

# Green Times

## Summer 2018



Clean up  
Aberdeen



Recovery  
Garden Group

River Dee  
Tree Planting



School story-  
board Winners

Duthie  
Park Events



Ranger  
Events

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# Green Transport

## Aberdeen's Environmental News and Events

# World's first hydrogen road sweeper in Aberdeen

A low emission hydrogen-fuelled road sweeper is set to provide a clean sweep in the city.

A collaboration with ULEMCo, a company providing ultra-low emission hydrogen-fuelled commercial vehicles and Aberdeen City Council is delivering the world's first hydrogen dual fuel road sweeper.

The vehicle uses hydrogen fuel for around a third of the energy used to drive and operate conventional road sweeper vehicles, making valuable reductions in CO2 emissions.

The cleaner sweeper has been adapted by retrofitting a standard EURO 6 DAF truck to run on both diesel and hydrogen fuel.



Emission savings of around 30% are projected from the refitting of ULEMCo technology onto the DAF truck. Project partners believe this makes it best in class for both CO2 and air quality emissions for this type of vehicle.

The sweeper will refuel at the Aberdeen City Hydrogen Energy Storage (ACHES) hydrogen station, which makes hydrogen from renewable electricity, on a daily basis. This is designed to ensure that use of dual fuel is maximised throughout the day.

Councillor Philip Bell, Aberdeen City Council's Hydrogen spokesperson said: "The delivery of this vehicle is part of

our Hydrogen Strategy to increase the deployment of hydrogen vehicles in Aberdeen

City, and keeps us at the forefront of globally demonstrating the practicality and operational flexibility of hydrogen technologies, leading to future decarbonisation."

The work was delivered as part of project HyTIME, within the Low Emission Freight and Logistics Trial, funded by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) in partnership with Innovate UK.

# Aberdeen EcoCity Awards 2018

Entries can now be submitted for the 2018 Aberdeen EcoCity Awards. The annual award scheme recognises and rewards local people for their efforts to make Aberdeen a more sustainable city.

The awards are open to all individuals, community groups, schools, businesses and charities within Aberdeen and entries can be made directly through the Council website, until the 31 August.

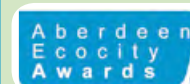
Winners will receive a certificate and cash prizes to help towards the continued success of their projects or initiative.

The Aberdeen EcoCity Awards are hosted by Aberdeen City Council and were established

in 2007 to acknowledge and promote local environmental best practice.

Following the recent addition of categories including a Waste and Recycling EcoCity Award, aimed at businesses and an Energy Efficiency Ecocity award, another new category has been added. The 2018 awards will include a Sustainable Food EcoCity Award aimed at businesses.

To enter or to find out more about the awards visit: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/aberdeen-ecocity-awards](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/aberdeen-ecocity-awards)



The Clean Up Aberdeen 2018 campaign was launched at the Donmouth earlier this year, with the help of enthusiastic pupils from Middleton Park School. A dedicated group of primary 5 and 6 pupils walked from their school in the Bridge of Don to the beach, to take part in the litter picking event.



## Clean up Aberdeen

first outing filled 6 bags.

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

So far, this year, thanks to the litter picking efforts of 1,725 volunteers, almost 1,629 bags have been filled with the litter from local neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and riverbanks.

The annual Clean up Aberdeen initiative is supported by a range of local groups committed to participating in regular clean ups. Surfers Against Sewage started their year with a massive beach clean that attracted nearly 300 volunteers and filled almost 500 bags with litter. In a following four more clean ups, they filled 186 bags.

Individual efforts are also an important part of the campaign. Aberdeen is fortunate to have 30 individual volunteers who venture out, as and when they can fit it in.

The city even has a group of Ploggers. They combine jogging with litter picking and their

Aberdeen City Council's Environmental Services 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 with organising an event call 01224 219281, or email [cleanaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:cleanaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk)



A new city veg bag initiative is providing an easy to manage introduction to food growing for Aberdeen residents.

The pre-planted Veg Bag scheme is open to everybody, although aims to encourage first time growers.

Each Veg Bag comes with compost and five growing items: cabbage, lettuce, beetroot, carrots and chives, that are ready to grow throughout the summer. There's very little maintenance required, aside from regular watering.

With awareness in community gardens increasing in many areas of the city, the Veg Bag project hopes to spark the

interest of local people in emerging growing spaces.



## Launch of city veg bag scheme

The project is part of the wider Food Growing Strategy. A recently appointed Community Growing Officer is responsible for rolling out a range of projects linked to the strategy, all with the common goal of helping city residents to embrace food growing.

The Council is working in partnership with CFINE and the aim is for the project to be rolled out in much greater numbers next year.

To find out more about the Veg Bags contact [Communitygrowingaberdeen@cfine.org](mailto:Communitygrowingaberdeen@cfine.org)



## It's your neighbourhood

Communities in Aberdeen are set to benefit once again from the many local groups that will be greening up their neighbourhoods, as part of It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) campaign.

IYN is an annual non-competitive, improvement initiative, celebrating the achievements of community groups making a real difference to their area. It is based on three themes of; Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement.

Groups taking part in Aberdeen include; allotments, residents groups, 'Friends of' groups, schools and community flats. Improvements can include activities such as: bulb planting, litter picking, filling planters and hanging baskets, improving pathways and accessibility and developing allotments.

Many are looking forward to what they can do in the year ahead, while some, like Gwen's Garden in Garthdee, are enjoying the rewards of last year's efforts.

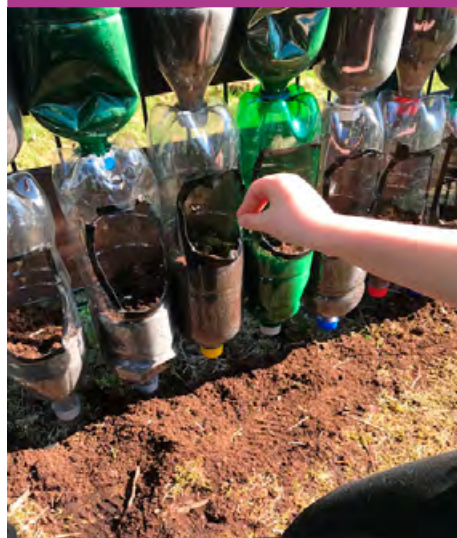
The campaign is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Groups taking part are assessed on their own merit and not compared against each other.





# Growing your own food vertically



Pupils at from 4 city primary schools have been creating vertical growing stations using an Edible Green Wall Toolkit.

Over 120 pupils at Tullos Primary School, Bramble Brae School, Woodside School and Muirfield School are learning how to grow their own food, using the space saving structures.

The schools worked with staff from the Council's from Environmental Policy and Environmental Services teams. Using the toolkit, the pupils learned how to sow small fruits, herbs and vegetables; including, strawberries, garlic, carrots, beetroot, mixed lettuce in their own edible green wall.

Some of the more tender crops have been sown at Grove Nursery and will be replanted by the pupils at a later stage.

The edible green walls are an interactive resource, encouraging pupil participation in learning about where their food comes from, through the creation, interaction and maintenance of their own food growing spaces.

Local community groups are being encouraged to get involved in ensuring the success of the edible green walls. If you have some knowledge of gardening and are willing to share your expertise. Or if you just want to learn more about this type of vertical growing, please contact [ecocity@aberdeen.co.uk](mailto:ecocity@aberdeen.co.uk)



We are being told that gardening is good for our health. What better way of aiding the difficult process of recovery from substance misuse, than getting out into the fresh air and growing your own fruit and veg.

This is what goes on at the Alcohol and Drugs Action Recovery Garden Project each week, at the Grove Nursery, Hazlehead. In conjunction with the Council, the group have the use of a poly tunnel at the nursery site, where they produce a variety of fruit and veg. Everything from courgettes to sweetcorn, tomatoes to pumpkins and more.

In partnership with Aberdeen Inspired, the group also plant up the flower pots which are given out to local businesses in

the Castlegate, to brighten up the city.

The successful project has been running for 3 years and during that time has been part of the Scotland in Bloom, 'It's your Neighbourhood' initiative.

There can be a stigma attached to being in recovery and this project, along with other volunteer led activities that Alcohol and Drugs Action provide, reduces that barrier. It shows that recovery does happen and can be very rewarding.

[www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk](http://www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk)  
contact Anne McAlister at [amcalister@alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk](mailto:amcalister@alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk) or follow them on facebook [@AlcDrugsAction](https://www.facebook.com/AlcDrugsAction)



## Volunteering opportunities in green space survey

Aberdeen City Council is undertaking an open space audit survey across the city and looking for volunteers.

The survey is likely to start from June 2018 and will last until August 2018. The aim of the survey is to assess the quality and quantity of open space across the city.

This work will involve visiting green and

open spaces and collecting information on the quality of the open/green spaces.

The results of the survey will be used to develop future policy, planning and management of open spaces in the city.

It is a great opportunity for the residents to assess the quality and quantity of their open spaces. As well as, gain knowledge and experience working with a team from various disciplines.

If you are interested in participating the survey, contact Aftab Majeed [amajeed@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:amajeed@aberdeencity.gov.uk) for more information.



87% 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)





# Tree planting benefits the Dee

Green spaces in Aberdeen are set to become even greener with the planting of almost 5,000 trees, in an initiative co-ordinated and delivered by the Dee Catchment Partnership and the River Dee Trust.

A selection of Oak, Birch, Wild Cherry, Holly, Scot's Pine and European Larch trees were planted alongside the River Dee.

Local volunteers, joined staff from a range of organisations, including the Woodland Trust, Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers, the River Dee Trust and the Dee Catchment Partnership to plant the trees.

The tree planting is helping to restore the native habitat and to protect the river banks.

Marina Piper, Outreach Officer for the Dee Catchment Partnership said: "We were delighted to organise the planting at the site because trees are vital to rivers and their catchments in so many ways.

"Rivers flowing through wooded catchments are cleaner, slower, better for wildlife and cause less flooding downstream during periods of heavy rain and run-off."

Councillor John Wheeler, Convenor for Operational Delivery at Aberdeen City Council said: "We are very keen to preserve existing trees where possible and plant new trees all over Aberdeen, as there are many benefits to these beautiful woodlands.

"These include social and health advantages for our residents and benefits to wildlife – our woodlands are one of the most accessible places to see our native plants, animals and birds."

## Celebrating Responsible Business Week

Conservation groups and businesses joined forces on the banks of the River Dee in April, to mark Responsible Business Week.

A tree-planting event, organised by the Dee Catchment Partnership and the River Dee Trust, was held at Garthdee. Around 30 volunteers from Sainsbury's Garthdee and the Trust planted close to 1,000 trees.

This work will help to restore the riverbanks, providing habitats for wildlife and protection against flooding.

Manager of Sainsbury's Garthdee, David Vass, said: "We are extremely grateful to the Woodland Trust for donating all the trees, and especially to the Trust's Woodland Creation Adviser, Russ Jobson, for his vital planting advice on the day."

Marina Piper, from Dee Catchment Partnership added: "Not only did we manage to plant almost 1,000 trees, the responses from the volunteers was just heartwarming.

"Some of them said they didn't know this walk was right here on their doorstep, others enjoyed the simple satisfaction of planting a tree for the first time, and another said the experience had been truly inspiring."

The River Dee Trust welcomes support from volunteers. To get involved contact Calum Hislop, at [calum@riverdee.org](mailto:calum@riverdee.org)

## Community Orchard in Seaton Park

A variety of fruit trees are now growing at Seaton Park, forming a new community orchard.

The orchard is one of three major planting projects carried out by the Friends of Seaton Park, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council.

Twenty full size fruit trees, were planted in February last year with the help of Council staff and local children. The fruit trees will provide fresh, fruit for the public, as well as enhance biodiversity, with the fruit tree blossom feeding pollinating insects.



This work was to commemorate the 70th anniversary in 2017, of the purchase by the city, of the land that would become Seaton Park.

The Friends of Seaton Park group selected apple, pear, plum and cherry trees for the orchard, choosing varieties known to do well in the north of Scotland. A couple of Scottish heritage apples were included, James Grieve and Bloody Ploughman, the latter so named as it has crimson streaks in its flesh.

The planting event was enlivened by the appearance of the Primary 2 class from St Peter's school who happened to be in the park. They enjoyed watching and helping out, some of them digging and shovelling enthusiastically.

Friends of Seaton Park have expressed their thanks to Richard Nicholson, Ian Talboys, and Mike Chalmers from Aberdeen City Council for their advice and help with the project. The group hope that they and others will watch the trees grow and in time enjoy their produce.







## Airyhall Primary eco achievements

Pupils at Airyhall Primary won a prize at the World Soils Day in Edinburgh, for their work on a poster, to explain the different types of soil.

Healthy soils provide a range of functions and the poster competition encouraged schools to design a poster highlighting the importance of soils.

To inform their design the pupils learned about soils from Nikki Baggaley, from the James Hutton Institute, who works with the children at a weekly allotment visit.

The school won a prize of £100, which will be spent on equipment and plants for the school garden and allotment areas.

Airyhall Primary have been adding to their eco achievements, with a range of local activities including:

- A successful winning entry in the Spring Flower Show and winning designs for the Alfie Climate Change Storyboard competition.
- Support for the Clean Up Aberdeen Campaign in May, through holding litter picks, designing posters and researching litter in different places.
- Looking after local green spaces. The pupils are designing posters to help reduce litter in Johnston Gardens and encourage people to stop feeding the ducks with bread.

A Primary 5 class visited the gardens to put up bird boxes and a Primary 1 class visited in May for a treasure hunt, designed by the Primary 5 class.

## School storyboard competition winners

Winners have been selected from a city energy saving and climate change competition, which was open to primary schools in Aberdeen.

The competition run by the Council's Energy Management team, invited city pupils to design a storyboard to show the possible effects of climate change. With greenhouse gas emissions contributing to changes in the global climate, the storyboards encouraged everyday actions to save energy and save our future.

6 winners were selected from a significant number of entries, in categories P4/5, P5/6, P6/7.

The submitted storyboards included stories on:

- Why we should save energy by switching off lights, chargers & electronic devices, taking shorter showers, using transport less, planting trees and turning down our heating. This is to reduce carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere.
- How climate change might impact

our local area, with a risk of increased rainfall, flooding, storms, increased temperatures and sea level rise;

The winners were presented with prizes and certificates, and included:

- P4/5 – Winner, Isla Cheyne, Kirkhill School
- P4/5 – 2nd Prize, Elizabeth Silin, Forehill School
- P5/6 – Winner, Freya Stewart, Airyhall School
- P5/6 – 2nd Prize, Katie Ross, Heathryburn School
- P6/7 – Winner, Albert Jossy, Holy Family RC School
- P6/7 – 2nd Prize, Ryan Inglis, Airyhall Primary School

The competition formed part a city school energy management campaign, headed by mascot Superhero Alfie. More energy saving initiatives will be launched later this 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](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)



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## National Gardening Week at Duthie Park

A series of gardening related workshops were held at Duthie Park, to celebrate the Royal Horticulture Society National Gardening Week in April and May. The workshops invited members of the public to attend and share their passion for gardening.

The events were organised in partnership with staff at the park and volunteers from the Royal Horticulture Society of Aberdeen (RHSA). The Friends of Duthie Park helped by sponsoring the event. The week included:

- A talk on gardening for health, by Anne McAlister from Alcohol and Drugs Action showed how gardening can help people in recovery from addiction and other health related issues.
- Flower Arranging Workshops, which were

led by volunteers from the RHSA.

- The North East Scotland Herb Group ran a workshop showing which herbs are useful remedies for conditions, such as colds and anxiety. Participants also got to taste some of the infused herbs, including lavender.
- A tour around the gardens and the Cacti and Aloe National Plant Collection, to raise awareness of some of the unique plants within the Winter Gardens, the participants were then shown how to plant and take care of Cacti and Aloe plants.
- A cooking workshop, led by the "Foodie Quine", Claire Jessiman. Participants were shown how to cook tasty treats from vegetables that can be grown in their own garden.



## Vegetable plots in community garden

Pupils from Walker Road Primary School visited Duthie Park during National Gardening Week and planted out the vegetable plots in the Community Garden.

The pupils got the chance to plant their

favourite vegetables, which included potatoes, cauliflower, radish and lettuce.

They will be making regular visits to the park to keep a check on the vegetables and to do any weeding required.



DuthiePark  
Ranger Service

## Schools flowerbed competition

Pupils from Culter and Kirkhill Primary Schools helped the Duthie Park Rangers to pot on a selection of Begonias, which will be used in the Schools Flowerbed Competition.

The winning designs for the flowerbeds competition, were produced by Isla Beaumont-Smith (Culter Primary), Dylan Forsyth (Kirkhill Primary) and James Maitland (Kirkhill Primary).

The theme for the competition was United Nations Global Goals. The winners and their classmates will also help with the planting of the flowerbeds in June, at a site on Great Southern Road.

## Grow Wild Youth Project funding 2018

This year Grow Wild are inviting young people aged 14-25 the opportunity to flex their creative skills. Grow Wild is awarding funding of £500 for successful projects to raise awareness of the importance of wildflowers and fungi. Entrants should make a short video about the idea for their project from the options:

- Creative projects in your community (14-25). Young people can use their interest in photography, music, drama, dance, film, visual arts or more to celebrate UK native wild flowers and fungi in fun and inventive ways.
- Co-created projects for emerging artists (18-25 only). Apply to join with others across the UK to plan an autumn exhibition at renowned arts venue, Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This will include an artist masterclass.

Applications close Monday 2 July. To find out more visit [www.growwilduk.com/content/youth-project-funding-open](http://www.growwilduk.com/content/youth-project-funding-open)



# Green family fun day

A Green Family Funday was held in Hazlehead Park in March, as part of Climate Week North East.

The Council's Environmental Services Team hosted the event which involved displays and activities from around 15 local organisations and community groups. These highlighted actions people can take to help reduce the impacts of climate change ranging from alternative fuelled cars, to recumbent bikes.

Pet's Corner was open free of charge for the day and attracted over 3000 visitors, a record number for this popular attraction.

The event formed part of an annual week-long programme of events, co-ordinated by Aberdeen Climate Action.

## Climate Café

A city Climate Café aims to provide a fun and informal way to learn more about projects in the north east, which are encouraging sustainable living.

The café organised by Aberdeen Climate Action, runs on the first Tuesday of each month, between 7-9pm, at Waterstones.

The café events have been running for over 7 months and have proved successful, with some events attracting up to 120 participants. Topics for the café have included renewable energy, food production and transport, with a topic of reducing waste and recycling planned for a future event.

Alison Stuart, Director, Aberdeen Climate Action, said: "It is just great to see everyone really interacting and getting inspired by what is possible and already happening here in the north east, to take their own actions and create new projects."

For information on future Cafes visit the Aberdeen Climate Action facebook page or their website at [www.aberdeencclimateaction.org/climate-cafe.html](http://www.aberdeencclimateaction.org/climate-cafe.html)



## Middlefield Community Ranger

A new user-friendly community park is being created as part of the Middlefield Project. Work includes:

- Raising the Scatterburn from under-ground to above ground, to work as a flood alleviation scheme.
- Creating new pedestrian and cycle friendly paths; and improved pavements, on two streets beside the development.
- Installing new landscaping to create an attractive park area, which will be user-friendly for the residents in the surrounding areas.

The scheme received funding from the SNH Green Infrastructure Fund, with additional funding coming from Aberdeen City Council, Nestrans and Sustrans.

Contractors have now finished work on parts of the site including; raising the Scatterburn, adding fencing at the allotments, and forming the bunds. Work on other parts of the site, including creating the cycle and walking paths, is expected to start soon.

A new Community Ranger, Vicky Ewan, has started work in the Middlefield area. Her role is to promote and support environmental activities in the park and surrounding green spaces, to local residents. As well as, carry out environmental activities, in conjunction with local schools.

The aim is to get the community out and about, enjoying exploring the park and local wildlife; and looking at ways to support biodiversity.

Community members are welcome to join the local steering group. The group is discussing ideas for the new park, such as play parks and equipment, new trees and plants, and an area for community growing.

If you are interested in joining the group, getting in touch with the new Community Ranger or if you would just like to find out more about the park, contact Frances Smith: [FraSmith@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:FraSmith@aberdeencity.gov.uk)



## One step closer to Donside Community Park

Exciting times continue for Donside Village and Tillydrone. While residents were busy setting up Aberdeen Community Energy and building the award winning Donside Hydro, they also began the process of buying an area of riverside, to create the Donside Community Park.

The ambition is to create a usable park space, where people can relax, play, explore and learn.

The park project aims to design and deliver an outdoor community space that is welcoming and accessible to all, as well as provide habitats for wildlife including resident foxes, bats, otters, insects, and birds.

A successful application was made to the Scottish Land Fund, for the Donside Village Community charity to buy the land around the hydro. Funding of £55,000 was granted to purchase 2.5 hectares of riverside land, beside the village and to commission a landscape architect to assist with designs for a community park.

The local community is set to be consulted this summer, to find out what people want to see in the community park.

This process will be led by the landscape architect at the village's annual Fayre on 25 August and through other avenues.





## Photographic Awards Success

Council Countryside Officer, Ian Talboys has been successful in winning more awards for his photography, with achievements including:

- Winning the Scottish Botanical category of the Scottish Nature Photography Awards, with a 'Worms eye view of Corn Marigolds' taken at Queens Den.
- Second in the Environment category, with the image 'Moorhen Fast Food', which highlighted the impact of litter on wildlife.
- Third in the Scottish Urban Greenspace category, with an image of fly agaric toadstools on Kingsgate.

Ian's photographs also feature regularly in 'Our Green Times' and other promotional material about local greenspaces and wildlife.



## Core path improvements

Work is taking place to upgrade a number of the core paths, helping to enhance the green transport networks around the city.

The path improvements are taking place on Kincorth Hill, the Deeside Line, along the Don from Ellon Road to Seaton Park and near Persley Bridge.

The Countryside Ranger Service was successful in securing money from the Bus Lane Enforcement Fund for this path work.

Whilst the work is in progress there will be times when the paths will need to be closed for safety reasons, but these will be kept to a minimum. Information about when the work is due to happen, will be posted on the Countryside Ranger Service Facebook page.

Funding has also been secured for path improvements, waymarking and habitat improvement works at Auchmill Community Woodland and other greenspaces in Middlefield. This is from the Scottish Natural Heritage Green Infrastructure programme, NESTRANS and SUSTRANS.

## The Wild North East: Scotland's Natural Gem

The amazing wildlife and scenery of the north east of Scotland features in a short film, 'The Wild North East: Scotland's Natural Gem'.

The film examines the species and habitats in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray and it illustrates the abundance of nature all around us.

It was produced on behalf of the North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership and has been the culmination of several years' work to secure funding and agree the content.

The film is free to download and use, and can be viewed at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4owglBdMx3U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4owglBdMx3U)



*Image shows the part of the bank that was worst affected. Three tiers of spiling are now in place, with the bank re-profiled and seeded with a grass and wild flower mix.*

## Aberdeen Kayak Club Seaton Park Project

A new scheme is using a natural solution to protect an area of the river bank along the Don.

Aberdeen Kayak Club recently completed the project in Aberdeen's Seaton Park, following 3 years of fundraising. The project has two main benefits:

- Improving access on and off the River Don for canoeing.
- Protecting the river bank from further erosion.

The project uses willow spiling, a natural

and sustainable method to improve stability and prevent river bank erosion. This is a 'green' solution used to protect riverbanks.

The method uses willow posts at half-metre intervals which then have thin willow cuttings (coppiced young trees) about 3 metres long woven around the posts and backfilled with soil.

Both the posts and the woven cuttings are freshly cut when required and both will strike roots into the bank and grow. As it becomes established this stabilises the bank and resists further erosion.



# What's On

The Countryside Ranger Service has its biggest ever programme of walks and events over the spring and summer months. There's something happening just about every weekend, along with more children and family events during the week in the holidays.

**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.

## June

**Saturday 30 | 10am-3pm**

### Balsam Bashing River Don

Himalayan Balsam is a non-native invasive plant that spreads quickly. Help the Countryside Rangers pull up these invasive plants before they can set seed. Gloves and hot drinks will be provided. Please bring water and a packed lunch. Meet at the Persley Walled Garden car park.

## July

**Saturday 7 | 2pm-3.30pm**

### Rock Pooling at Cove

Join a Countryside Ranger to explore the residents of the rock pool and create some wild beach art. Remember to bring wellies. Meet at Colsea Road car park.

**Wednesday 11 | 2pm-4pm**

### Dynamic Dragonflies

#### Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve

Join a Countryside Ranger at the reserve, for an opportunity to see dragonflies and damselflies. Meet at the Nature Reserve car park off Scotstown Road.

**Saturday 14 | 10am-1pm**

### Tracks & Signs on Elrick Hill

Join a Countryside Ranger for this guided walk to discover what animals have been travelling along the paths and slopes of Elrick Hill. Meet at the Brimmond Hill North car park.

**Saturday 21 | 7pm-11pm**

### Evening Campout Elrick Hill

A fun evening of shelter building using natural materials, natural art and making a hot drink using outdoor kettles. Bring along torches, stout footwear and suitable clothing for the weather.



Meet at the second car park signposted for Tyrebagger Forest on the left when you leave the A96.

**Tuesday 24 | 12noon-2pm**

### Pollinator Safari Den of Maidencraig Local Nature Reserve

Join a Countryside Ranger to discover the world of pollinators. Plant wildflowers, then go on safari to see some bees, wasps, butterflies and moths.

Meet at the Nature Reserve car park on Skene Road.

**Wednesday 25 | 10am-1pm**

### Hilltop Treasure Trail

#### Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve

Follow the trails around the reserve with an easy to use orienteering map. Join a Countryside Ranger on this guided walk to find the bronze panels of leaves and animal tracks.

Meet at the Kincorth Hill car park off Abbotswell Crescent.

**Saturday 28 | 8.30pm-10.30pm**

### Woodside Bat Walk

Join a Countryside Ranger for an insight into the world of the bat. Use bat detectors to hear their ultrasonic communication.

Meet at the Grandholm Bridge, there is parking available on the North side of the bridge. Please bring a torch.

## August

**Wednesday 1 | 10am-11.30am**

### Rock Pooling at Cove

See event on 7 July for details.

**Saturday 4 | 8.30pm-midnight**

### A Wild Night Out at Burnbanks

Enter the mysterious world of night creatures. Set up sugar and light traps to attract moths (to release unharmed after identification) and use detectors to pick up the ultrasound of hunting bats. Bring sunglasses/wide-brimmed hat (to shield eyes from bright moth trap light), midge repellent & torch. Meet in Burnbanks car park just off the Coast Road from Cove.

**Tuesday 7 | 2pm-4pm**

### Look What I Found!

#### Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve

Enjoy an afternoon of mini beast hunting and exploring at the reserve.

Meet at the Kincorth Hill car park off Abbotswell Crescent.



**Saturday 11 | 2pm-4pm**

### From Duthie to the Dee

Join Countryside Ranger Rob to discover aspects of heritage, archaeology and natural history along the riverside between Duthie Park and the Bridge of Dee.

Meet at the Duthie Park Rangers Office at the old bowling pavilion in the Park.

**Tuesday 14 | 10am-11.30am**

### Rock Pooling at Cove

See event on 7 July for details.

**Saturday 18 | 8.30pm-Midnight**

### Bat Lovers Walk

#### Peterculter

Join a Countryside Ranger for an insight into the world of the bat. Use bat detectors to hear their ultrasonic communication. Please bring a torch. Meet at the St Peter's Heritage Centre car park, Station Road East, Peterculter.

**Saturday 25 | 10am-1pm**

### Scotstown Woodland Experience

A fun evening of shelter building using natural materials, natural art and making a hot drink using outdoor kettles. Please wear clothing suitable for the weather. Meet at the Nature Reserve car park on Scotstown Road.

**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.