



Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service Events and Activities in July

The Formartine & Buchan Way

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.

Sunday 1st July 10.00am – 12noon
PORTSOY BOAT FESTIVAL - ROCK POOL RUMMAGE

An opportunity to discover the fascinating world of rock pools. Find out about the suckers, gluers and swimmers lurking beneath the waves at Portsoy.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Children must be accompanied. Booking is essential, so to book your place and for more information, including where to meet, please contact the Banff and Buchan Ranger on 07788 688855, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

ROCKPOOLING AT GADLE BRAES
Wednesday 4th July 3.30 – 5.00pm
Wednesday 18th July 10.00 – 11.30am

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

The Formartine & Buchan Way



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.

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 or Wednesday 18th July 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

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

Friday 13th July

12noon – 4.00pm

MUIR OF DINNET NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE FUN DAY

The Marr Ranger will join the NNR staff and others to offer an afternoon full of fun nature activities for all the family. No need to book, just drop in.

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

CONTACT: Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

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

NATIONAL NAVIGATION AWARDS SCHEME – BRONZE

We are pleased to offer this two session course in association with the National Navigation Award Scheme. NNAS approach is to steadily build the levels of understanding to ensure the training is embedded and candidates can confidently progress through the stages to become excellent navigators. All Hillgoers Mountain Leaders have undergone the Tutor Award Training course. We are also one of the few providers than can train and assess to Gold standard. Aimed at novice level, the Bronze course will train you to plan and confidently follow routes in the countryside using paths and tracks. Successful candidates will receive a nationally recognised navigation award at Bronze level accredited by the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework (SCQF) at Level 4, and 2 SCQF credit points are awarded on completion.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: Hillgoers on 07753 488688, info@hillgoers.com



Saturday 14th July

11.00am – 2.00pm

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

Route card: <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

The Formartine & Buchan Way

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

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 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 AB51 5HZ

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



Thursday 19th July 10.00am – 12.00 noon
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 11.00am – 3.00pm
DRUM CASTLE BIOBLITZ

Calling all nature hunters! Drum Castle is delighted to be hosting this year's Bioblitz event on our Estate! Bioblitz is your chance to help the NTS North East Ranger Service – in partnership with others, including Aberdeenshire Council Rangers, capture as many records on our unique wildlife as possible in a single day. The day will be packed with walks, talks, activities, and hands-on tips for monitoring and tracking nature - from attracting beetles with smelly fish to trapping moths, and much, much more!

MEET: Drum Castle, Drumoak, by Banchory AB31 5EY

CONTACT: National Trust for Scotland on 01330 844810 or see <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/events/bioblitz>

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, 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/pg/Aden-Country-Park-399672043382638/events/?ref=page_internal

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

Wednesday 25th 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 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: at Aden Country Park in the courtyard.

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

Bennachie Visitor Centre Community Room

Are you looking for a venue for a meeting, workshop or function?

The Community Room at the Bennachie Visitor Centre is available for hire during Centre opening hours and catering can be arranged.

For further information Tel: 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or pop in and speak to a member of staff. All proceeds go to the Bennachie Centre Trust, a registered charity.

The Bennachie Visitor Centre is open daily April to October, 10am to 5pm.

Join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre