**Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service**

**Events and activities in June**

At the **Bennachie Visitor Centre** this month we’ve a gallery exhibition by local artist, Graham Covey with mounted and framed prints and greetings cards available to buy. There’s also a butterfly display with lots of information about how you can help pollinators at home. The Centre is open daily from 10am. For further information Tel: 01467 681470, [www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk](http://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk)

Saturday 3rd June 2.00 – 4.00pm

**FRASERBURGH GARDEN PARTY**

As part of Volunteers’ Week 2017, 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 07788 688855, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Saturday 10th June 10.00am – 12noon

**WINGED & WATERY WONDERS**

Meet some wee woodland beasties, 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 the Banchory River Festival - see: <http://www.visitbanchory.com/> Booking essential.

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

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

Saturday 10th June 11.00 – 3.30pm

**ENERGETICA WALKING 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. This walk is only suitable for adults or older children and booking is essential. Not suitable for dogs.

MEET: at the 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

Sunday 18th June 10.00am – 4.30pm

**ENERGETICA WALKING FESTIVAL & HERITAGE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY YEAR 2017: Following in the Footsteps of Bram Stoker**

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. It will end at the Kilmarnock Arms Hotel in Port Erroll, where we can see his signature in the register and watch local resident Jill McWilliam’s short film on Stoker, whilst also enjoying an afternoon tea! Free event (that does not include afternoon tea) but booking is 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

Tuesday 20th June 6.30 – 9.30pm

**MITHER TAP VIA HEATHER BRIG**

Join the Garioch Ranger on a walk to Mither Tap, there are excellent views and many interesting features to look at along the way, we will return via the Heather Brig path. 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 does include gradual climbing and is approximately 3 miles in length. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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

Tuesday 20th June 8.00 – 9.30pm

**HISTORY, HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY YEAR 2017: A Midsummer Night’s Scream**

Kemble’s Seat is tucked away in Haddo Country Park and regular visitors may well have walked past it dozens of times without noticing it. It was here that the 4th Earl’s friend, James Kemble, an actor by profession, would sit and meditate whilst a guest at Haddo House. Bring something to sit on (the story-teller gets the Seat!) learn about James Kemble and enjoy an hour of tall tales about trees, including one set on Midsummer’s Eve itself - and be safe back home before sundown! Cost: £5 per person. Booking essential

MEET: at the Haddo Visitor Centre

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

Wednesday 21st June 7.00 – 8.00pm

**THE STAR IN OUR BACK GARDEN**

Join the Garioch Ranger and the Aberdeen Astronomical Society for a chance to view the sun (weather permitting) through dedicated solar viewing telescopes and equipment. The event will go ahead even if there is no sun as the event is accompanied by a short talk outlining what we know about our star and one or two things we don't know. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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

Sunday 25th June 11.00am – 1.30pm

**TAKE THE CHAPELTON TRAIL**

Have a midsummer breather and celebrate the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology on this gentle amble exploring Elsick House grounds and the ancient Causey Mounth. Dogs welcome. All children must be accompanied. Booking essential

MEET: at Hume Square, Chapelton

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

Sunday 25th June 12noon – 3.00pm

**ENERGETICA WALKING 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 this event 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