



Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service Events and Activities in July

Saturday 1st July

MARVELLOUS MEADOWS!

The Ranger Service will be helping our colleagues at the RSPB to run this event as part of a nationwide National Meadows Day. Family activities including a treasure hunt, pond dipping, wildflower planting and much more! At 2pm explore 'Hidden Strathbeg' on a guided walk through the reserve – wellies essential!

For up to date details and more information please see <http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/>

MEET: at Loch of Strathbeg

Saturday 1st July 11.00am – 1.00pm

MINIBEASTING AND BURN DIPPING IN THE DEN AUCHENBLAE

Come prepared to hunt through the wildflowers and dip in the burn to find the little creatures of The Den in Auchenblae. Please bring wellie boots for the burn dipping. All children must be accompanied. Booking essential

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

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

Saturday 1st July 11.00am – 12.30pm

SAND DUNE SAFARI

A morning of fun for all the family as we explore this Local Nature Reserve near Fraserburgh. Take part in a range of activities to discover the colours hidden in the sand dunes, as well as searching for some of the smaller inhabitants on the Reserve. Please wear wellies and suitable clothing. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Waters of Philorth Local Nature Reserve

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

Sunday 2nd July 9.45am – 2.00pm approx.

FORVIE'S CURSE

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 others, on to Forvie Kirk for a performance of 'Forvie's Curse', a play by Freeze Company, a drama company based at the Ellon Resource Centre; the actors are all adults with learning disabilities. Bring a packed lunch. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Waterside Bridge car park on the A975 just north of Newburgh OS Ref: NK 003 270

CONTACT: Tracy McCormack on 01358 720066, tracy.mccormack@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Wednesday 5th July 11.00am – 1.00pm

POWERFUL POLLINATORS AT St CYRUS NNR

Join in on a pollinator minibeast hunt and find out more about our wild pollinators down at St Cyrus Natural Nature Reserve. Can you tell your bumblebee from your hoverfly and what can we do to help these tireless workers? All children must be accompanied. Booking essential. This is a joint event with Scottish Natural Heritage.

MEET: at St Cyrus Natural Nature Reserve visitor centre

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



Saturday 8th July

10.00 – 11.30am

ENERGETICA WALKING 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: buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tuesday 11th July

10.30am – 12noon and 12.30 – 2.00pm

GO WILD IN THE WOODS: Woodland Skills for Young People (children 7+)

Join Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service and Haddo House & Country Park to learn essential woodland and camping skills, or to improve on your existing skills. Each session will have a range of activities (some weather dependent) but could include tarpaulin set-up/take down; knots and ropes; basic knife skills; saws and other hand tools and safe campfire lighting and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. £5 per child per session (no charge for non-participating younger children/adults), advance booking essential. Activities suitable for 7 yrs. plus accompanied by an adult. Younger children may come along but may not be able to take part in any/some activities.

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

Wednesday 12th July

10.30am – 12noon (fully booked) or 1.30 – 3.00pm

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAY

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. Please bring along wellies for the pond dipping activity. 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

Thursday 13th, 20th and 27th July

10.30am – 3.00pm

BENNACHIE BY BIKE

Families are welcome to get on their bike and discover parts of Bennachie. All attendees must be competent to ride unaided. The route, which is approximately 11 kilometres/6 miles in length, follows gradual inclines and descents. All bikes must be suitable for uneven tracks. Anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and wear a helmet. We will be stopping along the way to do pond dipping and find out more about Bennachie's cultural and natural history. Please wear suitable outdoor cycle clothing and also bring along a packed lunch including a drink. Booking essential. Event in partnership with Sustrans.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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

Saturday 15th July

10.00 – 11.30am

ROCKPOOL ROADSHOW AT MACDUFF

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. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at Macduff Marine Aquarium

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



Saturday 15th July 1.00 – 4.00pm
I'M PREHISTORIC, GET ME OUT OF HERE!

What was life really like in the late prehistoric, and would you be creative enough to survive there? To celebrate the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology come along to this special family art workshop and learn what life was like – what would your home look like? Could you make a prehistoric bowl from clay? Join author, Dawn Finch, and discover how you might have lived in places like Bennachie during the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age. Event aimed at accompanied 7 to 11 year olds. Places are limited so booking is essential. Cost: £2 per child to cover materials.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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

Saturday 15th July 1.30- 3.30pm
B-LINE TO PORTLETHEN

Take a B-line to Portlethen and help the wild pollinators get around by planting wildflowers as well as taking part in a minibeast pollinator hunt. B-lines is an initiative established by Buglife to highlight the need for bee, butterfly and other pollinator friendly routes between wildlife habitats. We are hoping to promote the coast as a first Aberdeenshire B-Line and Portlethen can kick this off by developing a mini B-Line. All children must be accompanied. Booking essential

MEET: at Portlethen Parish Church car park

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

Saturday 15th July 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 & accompanied children aged 8+ able to walk about 5.5 miles/9km 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 and Doune, Bellabeg, Strathdon

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

Tuesday 18th July 11.30am – 1.00pm
ROCKPOOL ROADSHOW AT NEW ABERDOUR

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. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at New Aberdour Bay

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

Tuesday 18th July 6.30 – 9.30pm
LITTLE OXEN CRAIG QUARRY / OXEN CRAIG WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a walk to Little Oxen Craig quarry. We will continue to the highest top of the Bennachie range Oxen Craig. This walk involves gradual climbing and is about 4 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. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

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



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

Thursday 20th 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, 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 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

CONTACT: the Muir of Dinnet NNR Manager on 013398 81667

Friday 21st July 3.00 – 4.30pm
BESIDE THE SEASIDE

If you go down to the beach today...you're sure of a fun-packed afternoon 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 07788 688855, banffandbuchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Sunday 23rd July 10.00am – 3.00pm
RANGER CYCLING ROAD SHOW: Get on Your Bikes and Ride!

A difficult bike ride from Fyvie calling at Cumineston, Turriff, Kirkton of Auchterless and back to Fyvie. This ride is for adults only, you must be fit enough to cycle 26 miles, your bike must be in good working order and you must be able, and have the means to, repair a puncture. Cycle helmets are compulsory. Bring a packed lunch. Free event but booking is essential. Details of the route can be found here:

https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/2474/route4_002.pdf

MEET: at Fyvie Kirk car park

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

Tuesday 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

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

Wednesday 26th July 10.30am – 12noon or 1.30 - 3.00pm
WILDLIFE WEDNESDAY

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. Please bring along wellies for the pond dipping activity. All welcome, children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Benn Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

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



Friday 28th July 8.30pm - late

MOTHS AND BATS AT CRAIGIEVAR

Join us to learn more about the fascinating world of moths and help set up light and sugar traps (that don't harm moths) to attract these night-flying creatures. While the moths gather, we will go on a bat walk around the castle using bat detectors to see what is out and about and learn more about bats and their nocturnal lifestyles. Then we will go back to see if we have caught any moths. 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 National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service & Butterfly Conservation. Booking essential – please mention any special requirements; cost £4.00 per person (+ parking charge for non-NTS members).

MEET: at Craigievar Castle car park, near Alford

CONTACT: the National Trust for Scotland on 01330 844810 or online www.nts.org.uk

This month at the Bennachie Visitor Centre exhibition and sale by local artist Roy Park, artwork from Strathburn Primary School, and our summer colour-in wall is back. Open every day 10am to 5pm. Free admission. Tel: 01467 681470, bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk or find us on Facebook.