



From mountain to sea



Ranger Service Events Programme

April - September 2018



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

2018 is the Year of Young People and we've lots of events taking place this summer to celebrate. Take a family cycle ride, discover the natural world 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 event organiser.

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

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult unless stated otherwise.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireCouncilRangerService>

www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre

Bennachie Visitor Centre website

www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk

The Bennachie Wildlife Group actively encourages wildlife recording on and around Bennachie and will run a wildlife event each month of the year, for more information please contact

wildlife.bennachie@btinternet.com

Bailies of Bennachie run voluntary work parties on the hill on the first Saturday of every month starting on 3 March - 1 December 2018; for more details please look at the Bailies of Bennachie Facebook page or email bailiesofbennachie@mail.com

From mid-April onwards the first Bennachie app will be available to download and use, enabling you to explore the Colony as it was in its prime. This new free app called "Bennachie Colony App" will allow the users to see into the past and find out more about the people who lived on the slopes of Bennachie in the 1860s by following the Colony trail which is close to the Bennachie Visitor Centre. For more information look on the Bailies of Bennachie Facebook page in April! This app was supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery fund and created by Smart History and the Bailies of Bennachie.



The Great British Bike Off!

Got a bike gathering dust in the shed? Want to give cycling a go, but you haven't been out for years? Looking to build confidence so you can go out cycling more often? Then The Great British Bike Off is for you!

We're going to cycle the whole of the Formartine & Buchan Way over the summer months in small manageable sections, with opportunities to stop and discover more about the wildlife within the area, and enjoy refreshments en route to get you back in the saddle, and exploring all the diverse countryside that Aberdeenshire has to offer!

Suitable for mountain or hybrid bikes.

Look for the logos throughout the leaflet to find out where and when the events are taking place.

Sign up for as many or as few of the events as you wish.

All routes are return journeys. If you don't want to make the return journey, please arrange to be picked up at the halfway point.

The events are free, but booking is essential and cycle helmets are compulsory.



APRIL

Tuesday 3rd April

**10.00am – 12noon or
1.00 – 3.00pm**

BIRD BOX BASH

Bash together your own bird box for biodiversity with the rangers at Burn o' Vat! Take it home and see if you can encourage birds to nest in your own garden. Under 18's must be accompanied. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage. Booking not essential; just drop in.

MEET: at the Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet AB34 5NB

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

Tuesday 3rd April

1.00 - 3.00pm

BIRD BOX MAKING

Come along and make your own bird box and help to give birds a home to nest in this spring. Bird box kits costs £5.

Hammers and nails will be provided on the day. Drop in anytime during session, but booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

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



Tuesday 3rd April

1.00 – 3.00pm

GIVE NATURE A HOME

Come along to the Ranger's cabin at Aden and help make homes or feeders for birds and other wildlife. All kits, tools and equipment will be supplied. There is a charge of £5 per kit.

Drop in anytime during session, but booking essential. Event suitable for families, however please note we will be using sharp tools.

MEET: at Aden Country Park in the Ranger's Cabin in the first car park, Aden Country Park, Mintlaw.

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thursday 10th 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 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 + 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 AB33 8NA

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787 583976,
marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 14th April

1.30 – 3.30pm

WETLAND BEASTIE HUNT

After the watery wonders of last year's damselfly and dragonfly event, join in identifying and recording the aquatic minibeasts that make Portlethen Moss their home. Please wear wellies for this wetland exploration. Booking essential.



MEET: at the Bruntland Road entrance to Portlethen Moss, Portlethen

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 07768 704671,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 15th April

2.00 - 4.00pm

DOGS ON THE NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE

Walking with a dog is the most common activity in Forestry Commission Scotland woodlands. Join the Forestry Commission Ranger and the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger for a guided walk looking at how the forest on Bennachie is managed for timber production, wildlife and recreational use. Dogs welcome, but please bring a lead.

Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

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



Tuesday 17th April

6.30 - 8.30pm

WATERFALL WALK



Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a gentle 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 as long as they are under close control. The walk is low level and approximately 2 miles in length. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

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

Saturday 21st April

11.00am – 2.00pm

The Formartine
& Buchan Way

The Great British Bike Off! – ADEN TO LONGSIDE AND RETURN

Route card: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7562/mintlawtolongside.pdf>

MEET: at Aden Country Park, Mintlaw

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 28th April

11.00am – 2.00pm

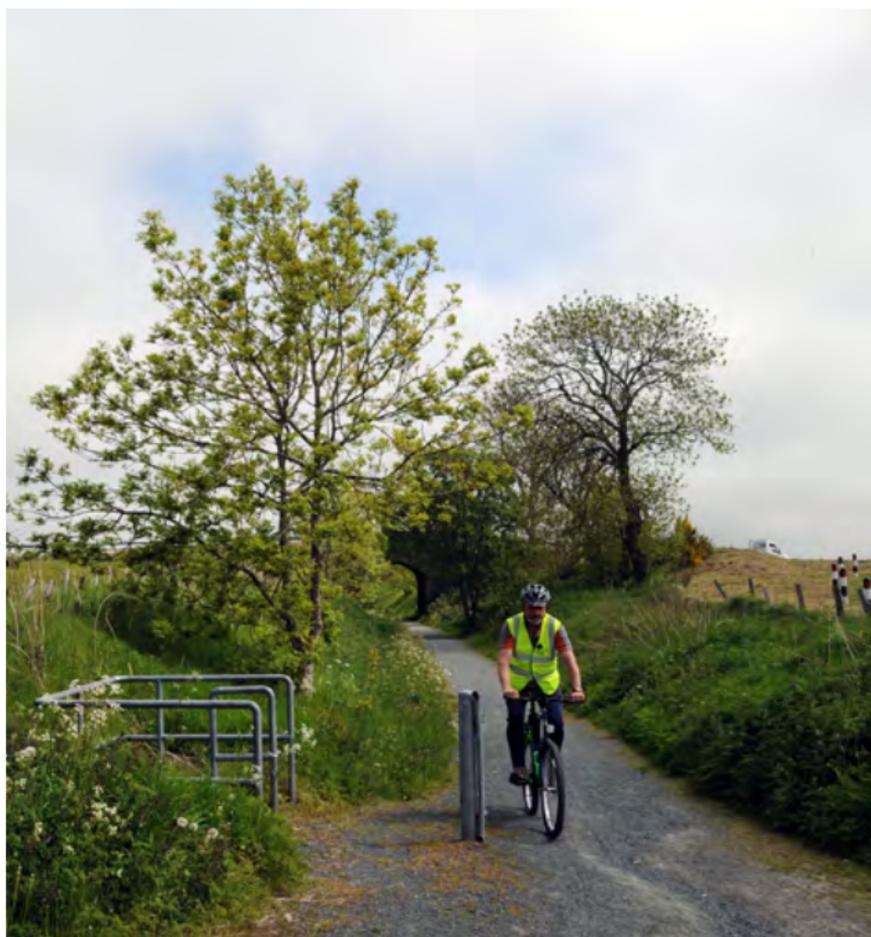
The Formartine
& Buchan Way

The Great British Bike Off! – FRASERBURGH TO LONMAY AND RETURN

Route card: [http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
media/7570/strichentofraserburgh.pdf](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7570/strichentofraserburgh.pdf)

MEET: at Fraserburgh Esplanade

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788
688855, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



MAY



Saturday 12th May

11.00am – 2.00pm



The Great British Bike Off! – NEWMACHAR TO DYCE AND RETURN

Route card: [http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
media/7525/dycetonewmachar.pdf](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7525/dycetonewmachar.pdf)

MEET: at the Old Station, Station Road, Newmachar

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th May

CAIRNGORMS NATURE BIG WEEKEND

This festival celebrates the Cairngorms National Park's outstanding wildlife and scenery. Among several events across the Park, the Marr Ranger will join other ranger services, wildlife experts, artists and the local community to offer a day of activities for families and nature lovers on Saturday 12th May in and around Braemar. Some of these will be bookable, but there will also be drop-in activities.

CONTACT: the Cairngorms National Park Authority on 01479 873535 or see
<http:// Cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/events/big-weekend/>



Tuesday 15th May

6.30 - 9.30pm

TURF TABLE/LITTLE OXEN CRAIG

Bennachie has many interesting and historical features, some less well known than others. Please join the Garioch Ranger where we will visit the Turf Table which is less well known but had significant importance



in the 1800's, we will then visit Little Oxen Craig Lintel Quarry. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring along a snack and a drink. Dogs welcome as long as they are under close control. Parts of this walk are strenuous and sections of the walk will not be on a path and will be through deep heather. This walk is approximately 3 miles in length. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Back O Bennachie Car Park, Oyne. AB52 6RH (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

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

Saturday 19th – Friday 25th May

BALLATER WALKING FESTIVAL

As part of this annual festival, on Tuesday 22nd May, the Marr Ranger will be leading a walk for adults around Loch Kinord on the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve, featuring the area's rich natural and cultural heritage: <http://www.walkballater.com/>

Booking essential; charges apply.

CONTACT: Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd. on 013397 55467, info@royal-deeside.org.uk



Saturday 19th May 11.00am – approx. 4.00pm

WELL-BEING WEEK - WALKING MEDITATION

Free but booking is essential. Walking, as we all know, is good exercise that contributes to good health. What is not generally known is that walking can be made into a form of meditation. Although similar in some regards to 'mindfulness', this 'Walk of Attention' comes from the traditions of the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica. Its aim is to quieten, still and eventually silence 'the internal dialogue', the constant chatter in our heads. This walk will introduce you to the techniques, enabling you to then continue the practice. We will pause along the way to try a sitting meditation (a change is as good as a rest!) – and for lunch too, so make sure you bring some! Booking essential.

MEET: at the Stevenson Forvie Centre Car Park, Collieston.

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

Sunday 20th May

11.00am – 1.00pm

WALKING MEDITATION



This shorter introduction is for those who feel they cannot walk the distance of the previous day's event at Forvie. At the end,

free refreshments will be available at The Sand Bothy! Booking essential.

MEET: at the Sand Bothy, Balmedie Country Park

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



Sunday 20th May

11.00am – 12.30pm

MINIBEAST SCAVENGER HUNT (under 12s)

Slaters, slugs, beetles and bugs. Come along and discover the smaller residents of the community woodland at Chapelton.

Within the Chapelton community wood, children will have the opportunity to scavenge for minibeasts in the long grass, gorse bushes and dry stane dyke.

MEET: at the new woodland planting Nether Cairnhill, down on your left as you enter Chapelton

1.30 – 3.30pm

A WILDLIFE WANDER (adults)

Relax, listen to the birds and take a closer look at nature on this gentle stroll, wildlife spotting along part of the Chapelton Trail. Please bring binoculars if you have them, the ranger will have a few to borrow for the walk.

This walk will be on the west side of the Chapelton Trail heading down the perimeter of the grounds at Elsick House to the drive, before turning and heading back up. Participants will hopefully see skylarks and other birds in the fields as well as bumblebees and other pollinators on the rhododendrons, some of which may be in flower, as well as a variety of different tree species.

MEET: where the Chapelton Trail begins on the Causey Mounth at the entrance to Chapelton.

Both of these free events will be led by the Countryside Ranger for Kincardine & Mearns as part of the Wellbeing Week Festival.

CONTACT: Please email

Carol Leslie: CCIC_Admin@chapeltonlife.co.uk

to register your place.



Sunday 20th May

11.00am – 3.00pm

MORMOND HILL WALK

Join us as we meander up Mormond Hill on this not-too-strenuous climb of approximately 230 metres. Take in the pleasant views of the Buchan countryside, and discover more about the natural and cultural history of the area.

Please wear/bring suitable clothing and footwear and a packed lunch for our stop by the White Horse. Booking essential.

MEET: details on booking

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thursday 24th May

6.00 – 9.00pm

The Formartine
& Buchan Way

The Great British Bike Off! – NEWMACHAR TO UDNY STATION AND RETURN

Route card: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7573/newmachartoudnystation.pdf>

MEET: at the Old Station, Station Road, Newmachar

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 26th May and Sunday 24th June
1.00 - 3.00pm

SEABIRD WATCH: 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 on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



JUNE

Saturday 2nd June

2.00 – 4.00pm

POLLINATOR PLANTING PARTY

A chance to discover how important pollinators are as we search for these special minibeasts in the James Ramsay Park wildlife garden. We'll also be planting more pollinator-friendly wildflowers to give these 'busy bees' a helping hand. Please wear suitable clothing. Gloves and tools will be provided. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Fraserburgh Community Centre car park

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855,
banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 3rd June

10.00am – 2.30pm

WALK AROUND GIGHT WOODS

Free but booking is essential. Take a walk to see the beautiful Vale of the Ythan, through conifer then broadleaved woodland, passing an ivy-wreathed ruined castle, down to the Ythan to hear of the Devil of Hagberry Pot, then along and across the river to rise through woodland that is a rare example of traditional hazel coppice with oak standards. Booking essential.

MEET: at Gight Woods Forestry Commission car park, near Methlick

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



Saturday 16th June

10.00am – 12.00noon

WINGED AND WATERY WONDERS

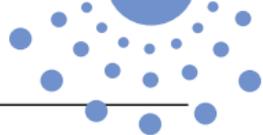


Meet some wee woodland beasts, including live moths caught the night before and discover who is lurking in the pond at Burnett Park! Under 16's must be accompanied. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather + stout footwear. Event organised in partnership with Butterfly Conservation for Moth Night 2018. Booking essential.

MEET: at the tennis court car park, Burnett Park, Banchory AB31 4AE

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787 583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk





Saturday 16th June

11.00am – 12.30pm

BURN DIPPING DOWN @ THE DEN

Join the Ranger in a burn dip and get up close to the creatures of the watery world. We've previously discovered eels and small freshwater fish as well as mayfly nymphs; what will we find this year? This event is part of 'Down @ the Den', run by Auchenblae Parks so why not spend the day there. Please wear wellies for burn dipping. Booking essential.

Event in partnership with Auchenblae Parks.

MEET: at the car park in The Den, access via Kintore Street, Auchenblae

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 07768 704671,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 16th June

11.00am – 2.00pm

The Formartine
& Buchan Way

The Great British Bike Off! – STRICHEN TO LONMAY AND RETURN

Route card: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7570/strichentofraserburgh.pdf>

MEET: at the Strichen Community Park

CONTACT: the Banff & Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855,
banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Tuesday 19th June

6.30 – 9.30pm

MILLSTONE CIRCULAR WALK

Please come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a circular walk up Millstone Hill, there are wonderful views of 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 as long as they are under close control. 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. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Donview Car Park, Lords Throat, Monymusk AB51 7JE (nearest postcode)

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

Thursday 21st June

6.00 – 9.00pm



The Great British Bike Off! – MAUD TO ADEN AND RETURN

Route card: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7571/maudtoolddeer.pdf>

MEET: at Maud Station car park

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Sunday 24th June

SEABIRD WATCH: BULLERS OF BUCHAN

See 26th May for details.



Tuesday 26th June

6.00 – 9.00pm



**The Great British Bike Off! –
ELLON TO AUCHNAGATT AND RETURN**

Route card: [http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
media/7517/ellontoauchnagatt.pdf](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7517/ellontoauchnagatt.pdf)

MEET: at the Golf Road car park, Ellon.

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



JULY

Wednesday 4th July

3.30 – 5.00pm

Wednesday 18th July

10.00 – 11.30am

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 on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Thursday 5th July

6.00 – 9.00pm

The Great British Bike Off! – MAUD TO AUCHNAGATT AND RETURN



Route card: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7526/auchnagatttomaud.pdf>

MEET: at the Maud Station car park

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 8th July

10.00am – 4.30pm

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRAM STOKER

Free event but booking is essential. Bram Stoker is best known for that book about a vampire, but this walk traces the long walks he took around Cruden Bay, Whinnyfold and Slains Castle whilst up here on his holidays and which appear in his two novels 'The Mystery of the Sea' and 'The Watter's Mou'. The walk is long but mainly on the level. Time allowing, we will visit the Kilmarnock Arms Hotel in Port Erroll, where we can see his signature in the register and then go to Jill McWilliam's house to see her short film on Stoker. Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park in Port Erroll; past the Post Office, at where the road bends.

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



Wednesday 11th July and Wednesday 18th July
10.30am - 12.00 noon or 1.30 - 3.00pm

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAYS

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 activity. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre (Forestry Commission car park charges apply)

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

Friday 13th July and Friday 20th July
10.30am – 12.30pm or 2.00pm – 4.00pm

WOODLAND DETECTIVES BY BIKE

Come along with your bike and join the Garioch Ranger and the Sustrans i Bike Officer to be woodland detectives. We will do geocaching, look for creatures in the stream using pond nets and learn about the local environment.

All equipment for the stream dipping will be supplied by the Ranger Service. All children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Wearing of a cycle helmet is compulsory. Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park at the entrance to Fetternear Estate just over the Don Bridge, Kemnay AB51 5LY (nearest postcode)

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



Saturday 14th July

11.00am – 2.00pm

The Great British Bike Off! – MAUD TO STRICHEN AND RETURN

The Formartine
& Buchan Way

Route card: [http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
media/7568/maudtostrichen.pdf](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7568/maudtostrichen.pdf)

MEET: at Maud Station car park

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 14th July

1.30 – 3.30pm

WILD PLANT HUNT

Waterlogged and acidic peat makes life really tough on a raised bog. Track down the wonderful wild bog plants living on Portlethen Moss. We will uncover a few of their survival secrets, encounter a carnivorous plant and discover some natural dyes and pigments. Please wear wellies for this wetland exploration. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bruntland Road entrance to Portlethen Moss, Portlethen

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 07768 704671,
kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Tuesday 17th July

10.00am – 12.30pm

MOTHS IN THE MORNING

Discover the amazing diversity of moths and their roles in nature. We will unveil last night's live moth trap catch, then search for day-flying moths and butterflies if time and weather allow. Find out how to take part in the Big Butterfly Count and attract pollinating insects in your own garden too. Under 18's must be accompanied. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage & Butterfly Conservation. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet AB34 5NB

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

Tuesday 17th July

11.00am – 12.30pm

SEASIDE TIDAL TRACKS



What natural treasures have been left behind by the tide today and what will they tell us about life on the beach and sea of St Cyrus? Take a closer look at the sand and dunes that make up this fabulous beach. Booking essential.

MEET: at the St Cyrus National Nature Reserve Visitor Centre

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 07768 704671,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Tuesday 17th July

6.30 - 9.30pm

MITHER TAP, CRAIGSHANNOCH AND HARTHILL CAVE FROM ROWANTREE



Join the Garioch Ranger on a walk along the Maiden Causeway to Mither Tap, Craigshannoch and Harthill Cave - 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 a steep gradient in places. The walk is approximately 3 miles in length. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the Rowantree Car Park, Bennachie (near Chapel of Garioch & Oyne) AB51 5HZ

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

Thursday 19th July

10.00am – 12.00noon

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!

Please wear suitable clothing. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Portsoy Library

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Friday 20th July

2.00 - 3.30pm

PEBBLES ON THE BEACH AND OTHER TREASURES

Stonehaven beach is a pebble hunter's paradise - explore their many different colours and textures on this beachcomb ramble. Discover the treasures washed up amongst the stones and take a closer look at life on the rocks. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Cowie end of Beach Road, Stonehaven (last steps down to the beach behind the outdoor pool)

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 07768 704671,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th July from 10.00am

WILD ABOUT ADEN

Wild about Aden is a community event at Aden Country Park, Mintlaw; 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 Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wildaboutaden/?fref=ts>

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



Wednesday 25th July

2.00 – 4.00pm

MINIBEASTING IN THE MEADOWS & 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 & sensible footwear (wellies for river dipping). Booking essential.

MEET: at the riverside car park between castle & Nordic Ski Centre, Huntly AB54 4SH

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787 583976,
marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Friday 27th July

8.30 – 10.00pm

BAT WALK AND TALK

Join the Rangers to find out what appears at Aden after dark and discover the fascinating night-time world of bats.

Booking essential, event suitable for families.

MEET: in the courtyard at Aden Country Park, Mintlaw.

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



AUGUST

Saturday 4th August

11.00am – 12.30pm

ANIMAL HOMES DOWN @ THE DEN

Join the Ranger on an animal home hunt and create some wildlife homes from found natural material. Who lives where and how do we know that? This event is part of 'Down @ the Den', run by Auchenblae Parks, so why not spend the day there. Booking essential. Event in partnership with Auchenblae Parks.

MEET: at the car park in The Den, access via Kintore Street, Auchenblae

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns ranger on 07768 704671,

kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 4th August

11.00am – 1.00pm

FLOWERS, FOXES AND PILL BOXES

Free event but booking is essential. An introduction to Balmedie Beach; why does this place have sand dunes when so many parts of our coast don't? Find out about this place, its history, the flowers, the birds and animals that live here, where the forces of land and sea have created a highly unusual environment. At the end, refreshments will be available at The Sand Bothy. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Sand Bothy, Balmedie Country Park.

CONTACT: The Formartine Ranger on 07786 021780,

formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



ROCK POOL ROADSHOW!

An opportunity to celebrate life in the Moray Firth by discovering the fascinating world of rock pools. Find out about the suckers, gluers and swimmers lurking beneath the waves.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MACDUFF

Saturday 4th August **10.00 – 11.30am**

MEET: at Macduff Marine Aquarium

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855,

banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

NEW ABERDOUR

Saturday 18th August **11.30am – 1.00pm**

MEET: at New Aberdour Bay

CONTACT: the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855,

banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Thursday 9th August

2.00 - 4.00pm

EDIBLES AND MEDICINALS

Long before supermarkets and pharmacies, people had to feed and doctor themselves with the plants around them. Find out which plants they used and try some wild foods! Includes 1.5km/1 mile walk on good paths with some inclines. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather & sensible footwear. Under 18's must be accompanied.

Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage for Ballater Victoria Week:

<http://www.ballatervictoriaweek.co.uk/>

Booking essential.

MEET: at the Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet AB34 5NB

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667



Friday 10th 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 & torch. Event organised by Marr Ranger in partnership with Balmoral Estate Ranger Service & Butterfly

Conservation for Ballater Victoria Week:

<http://www.ballatervictoriaweek.co.uk/>

Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park by Visitor Information Centre, Crathie AB35 5UL

CONTACT: the Balmoral Estate Rangers on 013397 55059



Saturday 11th August

1.00 – 4.30pm

THE HOVERFLIES OF PORTLETHEN MOSS

Hoverflies are important pollinators of our wild plants but often overlooked. They have an interesting life cycle and there are more species with different markings than you might think. Find out more about the life of and identification of our hoverflies with local expert Geoff Wilkinson. We will start this event with a short introductory talk at the community centre before heading out onto the moss. Please come prepared for wetland conditions. Spaces are limited and booking is essential. This is a joint event with NESBReC (North East Scotland Biological Records Centre).

MEET: at Portlethen Community Learning Centre, Portlethen Academy, Bruntland Road, Portlethen

CONTACT: Please book with NESBReC - geoffrey.wilkinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or phone 01467 537221.

Tuesday 14th August

10.00 – 11.30am

SEaweeds AND SEashells, CREATURES OF THE ROCKPOOLS

Take part in a gentle hunt in the seaweeds and reveal who is lurking in the shallows. Many small creatures feed or hide in the seaweeds; take the time on this event to explore the many different seaweeds and creatures of a rockpool. This event is more suitable for children able to make their way on rocks. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Cowie end of Beach Road, Stonehaven (last steps down to the beach behind the outdoor pool)

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 07768 704671, kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Tuesday 14th August

6.30 – 8.30pm

PLACE OF ORIGIN – KEMNAY

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a short walk through a Community Woodland to the Place of Origin, Kemnay, a “landscape as art” project opened by HRH Duke of Kent in 2006 to celebrate the quarrying of granite in nearby Kemnay Quarry. From this vantage point there are excellent views of the surrounding countryside.

The walk is on maintained paths and does have a gradual incline. Dogs welcome but must be kept under control at all times. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the car park at the entrance to the Place of Origin, Fyfe Park, Kemnay AB51 5NG

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

Wednesday 15th August

10.30 – 11.30am

POND DIPPING AT INSCH 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: at Inch Meadows just off the Inch High Street AB52 6JE (nearest postcode)

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



Wednesday 15th August

2.00 – 3.30pm

MINIBEAST HUNT AT ARNHALL MOSS

Come and join the Garioch Ranger who will help you look for these exciting minibeasts that are lurking around in the woodland at Arnhall Moss. All equipment will be provided by the Ranger Service. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Tennis Court Car Park, Arnhall Moss, Westhill AB32 6TX

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



Thursday 16th August

10.30am – 12.00noon

HUNTING MICRO MONSTERS

Go on safari for the magical minibeasts that live in the woodland and grassland of Haughton Park. Discover their favourite foods and clever defences against predators - some are great hunters themselves! Under 16's must be accompanied. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather & sensible footwear. Booking essential.

MEET: at the first car park on right-hand side of entrance drive, Haughton Country Park, Alford AB33 8NA

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787 583976, marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Thursday 16th August

1.30 – 3.00pm

DIPPING FOR POND PREDATORS AND PREY

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. Bring outdoor clothing suited to weather & sensible footwear. Booking essential.

MEET: at the first car park on right-hand side of entrance drive opposite pond, Haughton Country Park, Alford AB33 8NA

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787 583976,
marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Friday 17th August

9.30 – 11.30am

or 12.00 noon – 2.00pm or 2.15 - 4.15pm

BACK TO NATURE

Free but booking is essential. A chance to learn or remember simple woodland skills: putting up a tarp; lighting a fire with a sparker and charcloth; using a Storm Kettle (why not bring some hot chocolate powder and a cup?); whittling; sharpening a knife and axe; tying knots and putting a fire out; and doing all this without leaving a trace. Booking essential.

MEET: at The Pheasantry, Haddo Country Park, near Methlick.

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



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 15th September 9.30am – 3.00pm

INVERURIE TO KEMNAY WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a guided walk from Inverurie to Kemnay. This is a lovely walk with superb scenery along the way, approximately 6 miles in length. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear along with waterproofs - several sections on this walk are wet. Please bring along snacks, drinks and a packed lunch. From the car park on Aquithie Road, Kemnay, transport will be provided to take us to Davidson Park car park in Port Elphinstone, Inverurie.

No dogs are allowed on this walk due to being transported in a minibus. This walk is approximately 6 miles in length. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

MEET: at the car park on Aquithie Road, Kemnay AB51 5SS

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



Saturday 15th September

10.00am start

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. Children must be accompanied. 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 07788 688855,

banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Sunday 16th September

11.00am start

BEACH WATCH at St Combs



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 the RSPB and the Buchan Ranger to pick up litter from the beach at St. Combs. A fun and rewarding morning for all the family. Children must be accompanied. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Gloves and rubbish bags will be provided.

MEET: Contact the Buchan Ranger or RSPB for details of where to meet

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782, or RSPB on 01346 532017, or e-mail

buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Saturday 22nd September

11.00am – approx. 3.30pm

BATTLE HILL AND KINNOIR WOOD WALK

Discover the natural and cultural history around some of Huntly's hills, including an update on recent archaeological investigations for the Battle Hill Prehistoric Landscape Project and follow in the footsteps of St. Mungo. Suitable for adults able to walk about 6.5 miles/10.5km mainly on tracks & paths with some rough ground + gradual ascent/descent. Bring suitable outdoor clothing including waterproofs, stout footwear + food/drink. Booking essential. Event organised for Scottish Archaeology Month. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Battlehill car park, Huntly AB54 6HX

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787 583976,
marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 29th September 11.00am – 2.00pm



The Great British Bike Off! - LONGSIDE TO PETERHEAD AND RETURN

Route card: [http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
media/7520/longsidetopeterhead.pdf](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/7520/longsidetopeterhead.pdf)

MEET: at Longside village car park

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger on 07786 021782,
buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



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

What is our role?

Rangers promote the understanding, care and enjoyment of Aberdeenshire's outdoors. We provide information, advice, interpretation, and delivery of activities and events. We contribute to the protection and enhancement of Aberdeenshire's biodiversity and natural environment.

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.

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