

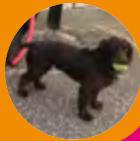
# Green Times

## Spring 2018



ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL

Clean up  
Aberdeen



Powis edible  
garden

Energy saving  
winners



Duthie  
Park Events

Bringing back  
the Baron



Ranger  
Events

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Find out about  
food growing

Aberdeen's Environmental  
News and Events

# Climate Week North East

A packed programme of fun, inspiring and interesting local events is set to take place for Climate Week North East this year.

The event programme runs from 16-25 March 2018. It aims to raise awareness of climate change and show what we can all do to make a difference and reduce our carbon footprint in a fun way.

Climate Week North East is designed to showcase the inspiring action happening here in the North East and demonstrate what each of us can do to help.

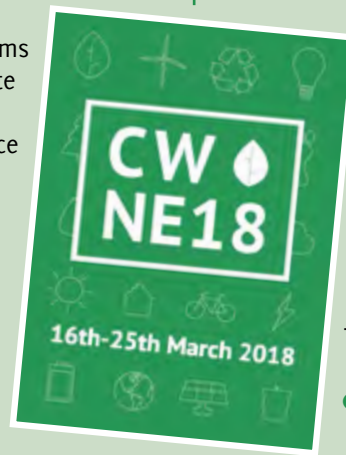
The events start with a screening of Al Gore's film, Truth to Power, at The Belmont Filmhouse on Friday 16 March at 6pm.

The week will culminate in a Green Family Fun Day at Hazlehead Park, from 11-3pm on

Saturday 24 March. The event has a range of hands on activities, with a chance to try out all sorts of bikes, including a unicycle on a fun bike track and play with Aberdeen Play Forum. Experience electric and hybrid cars first hand and find out more about energy saving and grants for your home.

To view the full programme of events, visit [www.climateweekaberdeen.org](http://www.climateweekaberdeen.org) or go to the CWNE facebook page. The programme includes:

- Tours of community renewable projects, organic farms and Aberdeen's new Materials Recycling Facility
- Guided ranger walks and bike rides
- A sustainable fashion show
- Film screenings
- Plays, art exhibits and talks
- A Climate Change Perspective Conference



CWNE18 is co-ordinated by Aberdeen Climate Action working with organisations across Aberdeen City and Shire.

## Earth Hour

At 8.30pm on Saturday 24 March, millions of people around the world will be showing support for Earth Hour 2018, by switching off their lights for one hour.

Earth Hour is a global initiative, organised by WWF, to raise awareness of the impact climate change is having on people and nature.

For Earth Hour this year, people are being encouraged to show they care and make a promise for their planet to live more sustainably. In Aberdeen, Marischal College has already signed up to take part in the switch off event.

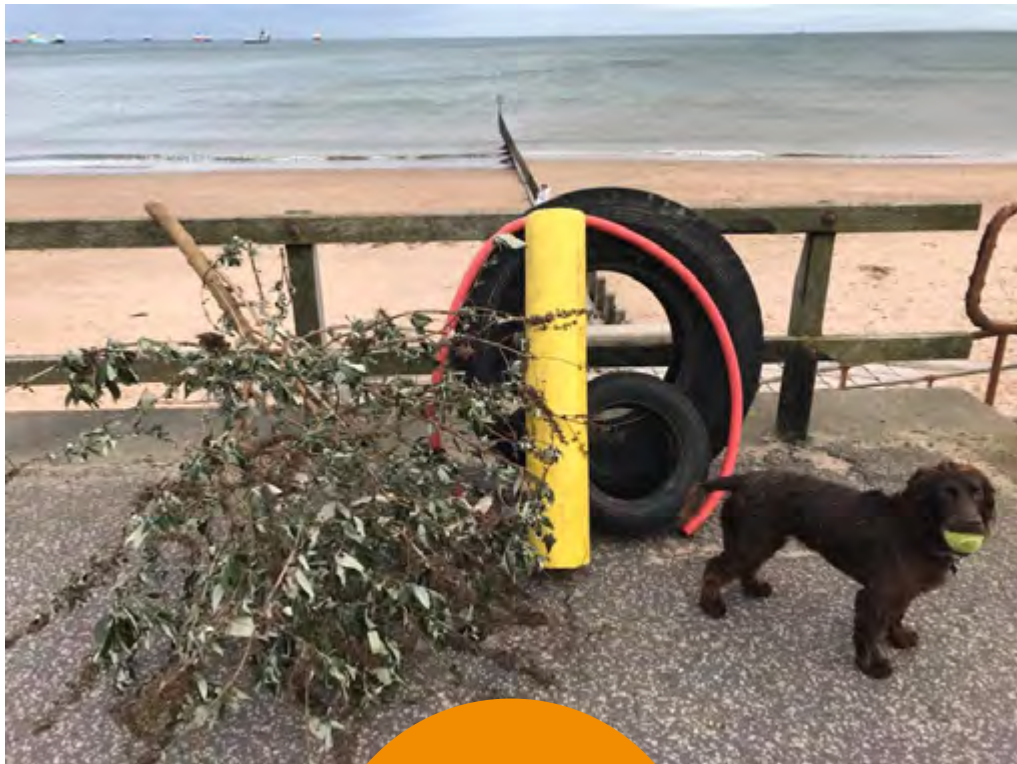
Last year hundreds of millions of people, from 187 countries, participated in Earth Hour. Famous landmarks, including the



Sydney Opera House, Eiffel Tower and Buckingham Palace, switched off their lights to show support for the initiative.

In Scotland, all of the local authorities and 165 national and local landmarks joined in with the switch off.

For more information about Earth Hour and to sign up to take part, visit [www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour](http://www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour)



## Clean up Aberdeen

Spring is just round the corner and local residents are being encouraged to be part of Clean Up Aberdeen's spring clean initiative.

This is a great opportunity to get together with friends, colleagues or your community and clean up a local area.

Clean ups are great fun and make a noticeable difference to areas. Last year communities in Aberdeen rallied to the cause, with a total of 2,453 volunteers, filling 2,003 bags with litter during 165 clean ups.

Some brave residents even made it out on

the 9 December, for the last clean-up of the year, at the Donmouth.

Clean Up Aberdeen is part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's national mass-engagement campaign, Clean Up Scotland. The campaign aims to involve one million people in action against litter and mess.

If you would like to take part, the Council's Environmental Services team can lend litter picking tongs, high vis vests, gloves and black bags and will uplift the collected rubbish.

For more details or to get help organising an event, call 03000 200 292, or email [cleanaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:cleanaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk)



## It's your neighbourhood

Keep Scotland Beautiful is calling for community groups to register for the campaign, It's Your Neighbourhood.

The initiative, celebrates the achievements of communities who have come together to clean up and "green up" the places where they live, work or spend leisure time.

Last year 30 groups in Aberdeen joined the It's Your Neighbourhood campaign. They included allotments, residents groups, 'Friends of' groups, schools and community groups.

Activities in Aberdeen have included; bulb planting, litter picking, filling planters and hanging baskets, improving pathways and accessibility, as well as developing allotments.

The campaign is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). It is non-competitive and based on the three topics of Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement. Groups are assessed on their own merit and not compared against each other.

This year the theme is Year of Young People and each registered group will receive a packet of sunflower seeds to ensure they get off to a blooming start.

Groups are supported through regional workshops, which provide practical advice and are a chance to learn from others in the area.

It's Your Neighbourhood is free to take part, you can find out more at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/iyh](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/iyh). Registration is now open and continues to 30 April.



## Young Reporters Scotland

Young people have the chance to make their voices heard on an environmental or sustainability issue that matters to them.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is encouraging all young people from 11-26 to submit a written, photographic or video report. This should be related to the environment or sustainability; it should be important in your community; and should be something that you care about, to make it meaningful.



● Written entries must not exceed 1,000 words in length.

● Photographic entries should be accompanied by a title and short caption.

● Video entries should be no longer than 3 minutes.

To take part you just need to register and choose a theme. Suggested themes are included on the Keep Scotland Beautiful website each month for people to report on.

To find out more go to [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)



# Celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight

Thousands of events across the country are expected to take place celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight 2018.

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from Monday 26 February to Sunday 11 March. The campaign is inviting people to 'Come On In' and support Fairtrade.

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual event encouraging businesses, schools and organisations to raise awareness of Fairtrade products and principles. In doing so, support the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries.

Fairtrade ensures that farmers and producers in developing countries get a fair price for their produce. This helps them support their families and invest in business, social and environmental improvements in their communities.

In Aberdeen, a wide range of local events, activities, sales and promotion is set to take place throughout the fortnight.

Details of events can be found on the Fairtrade Page for Aberdeen for a Fairer World [www.afairerworld.org.uk/](http://www.afairerworld.org.uk/)



## Powis group receives recognition

**A flourishing city growing group is receiving recognition for its environmental improvements.**

The Powis Residents Group won a gold medal and the Residential Community Trophy, in the Beautiful Scotland Competition in 2017.

Aiming to involve as many children and young people as possible, the Powis Gardening Posse is made up of young local residents. Up to 30 children of all ages are involved at different times.

They are helping to transform neglected front gardens and communal areas into colourful flowerbeds, with herbs, vegetables and fruit bushes. This work has achieved recognition, winning the Judges Award in the 2017 Aberdeen Ecocity Awards.

Powis has a range of local natural and built resources, including: gardens, trees, allotments, playing fields, wildlife, and a newly refurbished community centre. There is an edible garden and fruit trees that were donated by Aberdeen Greenspace.

The Powis Gardening Posse has planted

bulbs, sunflowers, tatties, rhubarb, raspberries, strawberries and more. The gardening project is giving children the opportunity to learn how to care for and propagate plants. Their efforts have included pruning, weeding, watering, feeding, as well as using locally grown produce to produce bakes and puddings at the Powis Community Centre.

The work carried out by local residents encourages the use of outdoor spaces by children and adults, from all sections of the community.

**The work has environmental benefits, such as:**

- Improved wild-life habitats for birds, bees and butterflies.
- Producing home grown fruit and veg.
- Reducing the need for spraying.
- Reusing toys and found objects to make planters.
- Cultivating plants from seeds and cuttings.
- Creating pallet pocket gardens.
- A communal compost system makes use of grass cuttings, weeds, waste paper, cardboard and food waste.



90% local authority schools in Aberdeen are registered for the EcoSchools Scotland programme, encouraging whole school action on sustainable development.

The EcoSchools programme has been undergoing a refresh, providing a link to the UN 17 Sustainable Development goals,



to prioritise learning about sustainability.

EcoSchools Scotland has launched a new online application system, making the application process paperless.

Find out about Eco Schools Scotland at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)

# Mixing it up – & getting the perfect compost

Home composting is a sustainable approach to some types of food and garden waste. It produces compost that can be used as an excellent soil improver for your garden, as well as freeing up space in your brown bin.

It may take a little planning and a bit of time, but making your own compost is a very satisfying process. Good gardeners know that well fed and nurtured soil grows healthy, strong plants; therefore making your own compost is worthwhile.

When composting you are exposing your biodegradable garden waste to oxygen, helping it to decompose and meaning very little methane is created. A greenhouse gas we want to avoid making.

Your compost bin will attract mini-beasts like woodlice, ants, worms and centipedes that will flock in to help the decomposition.

## Placing your compost bin

Pick a reasonably sunny, out of the way spot and place your compost bin on the soil. It's important that you place your compost bin on the soil as it allows beneficial microbes and insects access to the rotting material. Allowing better aeration and drainage – essential for successful composting.

You can make your own composting bin re-using materials you have spare. If you have worries that vermin will become a problem, add a wire mesh across the base of your bin and ensure the lid stays closed.

## The secret is in the mix!

There's no real secret to good compost, it's all down to what you put in. The recipe is simple; 50% "Greens", 50% "Browns."

- The "Greens" are materials that will rot down quickly and release nitrogen and moisture, such as hedge clippings, cut flowers, coffee grounds and grass mowings.
- The "Browns" are materials that are slower to break down that provide carbon and fibre to the mix and allow air pockets to form. They can be autumn leaves, cardboard egg boxes or straw. Please don't be tempted to put used cat litter or dog waste in your compost bin.

The result after nine to twelve months is free, nutrient-rich compost. Don't worry

if your compost looks a little different from shop-bought compost, that's perfectly fine.

Digging in your home-made compost improves the soil structure, helps maintain moisture levels and can keep your soil's pH balance in check, as well as suppressing disease.

More information can be found at [www.recyclenow.com/reduce-waste/composting](http://www.recyclenow.com/reduce-waste/composting)

## Greens

Quick to rot and provide important nitrogen and moisture

- ✓ Animal manure with straw
- ✓ Annual weeds
- ✓ Bindweed
- ✓ Bracken
- ✓ Brussels sprout stalk
- ✓ Carrot tops
- ✓ Citrus peel
- ✓ Coffee grounds
- ✓ Comfrey leaves
- ✓ Cut flowers
- ✓ Deadly Nightshade
- ✓ Fruit peelings and pulp
- ✓ Fruit seeds
- ✓ Grass mowings
- ✓ Hay
- ✓ Hedge clippings
- ✓ House plants
- ✓ Ivy leaves
- ✓ Nettles
- ✓ Old bedding plants
- ✓ Perennial weeds
- ✓ Poisonous plants
- ✓ Rhubarb leaves
- ✓ Seaweed
- ✓ Soft prunings and plant debris
- ✓ Tea leaves and bags
- ✓ Urine
- ✓ Vegetable peelings & pulp

## Browns

Slower to rot, provide carbon & fibre and allow air pockets to form

- ✓ Autumn leaves
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Christmas tree
- ✓ Corn starch liners
- ✓ Cotton towels
- ✓ Cotton wool
- ✓ Egg boxes
- ✓ Egg shells
- ✓ Evergreen prunings
- ✓ Hair
- ✓ Natural corks
- ✓ Nuts
- ✓ Paper bags
- ✓ Privet
- ✓ Straw
- ✓ Sweetcorn cobs
- ✓ Thorny prunings
- ✓ Tomato plants
- ✓ Used kitchen paper
- ✓ Vacuum cleaner contents
- ✓ Wood ash
- ✓ Wool

## No thanks

Certain things that should never be put in your compost bin

- ✗ Bones
- ✗ Bread
- ✗ Cans
- ✗ Cat litter
- ✗ Cigarette ends
- ✗ Cling film
- ✗ Coal ash
- ✗ Crisp packets
- ✗ Dairy products
- ✗ Disposable nappies
- ✗ Dog faeces
- ✗ Dog food
- ✗ Drink cartons
- ✗ Meat & fish scraps
- ✗ Olive oil
- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Plastic bottles
- ✗ Soiled tissues

# Food and garden waste recycling

Spring is here and the grass has begun to grow. City residents will soon be using their brown bins for garden waste, as well as food waste.

Some properties with larger gardens may have more than one brown bin. Residents should present no more than two brown bins at a time, for collection. This will help to ensure crews have enough time and waste capacity to finish their allotted rounds.

Rubble, soil or turf should not be added to the brown bin unless most of the soil is knocked out of it.

## Damaging debris

Garden waste should be kept within your property boundaries. Leaving garden waste outside your property boundary, in a back lane or footpath area is fly-tipping. This is illegal and can be a hazard to local nature and wildlife.

This spring and summer, the Countryside Ranger Service and colleagues are looking to tackle the illegal dumping of garden waste and other waste over the back fences of gardens, onto city countryside sites and nature reserves.

Dumping this kind of debris smothers the native plants. It often spreads garden plants into wild areas, where they can become a major problem, out competing the species that should be there.

The first area to be tackled is along the Deeside Way, all the way from Duthie Park to Peterculter. So far over 50 properties have been identified as having garden waste dumped over their back fence or wall.

A letter will be sent to each of the properties asking the occupier to remove what has been dumped and to stop dumping any further waste.





## Community Food Growing

A community food growing project in Aberdeen is now underway. The Council has allocated £145,000 to help develop sustainable growing spaces for the public to enjoy. These spaces are not your typical allotments, however, but spaces to be shared by the local community.

Vegetables, fruits and herbs can be grown alongside all kinds of other plants, to create relaxing, recreational gardens within Aberdeen.

The focus of the project is in the regeneration areas of; Tillydrone, Mastrick, Northfield, Middlefield, Torry and Seaton. Some projects are already moving forward:

- The Donside Growers group have huge ideas that are beginning to be implemented. It is hoped to see planters emerging around Donside village very soon.
- Woodside, Bramble Brae and Tullos Primary Schools are creating small growing spaces within the school grounds, working with Bob Donald of One Seed Forward. The idea is to encourage outdoor learning and build relationships between children and the food they eat.

The food growing project is driven by the Community Empowerment Act 2015 and the requirement for Aberdeen to prepare a Food Growing Strategy over the coming years. The food growing projects will help to inform the project as it takes shape.

There could be a growing space near you. If you want to be involved, please contact the new Community growing Officer, Neil Woodward, based at CFINE. Email: [communitygrowingaberdeen@cfine.org](mailto:communitygrowingaberdeen@cfine.org) or call 01224 596156.

## Energy saving winners

Over 300 entries were received for a local competition encouraging everyday actions to save energy and water.

The energy saving postcard competition was organised by the Council's energy team, as part of the Alfie Energy Campaign.

Campaign mascot, Superhero Alfie, encouraged young people to enter the competition and come up with good ideas to save resources.

Pupils from city schools were invited to submit postcard ideas to remind people to save energy and water. The winners, who were presented with prizes and certificates for their efforts, included:

- Igbunu Omiragwadia**  
P2, Walker Road School
- Safira Hakeem**  
P2, Milltimber School
- Amar Salaam,**  
P3, St. Peter's RC School
- Holly Bain**  
P4, Fernielea School
- Stephen Haggart**  
P5, Sunnybank School
- Tony Bakalou**  
P7, Riverbank School
- Lewis Crichton**  
P7, Walker Road School

Some of the winning ideas have been made into a poster, which has been circulated around local schools, libraries and community centres.

## Energy and water saving ideas

- Switching off PC's, electrical items & phone chargers.
- Use natural daylight instead of switching on lights.
- Set a timer and take a short shower to save water.
- Turn down heating by 1 degree to save 10%.
- No need to fill the kettle, boil only what you need.
- Close doors and windows and stop draughts.
- Use less water when brushing your teeth.

**ALFIE'S ENERGY & WATER SAVING POSTCARD DESIGN WINNERS P2 - P7**

**Alfie's School Competition** helping us to Save Energy and Save Water  
Energy Management Team

## About Green Times

Green Times is produced in March, June, September and December each year and includes information on local transport, energy, waste, Eco Schools and biodiversity events and initiatives.

Previous editions are available on the Aberdeen City Council website [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)



To make sure you receive a copy of this publication when it is released or if you would like to contribute to future editions contact:

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telephone: 01224 522792

or write to the editor:  
Business Hub 4, Ground Floor  
North, Marischal College,  
Broad Street, Aberdeen  
AB10 1AB



## British Science Week at Duthie Park

Pupils are set to visit Duthie Park, to learn about the benefits of Tropical Plants, as part of British Science Week, from 9-18 March.

Staff from the Duthie Park Ranger Service and Robert Gordons University will be running the workshops. Pupils attending will have the chance to take part in experiments.

The Friends of Duthie Park received a grant from Aberdeen International Airport Community Fund to help support the project.

*Photo left to right: Morag McFayden (RGU Lecturer), Alan Amoore (Friends of Duthie Park Chair) & Claire McGivern (Duthie Park Ranger)*



## Workshop successes

Wreath Making Workshops run by the Duthie Park Ranger Service were attended 42 people in December.

The wreaths were created using willow and natural materials from the park.

The final Royal Horticultural Society of Aberdeen RHA workshop of the year was also held in December. The workshop was led by Judith Lorimer from the RHA and attendees had the chance to make a festive table arrangement.

*Above: Participants at the RHA Gardening Workshop with their Christmas Arrangement*



Participants at an annual carol concert raised £500 and donated 11 trays of goods for local foodbanks.

Around 1,500 people attended the annual Christmas Carol Singing Concert in the David Welch Winter Gardens.

## Duthie Park Carol Concert

The Friends of Duthie Park,

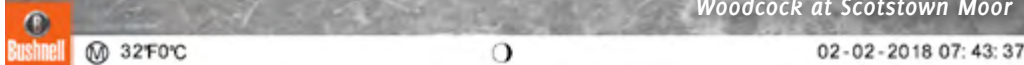
supported by staff from Duthie Park, had a stall during the event, gathering donations and raising awareness of foodbanks in Aberdeen.

The money and goods were handed to CFine, to distribute around the city.



The Duthie Park Ranger service provide a variety of activities for schools and community groups throughout the year.

# Wildlife at Scotstown Moor



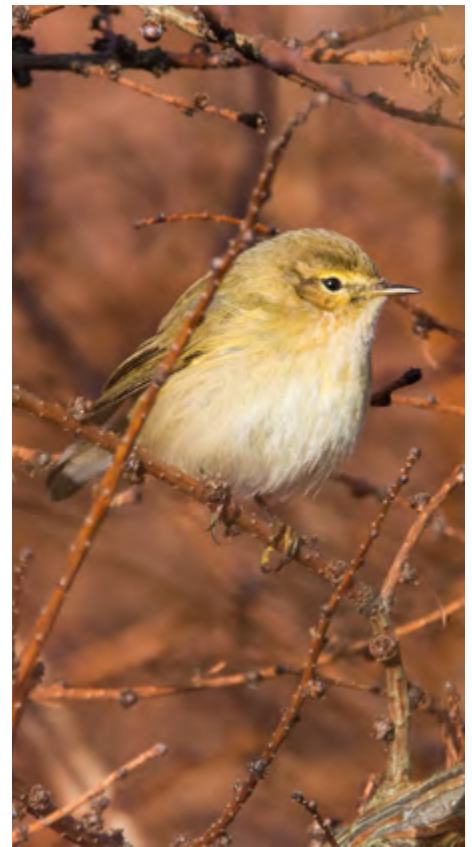
Woodcock at Scotstown Moor

The Countryside Rangers have been hard at work over many years to keep the wetland and heath areas clear of gorse.

This year the Countryside Rangers have been joined by volunteers from Scottish Rural College (Craibstone), Aberdeen University, as well as two public volunteer days and several sessions for the mid-week volunteer ranger group. The volunteers have made a massive

difference to the Site of Special Scientific Interest area, opening up areas to allow the more important wetland species to thrive.

Early in February the Countryside Rangers put out a camera trap in one of the newly cleared areas for a few days to see what wildlife would be attracted. As expected, it photographed rabbits and roe deer, but also a badger and two woodcock.



## Spring is on its way!

Now that spring is on its way so will some of our summer visiting birds. Keep an eye open and listen out for some of the warblers, such as the chiffchaff that when it is calling says its own name; chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff.

It can be a difficult bird to spot. Being a green, grey colour, it is well camouflaged amongst the spring leaves but the call will give them away.

If you are lucky you might even hear a cuckoo calling, the numbers of these birds has been falling over the years so are getting harder to find.

If you are confident in identifying birds, or indeed any other wildlife, why not submit your records to the NE Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC).

You can submit individual records on line or download a spreadsheet to use from their website at [www.nesbrec.org.uk](http://www.nesbrec.org.uk)

Even common wildlife is worth recording as this can help to inform decisions on site management plans, future developments, protection of designated sites and much more.



## Bringing Back the Baron

This winter the Countryside Rangers assisted by many local volunteers have been working hard to safeguard some of Aberdeen's most notable archaeological sites.

Tullos Hill in the south of the city holds over 200 recognised historic sites, including 4 cairns dating back approximately 4,000 years.

All of these are easily accessible and visible to members of the public, alongside Bronze Age hut circles, Georgian consumption dykes and WWII POW camp remains. This makes Tullos Hill possibly the best place in the city to view a wide range of archaeology, from Aberdeen's rich history.

On top of this, Tullos Hill offers spectacular vistas across the entire north east and abundant wildlife, it's not surprising people have seen the site as significant since the end of the ice age.

In recent years the cairns have started to

become overgrown, so this year Historic Environment Scotland were approached, for special permission to safeguard them by removing vegetation.

This winter vegetation was removed from Crab and Baron's Cairns, with the assistance of a number of volunteers. This is not an easy task as it has to be done on unstable terrain while taking care not to disturb the site. In time, this vegetation would root deeper into the cairns and hide them from view, while also destabilising their structures.

In time it is hoped to work across all 4 cairns on Tullos Hill and preserve them for future generations.

The Countryside Rangers have expressed their thanks to the Volunteer Ranger Team, SRUC Craibstone Rural Skills Club, Alcohol and Drugs Action and all the members of public who have helped with this project so far.

# What's On

Information on the Countryside Ranger Service events can be found at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/rangerservice](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/rangerservice). The summer programme **Outdoor Adventures** will be available soon in local libraries and community centres.

**Booking is essential for all events.** Please call **01224 326429** or email [countrysideranger@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideranger@aberdeencity.gov.uk) to book – unless otherwise stated.

## March

**Saturday 10 | 2pm-4pm**

### Dens in the Den

#### Den Wood, Hazlehead

Join the Countryside Rangers for a fun, family afternoon of shelter building with natural materials. Make a hot drink using an outdoor kettle and get creative using natural art to decorate your shelter. Please wear clothing suitable for the weather. Meet at the car park off Hazledene Road, left at the sign for Hayfield Riding Centre.

## Part of Climate Change Week

**Saturday 17 | 8am-9.30am**

### Silent Squirrel Spotting Safari

#### Hazlehead Woods

Join the Countryside Rangers on an early morning journey to find signs of the woods' red squirrel population, the UK's only native squirrel species.

Please wear suitable clothing for the weather. Meet at the far end of the West Chapel Hazlehead Crematorium car park.

### Squirrel Events Special Offer

If you attend both squirrel events on 17 March we invite you to have a simple breakfast in the Ranger base on Groats Road, with hot drinks, croissants and cereals.

**Saturday 17 | 10.30am-3pm**

### Squirrel Woodland Management

#### Hazlehead Woods

Red squirrels have once again been seen in the woods of Hazlehead! This is partly due to encouraging the regeneration of Scots pines, the squirrel's favourite food. Help the Rangers get rid of spruce saplings to increase chances of seeing red squirrels. You are welcome to take a spruce sapling for your garden.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided. Please dress warmly, wear sturdy footwear and bring a packed lunch. Meet at the far end of the West Chapel Hazlehead Crematorium car park.

**Monday 19 | 4pm -5.30pm**

### Seaton Park Wetland Walk

Join Countryside Officer Ian and colleagues from the Environmental Planners, for a walk around the new Seaton Park Wetland and path network. Learn about how it is helping to make Seaton Park climate change ready and better for wildlife.

Meet at Seaton Park Car Park, off Don Street.

**Saturday 31 | 1pm-3pm**

### Signs of Spring Treasure Trail

#### Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve

Join a Countryside Ranger on a wildlife treasure trail around the nature reserve, using a map to find signs of spring and natural treasures.

Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent.



## April

**Sunday 1 | 10am-12noon**

### Nature Facts or Fiction?

#### Hazlehead Woods

Nature can be stranger than fiction, on this guided walk you must determine if the information presented to you by the Countryside Rangers is true or false. Will you be fooled?

Meet at the large car park behind the Hazlehead Park café.

**Monday 2 | 10am-11.30am**

### Rock Pooling at Cove

Join a Countryside Ranger at Cove, for an opportunity to explore the rock pools, meet some of the rock pool residents and create some wild beach art. Remember to bring wellies.

Meet at Colsea Road car park.

**Wednesday 4 | 10.30-11.30am & 2-3pm**

### "Big Claw"

#### Aberdeen Central Library

Find out more about the creatures that live in rock pools through story and drama. Families can take part in the drama 'Big Claw'. Meet at the Central Children's Library. Please email [childrenslibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:childrenslibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or call the Children's Library on 01224 652507 to book and for further information. **Booking essential.**

**Saturday 7 | 10am-12noon**

### Hilltop Treasure Trail

#### Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve

Explore some of the history and wildlife on Kincorth Hill, with an easy to use orienteering map, following the trails around the nature reserve. Join a Countryside Ranger to find bronze panels of leaves and animal tracks along the way and take crayon rubbings to complete your treasure hunt.

Meet at the Kincorth Hill car park off Abbotswell Crescent.

**Monday 9 | 2pm-3:30pm**

### Rock Pooling at Cove

See 2 April event for details.

Remember to bring wellies. Meet at Colsea Road car park.

**Friday 13 | 5.45am-8.30am**

### Dawn at the Don

Take in the sunrise over the Donmouth Local Nature Reserve, before an exploration to see what the local wildlife is up to in the early hours. Bring binoculars and a camera. Birds, seals and perhaps even an otter may be seen in and around the river. Meet at the bird hide on the Esplanade.

**Saturday 14 | 10am-3pm**

### Bracken-Busters on Elrick Hill

Join the Countryside Rangers to tackle the invasive bracken fronds. Help to conserve the native flora whilst getting a good workout.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring water and a packed lunch. Meet at the second car park signposted for Tyrebagger Forest, on the left when you leave the A96.

**Saturday 21 | 10am-12noon**

### A Donmouth Ramble

Join a Countryside Ranger on this circular walk around the Donmouth Local Nature Reserve (approximately 3km). A low tide should mean good views of wading birds. Meet at the bird hide on the Esplanade.

**Saturday 28 | 10am-3pm**

### Bracken-Busters on Elrick Hill

See 14 April event for details

**To book a place or find out more:**

**01224 326429**

[countrysideranger@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideranger@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

NB All out door events will require warm clothes sturdy footwear and waterproofs. Young people under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. If, after you have booked, you are not able to attend, please phone to cancel your booking as there may be others on a waiting list.