



Free and Fun Activities

Outdoor Adventures

with the Countryside Rangers

Autumn 2018 – Winter 2019





OCTOBER

Saturday 6 October – 1pm-4pm

The Kingdom of Fungi

Elrick Hill – For budding mycologists of all ages

Join one of the Countryside Rangers on a guided fungi walk around Elrick Hill. We will have several fun activities designed to help us understand the kingdom of fungi and how it benefits all of us in our daily life.

Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch.

Meet at the Brimmond Hill North car park.

Booking essential.



Saturday 13 October – 10am-3pm

Help the Heather on Kincorth Hill

Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

Here's a great opportunity to get yourself and our lovely Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve into shape.

Help the Rangers protect the beautiful heather habitats by cutting down invasive gorse and broom bushes. If we can get a fire going we will burn the cut material on site and have a lunch time treat of baked potatoes.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 stops next to the car park.

Booking essential.

Saturday 20 October – 10am-3pm

Conservation Volunteer Day

Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

A chance to wage war on the gorse and broom growing in the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Scotstown Moor LNR! If we can get a fire going we will burn the cut gorse on site and have a lunch time treat of baked potatoes.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the Reserve car park on Scotstown Road. First Bus 2 goes to Scotstown Road and 8 to Dubford Road.

Booking essential.

Wednesday 24 October – 1pm-3pm

Autumn Adventure

Seaton Park – Great for all ages!

Find out how the wildlife near River Don is preparing for winter on a stroll around the park. Whilst walking, see what treasures you can find on some autumnal activities.

Please wear clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch.

Meet at the Seaton Park car park. First Bus 1 & 2 will take you to King Street.

Booking essential.





NOVEMBER

Saturday 3 November – 10am-3pm

East Tullis Burn Tidy Up

East Tullis Burn – Ideal for adults and older children

Help the Countryside Rangers tidy up the site by clearing back some vegetation from the burn to allow better flow and more space for wildlife.

Remember to bring wellies! Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the ruined kirk in St Fittick's Park. First Bus 12 stops on Balnagask Road.

Booking essential.

Saturday 10 November – 2pm-4pm

Maidencraig Meander with Added History

Hazlehead Woods & Den of Maidencraig Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults 16 years and older

Starting in Hazlehead this guided walk takes us through the woods and across to the Den of Maidencraig. Look out for wildlife including deer, foxes, and herons and learn about the history of the area back to the last ice age.

Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet in front of the Hazlehead Park café. First Bus 11 or Stagecoach X17 will take you to Queen's Road.

Booking essential.

Saturday 17 November – 10am-3pm

Cairn Conservation – Bringing Back the Baron!

Tullis Hill – Ideal for adults and older children

With special permission from Historic Environment Scotland we will be clearing back vegetation from Baron's Cairn: a spectacular Scheduled Ancient Monument dating back to the Neolithic era which also incorporates some interesting wartime remnants. In recent years the cairn has been vanishing under encroaching vegetation which we aim to clear this winter.

Meet at the new car park for Tullis Hill at the end of Altens Farm Road. First Bus 3 will take you to Wellington Road.

Booking essential.

Saturday 24 November – 10am-3pm

Wetland Conservation for Dragonflies

Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

A Scottish name for dragonflies is 'blazing flies'! These impressive insect predators need areas of open and vegetated water to breed and hunt. You can help the aquatic wildlife of Scotstown Moor by joining the Rangers to open up the pools and channels within the reserve. Work will also be carried out to clear away invasive gorse.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please bring wellies if you have them and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the Reserve car park off Scotstown Road. First Bus 2 will take you to Scotstown Road and 8 to Dubford Road.

Booking essential.





DECEMBER

Saturday 1 December – 10am-1pm

A Hilton Woodland Experience

Hilton Wood – Perfect for families

Come and join the Countryside Rangers for this fun family morning of shelter building with natural materials. Make a hot drink using water boiled in an outdoor kettle and get creative with some natural art to decorate your shelter.

Please wear clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch if you would like.

Meet on Hilton Road near the junction with Mosman Gardens. First Bus 12 goes to Hilton Avenue or 23 to Hilton Drive.

Booking essential.

Saturday 8 December – 10am-3pm

Conservation Volunteer Day

Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

See 20 October event for details.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the Reserve car park off Scotstown Road. First Bus 2 will take you to Scotstown Road and 8 to Dubford Road.

Booking essential.



Saturday 15 December – 10am-1pm

Kincorth Forest Adventure

Kincorth Hill – Perfect for families

This fun family event will include shelter building with natural materials, and searching the woods for animals, their tracks and signs.

Please wear clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch if you would like.

Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 bus stops next to the car park.

Booking essential.



JANUARY



Saturday 12 January – 10am-3pm

Persley to the Sea...and Back!

River Don – Ideal for adults and older children

Burn off those holiday calories and come on a healthy 10km walk along both sides of the Don from Persley Walled Garden to Donmouth Local Nature Reserve and back. There are a few moderate inclines and the pace will be steady but relaxed. This route is suitable for those used to walking moderate distances and who are looking to push themselves a wee bit.

Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch.

Meet at the Persley Walled Garden car park. First Bus 18 will take you to Mugiemoor Road

Booking essential.

Saturday 19 January – 10am-2pm

Campfire Crafts

Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve – Perfect for adults 16 years and older

A chance to relax after the chaos of the holiday season, come and 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 allowing you to slow down and relax.

Please wear clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch.

Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 bus stops next to the car park.

Booking essential.

Saturday 26 January – 10am-3pm

Conservation Volunteer Day

Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

See 20 October event for details.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the Reserve car park off Scotstown Road. First Bus 2 will take you to Scotstown Road and 8 to Dubford Road.

Booking essential.



FEBRUARY

Saturday 2 February – 10am-3pm

Help the Heather on Kincorth Hill

Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

See 13 October event for details.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 bus stops next to the car park.

Booking essential.

Monday 11 February – 11am-1pm

Fantastic Feeders

Hazlehead Park – Perfect for younger children

Come along and join the Countryside Rangers getting our hands dirty making bird feeders that you can take home for your local birdlife to enjoy.

A charge of £3 per child is required to cover material costs.

Meet in front of the Hazlehead Park café. First Bus 11 or Stagecoach X17 will take you to Queen's Road.

Booking essential.

Monday 11 February – 2pm-4pm

Nest Builders

Hazlehead Park – Perfect for older children

Through the year the Rangers collect lots of scraps of wood left over from projects. Come and help us turn them into bird boxes, feeders or other habitats which you can take home and hang in time for National Nest Box Week and the nesting season.

A charge of £3 per child is required to cover material costs.

Meet in front of the Hazlehead Park café. First Bus 11 or Stagecoach X17 will take you to Queen's Road.

Booking essential.

Saturday 16 February – 10am-1pm

Deeside Line Tidy Up

Duthie Park & St Peter's Heritage Centre, Peterculter – Perfect for adults and older children

The Deeside Line, from Duthie Park to the Western boundary of the City, is our longest site. Join the Countryside Rangers to help keep the Line clear of overhanging and obstructive trees and shrubs, by coming on the event from either Duthie Park or Peterculter. We'll look out for wildlife along the way and you'll be rewarded with a hot drink and biscuits.

Meet at either the Duthie Park Winter gardens entrance or Saint Peters heritage centre car park – let us know which you prefer when booking.

First Bus 17 goes to Polmuir Road for Duthie Park. First Bus 19 and Stagecoach 201, 202 & 203 go to the North Deeside Raod (A93) for St Peter's heritage centre.

Booking essential.

Saturday 23 February – 10am-2pm

Big Kids Bushcraft Day

Elrick Hill – Adults only!

A chance for grownups to unleash their inner child. On this event we will be building shelters and fires, practice some crafts with natural materials, and make a cuppa on an outdoor kettle.

Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and bring a packed lunch.

Meet at the second car park signposted for Tyrebagger Forest on the left when you leave the A96. Stagecoach Bus 10 stops where the road leaves the A96.

Booking essential.



MARCH

Friday 1 March – 6.15am-8am

Dawn at Donmouth

Donmouth Local Nature Reserve – Perfect for early risers!

Come and join the Countryside Rangers to watch the sunrise over the Donmouth Local Nature Reserve. While we are there we'll keep an eye out for wildlife including otters and seals plus a great variety of birds that make use of this lovely site.

Meet at the bird hide on the Esplanade. First Buses 1 & 2 will take you to the Bridge of Don.

Booking essential.

Saturday 2 March – 2pm-4pm

Dens in the Den

Den Wood, Hazlehead – Perfect for families

Come and join the Countryside Rangers for this fun family afternoon of shelter building with natural materials. Make a hot drink using water boiled in 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 number 11 or Stagecoach X17 will take you to Queen's Road.

Booking essential.



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Saturday 9 March – 10am-2pm

Campfire Cookout

Den of Maidencraig Local Nature Reserve – Ideal for adults and older children

Today we will learn the basics of fire lighting in this scenic spot before creating a communal meal cooked entirely in the open. While the food is being prepared we can also create some natural crafts and be on the lookout for local wildlife.

A charge of £5 per participant is required to cover costs.

Meet at the Nature Reserve car park on Skene Road. Stagecoach X17 will take you to Skene Road.

Booking essential.

15-24 March

Climate Week North East

Various locations

Climate Week North East runs from 15-24 March and is packed full of fun and informative events on climate change and how to live sustainably. To see the whole programme and learn more go to www.climateweekaberdeen.org/ and www.facebook.com/climateweeknortheast/

Saturday 16 March – 8am-9.30am

Silent Squirrel Spotting Safari

Hazlehead Woods – Perfect for adults who like to get up early!

The red squirrel is the UK's only native squirrel species and was once a common sight across all of mainland Britain but now is mainly found in Scotland.

Join the Countryside Rangers on an early morning journey to try and find signs of the red squirrel population in Hazlehead. Perhaps you'll be lucky enough to see one of the squirrels!

Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and bring a hot drink if you wish.

Meet at the far end of the West Chapel Hazlehead Crematorium car park. Stagecoach X17 goes to Skene Road.

Part of Climate Change Week.

Booking essential.

Squirrel Events Special Offer

If you attend both squirrel events on March 16th we invite you to have a simple breakfast in the Ranger base on Goats Road. We will provide hot drinks, a warm room, croissants and cereals.

Saturday 16 March – 10.30am-3pm

Squirrel Woodland Management

Hazlehead Woods – Children over the age of 5 welcome to take part

Red squirrels have once again been seen in the woods of Hazlehead! This is partly due to removal of many of the grey squirrels but also encouraging the regeneration of Scots pines that are the squirrel's favourite food. Come and help the Rangers get rid of spruce saplings and increase the chance of seeing red squirrels in this lovely part of the city.

Gloves, tools and hot drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

Meet at the far end of the West Chapel Hazlehead Crematorium car park. Stagecoach X17 will take you to Skene Road.

Part of Climate Change Week.

Booking essential.

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Saturday 16 March – 11am-3pm

Hazlehead Green Family Funday

Hazlehead Park – Perfect for families

Join us for a day of Family fun green style! From free entry into Pets Corner, to brilliant stalls with loads of hands on activities, information about recycling, energy saving and grants for your home, to trying out all sorts of bikes (even a unicycle!), the little and big kids among us will have a whole heap of fun while learning.

First Bus 11 or Stagecoach X17 go to Queen's Road.

Part of Climate Change Week.

Booking essential.

Monday 18 March – 4pm-5:30pm

Seaton Park Wetland Walk

Seaton Park – Perfect for adults

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

Meet at the Seaton Park car park. First Bus 1 & 2 will take you to King Street.

Part of Climate Change Week.

Booking essential.

Saturday 30 March – 1pm-3pm

Signs of Spring Treasure Trail

Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve – Perfect for families

Join a Countryside Ranger on a wildlife treasure trail around the nature reserve. We'll use a map to find our way and hunt for signs of spring and natural treasures along the way.

Meet at the Reserve car park at Abbotswell Crescent. First Bus 18 bus stops next to the car park.

Part of Climate Change Week.

Booking essential.



WHAT WE DO

Environmental Education

The Countryside Ranger Service offers opportunities for people to learn about their local environment and biodiversity during conservation sessions which can take place in the classroom, at a local greenspace, or on one of our 25 countryside sites dotted across the city.



Popular subjects include pond dipping, minibeast hunts, shelter building, and tree studies. However we will consider all suggestions and aim to tailor the session to your requirements. We can also help facilitate the John Muir Award and Duke of Edinburgh activities, as well as fieldwork for older year groups.

Ranger-led activities are free of charge for school groups undertaking curriculum-based activities or conservation tasks. For other groups there is a charge designed to cover our costs.

Our experienced Countryside Rangers also offer a variety of training opportunities for teachers and outdoor training providers.

Conservation Volunteering

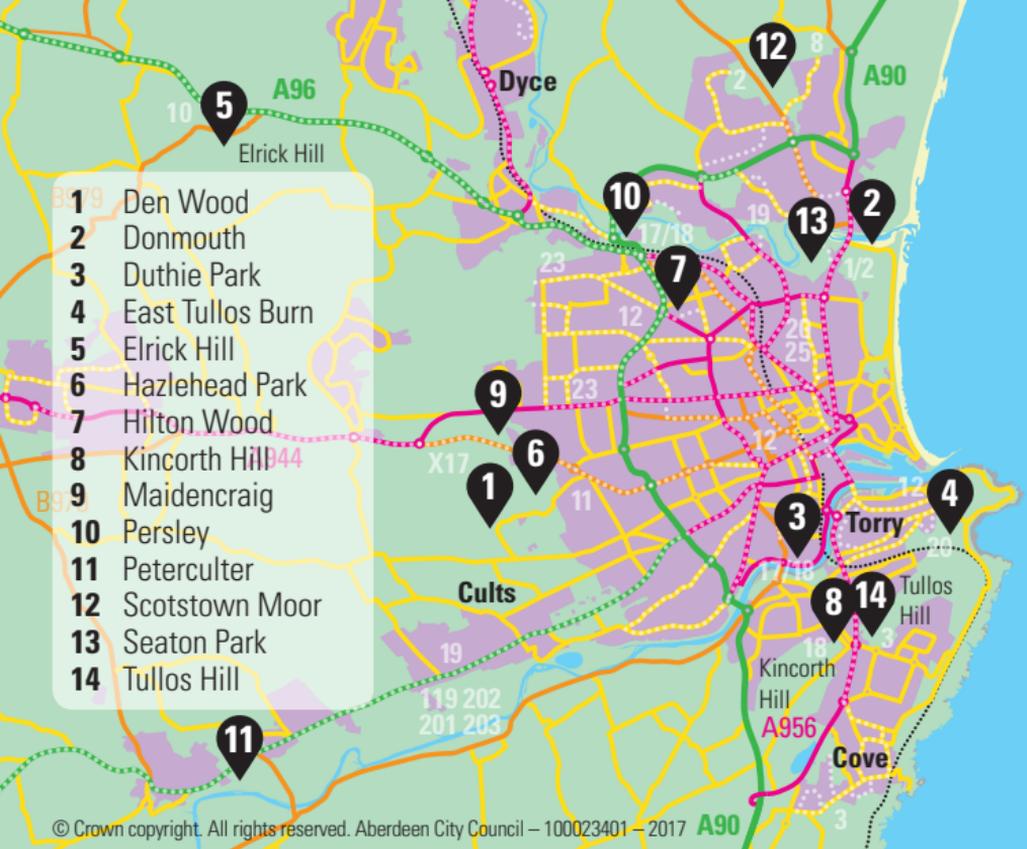
Volunteers play an invaluable role in the services we deliver particularly when it comes to managing our countryside sites. People can come to the events in this booklet, join our regular Volunteers Ranger Team, or organise a community or corporate volunteer event.



We regularly work with students and keen young environmentalists, offering opportunities and experience to help

them take the next step in their careers. We also work with community and residents groups who want to give something back by improving their local area.

We welcome you to our Countryside Ranger Service and aim to help everyone enjoy the wealth of nature we have on our city doorstep!



The Countryside Ranger service can be contacted:

- By Post Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service,
Communities, Housing & Infrastructure,
Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility
Hareness Place, Altens Industrial Estate
Aberdeen AB12 3GX
- Web www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/rangerservice
- Email countrysideranger@aberdeencity.gov.uk
- Tel 01224 326429  **Find us on Facebook**

NB: All outdoor events will require warm clothes sturdy foot wear 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.

All events are free but donations to support the Countryside Ranger Service are appreciated.

For public transport information please contact:

- Travel Line www.travelinescotland.com
- Firstbus www.firstgroup.com/aberdeen
- Stagecoach www.stagecoachbus.com

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