

Green Times

Winter 2017



EcoCity Awards



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EcoCity Awards success



The efforts of local community groups and schools to improve Aberdeen's environment were celebrated at an awards ceremony at the Beach Ballroom in November.

Overall EcoCity Award for a project to develop their school garden into a wildlife haven. The school also took part in early years learning and

work to educate others about dangers to bees because of loss of habitats, climate change, and a reduction in wild flower meadows.

The 2017 EcoCity Awards, were organised by Aberdeen City Council, to recognise the work of local people to make Aberdeen a more sustainable city.

Winners received framed certificates and were presented with their prizes by Councillor Yvonne Allan and Councillor Philip Bell. The prizes were donated by Aberdeen City Council, the Beach Ballroom, the Aberdeen Fairtrade Steering Group and the Co-op Member Pioneers.

The awards attracted nearly 50 submissions over ten categories. Entries were judged by a panel of eight judges representing different teams across the Council, external organisations and previous winners.

Details of all the award winners are included on page 2 of this edition of Green Times.

Two new categories of business waste reduction and energy efficiency were added to the award scheme this year.



Hanover Street Primary received the

The EcoCity awards are an annual city award scheme. This year the awards were in the following categories:

- **Waste and Recycling Business** For taking significant steps to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.
- **Energy Efficiency** For promoting or enabling energy efficiency measures.
- **Fairtrade** Demonstrating a commitment to Fairtrade and contributing to keeping Aberdeen a Fairtrade City.

About the awards

- **Waste and Recycling Champion (Individual and organisation)** Successfully demonstrating a commitment to sustainable waste management.
- **Clean-up Champion** Making Aberdeen a more beautiful place by picking-up litter.
- **Growing Smarter EcoCity (Junior, individual and Organisation)** Successfully promoting or enhancing the environment and improving the quality of life in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen's 2017 EcoCity Awards winners

University of Aberdeen Marine Society



a bug hotel for shelter. The pupils learned that bees are in danger and made a short film to educate others.

Hazlehead Primary

Every pupil in the school participated in the design and creation of a trail of 17 sculptures to educate the community about the United Nations, Global Goals. All the sculptures were built using recycled materials.

Growing Smarter EcoCity (Individual) Award

Annie McIntosh

Annie is the lead on the Grove Nursery project. This includes the Foyer Impact group, the Healthy Minds groups and other social enterprise groups who come together to 'grow' people through gardening, environmental projects and programmes at the Council's Grove Nursery.



Waste and Recycling Business EcoCity Award

CFINE FareShare Grampian

Redirected over 400 tonnes of surplus food from the food industry and distributed it to charities and community organisations across Aberdeen; providing food to low income, vulnerable people.



Clean-up Champion EcoCity Award (Individual)

Charles Thomson

Charles litter picks in various areas around the city and loves what he does. He will separate out cans for recycling at a neighbouring recycling centre and will often go litter picking, no matter the weather.



Clean-up Champion EcoCity Award (Organisations)

University of Aberdeen Marine Society

The group clean Aberdeen Beach every fortnight to make the beach a safer, cleaner and more attractive environment for all to enjoy. They are in discussion with other local organisations to make a larger collaborative effort in cleaning and maintaining the beaches.

Growing Smarter EcoCity (Junior) Award

Hanover Street School

The school garden was transformed from a derelict plot to a flourishing haven for bees, birds and other small creatures. The children made bee hotels, supplied drinking water, made log piles and made



Growing Smarter EcoCity (Organisation) Award

The Allotment Market Stall

The group collect excess produce from allotments in Aberdeen City and sell it on market stalls in city parks. Last year 3 tonnes of produce was collected. Any produce that is not sold is donated to the food bank. Profits are used to improve allotments.

Energy Efficiency EcoCity Award

Aberdeen Multicultural Centre

A Community Energy Challenge project, encouraging participation in energy savings and an active travel campaign. The project has saved 574.25 tonnes CO2e over 5 years.

Fairtrade EcoCity Award

Bridge of Don Academy Global Goals Group

In Fairtrade Fortnight the group visited primary schools to promote Fairtrade and the Rights of the Child, as well as holding Fairtrade snack stalls for staff and pupils, with the money raised donated to a local charity. The group also organised a Fairtrade Football event.

Waste and Recycling Champion EcoCity Award

Glashieburn School

Waste Week and Waste Wednesdays, at the school are raising awareness of recycling and waste reduction, ensuring paper collections across the school. Recycling buckets have been added to the staff room and lunch hall. The eco committee encourage and collect recycling.



Bridge of Don Academy

Aberdeen City Council aims to reduce energy and water consumption within public building; to become more energy efficient, reduce CO2 emissions and make target cost savings. Aberdeen Pets Corner at Hazlehead Park has recently undergone full renovation and extension.

Aberdeen Pets Corner re-opened in July 2017 after a much needed renovation. The upgraded building includes a new education room, aviary and new larger aquarium for fish and reptile tanks, as well as improved visitor and staff facilities and animal welfare.



Pets Corner renovation

The building improvements provide an attractive facility for all ages and include:

- A new replacement roof, with a green sedum deck.
- Internal layout alterations.

Insulation improves building comfort, reducing the need for heating.

- **Doors and windows** replacement double glazed automatic doors and windows to provide air tightness and reduce heat loss through the building fabric.

- **External access ramp and pathways.**

The building was refurbished in excess of current building standards. It is connected to the local district heating distribution system which reduces emissions.

- **Heating** is provided throughout by underfloor heating and warm air ventilation system, reducing overall energy consumption.

- **Lighting** has been provided by new LED lights, saving 50% on electricity consumption and there are several sun pipes to allow natural daylight to enter.

- **Wall and Roof**

Food waste education packs have been created by Zero Waste Scotland. The lesson plans are suitable for primary and secondary schools and encourage learners to consider the scale of food waste within the school and in Scotland as a whole.

The packs are aligned to the relevant Curriculum for Excellence experiences & outcomes. They are designed to support teaching and they contain worksheets and presentations.

The lesson plans allow pupils to understand how they are able to contribute in a positive and tangible way to reducing the amount of food we throw away. To find out more go to www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

Love food hate waste



Aberdeen Hydrogen supply chain develops

NORCO Group, a local business and independent specialist in stored electrical energy, has taken over the operation of Aberdeen City Hydrogen Energy Storage (ACHES). NORCO is managing the facility on behalf of Aberdeen City Council.

ACHES is the city's second hydrogen refuelling station, in addition to Kittybrewster which serves 10 buses. Five of NORCO's staff took part in training on the operation and maintenance the ACHES facility and one staff member was employed specifically for the role.

This opportunity has demonstrated the transfer of specialist knowledge and skills to professionals within Aberdeen and has contributed to the creation of local employment.

The development of infrastructure and vehicle deployments are guided by the Aberdeen Region Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025, which aims to develop a hydrogen economy in the region.



Torry Community Planting Project

A Community Planting Project is helping to brighten the entrance to Torry.

Local residents and the Rotaract club of Aberdeen, worked together with Aberdeen City Council in October, to transform an area at the Victoria Bridge.

The site was first cleared and cultivated, before trees and shrubs were planted that will be enjoyed by everyone for many years to come.

Rotaract would like to thank all the volunteers and Aberdeen City Council for their help with the project, in what was a great example of working together in the community.

They are encouraging anyone with a similar idea to make connections with like-minded people or to contact the Environmental Services Team at the Council.

If you think Rotaract can help with a project or would like to get involved in any of the Rotaract events please email: contact@rotaractaberdeen.org.uk or go to [Facebook@rotaractaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/rotaractaberdeen)



Recovery Garden Project

A recovery garden project has created a city centre space, dedicated to people who have lost their life through addiction.

The Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) Recovery Garden Team have planted a tree and plants in a planter in Carmelite Street, under the guidance of the Aberdeen City Council. The area gives people a place to pause and remember those who have lost their lives.

It is hoped that the shrubs planted will bring colour, scent and continued growth over all the seasons, to provide hope and comfort.

The idea was made reality through Aberdeen Inspired and Aberdeen City Council, working with the ADA Recovery Garden Project and was supported by Scottish Bereavement Support Aberdeen.

Earlier this year the Lord Provost joined staff and volunteers from ADA and members of the Scottish Bereavement Support Aberdeen, to name the planter, 'Lives Worth Remembering'.

People are encouraged to take time to walk past the planter, read the plaque and remember.

The Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) Recovery Garden Project started in 2015, when ADA were offered a poly tunnel at Grove Nursery at Hazlehead, by Aberdeen City Council, as part of a joint community engagement initiative.

The group consists of around 10 people, a mixture of volunteers and ADA service users. They grow mainly vegetables and fruit which they then get to take away. Some of the surplus is used at an ADA cooking group.

If you are in recovery and would like more information on the gardening group then contact Anne at ADA on 01224 577120 or visit the website www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk

Climate change reporting

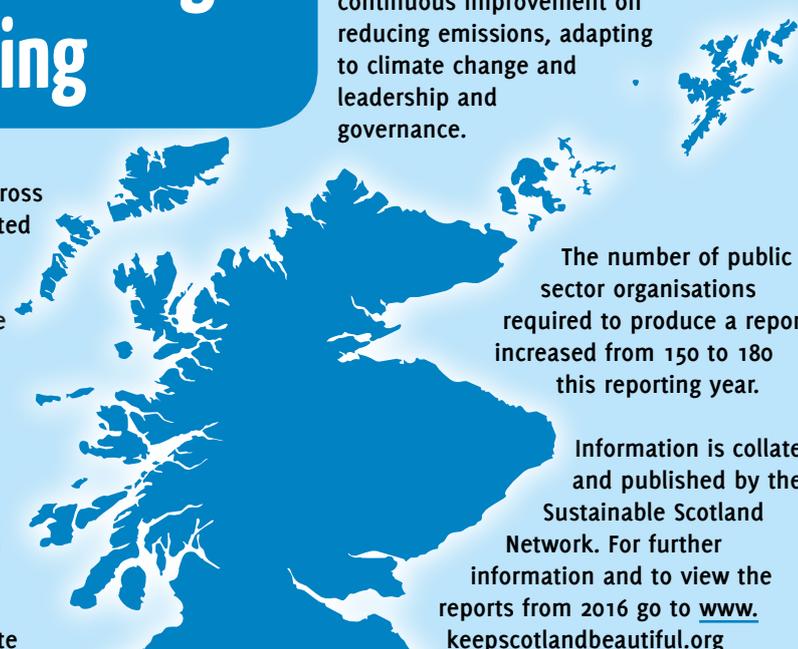
Public sector organisations across Scotland submitted reports for the second year of statutory climate change reporting in November 2017.

The reports aim to show compliance with Public Bodies Duties under Scotland's climate

change legislation. They track public sector action on climate change and drive continuous improvement on reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and leadership and governance.

The number of public sector organisations required to produce a report increased from 150 to 180 this reporting year.

Information is collated and published by the Sustainable Scotland Network. For further information and to view the reports from 2016 go to www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org





It's Your Neighbourhood Achievements

30 community groups in the city have had their environmental improvement work recognised by the 2017 Beautiful Scotland, It's Your Neighbourhood initiative.

The initiative is designed to acknowledge the work of community groups along themes of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement.

It's Your Neighbourhood is a local environmental improvement campaign designed to encourage volunteer groups to pick up their shears and spades in a bid to clean up and beautify their local areas. The campaign is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society.



The initiative is non-competitive and acknowledges local efforts by presenting groups with certificates based on a 1-5 level of grading. Groups are assessed on their own merits and not compared against each other. The level of achievement is based on how well the entrant group has done in terms of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement.

The groups' activities include, litter picking, developing allotments, bulb planting, creating hanging baskets, painting equipment, improving biodiversity; all to the benefit of their communities and neighbourhoods.

In addition, six groups achieved a Certificate of Distinction. This recognises a group that has consistently grown and improved over the years of the campaign.

Level 1 – Establishing

- Clifton Court Gardening Group
- Cummings Park Community Garden
- Kittybrewster Nursery

Level 2 – Improving

- Castlewood Gardens
- Granitehill House Tenants Association
- Gwen's Garden
- Lord Hays Court gardeners
- Permaculture Garden Project

Level 3 – Advancing

- Bainbridge Gardeners
- Friends of Sunnybank Park
- Friends of Walker Dam
- Gerrard Street Baptist Church
- Knowing no Bounds

Level 4 – Thriving

- Cummings Park Community Flat*
- Denburn Court Tenants & Residents Association

- Fittie Community Development Trust
- Friends of Johnston Gardens
- Friends of the Denburn
- Recovery Garden Project – Alcohol & Drugs Action

Level 5 – Outstanding

- Airyhall School
- Donside Village Community
- Friends of Duthie Park*
- Friends of Hazlehead
- Friends of Seaton Park
- Friends of Union Terrace Gardens*
- Friends of Victoria & Westburn Parks
- Garthdee Field Allotments Association*
- Hazlehead Primary School – Community Group
- Nether Loirston Growers Association *
- Slopefield Allotment Association*

*Certificate of Distinction

Outstanding success

Friends of Victoria and Westburn parks were presented with the top award of "Outstanding" in the Beautiful Scotland, It's Your Neighbourhood Awards.

Chairman of Friends of Victoria and Westburn Parks, Peter Stephen, outlined the work of the group over four years to achieve this award including:

The creation of a wild flower garden, which gave a beautiful display of poppies, through the summer. In October, the group, along with the Rotary club and children from Skene Square School planted 8,000 crocus bulbs in Westburn Park, to support the Rotary Purple for Polio campaign.

The group is planning to have another draughts board painted for Victoria Park. At Westburn Park the children's play area has a new swing fitted for disabled children and a new skate park is at the planning stage.

If you would like to join the Friends of Victoria and Westburn parks group, they meet every Saturday at 9am, at the bothy at the Belvidere Street entrance to Victoria Park.

Policy on balloon and lantern releases

A new policy has been approved prohibiting the intentional release of balloons, lanterns and other similar items at Aberdeen City Council run by or endorsed events and Council properties.

The policy highlights the risks that uncontrolled release of these items into the environment can cause, this includes hazards to wildlife and livestock.

Lanterns can also caused injury to members of the public and damage to buildings, as well as interfering with Coastguard and Civil Aviation Authority activities.



Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility Opening and Tours

A new recycling facility in Aberdeen has officially opened its doors.

The Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility at Hareness Place was opened in October by Councillor Jenny Laing Co-Leader of Aberdeen City Council and David Palmer-Jones Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK.

The facility started operating in spring this year and is where Aberdeen's mixed recycling is sorted, baled and sent on to reproprocessors.

All materials delivered to the facility are manually pre-sorted to remove large plastic items, scrap metal, plastic film and non-recyclable waste.

With the use of specialised sorting screens, magnets and eddy currents, the recyclates are sorted into glass, TetraPaks, paper, card, three types of plastic and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. These sorted items are then bundled into tight bales and collected

by various companies for recycling into new products.

Interested members of the public can take a guided tour of the Altens facility. Tours take place every Wednesday at 1pm and pre-booking is required. Contact wasteandrecycling@aberdeencity.gov.uk to arrange your visit.

Did you know:

- Around 96,000 tonnes of waste is produced from 117,000 households in Aberdeen each year.
- Since the new roll-out on March this year, recycling rates have risen from 39% to 49%.
- The Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility can sort up to 20 tonnes of city mixed recycling an hour, that's the equivalent of 3 full bin lorries.
- The Council carries out over 4.5 million bin collections every year.

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



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Communities spring into action

Aberdeen will enjoy a bonanza of spring flowers thanks to the efforts of local volunteers who have planted thousands of bulbs across the city.

In a frenzy of autumn activity, community groups, schools and individuals braved the outdoors, to plant crocuses and a bee and diversity mix.

Over 100 local groups were involved in planting over 150,000 bulbs that will bring fresh shoots and fantastic colour to Aberdeen in spring next year.

Aberdeen City Council's Environmental Services supplied the bulbs supporting a wide range of active individuals and groups to bring a splash of colour to their communities.

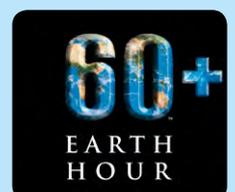
The hard work of these volunteers makes a huge difference to Aberdeen's greenspaces.

Earth Hour 2018

Sign up for the Earth Hour switch off on 24 March 2018. Millions of people join in with this event each year, by switching off their lights for just one hour at 8.30 pm, to show they care about the future of the planet.

130 Scottish landmarks supported Earth Hour in 2017, including Edinburgh Castle, the Scottish Parliament and the Forth Rail Bridge.

To find out more about Earth Hour 2018 go to www.earthhour.org





Green Walls

Green walls provide a welcome space for nature in urban environments. They are internal or external walls that have been intentionally covered by vegetation. As well as brightening spaces, green walls have a whole range of benefits from protecting buildings, to helping to save energy, improving health and wellbeing and adapting to climate change. This edition of Green Times looks at several initiatives working to develop green walls in Aberdeen.



Pilot projects test green walls approach

Aberdeen City Council is working on two small scale pilot projects to explore the development of green walls. The aim is that the knowledge gained could be used to roll out green walls in disused sites across Aberdeen.

The pilot phase is testing out different types of green walls, using plants, small fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Staff from the Council's Environmental Policy and Environmental Services worked with Duthie Park Rangers to adapt recycled wooden pallets into vertical gardens. These were planted with a variety of hardy alpines and succulents.

A second pilot project will involve creating Edible Green Walls within regeneration areas of Aberdeen, as part of a school gardening project.

Using recycled plastic bottles, edible options will be tested in 4 primary schools, to support learning about gardening and nutrition.

The project will present everything a school needs for an outdoor garden. It will provide an easy way to instruct pupils on how to grow their own food and make healthy food choices, whilst supporting activities relating to climate adaptation, natural heritage and health and well-being.

For more information about the green walls pilot projects please contact: [Oluwatoyin Fatokun ofatokun@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:Oluwatoyin.Fatokun@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Inverdee Green Wall Project

The North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership is exploring green wall techniques which are good for wildlife, as well as being low cost to establish and maintain.

The approach is being trialled at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) offices at Inverdee House.

This site has a rock-filled, gabion basket wall in the car park, shoring up land from an adjacent housing development. Gaps between the rocks have been part filled with compost and plants added. This has avoided the need for the expensive, pocketed planting bags, which are used on more conventional green walls.

The compost and plants added to the rock baskets represent a very small additional weight. This contrasts with a conventional green wall, where there is usually a significant additional engineering load on the "host" building, especially where the green wall is a retro-fit.

Native plants like Kidney vetch, Roseroot, Sea campion, Thrift and Wild thyme have been used which are normally more attractive to insects and other wildlife. Planting stock was established by Ewen Cameron of the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, by collecting seed and raising seedlings in his garden.

The plants used are all native plants that grow along the coast and are adapted to minimal soil and periods of water stress. This means there is less need for "aftercare" of the plants.

Two plantings were carried out to compare the warmer but drier conditions in June with cooler, wetter conditions in September. Although the June planting was less than optimum, almost 60% of the seedlings survived into autumn. In 2018, the survival of seedlings will be assessed and further plantings carried out.

The partnership would like to run another trial with a school, community or other group who have safe and easy access to a similar wall. If you are interested in taking part, contact thegreentimes@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Eco Schools 



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

Seaton Park Wetland wins a Herald Society Award

The Seaton Park Wetland has won the Herald Society Best Environmental Initiative Award 2017. The prestigious award was presented to Aberdeen City Council's Environmental Planning and Environmental Services teams, at an awards ceremony in Glasgow in November.

A significant part of the park near to the main entrance used to be flooded for most of the year. After heavy rain, the entrance road would also flood. The Wetland Project involved landscaping the existing flooded area. This created some small deeper pools

and produced shallow slopes into these pools. These areas were planted with native plants that are adapted to wet conditions.

The wetland is designed so that after heavy rain, it will fill up and the water will slowly evaporate or percolate into the ground. During normal weather conditions the previously flooded areas should remain dry. During dry periods, water will remain in the deeper pools, while other areas dry out.

This creates a mix of different habitats that is good for the wildflowers that were planted as a part of the project and provides places for a range of birds and insects and even deer to live in.

On the other side of the park, the drainage was upgraded to help improve the sports pitch and make the paths accessible all year round.



Photograph by Ian Talboys

Winter wildlife

The winter can be a tough time for wildlife especially when the weather is cold and the ground is frozen. If you put out food for the birds you may be surprised as to what turns up in your garden.

Last year was a particularly good year for waxwings, a very attractive bird that visits the UK in the winter to escape the colder weather of northern Scandinavia.

Waxwings look almost unreal with their dusky pink plumage, a yellow stripe at the end of their tail, a red and a white spot on the wing and a crest on top of their head.

These birds feast on berries, so if you have a rowan tree or cotoneaster bushes in your garden keep an eye out for them stripping the berries.

Last winter there were flocks of 100 or more of these colourful birds moving around the city, in areas such as Northfield and Kingsgate, where there are plenty of trees with berries.

Volunteers help countryside management

Volunteers from across the city, local residents, employees of local companies, schools and community groups have been helping the Countryside Ranger Service to manage Aberdeen's wonderful countryside sites.

During 2017, the volunteers delivered around 1,800 hours or over 243 days of volunteer time. The Countryside Rangers have expressed a big thank you for all work of the volunteers which has made a huge contribution to the management of the countryside sites.

In November work took place to cut back the gorse on the Barons Cairn, Tullos Hill, a Bronze Age burial cairn which was slowly being engulfed in gorse.

Earlier in the year Historic Environment Scotland had visited all five of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Tullos Hill, to assess their state and any work that might be needed. They recommended clearing back the gorse on Barons Cairn to make it more visible and to reduce any damage the roots may cause.

If you would like to get involved with volunteering with the Countryside Rangers, sign up for one of the weekend volunteer events or contact the team on 01224 326429 or countrysideranger@aberdeencity.gov.uk for more information.

If your company is looking for a team volunteering day then the Countryside Rangers will be happy to help organise something for that too.



What's On

Outdoor Adventures

The Autumn and Winter Outdoor Adventures with the Countryside Ranger Service leaflet is available on the website at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/rangerservice and will be available in hard copy from local libraries and community centres.

Booking is essential for all events. To book a place or find out more phone or email:

01224 326429

**countrysideranger@
aberdeencity.gov.uk**

January

Saturday 13 | 10am-3pm Persley to the Sea...and Back!

Come on a 10 kilometre walk along both sides of the Don from Persley Walled Garden to Donmouth Local Nature Reserve and back. Please wear sturdy footwear, clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch. Meet at the Persley Walled Garden car park. First Bus 18 goes to Mugiemoss Road.

Saturday 20 | 10am-2pm Campfire Crafts

Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve
Join the rangers in the Kincorth Hill woodlands for a gentle sit around a campfire with some woodland crafts. Activities could include willow weaving, whittling or similar gently paced activities. Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 stops by the car park.

Saturday 27 | 10am-3pm Heathland Habitat Restoration

Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve
Tackle the gorse and broom growing at the Reserve. If we can get a fire going there will be a lunch time treat of baked potatoes and toasted marshmallows. Gloves, tools and hot drinks are provided. Wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing. Please bring a packed lunch. Meet at the Reserve car park off Scotstown Road. First Bus 2 goes to Scotstown Road. Bus 8 goes to Dubford Road.

February

Saturday 3 | 10am-3pm Nature Reserve Conservation Day – Pond Pick-me-up!

Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve
Help the Countryside Rangers make more space for our newts and other freshwater animals and plants. Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided. Please dress warmly, wear wellies or sturdy foot wear and bring a packed lunch. Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 stops by the car park.

Monday 12 | 11am-1pm Fantastic Feeders

Spital Pocket Garden
Join the Countryside Rangers getting our hands dirty to make bird feeders that you can take home. Meet at the Pocket Garden on the Spital, Old Aberdeen. First Bus 20 & 25.

Monday 12 | 2pm-4pm Nest Builders

Spital Pocket Garden
Come and help the Rangers turn scraps of wood into bird boxes, feeders or other habitats. You can take these home to hang in time for National Nest Box Week. Meet at the Pocket Garden on the Spital, Old Aberdeen. First Bus 20 & 25.

Saturday 24 | 10am-3pm Heathland Conservation Day on Elrick Hill

Join the Countryside Rangers to remove the invasive plants and assist the native trees planted last year. Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided. Wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing. Please bring a packed lunch. Meet at the second car park on the left when you leave the A96 on the road signposted for Tyrebagger Forest. Stagecoach bus 10 stops where the road leaves the A96.

March

Friday 2 | 6.15am-8am Dawn at Donmouth

Donmouth Local Nature Reserve
Join the Countryside Rangers to watch the sunrise over the Reserve, while looking out for wildlife including otters, seals and great variety of birds that make use of this site. Meet at the bird hide on the Esplanade. First Buses 1 & 2 go to the Bridge of Don.

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 with some 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. First Bus 11 goes to Queen's Road.

Part of Climate Change Week

Saturday 17 | 8am-9.30am Silent Squirrel Spotting Safari

Hazlehead Woods
The red squirrel is the UK's only native squirrel species. Join the Countryside Rangers on an early morning journey to try and find signs of the woods' red squirrel population. Please wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing. Meet at the far end of the West Chapel, Hazlehead Crematorium car park. Stagecoach X17 goes to Skene Road.

Squirrel Events Special Offer

If you attend both squirrel events on March 17th we invite you to have a simple breakfast in the Ranger base on Groats Road. We will provide hot drinks, a warm room, 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! Help the Rangers to get rid of spruce saplings to encourage the regeneration of Scots pines, the squirrel's favourite food." 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. Stagecoach X17 goes to Skene Road.

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.

