

# the green diary

Moray, Aberdeenshire & Aberdeen City



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## Growing Concerns in the North East

### Ground Breaking Local Food Apprenticeship Scheme

words and photo by Ann Davidson

As the Earthshare summer cauliflower planting got underway at their fields near Forres in April, the proceedings were being watched and noted by some new – and unique to Scotland – trainee growers who have signed up to a Local Food Apprenticeship in Horticulture organised by the Highlands and Islands Local Food Network (HILocal) in partnership with LANTRA (the sector training body for land based industries).

The 12 trainees are undertaking a year's course which HILocal hopes will address the mismatch of the high demand for locally sourced food from consumers, and the shortage of growers and farmers who are willing or able to supply them in the North of Scotland.

Earthshare, one of ten sites where trainees will work, is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) endeavour which receives no grant funding and which sends out around 800 organic vegetable boxes every week of food grown solely at their fields and polytunnels near Forres in Moray.

HILocal provides a website and links between growers, farmers and crofters in their area and customers who wish to 'buy local'. "We currently have a mismatch of around 400-500%", explained Jo Hunt, HILocal Network Leader. "We try and help farmers in an area to supply the customers there who contact us, but we realised there was a need to find a way to get more people into farming and growing – hence this course. We are hoping that as many as possible of our 12 trainees will go on to establish CSA's, businesses and farm stores, and supply farmer's markets, hotels, restaurants & schools"

When I visited the four Moray trainees at the tractor training part of the

course held at Earthshare under the tutelage of Andy Henderson, one of the course trainers, they told me how the course was benefiting them. John Grant, a local farmers' son said: "I returned to this area to my family beef farm and have been experimenting with vegetable production and supply through a farm shop and supplying local restaurants. This course has helped me with planning and business skills to put a framework for growth on my work".

Susan Henderson, a farmer's wife and B & B owner, feels the course will help her realise a long-held dream of obtaining more land for vegetable production. "The networking with other students and course tutors, many of whom are local growers themselves, is really useful. I feel I have people who I can call on for advice and help now."

All of the trainees expressed their passion for growing, and agreed that global environmental concerns and doing a worthwhile job working on the land were among their main motivations. The Local Food Apprenticeship course runs for a year as a pilot until December. Contact Earthshare at Tel: 01667 452879, or HILocal at 01381 600525 or look on [www.hilocalfood.net](http://www.hilocalfood.net)

Green Butterfly Award  
Winner 1996



#### Inside this issue

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- plus all your diary dates and Noticeboard events for the month.....



Growing apprentices: from left - Betsy van der Lee, John Grant, Sulekha Millar, and Susan Henderson with tutor Andy Henderson

**Throughout June****Cyclist Touring Club**

Hold a variety of runs throughout the month for all abilities, including pub runs every Weds at 7.30pm, morning runs and slower, medium and faster day runs. For those who haven't been in the saddle for a while there are 'Try Cycling runs' every Sunday leaving Duthie Park, Riverside Drive Aberdeen at 10am. Come along to give it a go – you'll be made most welcome. For more details visit [www.ctcgrampian.org.uk](http://www.ctcgrampian.org.uk) or

Tel: (01224) 484891.

**Scottish Wildlife Trust**

Regular midweek (and possibly weekends if enough demand) volunteering opportunities during June. Help protect Scotland's wildlife and keep fit at the same time. Contact [mstevens@swt.org.uk](mailto:mstevens@swt.org.uk) or

Tel: (01466) 780164.

**Balmoral Rangers**

Balmoral daily luxury Land Rover safaris guided by our rangers to learn about conservation of species and habitats on the estate. 9-12 & 2-5pm daily, costs £45 per person. Booking essential on

Tel: (01339) 742534.

**Forestry Comm. Aberdeenshire**

Huntly Peregrine Wild Watch Site open daily 9.30am – 5.30pm, 2 miles north of Huntly on A96. Three peregrine chicks have hatched! See them plus ospreys, red squirrels and other wildlife. All welcome, centre open daily 9.30am - 5.30pm and located 2.5miles NW of Huntly, signposted off the A96. Visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/huntlyperegrines](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/huntlyperegrines). Details on

Tel: (01466) 760790.

**Aberdeen Countryside Project**

Environmental volunteering opportunities around Aberdeen. Ring us for details of sessions in April on

Tel: (01224) 711129.

**BTCV Conservation Volunteering/  
Green Gyms**

Volunteering sessions every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at locations throughout Aberdeenshire and Moray. Green Gym sessions in Aberdeen on Mondays 11am - 2pm and Fridays 10:30am - 2pm and Laurencekirk Weds 1-4pm. Booking on

Tel: (01224) 724884.

**Farmers Markets in June**

Come along to your Saturday farmers market for local produce and crafts – get those food miles down! 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Huntly at the Square Tel 01466 720247. - Peterhead: meet at Drummers Corner, Tel: (01779) 476458. - Stonehaven: meet at the Market Square, Tel: (01569) 750504.

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Inverurie Market Place Tel:01467 672529. 01467 621195

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June - Banchory - Scott Skinner Square Tel 01330 825895. - Elgin Plainstones, Tel: (01466) 720247

Last Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Banff /Macduff Fish Market, Tel: (01771) 644369. Aberdeen Country Fair, Belmont Street

Tel: (01224) 649000.

**Every Tuesday in June****RSPB**

Guided boat trips to Troup Head every Tuesday, guided by the RSPB aboard a former fishing boat, Puffin Cruises out to Troup Head, Scotland's only mainland gannet colony (1,500 pairs), plus razorbills, guillemots, kittiwakes and puffins - perhaps even dolphins...Booking essential on

Tel: (01346) 532234.

**Every Wednesday in June****Balmoral Rangers**

Balmoral grounds walk. Learn about Balmoral estate's history management and wildlife. 2pm-4pm. Free once £7 grounds ticket has been purchased. Booking essential on

Tel: (01339) 742534.

**Forestry Comm. Aberdeenshire**

Wednesdays in June:10,000 Steps in the Woods – 2 programmes: Dunnotar and Delgatie/Gight. Series of 4 walks building up to your 10,000 steps a day goal, plus getting to know a local wood. Wear strong footwear and clothes and take water. Book to register for your free pedometer (supported by Active Lifestyles, Aberdeenshire Council).

Programme 1: Meet at Dunnotar Woods car park, Stonehaven 7-9pm

Programme 2: Meet: Weds 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at Delgatie Castle car park, Turriff and on Weds 20<sup>th</sup> at Gight Woodland 7-9pm

Booking essential for either programme on

Tel: (01466) 794161.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June****Aberdeen Beach Clean**

The local Aberdeen Adopt-a-Beach team are doing their quarterly beach clean and litter survey from 10am onwards today, starting at the North end of Aberdeen city beach – all beachcleaners welcome! Contact Iain House on [ijhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:ijhouse@btinternet.com)

Tel: (01224) 869245.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Come and try orienteering – a series of events aimed at introducing beginners to orienteering (for adults and children). Bring/wear outdoor clothing and change of clothes. Maps/ compasses available. Drop in between 10.30-11.30am at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch (book if large party)

Tel: (01467) 681470.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Inverurie to Kemnay - an off-road route along riverside paths, forest tracks and open farmland, returning to Inverurie by bus - bring your fare, plus walking boots and packed lunch. Aimed at over 18's and accompanied 16 and 17 year olds. 11am – 3pm, booking and venue details on

Tel: (01467) 681470.

**BTCV Courses**

Introduction to Biodiversity and Conservation. Find out about how to introduce these topics in your activities - indoor sessions, site visits, access to information etc. At Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen, costs £60-80. To book (essential)

Tel: (01786) 479697.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June cont.****Formartine Community Garden**

Spring Plant Sale of Bedding Plants, Plants and Vegetables will be held at the Community Garden, Methlick 10am – 2pm, BBQ, stalls, second-hand garden and hand tools, compost. For further details and to place orders in advance

Tel: (01358) 726452, or (01651) 806 050.

Forestry Commission Aberdeenshire Bailies of Bennachie work parties. 1st Saturday of the month volunteering including footpath maintenance, surveying etc. For more details

Tel (01467) 629969.

**SCOTTISH WILDLIFE WEEK  
Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Water, waders and wings - an afternoon of fun for all the family. Discover Philorth Local Nature Reserve's inhabitants - bird watching, river dipping and bug hunting. (Event is run with RSPB Strathbeg). All welcome, under 16's must be accompanied. Meet at Philorth LNR car park 2-4pm, for details

Tel: (01261) 813299.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Aquatic antics. Discover who lives in and around the Pannanich Ponds - bring wellies. Meet at car park by Church Square, Ballater 2-4pm, booking essential

Tel: (013398) 85751.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> June****NTS Conservation Volunteers**

Pitmedden Gardens weekend working with the gardeners. Meet 9.30am - 4.30pm each day. Book on

Tel: (01330) 844810.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June****Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Glen Nochtly to Glen Ernan via Lost! (8 miles, easy) OS Landranger map 37 Strathdon. Start off 'Lost' at the famous farm of this name in Glen Nochtly and continue up to follow the Water of Nochtly west to the headwaters of the Quillichan Burn. These Serpentine rock hills once hosted lime making industry - several kilns testify to its industrial past. Finish at the main Strathdon road. Bring packed lunch, cost: £12. Aimed at over 18's & accompanied 16 and 17 year olds. Meet the bus at the car park, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, 8.30am - 4pm, booking essential on

Tel: (01467) 681470.

**Dunnottar Woodland Park**

Dunnottar Woods Open Day. Includes a Green Woodworking Workshop with bodger Ken Grieve – further details from the Forestry Commission Tel: 01330 844537. Also the Aberdeenshire Ranger will lead two easy walks at this event:

1. 10.30am – 12 noon: Know your trees - find out about tree identification.

2. 2–3.30pm: Woodland Folklore. Discover the legends and medicinal uses of trees and wildflowers. Meet at the Quarry, Dunnottar Woods, Stonehaven (next to car park) 10am- 4pm. For walks booking is essential on

Tel: (01569) 768292.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June cont.**

Forestry Commission Aberdeenshire Bin Ranger Club meets near Huntly on 1st Sunday of the month for 8 - 12 year olds who want to learn more about the woodland environment: activities include overnight camping, woodland crafts, treasure hunts, pond dipping and bird watching. Booking essential on

Tel: (01466) 760790.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June****Aberdeen & District RSPB**

Evening outing to Craigievar Castle. Meet at castle car park OS37 567 095 at 7pm, all welcome, details:

Tel: (01651) 806252.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June****Glenlivet Rangers**

Woodland Week for Schools: bring your school group along to our forest based activities including tree identification, forest wildlife, harvesting machines, guided walks, woodland games, scavenger hunts and chainsaw demos. Meet at the Glenlivet Estate Ranger Centre Tomintoul, costs £2 per pupil. Booking essential on

Tel: (01479) 870070.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June****Greenpeace**

Aberdeen Group monthly meeting 7-8pm. All welcome. Venue to be confirmed.

Tel: (01224) 623080.

**Green Drinks Aberdeen**

Monthly get together to discuss sustainable development. This month, Douglas Low, director of the Oil Depletion Analysis Centre (ODAC) will be speaking about Peak Oil - the forthcoming decline in oil production and how this might affect us. All welcome, meet at the Dutch Mill pub, Queen's Rd, Aberdeen 6-8pm. Look on [www.biothinking.com/greendrinks](http://www.biothinking.com/greendrinks) or

Tel: (07803) 046653.

**SNH Conferences**

Beyond words: getting in on the action for biodiversity. Look at Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, inspiring examples and case studies to debate good ways forward communicating key messages on biodiversity. Cost £55 including lunch, refreshments, co. director handbook. Meet at Battleby near Perth, booking essential on [sgp@snh.gov.uk](mailto:sgp@snh.gov.uk)

Tel: (01738) 458555.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June****Aberdeen Friends of the Earth**

Monthly Meeting. Meet at the Quaker Meeting House on Crown Street, 7.30pm, non-members welcome. For more details contact Gregor McAbery

Tel: (01224) 581162.

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> June****WDCS Wildlife Centre**

World Ocean Day walk Join our evening coastal walk to wonder at the Moray Firth. Please wear appropriate clothing. Meet at the Centre at Spey Bay 7-8pm. For details

Tel: (01343) 820339.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June****Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Fetternear Estate. Join the Ranger and unravel the secrets of the history of the Estate using the flora and fauna as your guide. All welcome; under 16's must be accompanied. Meet 10am - 12 noon, booking and details of venue etc on

Tel: (01467) 681470.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Five farms and Troup Head walk (approx. 8 miles, moderate). Following paths and tracks we'll start at the site of a coastal fort and head west through Troup House woodland to Troup Head Gannetry, looking at the natural history of the area between Pennan and Crovie. Bring packed lunch, aimed at the over 18's and accompanied 16-17 year olds. Meet at Cullykhan car park, off the B9031, 1 mile W. of Pennan from 10.30am, booking essential on

Tel: (013398) 87453.

**Glen Tanar Ranger Service**

Hands on conservation days every second Saturday of each month. Come along for the day and do your bit for the environment - can include building bird boxes, creating insect banks, tree planting etc. All welcome. Pick up point Aboyne Academy Reception area 9.30 am or meet at Braeloigne Visitor Centre for 10am. Booking please with Alan Melrose 013398 86222, contact for the Ranger Service is

Tel. (013398) 86072.

Forestry Commission Aberdeenshire Beginners Bike Bash - get off the main road and learn to ride your bike on forest roads and tracks. Try the fun obstacle course before trying out our jump park at Kirkhill. Tutors available and bikes to try on site. Meet at Kirkhill Forest Aberdeen anytime from 10am - 4pm, Booking on

Tel: (01466) 794161.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Rockpool rummage. Celebrate World Oceans Day to discover the secrets of this fascinating world between the tides. How do plants and animals survive the constant pounding and changing conditions? Are they suckers, gluers or tanglers? Learn how you can use seaweed to forecast the weather. All welcome; under 16's must be accompanied. Meet at car park, New Aberdour Beach (OS Landranger map 30, NJ 887646) 1-3pm, booking essential on

Tel: (01358) 742396 .

**Aberdeen Council EcoCity**

Aberdeen EcoCity stall at Emmerdale Extravaganza, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. EcoCity will be hosting its usual mix of interactive family focussed environment education activities within this large funpacked charity event, where the cast of Emmerdale have teamed up with the Press & Journal to raise funds for their Year of Giving. Entry fee £6 adults, £3 children. For more details on EcoCity contact

Tel: (01224) 814617.

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> and Sun 10<sup>th</sup> June****Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Intermediate Navigation -NNAS Silver Award. Course aimed at those who already have NNAS Bronze Award or equivalent skills. This course builds on those skills and takes you away from paths and other line features, mostly outdoors. If in doubt, please phone to discuss whether this is the right course for you. Cost: £25, payable in advance, over 18's. Meet at the Bennachie Centre 10am - 4pm, booking essential on

Tel: (01467) 681470.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Forestry Commission Aberdeenshire Guided mountain bike ride. Come and cycle round the forest roads and easy trails at Kirkhill. Bring bike and helmet, suitable for over 11's, under 16's must be accompanied. Meet at Kirkhill Forest Aberdeen 2-5pm, Booking on

Tel: (01466) 794161.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Portlethen Moss Day as part of Local Nature Reserve Fortnight come for a walk round Portlethen Moss - find out what makes this site special and, if you are interested, how you can become involved with its future. All welcome under 16's must be accompanied. Meet at the south east entrance to the moss on Bruntland Road 2 - 4pm, booking essential on

Tel: (01569) 768292.

**SNH St Cyrus**

Turn your eyes to the skies! Join Scottish Natural Heritage staff on a guided walk to spot and learn about the huge variety of birds from blue tits to buzzards that make this reserve their home. Remember your binoculars! Meet at the Visitor Centre, St Cyrus National Nature Reserve, Nether Warberton, St Cyrus 2-4pm, under 18's must be accompanied, booking essential on

Tel: (01674) 830736.

**Moray Ranger**

Watching the waves for signs of life - come to Burghead fort and headland to look for dolphins, whales, porpoises, seals and a host of sea birds including gannets and eider ducks and waders on the shoreline skerries. Projecting as it does so far into the Firth, Burghead is the ideal place to watch events unfold and the headland's lookout tower visitor centre and gallery is well worth a visit. Meet at Burghead fort, top of Grant Street Burghead, 2-3.30pm, contact [doug.hawkes@moray.gov.uk](mailto:doug.hawkes@moray.gov.uk) or

Tel: (01343) 557048, mob: 07967 748937.

**Healthy Roots Aberdeen**

Volunteer work in Manor Park, Aberdeen's only community-led, wildlife-friendly public park, including planting, weeding, art work, path work, hedge management, bench building, litter clearance etc. Meets second Sunday of every month 1- 4pm starting from the Healthy Roots office at 3B Manor Walk, Middlefield, Aberdeen. Contact: Email: [healthyrootsaberdeen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:healthyrootsaberdeen@yahoo.co.uk) or

Tel: (01224) 680330.

## Methlick Magic!

words and photo by *Griselda McGregor*

It's a year since I visited Methlick Community Garden when Scots singer Fiona Kennedy gave the new polytunnel its official opening.

When I looked in recently, I could clearly see that it's been a busy year for the gardening workers from the Ellon Resource Centre and many volunteers. It's a large 'skelp' of land (0.15 hectares) with an interesting – and challenging - diversity of terrain.

On my recent visit I found beautifully landscaped banks aglow with Spring flowers and shrubs. The polytunnel was a hive of activity where the day's work party from Ellon were planting and tending seedlings, from which there will hopefully be a bountiful harvest of vegetables, herbs and flowers to sell to the local community, so making it a sustainable venture. The project

was initiated by the Formartine Partnership which has the aim of involving communities in sustainable rural developments in their locality.

Formartine Partnership Development Officer Sonia Stephen took me on a guided tour of this pleasant patchwork of garden. She explained that recycling is a key feature of the project. Wooden work benches, bird boxes and bedding plant boxes have come from Wood RecyclAbility and old whisky

barrels make very attractive flower tubs. As many as possible of the plants and trees are natives.

Local 'tree man' and environmental expert Bob Davis has just donated some rare apple trees and the workforce is currently engaged in making a hawthorn hedge for added shelter. At the bottom of this garden you'll find not fairies, but the large wooden compost bins constructed with help from Aberdeen Forward, who will be collecting composting material for them.

Earlier this year Gordon Henderson from the Foxlane garden in Aberdeen lent his green-fingered expertise by holding several training sessions. This month (Saturday, June 2, 10-2pm) the Methlick Community Garden are having an Open Day and sale of plants and recycled garden tools and equipment.



*Methlick workers busy in the polytunnel*

## Community Hospital Gardens for Inverurie and Insch

words and photos by *Griselda McGregor*

In the Spring of last year two hard-working Inverurie organisations got together to map out a new garden area in the town.

The Gordon Renal Dialysis (GRD) charitable organisation and Inverurie Environment Improvement (IEI) group called a joint meeting attended by over 40 people and an ideas project rapidly 'blossomed' into shape. Fundraising volunteers upon whom much of the work at GRD depends, contributed their thoughts on the garden plan. I met Chair of GRD Margaret at the resulting garden at the new Gordon Dialysis Unit at Inverurie Hospital, which has been landscaped, 'lawned,' fenced and planted with early blooms, flowering shrubs and trees. The joint consultation for the



*GRD chairwoman Margaret Lee beside the commemorative plaque at the new Gordon Dialysis Unit garden within Inverurie Hospital grounds*

project was made possible through a grant received by IEI from Go4volunteering.

Just up the road from Inverurie I found another spot of hospital ground being utilized very attractively to benefit the community. Three year ago Friends of Insch Hospital had the idea of turning a portion of land around Insch Memorial Hospital into a garden area benefiting not only those attending the hospital and Health centre but the whole community.

Insch resident Ian Mitchell, assistant projects officer with Aberdeen Countryside Project took on the Insch garden task as a volunteer, happy to be doing something to involve himself in the community after he moved here from Livingston. As we walked round the now sympathetically landscaped area Ian pointed out the many native trees and shrubs, among them Scots pine, rowan, elder, cherry, juniper, that have been planted – that cheerful invader, the broom just 'came' by its own invitation! The garden has plenty of welcoming wee nooks – rustic log seats have also been 'planted', drystone dykes constructed, pathways made from off-cuts from the Scottish Parliament building(!) and there are benches within living willow arbours, thanks to help from the 'willow wizard' Andrew Saunders.

Later this year there will be a



*Ian Mitchell in one of the living willow bowers at Insch Memorial Hospital*

lovely wild flower meadow where helpers from the Green Gym of British Conservation Trust Volunteers (BCTV) have planted plugs. Other sectors of the local community who are enthusiastically involved are Insch Brownies and Insch scouts who each have their own little plot. Anyone interested in lending a green-fingered helping hand, especially in the busy summer months can contact Ian, (01464) 820691 or Friends of Insch Hospital, (01464) 820 682.

## New Community Woodland for Aberdeen

words and photo by Ian Talboys, Aberdeen City Ranger

A host of local people and businesses joined forces in Aberdeen to plant a forest of trees on 31 March 2007.

Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service and AVC Media Enterprises linked up to organise the major planting programme at Calder Park in the south of the city. Many other businesses from around the Wellington Circle area in Altens joined in the effort along with Nigg Community Council and many local residents.

Over 2,000 trees were planted to create a new area of woodland off Redmoss Road. We were expecting about 60-70 people to come along but were amazed to find that over 100 people turned out. It was a perfect day for tree planting with some warm spring sunshine to keep everyone going.

The planting will help to screen the industrial units from views from Redmoss Road and will also prevent the illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes in the area. Three sides of the area are being planted up and the land in the middle will be developed into a wildflower meadow to boost biodiversity.

The tree planting was funded by Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Countryside Project, and Kincorth West city ward budget.

A wide range of native tree and

shrub species were planted, including silver birch, rowan, whitebeam, wych elm, Scots pine, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, willow, alder and oak.

AVC Media and other local businesses provided refreshments throughout the day to keep the volunteers going. The Green Diary sponsored some of the trees as part of the carbon-offset project aiming to make this publication carbon neutral.



*Some of the 100 community woodland tree planters in action at Nigg, Aberdeen this spring*

## Green Awards Scheme for Aberdeen

words by Sinclair Laing, EcoCity, Aberdeen City Council

Aberdeen City Council is launching a major competition to reward the "greenest" schemes in the city. The Aberdeen EcoCity Awards will recognise the efforts of individuals, community and voluntary groups, businesses and charities who have done their bit for the city's environment or contributed to international development.

The annual awards scheme is split into five categories:

- \* Nature Protection: initiatives which protect or enhance wildlife habitats;
- \* Improving Urban Environments: schemes to improve the city, including amenity areas and green spaces;
- \* Climate Protection: projects contributing to cutting the impact of human-induced global warming;
- \* Resources Efficiency: initiatives which make best use of natural resources;
- \* International Development: schemes at home and abroad to help developing communities.

The winner in each section will win £500 and a certificate, and the runners-up will also receive a certificate. The overall Gold Award winner will be handed a further £1,000. Nominate your favourite green project via the city council's website at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk) on the Your Environment page, or pick up an application form. Winners will be announced at a late summer event where all the short-listed entrants will showcase their work.

This is a real chance for people to get recognition for their environmental initiatives, which are contributing so much to enhancing Aberdeen. Whether it's a community group which has turned waste ground into a new habitat or an organisation which is reducing its carbon footprint, we want to hear about it.

Contact EcoCity on [silaing@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:silaing@aberdeencity.gov.uk), Tel: 01224 814617.



## GO FOR IT in Aberdeenshire!

words by Aurelie Irving, Aberdeenshire Council

Everyone knows about Walk to School Week, but have you heard of GO FOR IT?

Twenty schools in Aberdeenshire are taking part in a new year-round walking and cycling incentive project, GO FOR IT, organised by Aberdeenshire Council's Active Schools, Health Promoting Schools and School Travel Planning Initiatives and Grampian Police's Road Safety Unit.

The aim of GO FOR IT is to help reduce car congestion and pollution outside schools as well as encouraging school communities to be healthier and more active - and we are hoping to give all Aberdeenshire schools a chance to take part in the new school year.

In GO FOR IT, pupils collect ticks for walking or cycling all or part of their school journey; bus

pupils can earn their points by taking part in school walking activities organised by their Junior Road Safety Officers. Each pupil can collect up to two ticks each day - and when a pupil has collected 40 ticks, they earn a GO FOR IT card that they can swap for one free use of a GO FOR IT sponsor's leisure facility.

GO FOR IT Sponsors, who are kindly donating free passes, include swimming, tennis, golf, horse riding, bowling and play centres. New GO FOR IT sponsors are always welcome, even to offer free passes to just one or two participating schools; if you wish to become involved, please contact Aurelie Irving on 01224 664781 or email [goforit@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:goforit@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June cont.**

**Macduff Marine Aquarium**  
World Oceans' Day – Family Fun Event to celebrate life in our oceans. In addition to the usual exhibits, talks, live and feed shows, there will be fishy-themed activities inside and outside the aquarium, including treasure trails (with free prizes,) bouncy castle, crab football, face painting, sandcastle competitions and much more! Usual entrance fees, more info on Tel: 01261 833369.

**WDCS Wildlife Centre**  
Springwatch in partnership with RSPB. Join us to enjoy the signs of spring! Talks, walks and activities. For more details  
Tel: (01343) 820339.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Aberdeen Amnesty International**  
Group Monthly Meeting. Meet 7.30 – 9.30pm, venue tba. New faces always welcome. Details on Tel: (01339) 882240.

**Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum**  
Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> weds of every second month. Talk and meeting with discussion afterwards. For details Tel: (01651) 891336.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**WDCS Wildlife Centre**  
Save the Whale Week Launch at Spey Bay Village Hall. All over 18's welcome to join us from 8pm - midnight. For details  
Tel: (01343) 820339.

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun 17<sup>th</sup> June**

**Big Tent Festival**  
Eco-friendly festival of world music, workshops, family friendly at Falkland Palace, Fife. See [www.Bigtentfestival.co.uk](http://www.Bigtentfestival.co.uk)

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Moray ranger**  
Go take a hike and head for the hills - a lengthy (9miles) if leisurely hike across the Moray moorlands and forest, near the Cairn Uish wind farm to the summit of Red Tangie and the track to Carn na Caliche before descending to Linne falls and the Burn of Rothes down to a free bus back to the start. Enjoy marvellous views of the Cairngorms, the Moray Firth & Speyside hills. Meet at Bardonside car park at the road end from Elgin to Thomshill (GR 211542), 1-6pm approx, booking essential for the bus on [doug.hawkes@moray.gov.uk](mailto:doug.hawkes@moray.gov.uk) or  
Tel: (01343) 557048, mob: 07967 748937.

**WDCS Wildlife Centre**  
Save the Whale Week Carnival and Storytelling. Meet :Centre at Spey Bay 2-4pm, details on Tel: (01343) 820339.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Aden habitats and wildlife: drop into the Wildlife Discovery Centre at Aden and find out about the different habitats and wildlife in and around the park. Meet at the Centre overspill car park, Aden Country Park (car park charges apply), Mintlaw 2-4pm  
Tel: (01771) 622857.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June cont.**

**Forestry Commission Moray**  
Walk to Findhorn Bay. Enjoy a leisurely moderate walk through Culbin Forest out to Findhorn Bay watching out for a variety of birdlife and seals swimming. Bring a packed lunch to have whilst enjoying the spectacular views across the bay. Meet at Wellhill car park (1 mile from Kintessack) 10am – 2pm, booking essential on  
Tel: (01343) 820223.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Metal mayhem at Archaeolink - Ranger Service guided walks around Berryhill. There will be a number of walks at various times through the day 10am – 4pm. Usual Archaeolink charges will apply.  
Tel: (01467) 681470.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Geodoming – fit's 'at? Something different – come and help construct an environmentally friendly shelter, listen to some nature stories and participate in a range of environmental activities. For 8 to 12 year olds and accompanied under 8's. Meet at Strichen Community Park 2-5pm, booking essential  
Tel: (01771) 622857.

**Balmoral Rangers**  
Twinflower conservation day. Assist the rangers to carry out habitat management (moderate walk) that will help safeguard this important plant. Meet at Mill of Sterin 10am – 4pm, bring packed lunch, booking essential on  
Tel: (01339) 755059.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

**Aberdeen Council EcoCity**  
Aberdeen EcoCity at Hazlehead Park Highland Games, Aberdeen. The flag in EcoCity events crown, bringing together a large mix of Aberdeen's environment organisations for family focussed environment, activities and education. There will also be a fairtrade cafe and the usual Highland Games fun. More details from  
Tel: (01224) 814617.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Birds o' the Broch - drop into the Seashore Centre 10am – 12noon & 1-4pm and help to record the birds and other wildlife within the area. All species recorded will be listed and details passed to NESBReC. For details contact the Fraserburgh Seashore Centre on  
Tel: (07786) 021786.

**Moray RSPB Supporters Group**  
Guided walk at Troup Head. Meet at map ref NJ 822 665 at 10am to see gannets, puffins, guillemots, razorbills and shags, all welcome. For further information contact  
Tel: (01343) 543476.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Aberdeen highland games - join in hands-on activities at the Forest Education Initiative stand in the Green City tent. Charges apply for entry to the Games. Meet at Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen  
Tel: (013398) 85751.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**Moray Amnesty International**  
Group meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month, venue tba. Meet at 7.30pm, all welcome, details on Tel: (01309) 672648

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**Friends of Moray Firth Dolphins**  
Longest day cruise with the 'Puffin' and 'Gemini Explorer'. Cost £20 to include supper and a surprise! To find out more about this group and to book (essential) e-mail [dolphinpete@clockstudio.co.uk](mailto:dolphinpete@clockstudio.co.uk) or  
Tel: (01542) 833897.

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Outsider Festival**  
New environmentally themed music festival, including KT Tunstall held on the Rothiemurcas Estate near Aviemore. Visit  
[www.outsiderfestival.co.uk](http://www.outsiderfestival.co.uk)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**WDCS Wildlife Centre**  
Spey Bay beach clean. Free tea and coffee for beachcleaners! Meet 2-4pm, all welcome. For details Tel: (01343) 820339.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Garron Point Natura Site. Experts guide you on this moderate walk to explore the special flora and fauna of this area north of Stonehaven. Some rough walking but it is possible to attend the earlier part of the walk before moving onto the shore. Wear suitable outdoor clothing, strong footwear and bring a packed lunch. For adults. Meet at the Cowie end of Stonehaven beach front (nearest car park by Leisure Centre) 10.30am – 4pm, booking essential on  
Tel: (01569) 768292.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**  
Plants of Bennachie discovery walk with the Bailies of Bennachie. Cost: £2, free for Bailies members. Suitable for over 11's, bring a packed lunch, waterproofs and walking boots. Meet at the Bennachie Centre, Chapel of Garioch 10am – 4pm, booking essential on  
Tel: (01467) 681470.

**Scottish Wildlife Trust**  
Summer walk with David Welch: botanical outing to Sands of Forvie. Meet at 10am at Waterside Bridge car park, OS Map 38 Grid Ref NK 004270. For more details and to book (essential)  
Tel: (01224) 733920.

**Aberdeen City Rangers**  
Rock pooling at Cove. Two golden opportunities to join the Countryside Rangers at Cove harbour where every tide brings in something new. Discover what lives in the rock pools and what it is like to live on the rocks when the sea has gone. Bring towels and a change of clothing. 2 separate sessions (20 people per session maximum) either 1-2pm or 2.15 pm-3.15 pm, meet at Colsea Road car park. Buses 13, 16 to Cove. Booking essential on For more information and to book, please call the Countryside Ranger Service on  
Tel: (01224) 897400.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June cont.****NATIONAL WHALE AND DOLPHIN WEEK****Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Dolphin spotting from the Bullers of Buchan. From this spectacular 100 foot cliff-top vantage point, we'll be watching out for passing dolphins, and while we're waiting there are plenty of birds nesting or winging by to keep us entertained – from puffins to skuas! Great care must be taken on the rough cliff path at all times. Bring binoculars. Walk for adults, meet at the Bullers of Buchan car park, A975 north of Cruden Bay 2-4pm, booking essential on

Tel: (01771) 622857.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June****Aberdeen & District RSPB**

Day outing with two levels of walk: either high level walk on Glas Maol and Glenshee (strenuous walk, walk is weather permitting) or a low level walk in the Glenshee area. Meet: Braemar village car park beside public toilets, 10am. All welcome, details on

Tel: (01651) 806252.

East Grampian Coastal Partnership  
Last Sunday of the month Seawatch Survey at Cove for porpoises, whales and dolphins. Meet at Cove Park at small area above harbour or in the village and walk down - parking is restricted Or park at large pull in instead next to Burnbanks village and walk down coastal path. Bus No 13 or 16 from 1-5pm, all welcome, binoculars provided. For more details

Tel: (01224) 498251.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

The Sandwalk - sponsored charity walk organised by the Rotary Clubs of Balgownie and Ellon, with the Ranger Service providing information on the wonderful flora and fauna of our coastline. For more information and registration forms visit [www.thesandwalk.co.uk](http://www.thesandwalk.co.uk). Meet at Balmedie Country Park (car park charges apply), details on

Tel: (01358) 742396.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Flower power! Have you ever wondered what a particular flower is called? Here's your chance to find out. This event will help you learn the names of some of the more common flowers you will see in the forest and their medicinal powers. Meet at the car park, Delgaty Castle, Turriff 2-4pm, booking on

Tel: (01358) 762417 / 07786 021780.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June****Aberdeen Cycle Forum**

Monthly meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. The Forum promotes cycling and campaigns on issues that affect cyclists in Aberdeen. All welcome- for details

Tel: (01224) 630669

Bucksburn Environmental Taskforce  
Open meeting at the Beacon Centre, Kepplehills Road, Bucksburn, last Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm onwards, all welcome. For more information,

Tel: (01224) 713516.

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> June****NTS Conservation Volunteers**

Social 8pm at the Prince of Wales pub Aberdeen, all welcome, details on

Tel: (01330) 844810.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June****Scottish Countryside Rangers**

Training day: survey and assessment of semi-natural woodlands. To include identification of woodland flora, assessing a woodland's condition, and woodland regeneration. Venue tba, 10am – 4pm, £5 SCRA, volunteers etc, £10 otherwise. Booking essential, contact Toni Watt on [twatt@nts.org.uk](mailto:twatt@nts.org.uk) or

Tel: (01330) 844810.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June****Kemnay Wildlife Explorers**

Sea birds, whales & dolphins. A cruise on the vessel "Puffin" to the Moray Firth with Pete MacDonald as our expert spotter. We will hope to see the whales and dolphins which live there as well as the sea birds from the colonies at Troup Head. LIMITED PLACES on the two one & a half hour trips. Children 50p, adults £5. Anyone waiting ashore may like to visit the Macduff Aquarium, our alternative in case of bad weather. Meet at Macduff Harbour at 2 pm promptly, booking essential on

Tel: (01467) 643859.

**Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Correen Hills Circular (approx. 10 miles, moderate). Explore the old hill paths and history between Rhynie and Alford. We will pass through where ancient man has left his mark on the land and up onto moorland hills with views to Donside and beyond. Dogs welcome, aimed at adults. Meet outside the Surgery, Manse Road, Rhynie from 10am, booking essential

Tel: (013398) 87453.

**Balmoral Rangers**

Up the Snob and down the Chash! Take the high road around Loch Muick. Learn more about the history and wildlife of the Glen on this high level guided walk. Meet at Glen Muick visitor centre 10am – 4pm, bring lunch. Cost £2/person, booking essential on

Tel: (01339) 755059.

**Forestry Commission Moray**

Doggies Day out: Tinker the Terrible Terrier invites his canine pals for a short walk in Roseisle Forest. Come and meet some new friends both canine and human and enjoy a stroll in the wood. All dogs are welcome to bring their owners as long as they are under control (we all know how these humans misbehave) and are trained to deal with your every need. Humans without canine companions are welcome to join in too! Meet at Roseisle car park (entrance half a mile west of Roseisle Maltings on the B9089) 10am – 11.30pm booking essential on

Tel: (01343) 820223.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June cont.****Moray Ranger**

Food for free and herbal histories. Come on a short wildflower wander round the tracks and river mouth of Spey Bay to find sweet cicely, angelica, scots lovage, meadowsweet, comfrey and lots of other plants of medicinal and food value celebrated in folk lore and some still in use today. Meet at Tugnet car park, Spey Bay 2-3.15pm, details on [doug.hawkes@moray.gov.uk](mailto:doug.hawkes@moray.gov.uk) or

Tel: (01343) 557048, mob: 07967 748937.

**Speyside Way Rangers**

Family Walk to the Linn Falls. Join the Speyside Way Rangers on a food for free forage along the Aberlour Burn to the Scenic Linn Falls where we will stop for a picnic (bring your own) and sample some of nature's harvest. Meet at the Speyside Way Visitor Centre, Alice Littler Park, Aberlour, 12 noon – 2pm. Booking essential on [anne.young@moray.gov.uk](mailto:anne.young@moray.gov.uk) or

Tel: (01343) 557143.

**Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> July****Aberdeenshire Rangers**

Portsoy Boat Festival - visit the Ranger stall and take part in a range of maritime activities including a marine themed treasure trail, plus a chance to learn more about the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Nortrail.

Tel: (01261) 813299.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July****Aberdeen & District RSPB**

Outing to Troup Head & Portsoy Boat Fair. Meet at Pennan Village Hall car park at 10am, all welcome, details on

Tel: (01651) 806252.

Tibet Support Group Grampian  
Annual sponsored walk. Circular route of about 10 miles up and over Clachnaben. Meet at the Glendye Lodge track (OS map 45, GR 652862) at 10.30am for a 10.45am start. Bring a picnic lunch. Tea afterwards (optional) at the Penny Farthing cafe, Banchory, about 3.30 to 4.00pm. Booking on

Tel: (01224) 314127.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July****Forestry Commission Aberdeenshire**

Nordic Walking at Delgaty. Learn how to do Nordic walking through the forest – poles provided. Meet at Delgaty Castle car park, Turriff 7-9pm, booking essential on

Tel: (01466) 794161.

**Ythan Project Volunteers**

Meeting to discuss our local conservation work – come along and get involved! Meet at the Buchan Hotel, Ellon at 7:30 pm, all welcome – for more details

Tel: (01358) 761360.



# The Green Grocer

76 West High Street, Inverurie  
Tel: (01467) 620245

When shopping do you take your own bag and try to cut down on your packaging? We re-use as much packaging as we can, so help us by bringing your plastic bags, jam jars, plant strips and trays for re-use by us and our customers

**A VISIT TO THE SHOP IS ALWAYS REWARDING!**  
Your reward will be found inside the shop - shelves full of wholefoods, fresh organic produce and delicatessen

Supporting the Environment

the green diary team:

Ann Davidson  
Griselda McGregor  
Alan Stevenson  
Peter Cruickshank

the green diary team  
is grateful to  
The Harlaw Centre, Inverurie  
for the distribution of  
the green diary

**Deadline for inclusions:  
6th of each month**

## Noticeboard

Let your feet do the talking - Christian Aid is asking people to put their best foot forward for the 1,000-mile 'Cut the Carbon' march between 14 July – 2 October 2007 to highlight the devastating impact global warming is having on the third world and to put pressure on the government to reduce the UK's carbon emissions by 5 per cent year on year. Leaving Belfast on 14th July with rallies along the way including in Edinburgh on 21st July, the march finishes in London on 2nd October. Walk the whole way, join for a while or attend a rally. For further information on the route and how to get involved visit [www.christianaid.org.uk/climatechange](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/climatechange)

Still putting profit before the environment? - Carbon emissions from UK power stations increased by nearly 30% from 1998. WWF's report show that the gains from the so-called "dash for gas" in the 1990's when gas was cheaper have been wiped out by the power sector's 'roll to coal' with profound environmental implications as well as jeopardizing the government's target of a 26-32% cut in emissions by 2020.

Sustainable travel grants - Nestrans offers up to £10,000 matched funding to support sustainable transport initiatives to any organisation based in Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire, including businesses, charities, not for profit and public sector agencies, or commercial or public service premises (not a private residence) currently attracting visitors or customers by car.

If you have a scheme for secure cycle parking and shower/changing facilities; improving pedestrian access to a place of work; a travel to work survey to develop a Travel Plan; employee training in travel planning or any other scheme that encourages sustainable travel, get in touch by filling out the online application form at [www.nestrans.org.uk/stgs](http://www.nestrans.org.uk/stgs), or contact 01224 627675 or e-mail [meastwood@nestrans.org.uk](mailto:meastwood@nestrans.org.uk).

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to discover sustainable  
options"*

with many  
thanks to  
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Making it work together

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