

# Newsletter

Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District



27 March 2012

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## Welcome to the April 2012 issue

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### Huntly Peregrine WildWatch

The Huntly Peregrine WildWatch is **just about to open** for the new season. What's happening there?

- From 1st April to early September, we'll be open from 10am to 5pm, with the hide closing at 4.30pm;
- View the **Peregrine falcons** in their natural environment;
- Close up shots of the nest on CCTV cameras as well as from the top hide;
- An abundance of wildlife from mini beasts lurking in the pond to buzzards soaring overhead;
- We are looking forward to welcoming **volunteers** who support so much of what we do at the centre. If you have local knowledge you would like to pass on, or if you enjoy monitoring wildlife, speaking to people or enjoy seeing Peregrines, volunteering might be for you;
- **Schools are already booking** for exciting educational opportunities. Activities are tailored to suit the schools' requests and are always lots of fun. They meet the needs of the Curriculum for Excellence; and
- Follow what's happening on **Twitter** or read the blog at [Huntly Peregrines](#). You can also phone us on 01466 760790.



There is something for everyone from serious wildlife watchers to those looking for a family outing. Bring a picnic too and sit at one of the tables and enjoy the surroundings.

#### Admission charges:

Adults £3, children aged 5-15 years £1, family day ticket £7, family season ticket £20, individual season ticket £10.  
However your car parking season ticket allows you one free entry.

### Easter Extravaganza

**Come to Roseisle** near Burghead on Easter Sunday (8th April) between 1pm and 4pm for the Easter Extravaganza. It will be a fun day out for all the family.

Highlights include:

- Giant bunnies helping with an egg hunt and prizes for completed entries;
- Moray Sled Dogs with their wonderfully-trained **Huggable Huskies**;
- Archery sessions with Outfit Moray;
- Bushcraft and survival skills with Moray Rangers;
- Grampian Fire and Rescue will make an appearance, and lots more.



There will be burgers and ice cream on sale to keep you going but why not bring a picnic too. Cost **£5 per car**.

#### How to get there:

The car park is accessed from the B9089 between College of Roseisle and Kinloss.



## Holding events on Forestry Commission land

If you are planning to **hold an event** on Forestry Commission Scotland land in Moray and Aberdeenshire, you may need to apply for permission.

Events involving **less than 25 people** can be run without our specific permission, following the guidelines of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. There may however be ongoing operations which will restrict access to certain areas for safety reasons and you may want to contact us to be sure you can access a specific area of the forest or should you require vehicular access to the forest.



For events involving **more than 25 people**, a permission will be required.

To allow us to deal with your request in time for your event, we ask for a minimum of six weeks notice and applications can be made on the [Application Form](#).

## Car park charges

As outlined in our last newsletter, from Monday 2nd April there will be charges introduced at Bennachie, Countesswells, Culbin, Foggieton, Kirkhill and Scolty Forests.

For all regular users of our forests there is an **annual season ticket** available. It gives you access to all the Forestry Commission Scotland sites in Moray and Aberdeenshire for only **£30 per year**. The ticket also allows one person free entry into the Huntly Peregrine WildWatch.

To apply for a season ticket, please send a cheque for £30 to: Forestry Commission, Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District, Portsoy Road, Huntly, AB54 4SJ.

**Please also include** your name, address, phone number, email and up to two vehicle registration numbers.

If you have any queries, email us at [moray&aberdeenshire@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:moray&aberdeenshire@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or give us a call on 01466 794161.



## Have your say!

Here is another chance for you to have an input into how we manage Forestry Commission Scotland woods near you.

This time we are looking at our **Ten Year Management Plans** for **Deveron Woods** (on the east side of Huntly), **Kemnay Woods** and **Cushnie**. We would like to hear your ideas.

If you know these areas, then read on.

Mark Reeve, Planning Forester, said:

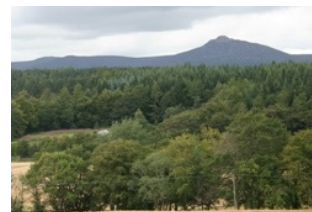
"We are hoping to gather views on anything from wildlife, recreation or landscape improvements.

"All suggestions will be taken on board and we will consider them before finalising the plan."

The **main priorities** for all these woodlands are:

- the production of a sustainable timber crop;
- maximising their biodiversity potential;
- maintaining existing recreational facilities; and
- continuing their positive contribution to the local landscape.

[Mark](#) asks for suggestions by **end April**.



## Scolty Woodland Park Association

This local **community group** works in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland at Scolty Woods near Banchory. The voluntary



group, formed in 1995, shows an enthusiastic interest in the woodland environment.

They meet on the **third Saturday of each month** and some evenings. Work they have done includes tree planting, ditch clearing, putting up bird boxes and dyke repairs.

They welcome new volunteers so if you live **near Banchory** and would like to help, please contact Elsa Brown on 01330 820116 or [click here](#) to find out more.



## Forestry Work

**From time to time we have to close woods and trails due to tree felling operations which can be dangerous if you get too close. Here is a list of our current closures:**

**Culbin, near Forres** - some tree felling work at Wellhill/Buckie Loch/Findhorn Bay areas of the forest until end April. Some diversions will be in place.

**Kingshill, part of Countesswells (near Aberdeen)** - timber extraction will be completed by 6th April. Please obey all signs in this part of the forest for your own safety.

**Kirkhill, near Aberdeen** - yellow route closed until further notice. Also part of the red trail is closed to horses for the foreseeable future, till remedial path work is carried out. To avoid the small section that is affected, continue on the forest road and rejoin the route after 800m. Also tree thinning will be starting in early April at several sites. There will be diversions to trails as required.

**Pitfichie, near Monymusk** - there will be timber lorries on the white trail on the forest road at the north end of the forest till end April. Please move aside if you see them.

**Scolty, near Banchory** - there will be timber lorries in the forest till the summer. Please move aside if you see them.

Check the [updates page](#) for more details.



## Events

**Here is a list of what we have coming up over the next few months:**

**Easter Extravaganza** - Sunday 8th April (Easter Sunday) - Roseisle, near Burghead. Fun-filled day for all the family to celebrate Easter (see main article). Anytime between 1 and 4pm. Cost £5 per car.

**Practical recycling for the benefit of wildlife** - Monday 7th May (May Day) - Huntly Peregrine WildWatch, near Huntly. See how to make your household waste into animal homes. 2-4pm. Cost £2 per person, all ages.

**Walk to Findhorn Bay** - Thursday 21st June - Wellhill car park, Culbin, near Forres. Walk with the ranger through the forest to the mouth of the Findhorn. Bring a picnic. 11am - 2.30pm. £4 per person. To book [click here](#).

**World War 2 Walk** - Sunday 24th June - Lossie Forest, near Lossiemouth. Learn about the coastal defences and the World War 2 camp. 11.30am - 2.30pm. Cost £4 per person. To book [click here](#).

**Over the summer holidays**, we are running many events for children across Moray and Aberdeenshire, including the usual pond dipping, teddy bears' picnics, mini beast hunts and some new ones. Full details to follow in the next newsletter, due out in late June.

If you want to know more about these events or others happening later in the year, look on the [Forestry Commission Scotland website](#).

**Other events of interest:**

**Motocross Scotland Enduro Championship** - 8th April - Lossie Forest. Please note the forest is closed to the public on this day. For more information about the event [click here](#).



**Granite City Rally** - 13th April in Durris Forest and 14th April in Durris, Fetteresso, Glenfarquhar, North Drumtochty and South Drumtochty. Both days, the forests are closed to the public.

However spectator sites and car parking are available at Durris and Fetteresso Forests, for details [click here](#).

#### **Bennachie Landscapes Project**

If you want to discover more about Bennachie, from May onwards, Aberdeen University (assisted by Forestry Commission Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council and Bailies of Bennachie) are running various events on the hill including an archaeology dig ,oral history and collecting sounds. For more information [click here](#) or contact [the project](#).

**Bio Blitz** - 23rd June - Haddo Country Park, near Tarves. Activities highlighting the diversity of wildlife found at Haddo and in Aberdeenshire. Supported by Forestry Commission Scotland. 10am - 5pm. All ages welcome. FREE BUSES FROM ABERDEEN. For more information contact [Rose](#).

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### **Did you know?**

Since the Huntly Peregrine WildWatch is about to open, we thought you might like to know **some facts** about these exciting birds:

- A Peregrine Falcon is the **fastest living creature on earth**;
- It can catch its prey on the wing, reaching speeds greater than 120mph;
- The lifespan of a Peregrine in the wild is up to 17 years; and
- The female is usually one third larger than the male at 1.1 kilos.



Come along to the WildWatch and see them for yourself.

**Until next time, best wishes from Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

Forestry Commission Scotland  
Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District  
Portsoy Road, Huntly  
Aberdeenshire AB54 4SJ  
Tel: 01466 794161