



## Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service April Events and Activities

Tuesday 5th April 11.00am – 2.00pm

### GO WILD IN THE WOODS AT HADDO

Join us for some seasonal outdoor fun - learn basic skills and use them to make crafts and creations from natural materials. Some activities may involve use of hand tools and may not be suitable for very young children. Drop by to learn a few skills to help stay dry and comfortable when far from the nearest visitor centre! Older children can learn how to tie the knots to enable them to put up a lightweight tarp without damaging the trees and have a go at whittling. Drop-in event, booking not required. Cost £2 per child.

MEET: follow the signs from the main car park, Haddo Country Park, Ellon

CONTACT: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/ 07786 021780, [formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Wednesday 6th April 1.30 – 3.00pm

### SIGNS OF SPRING AT ARNHALL MOSS

Let us be 'spring detectives' as we go hunting and searching to see what we can find to let us know that spring is upon us. Please wear warm clothing. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at the tennis court car park, Arnhall Moss, Westhill

CONTACT: the Garioch Ranger on 01467 681470 or 07786 021781, [garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Thursday 7th April 11.00am – 2.00pm

### STEP BACK TO THE STONE AGE

Archaeological remains at Aden have shown that people have been living here since the Neolithic period and the remains of Bronze-age hut circles have also been found at Aden. Join the Ranger and leave your hi-tec, digital life behind for a few hours and discover how our ancestors lived in the past. We will learn about the foods they gathered and ate and how to make simple items from sticks and natural materials. This event is suitable for children aged 10 to 14, as we will be using sharp tools the event is limited to 6 and booking is essential. Please wear old clothes, stout footwear or wellies, bring a waterproof coat, a packed lunch and a mug.

MEET: in the Rangers Cabin in the first car park, Aden Country Park, Mintlaw

CONTACT: the Buchan Ranger [buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:buchan.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Sunday 10th April 2.00 – 4.00pm

### SPRING FORAGER

What foods can the forest supply and what might our distant ancestors have eaten? A short walk with the Forestry Commission and Garioch Rangers to look at some of the spring edibles that can be found in the forest. This time of year is great for fresh salad type leaves. Edible plants that are not yet in season, foraging etiquette and possible uses and recipes will be discussed. Please book in advance.

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: Forestry Commission Scotland on 01466 794161, [Neil.taylor@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.taylor@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)



Tuesday 12th April 1.30 – 3.00pm

#### SIGNS OF SPRING AT GAUCHHILL

Let us be 'spring detectives' as we go hunting and searching to see what we can find to let us know that spring is upon us. Please wear warm clothing. Booking essential. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

MEET: at Birch Wood Road, Kintore

CONTACT: the Garioch Ranger on 01467 681470 or 07786 021781, [garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Wednesday 13th 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 squirrel 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 and, 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

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, [marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Thursday 14th April 10.30am – 12noon

#### SIGNS OF SPRING AT INSCH MEADOWS

Let us be 'spring detectives' in the Meadows. We'll 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. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: just off the High Street along from Costcutters

CONTACT the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, [garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Friday 15th April 7.00 – 8.00pm

#### WILD WET AND WONDERFUL

Join the Ranger for a fun evening finding and recording the underwater life on the Moss and discover who finds this wetland the place to be. Children must be accompanied. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Bruntland Road entrance to Portlethen Moss

CONTACT: the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292,

[kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kincardineandmearns.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Tuesday 19th April 6.30 – 8.30pm

#### MAIDEN CASTLE AND PITTODRIE QUARRY WALK

Come along and join the Garioch Ranger on a gentle family walk. We'll 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 but must be kept under close control at all times. The walk is low level and approx. 2 miles in length. Booking essential.

MEET: at the Rowantree car park

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, [garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



Saturday 23rd April 11.00am – 3.00pm

### DISCOVER BENNACHIE

If you've never visited Bennachie before or haven't been for a while, why not come along to our Open Day. Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service, the Bailies of Bennachie, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Bennachie Centre Trust and Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels staff and volunteers will all be there to give advice and information. Also a chance to see and comment on the Forestry Commission's proposals for the new Bennachie Land Management Plan.

Lots of FREE family activities .....

- 11am – 3pm **Mither Tap Meander** – Ranger led guided walk, bring lunch and stout footwear.
- 11am – 3pm **Animal Homes** – drop in anytime and build a box for the wildlife in your garden. Cost from £5 each.
- 11am – 3pm drop in anytime and have a go at our **Bennachie quiz**
- 11am – 12.30pm **Family Treasure Hunt**
- 1.30pm enjoy a **Red Squirrel Walk**
- 2.00 – 3.30pm **Family Treasure Hunt**

MEET: at the Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch

CONTACT: the Bennachie Visitor Centre on 01467 681470, [bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:bennachie.warden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Saturday 23rd April 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 and accompanied children aged 8+ able to walk about 5.5 miles 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 & Doune, Bellabeg, Strathdon

CONTACT: the Marr Ranger on 07787583976, [marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Saturday 30th April 7.00 – 8.30pm

### CELTIC STORYTELLING EVENING

Discover the myths and legends of Celtic Britain. Enjoy an evening stroll on this magical night of the year, then settle down around a campfire (or indoors if necessary) and listen to ancient stories of May Day, the Mabinogion and other tales. Suitable for adults and older children (7 yrs.+). Refreshments provided. Booking essential. Cost: £5 per person including refreshments.

Call 01651 851041 or email [haddo@visithaddo.com](mailto:haddo@visithaddo.com) to book.

MEET: at Haddo Country Park's main car park.

Contact for information: the Formartine Ranger on 01358 726417/ 07786 021780