**Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service**

**Events and activities in June**

At the **Bennachie Visitor Centre** this month we’ve a cuckoo display with lots of information, and nest boxes for sale so you can help your feathered friends at home.

COMING SOON - a new free app called the “Bennachie Colony App” will allow you 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. The app is being launched this month by the Bailies of Bennachie – don’t forget to pop in to buy your 3-D glasses.

The Centre is open daily from 10am. For further information Tel: 01467 681470, [www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk](http://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk), [www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre](http://www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre)

**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.
* 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.

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.

MEET: at Gight Woods Forestry Commission car park

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

Saturday 16th June 10.00am – 12noon

**WINGED AND 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 Moth Night 2018. Booking essential.

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

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, 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. 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. Please wear wellies for burn dipping. Booking essential.

Event in partnership with Auchenblae Parks

MEET: at the car park 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 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 and 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:theBuchan Ranger on 07786 021782, buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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.

There is no need to book for these events.

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>

MEET: at the Golf Road car park, Ellon.

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