At these two events the Ranger Service will offer you the chance to get close-up views of one of the best seabird colonies on our coastline.

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. 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 buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



June

Wednesday 1st June

10.00am – 3.00pm

THE YEAR OF INNOVATION AND ARCHITECTURE: WALKING THROUGH TIME



This walk will take us up to the Iron Age hill-fort on Barra Hill, from there we can look down on the site of the Battle of Inverurie where Robert the Bruce bested the Comyn of

Buchan. Then on to Bourtie Kirk (taking in a view to Bourtie Recumbent Stone Circle) to hear its stories and finally to Sheldon Stone Circle before heading back to Oldmeldrum. Booking essential.

MEET: Millburn Road, Oldmeldrum

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

Saturday 4th June

2.00 – 4.00pm

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.

MEET: at Fraserburgh Community Centre car park

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



Sunday 5th June

11.00am – 1.30pm

THE WILD COAST

Discover the rocks, plants and wildlife of Kincardine's wild coast. Take in the views of the Highland Boundary Fault and Stonehaven bay on this bracing short excursion to celebrate World Ocean Day. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park for Skatie Shore off the A90 slip road to Stonehaven.

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



Saturday 11th June

10.00am – 12noon

MICRO MONSTERS

Meet some wee woodland beasties, including live moths caught last night for the national Moth Night survey and discover who lives in the pond at Burnett Park! Under 16's must be accompanied. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and stout footwear.



Booking essential. Event organised in partnership with Butterfly Conservation and in support of NE Scotland Biodiversity Partnership 'Pooling our Ponds' project as part of the Banchory River Festival: <http://www.banchoryriverfestival.co.uk/>

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

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976,
marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 12th June

10.00am – 2.00pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: CRUDEN BAY TO LONGHAVEN



Enjoy a spectacular 6 mile coastal walk along a small section of the North Sea Trail past New Slains Castle and the Bullers of Buchan. At this time of year the cliffs are home to hundreds of seabirds who have come ashore to breed and raise their young. We will walk north along the coast from Cruden Bay to the Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve at Longhaven where we will be collected by mini-bus and returned to Cruden Bay. Bring waterproofs, stout footwear and a packed lunch. Booking essential. No Dogs. This walk is only suitable for adults and older children.

MEET: Car park at the end of Main Street, Cruden Bay (OS Landranger 30, NK 093362)

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





Saturday 18th June

10.00am – 12.30pm

POLLINATORS AND POND CREATURES

Discover some smaller residents of Belwade Farm as we first open light traps set overnight to catch moths before releasing them - find out how you can help these fascinating insects and others that pollinate plants. We then plan to investigate what amazing animals may be lurking in the nearby pond! Under 16's must be accompanied. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and wellies for pond dipping. Booking essential. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with World Horse Welfare and Butterfly Conservation in support of National Insect Week and NE Scotland Biodiversity Partnership 'Pooling our Ponds' project.

MEET: at World Horse Welfare Belwade Farm Visitor Centre

CONTACT: Belwade Farm Visitor Centre

Promotions Officer on 013398 85398, lisagardiner@worldhorsewelfare.org



Saturday 18th June

12noon – 3.00pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: SEABIRD WATCH AT BULLERS OF BUCHAN

Much of the Aberdeenshire coast is designated as a Natura 2000 site because of its international importance for breeding seabirds. At these two events the Ranger Service will offer you the chance to get close-up views of one of the best seabird colonies on our coastline. 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. 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: buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Tuesday 21st 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 approx. 5 miles long. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Rowantree car park

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 25th June

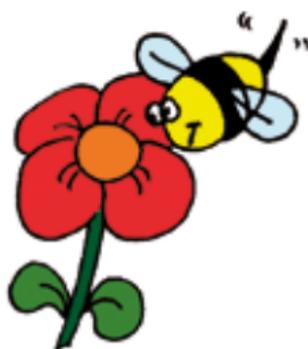
11.00am – 1.00pm

PORTLETHEN'S POLLINATORS

Starting at Portlethen Community Wood and making our way to the coast, take a gentle stroll for National Insect Week identifying wildflowers and the pollinators that visit them. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Portlethen Parish Church car park

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



Saturday 25th June

1.00 – 4.00pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: WOODEN SHIPS AND IRON MEN

Join us for a whale of a walk, to find out about the North East's original oil boom and explore the courage and the horror of Peterhead's whaling past. We will also explore the Ugie estuary at Craigewan, and find out about the area's rich coastal habitat. This is a joint event between the Town Trail's team of Crackpot Historians and Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service.

Meet outside Arbutnot House on Broad Street. Well behaved dogs welcome. For more information, call Heather Barclay on 07584 267789, or see www.peterheadtowntrail.co.uk

Saturday 25th June

2.00 – 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



July

Saturday 2nd July

3.00 – 4.30pm

MORAY FIRTH WILDLIFE WONDERS



Come and join the Rangers celebrating life in the Moray Firth as we investigate the rock pools below Macduff Marine Aquarium. There will be a whole host of activities going on in and around the aquarium over the weekend too. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

MEET: at Macduff Marine Aquarium

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

Saturday 2nd July

NATIONAL MEADOWS DAY



The Ranger service will be helping our colleagues at the RSPB to run this event as part of a nationwide National Meadows Day. The event is in the planning stage, but there will be various stalls and wildlife activities going on throughout the day and the Ranger will be running various craft activities.

For up to date details and more information please see <http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/> and <http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/seenature/reserves/guide/l/lochofstrathbeg/events.aspx>

MEET: at Loch of Strathbeg, Fraserburgh



Thursday 7th July

10.00 – 11.00am

ROCKING ROCKPOOLS



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

MEET: at Cowie, behind the outdoor pool overlooking the beach, Stonehaven

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

Saturday 9th July

10.00 – 11.30am

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. Booking essential.

MEET: details on booking

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 9th July

11 – 12noon

WONDERFUL WATER WORLD

Join the ranger for a burn dip and have a close encounter with some underwater bugs and beasties. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential. This is a joint event with Auchenblae Parks Committee.

MEET: at The Den Auchenblae, access via Kintore Street

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

Tuesday 12th July

2.00 - 3.00pm

EXPLORING THE WILD COAST

Take a peek in the rockpools and get up close with the wild coast at Muchalls. Discover the plants and animals that survive clinging to the rocks. Please be aware that the cliff path is steep and uneven. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park at the bottom of Marine terrace, Muchalls

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Wednesday 13th, 27th July and 3rd August
10.30am – 12noon or 1.30 – 3.00pm

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAYS AT BENNACHIE

Why not come along to the Bennachie Visitor 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. All children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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

Thursday 14th July

2.00 – 3.30pm

WILD WONDERS

Take a walk on the wild side and take a closer look at woodland and coastal wildlife. Wonder through the trees discover the wildflowers of the woodland floor and coastal grasslands and the creatures that make them their home.

This is a short walk through woodland and along the coastal path at Benholm and Johnshaven. (please note we will be crossing the main road) Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Mill of Benholm car park

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



Sunday 17th July

11.00am – 1.00pm

COULD YOU LIVE OFF PORTLETHEN MOSS?

Come and join us on a walk around Portlethen Moss, to see if we can find the materials needed to build a house, make clothing, be warm, have light; and treat injuries and illness; or deal with airplane fuel spills on your private, personal runway?

Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bruntland Road entrance to Portlethen Moss

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



Tuesday 19th July

6.30 – 9.30pm

TURF TABLE & LITTLE OXEN CRAIG QUARRY WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a family walk to the Turf Table then onto Little Oxen Craig Quarry. Part of this walk is over rough ground and there is gradual climbing, approx. 3 miles in length. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Back o'Bennachie car park, Oyne

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Wednesday 20th July

2.00 – 4.00pm

MINIBEASTING IN THE MEADOWS AND DIPPING IN THE DEVERON

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

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

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd, Monday 25th and
Tuesday 26th July

10.00am – 3.00pm

JOHN MUIR AWARD

A chance for young people (7 to 12 years old) to enjoy the challenge and adventure of being 'out in the wilds'. Participants will have to commit to all four days and will learn to: be capable and confident in the outdoors; develop environmental awareness through exploration and knowledge and skills through practical conservation tasks; know their rights and responsibilities under The Scottish Outdoor Access Code. All who complete the four days will receive a recognised certificate that will enhance any C.V.! This will be for a maximum number of six people. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Pheasantry, Haddo Country Park, Ellon

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



Friday 22nd July

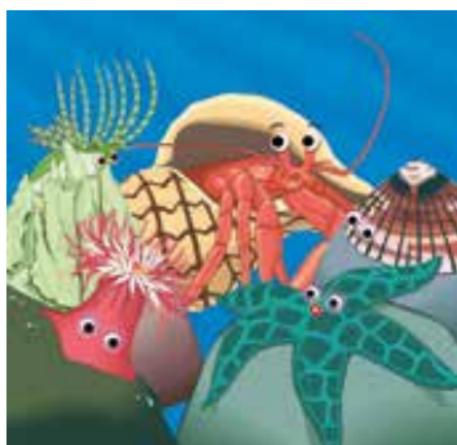
10.00 – 11.00am

ROCKING ROCKPOOLS

Get up close with the fascinating creatures in the rockpools at Stonehaven. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Cowie, overlooking the beach behind the outdoor pool, Stonehaven

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



Tuesday 26th July

10.00am – 12.30pm

MOTHS IN THE MORNING

Discover the marvellous moths caught in live traps set overnight on the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve, followed by a search for day-flying moths and butterflies as time and weather allow. Find out how you can take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count. Under 18's must be accompanied. Booking essential. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and Butterfly Conservation.

MEET: at the Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667



August

Wednesday 3rd August 11.00am – 2.00pm

GO WILD IN THE WOODS AT HADDO

Join us for some seasonal outdoor fun - learn basic skills and use them to make crafts and creations from natural materials. Some activities may involve use of hand tools and may not be suitable for very young children. Drop by to learn a few skills to help stay dry and comfortable when far from the nearest visitor centre! Older children can learn how to tie the knots to enable them to put up a lightweight tarp without damaging the trees and have a go at whittling; have a peek in the moth trap. Drop-in event, booking not required. Cost: £2 per child.

MEET: follow the signs from the main car park, Haddo Country Park, Ellon

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



Thursday 4th August

10.30am – 12noon

DIPPING FOR DRAGONS, DAMSELS AND MORE POND DWELLERS

What is on the prowl for which prey 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? Under 16's must be accompanied. Booking essential. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather and sensible footwear. Event organised in support of NE Scotland Biodiversity Partnership 'Pooling our Ponds' project.

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

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 6th August

8.00pm – late

NIGHT HUNTERS AND THEIR PREY

Get up close and personal with bats and moths. Come and dispel all your fears of these intriguing animals. Under 16's must be accompanied. Bring warm clothing, stout footwear, sunglasses/wide-brimmed hat (to shield eyes from bright moth trap light), midge repellent and torch. Booking essential. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Balmoral Estate Ranger Service as part of Ballater Victoria Week: <http://www.ballatervictoriaweek.co.uk/>

MEET: at the car park by Visitor Information Centre, Crathie

CONTACT: the Balmoral Estate Rangers on 013397 55059



**Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th August
from 10.00am**

WILD ABOUT ADEN

Wild about Aden is a community event at Aden Country Park, there will be lots of different activities including Woodland Zumba and Face-painting. The Rangers will be organising craft activities in the Ranger's cabin. Further details can be found on the Aden Country Park Website: <http://www.adencountrypark.org.uk/eventslisting/150-wild-about-aden>

Some activities may need to be booked at 10 am at the park, on the morning of the event.

Tuesday 9th August

2.00 - 4.00pm

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. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather & sensible footwear. Booking essential. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage as part of Ballater Victoria Week: <http://www.ballatervictoriaweek.co.uk/>

MEET: at the Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667



Wednesday 10th August 11.00am – 12 noon
MINIBEASTS AND BUG HOUSES

Discover the little creatures that our wildflowers rely on and create some natural homes to make their stay more comfortable. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bruntland Road entrance to Portlethen Moss

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Thursday 11th August 10.00am – 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



Thursday 11th August

2.00 – 3.00pm

ROCKING ROCKPOOLS

Discover the small creatures hiding amongst the seaweed and under the pebbles in the rockpools. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Cowie, overlooking the beach behind the outdoor pool, Stonehaven

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



Friday 12th August

1.30 – 3.00pm

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. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Don Bridge between Inverurie and Port Elphinstone

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



Tuesday 16th August

6.30 – 8.00pm

CIRCULAR WALK FROM THE BENNACHIE VISITOR CENTRE

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a low level circular family walk as we look at local historic architecture along the way; including the Visitor Centre itself. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and drink. Dogs welcome but must be kept under close control at all times. Booking essential. This walk is easy and about 3 miles in length.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 20th August

from 8.00pm

SIGHTS OF THE NIGHT

Come out after dark and discover some of the fascinating sights and sounds of the night around the Loch and woods in Portsoy. Please wrap up warm, bring a torch and wear sturdy footwear. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Portsoy Scout Hut

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



Sunday 28th August

10.00am – 2.30pm

ENERGETICA SUMMER FESTIVAL: GET ON YOUR BIKES AND RIDE!

A bike ride through little used country lanes, beautiful views and up moderately bracing hills (but every hill has its down-side!)

The route goes north of Ellon on the Formartine and Buchan Way for three miles then off to see the Candle Stone (NJ922348), then to Greens of Savoch (NJ916392), Mains of Inkhorn (NJ921396) and back onto the F&B Way at Burngrains (NJ934399) to head south back to Ellon.

Approx. 15 miles, so a basic level of fitness required but it's not a race! Bring a packed lunch. Free event but adults only and booking is essential.

MEET: at the Golf Road car park, Ellon.

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



September

BENNACHIE ROCK WALK

Bennachie is a familiar landmark in the North East of Scotland and is easily recognised by its distinct outline. But have you ever wondered why Bennachie forms its characteristic shape, which types of rock it is made from or how old it is?

Well, why not come along and join our guided Rock Walk to discover the answers to these questions and much more about the geology of Bennachie. The Rock Walk is led by a geologist which provides a fantastic opportunity to learn about the processes which shape our natural landscape.

For further details and booking arrangements, please contact the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing for this outdoor event.

To discover more why not pop into the Visitor Centre anytime during September and visit our geology exhibition.



Sunday 4th September from 11.00am
CONES, TREES AND SQUIRRELS



Join the Ranger on a gentle ramble to identify trees and keep an eye out for some of the special wildlife of a Scottish woodland. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

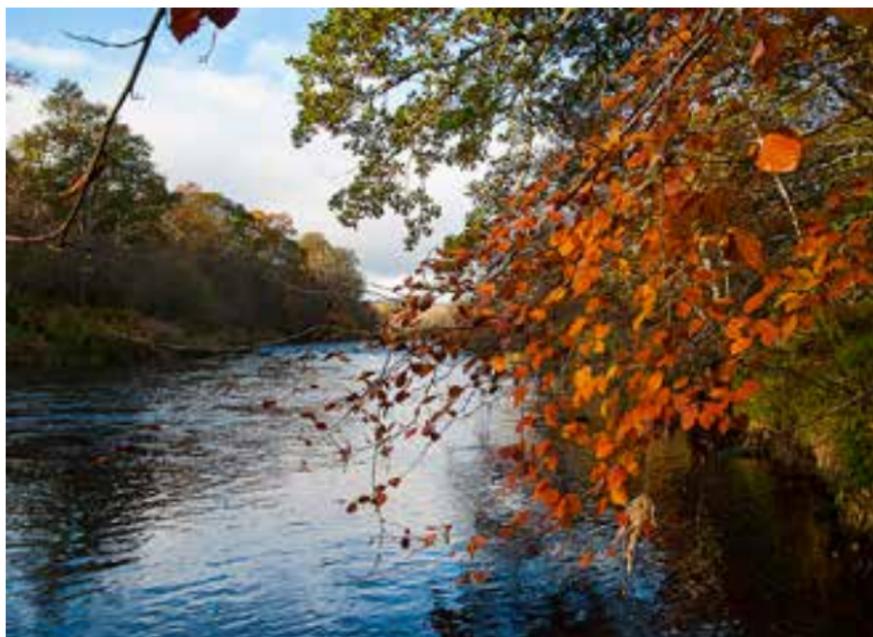
MEET: at the car park in the Square, Fettercairn

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 17th September 11.00am – 3.30pm
ALONG THE DON AT KILDRUMMY



Explore the natural and cultural heritage of this part of Donside, including historic Kildrummy Kirkyard and enjoy scenic views over the river on this guided walk.

Suitable for adults & accompanied children aged 8+ able to walk about 6.5 miles mainly on tracks & quiet roads with gradual ascent/descent. Bring suitable outdoor clothing including waterproofs, stout footwear + food/drink.

Booking essential. Event organised for the Scottish Archaeology and Heritage Festival in support of Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture & Design.

MEET: at the lay-by with picnic tables on A97 at Kildrummy (OS grid ref: NJ470178)

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 24th September from 11.00am

BEACH WATCH

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.

MEET: at the Spotty Bag Shop car park, Banff

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



Don't forget you can receive our up to date monthly events listings by joining our mailing list. Events and activities are emailed to you – we won't pass your details on to anyone else and you can remove your details at any time. For further information or to add your email address please contact Jan.Lythgoe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk





*Serving Aberdeenshire from Mountain to Sea,
Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service,
Connecting People with Place*

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/leisure-sport-and-culture/ranger-service/

www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk

Facebook

www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireCouncilRangerService

www.facebook.com/bennachiecentre.trust

The Bennachie Visitor Centre is managed in partnership with the Bennachie Centre Trust.

Contact the Centre on 01467 681470 or

bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk