

**DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS** 2023

Aberdeenshire   
COUNCIL

# Aberdeenshire DoorsOpenDays 2023

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th September

find out more online at

[www.doorsopendays.org.uk\aberdeenshire](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk\aberdeenshire)

 [Aberdeenshire Architecture Heritage Design](#)



36 Aberdeenshire Farming Museum



42 Craigston Castle



34 National Decommissioning Centre



29 Leslie Castle



5 St Cyrus National Nature Reserve



14 Alford Valley Community Railway



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

Aberdeenshire   
COUNCIL

# Welcome to Doors Open Days **Aberdeenshire 2023**

This year's event will be held over two days, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September 2023, allowing visitors the best opportunity to visit a wide range of properties across Aberdeenshire.

We have an exciting and varied programme with more than 40 properties taking part, some for the first time. There will also be tours, exhibitions, and refreshments at many of the venues, hosted by Doors Open Days volunteers.

Come along and join us in celebrating Aberdeenshire's rich heritage!

Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest free annual architectural event. It is coordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust and is part of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union alongside Scottish Archaeology Month. Both events are supported by Historic Environment Scotland.

This year's Aberdeenshire event has been organised by Aberdeenshire Council's Historic Environment Team, led by Clare Tierney.

Our gratitude and thanks go to all those who have generously agreed to open their buildings to make this event possible, and to the volunteers who have given up their valuable time.

## **Opening times**

Please note that not all properties are open on both days. Please check the opening times of the properties you wish to visit before you travel. Openings may also be subject to unavoidable last-minute changes. For the most up to date information on the buildings taking part, please check the event's national website

<http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/> or

our Facebook page  [Aberdeenshire Architecture Heritage Design](#)

With so many buildings to visit across Aberdeenshire on Doors Open weekend, there's something for everyone – what better excuse to explore the region



36 Aberdeenshire Farming Museum



10 Tod Head Lighthouse



20 Glen Tanar Ballroom



35 The Sand Bothy



44 Faithlie Centre



25 The Bucket Mill



24 St Margaret's Church



50-The Granary

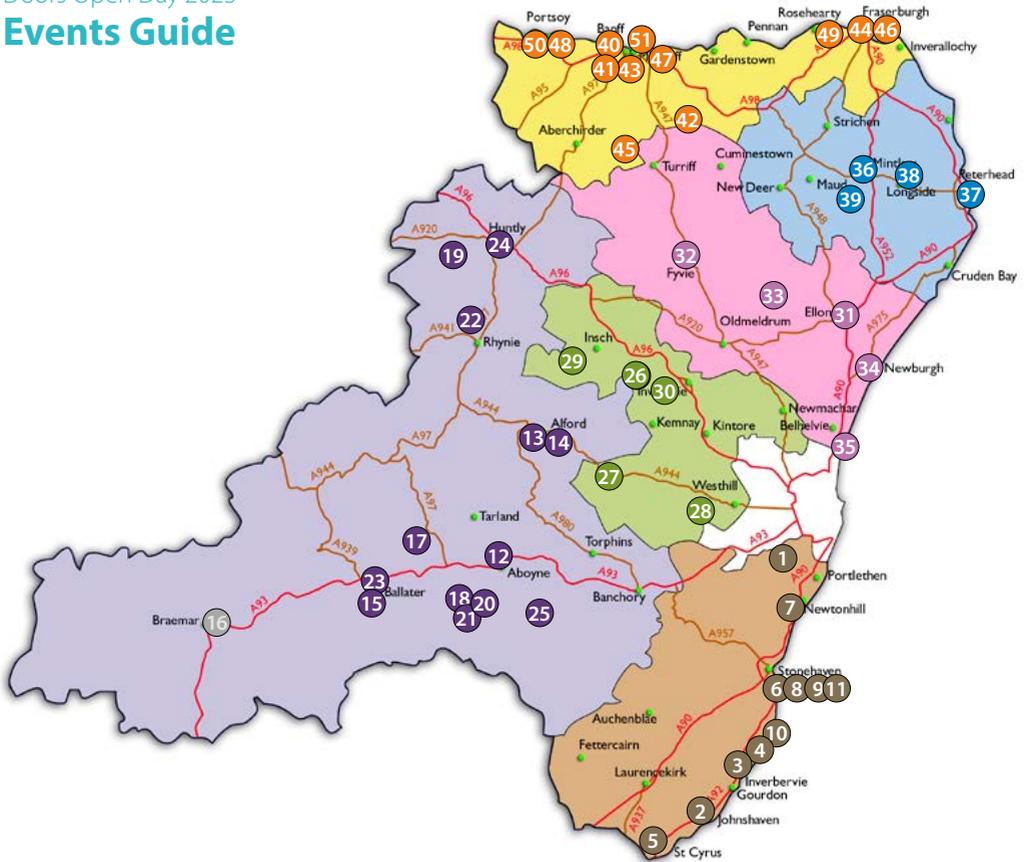


33 Haddo House



9 Stonehaven Lifeboat Station

Doors Open Day 2023  
**Events Guide**



**KEY TO VENUE SYMBOLS**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  <b>Parking</b>              |  <b>Hearing Loop</b>                 |  <b>Wheelchair Accessible Building</b> |
|  <b>Events for Children</b> |  <b>Toilets</b>                      |  <b>Not an Accessible Building</b>     |
|  <b>Refreshments</b>        |  <b>Wheelchair Accessible Toilet</b> |  <b>Limited Access</b>                 |

**Please note that visitors entering buildings do so at their own risk.** Children must be accompanied by an adult. None of the participating buildings or organisations are responsible for any accidents or damage that might be incurred. The owners/custodians of the buildings retain the right to refuse access.

## Venue Quick Links

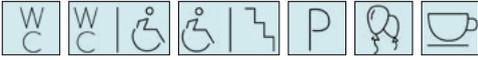
- 1 Beannachar Camphill Community
- 2 Benholm and Johnshaven Heritage Hub Museum
- 3 Hallgreen Castle
- 4 Kinneff Old Church
- 5 St Cyrus National Nature Reserve
- 6 St James the Great Episcopal Church, Stonehaven
- 7 St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church
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- 10 Tod Head Lighthouse
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- 16 Braemar Castle **WITHDRAWN**
- 17 Cairngorm Bothies
- 18 Chapel of Saint Lesmo
- 19 Clashindarroch Wind Farm
- 20 Glen Tanar Ballroom
- 21 Glen Tanar Walled Garden
- 22 Leith Hall
- 23 Masonic Temple, Ballater
- 24 St Margaret's Church, Huntly
- 25 The Bucket Mill
- 26 Bennachie Visitor Centre
- 27 Elyza Fraser Mausoleum
- 28 Garlogie Mill Beam Engine and Turbine House
- 29 Leslie Castle
- 30 Manar House
- 31 Ellon Masonic Temple
- 32 Fyvie Parish Church
- 33 Haddo House
- 34 National Decommissioning Centre
- 35 The Sand Bothy
- 36 Aberdeenshire Farming Museum
- 37 Burnhaven School
- 38 Longside Parish Church
- 39 The Old Manse, Stuartfield
- 40 1 High Shore, Banff (Merchant's House)
- 41 Banff Parish Church
- 42 Craigston Castle
- 43 Duff House Mausoleum
- 44 Faithlie Centre
- 45 Forglen Hall, Turriff
- 46 Fraserburgh Old Parish Church
- 47 Macduff Parish Church
- 48 Salmon Bothy
- 49 Sandhaven Meal Mill
- 50 The Granary, Portsoy
- 51 Vanilla Ink, The Smiddy

Our gratitude and thanks go to all those who have generously agreed to open their buildings to make this event possible and to the volunteers who have given up their time.

# KINCARDINE & MEARNIS

## 1 Beannachar Camphill Community

Banchory-Devenick, Aberdeen, AB12 5YL



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th CLOSED

Beannachar (formally Banchory House) is a large mansion house, built in 1839, designed by local architect John Smith, and surrounded by fields, gardens and mature woodland, as well as an original walled garden. The site is now home to a thriving Camphill community for young adults who require additional support needs. Offering both residential and day care services incorporating craft workshops, social and physical activities.

Former owner Alexander Thomson was a key figure in bringing agricultural reform to Scotland, his promotion of the 'Ragged School' movement forms part of the backdrop to Beannachar's



current task and is a fundamental part of our 'living heritage' and an expression of our community ethos.

Guided tours of house and grounds, exhibition of historic documents including maps, current Camphill community activities including music/dance can all be experienced by welcomed visitors on Doors Open Days.

[www.beannachar.co.uk](http://www.beannachar.co.uk)

 [Beannachar Camphill Community](#)



## 2 Benholm and Johnshaven Heritage Hub Museum

The Lifeboat House, Johnshaven, DD10 0EU



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

Benholm and Johnshaven Heritage Hub Museum is located in the centre of the historic fishing village of Johnshaven within the Old Lifeboat House which was established in 1891. Run by a dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about preserving the history and heritage of our local area, the museum offers visitors a fantastic hands-on visitor experience telling the story of Benholm and Johnshaven during wartimes.

Our exhibition includes the first-hand memories and accounts of local residents during wartime, allowing us to pass down our heritage to the next generations.

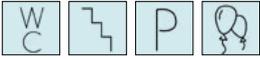
2023 is a special year in the history and heritage of Johnshaven as it marks the centenary of the Benholm and Johnshaven War Memorial. Benholm and Johnshaven Heritage Society received funding from Aberdeenshire Council's Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee and the Coastal Communities Fund to help us mark this occasion and curate a brand-new exhibition. Our volunteers will be on duty to answer any questions. We have things for all the family to do including dressing up and a soldier hunt for the children.

 [Johnshavenheritagehubmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/johnshavenheritagehubmuseum)



### 3 Hallgreen Castle

King David Drive, Inverberrie, DD10 0PE



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 5pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 5pm

Situated in the Burgh of Inverberrie overlooking the Bay is Hallgreen Castle. Doors Open Days 2023 will offer the unique opportunity for visitors to catch a glimpse within the walls of this modified 14<sup>th</sup> century castle currently occupied as a private residence. Visitors will be able to dress up in a wide range of period costumes and immerse themselves into 14<sup>th</sup> century castle life, including battle re-enactments and archery, calligraphy demo/workshop and The Knights of Monymusk display to name but a few!

In addition, visitors will also be able to experience the NEOS art exhibition.

The castle is not suitable for wheelchair access due to stairs on all levels. Minimal parking is available at the venue and visitors are requested to park at the beach carpark and enjoy the short walk up to the castle.

 [HallgreenCastle](#)



## 4 Kinneff Old Church

Kinneff, DD10 0TJ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

Kinneff Old Church, founded in the 13th century, holds a very important story in the history of Scotland. In 1652 Oliver Cromwell's forces ran rampant over Scotland, Cromwell's intent being to capture and destroy the Scottish Crown Jewels – The Honours of Scotland – by that time housed in Dunnottar Castle. The minister of Kinneff Church, James Grainger and his wife, hatched a plan to smuggle the jewels out of the castle and take them to the Church where they kept them safely hidden for 9 years, until Charles II returned to the throne.

Over the weekend Trustees will be on site to give detailed accounts of the history of the Old Church and the graveyard and to answer any questions.

[www.kinneffoldchurch.com](http://www.kinneffoldchurch.com)



## 5 St Cyrus National Nature Reserve

The Old Lifeboat Station, Nether Warburton, St Cyrus, DD10 0AQ

From Montrose, head 5 miles north on the A92 coastal road. St Cyrus NNR is signposted on the right, immediately before the Northwater Bridge over the Esk. Follow the single-track road for 1.5 miles to the car park and visitor centre.



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

The windswept, storm-battered dunes of St Cyrus National Nature Reserve (NNR) might seem a little inhospitable. Winter storms and salty winds wreak havoc along the coastline, but natural barriers of inland cliffs and a seaward ridge of sand dunes protect the St Cyrus grasslands from the ravages of the weather. The result is a small strip of warmth nestled on the north-east coast.

This is one of the richest and most diverse reserves in Britain. In summer it is awash with wildflowers and a haven for insects. There are many species of breeding birds, including meadow pipit, stonechat and skylark. In winter, large numbers of waders, ducks, geese and swans visit the estuary. And native Scottish cattle breeds graze the reserve from April to October.



Whether your interest is birds, botany or butterflies and moths, you'll find plenty of interest at any time of year. Or just come for a walk and enjoy the sea views. One of the best ways to see the reserve is to explore the paths or walk along the extensive sandy beach.





### Scottish Geology Festival with Scottish Geology Trust @St Cyrus NNR

A celebration of everything rocky and pebbly at St Cyrus NNR and beyond, as part of the Scottish Geology Trust's festival. 'Scotland's iconic landscapes and rugged coastlines have been shaped by the elements over countless millennia. The rocks beneath our feet hold the secrets of our planet's past. They are our foundation, influencing our culture and legends, and provide endless opportunities for enjoyment and discovery.'

Bring your rocks and come along to see Scottish Geology Trust Volunteers. What stories will they have in store?

Also have an up-close look at some prepared and labelled local rocks, agates and semi-precious stones, including an ultraviolet gazebo 'cave', see which rocks glow under UV!

This is a joint event between Scottish Geology Trust and NatureScot.

 [stcyrusnrr](#)

 [stcyrusnrr](#)

[www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/st-cyrus-national-nature-reserve](http://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/st-cyrus-national-nature-reserve)

### 6 St James the Great Episcopal Church, Stonehaven

Arbuthnott Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2JB



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 11am - 4pm

St James Episcopal Church is a quality example of a Grade A listed building. Although the church's website provides a comprehensive collection of images, videos and information about the building, nothing can come close to the majestic of scale, detailing, beauty and peace that visitors will experience as they step through the grand church doors. A memory that will stay with you forever and a perfect example of how our built heritage can affect our emotions.

The church is home to the 'Priests and Pipes' showcasing many unique historical artefacts, explaining the history of the Episcopal Church and of John Wardle, the noted organ builder who was choirmaster here for 58 years. The exhibition includes interactive displays, and a demonstrator organ, which anyone can sit down and play!

On the Saturday there will be coffee, cake and crafts in the hall from 10am to 12.30pm. There will be tea/coffee available in the church throughout the day on the Sunday.

[www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk](http://www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk)

 [StJamesStonehaven](#)



## 7 St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church

Muchalls, AB39 3PP

St Ternan's is located on the Causey Mounth Road to the West of the A92. Turn off the A92 opposite Muchalls village on the road signposted to Cookney. The church is approx. 500 yards along this road.



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 1pm - 4pm

*(Sunday Service 10.30am, all welcome)*

St Ternan's is the oldest church in the Diocese of Brechin. The centre section was built in 1829/31 replacing older buildings that were located in the grounds of Muchalls Castle. Later additions were made, including a gallery (since removed) and the lengthening of the nave to accommodate larger congregations. The last major change in 1865 came with the building of the chancel. At this time "The Episcopal Chapel at Muchalls" (note Muchalls Castle/estate not Muchalls village) as it had always

been known adopted a new constitution and became St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church. St Ternan's is a lovely church, most of the original pews are still in place from the days it could seat 250 of a congregation. A delicate stained glass window can be appreciated in the East wall above the altar depicting Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The font has a unique history; found by Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes (Diocese of Brechin 1847-1875) surviving as a trough on a farm adjacent to Inverbervie, it has skilful stone carvings around its circumference.

Sadly, the fishing villages of North Kincardineshire went into decline and their populations moved to urban areas to seek alternative forms of employment, resulting in a drop of congregational numbers. In 1885 St Ternan's had a congregation of 200 people; by 1910 their number had decreased to 15 as the population of the fishing villages of Skateraw, Stranathro, Findon and Portlethen declined.

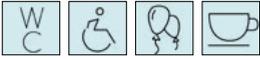
[www.stternans.co.uk](http://www.stternans.co.uk)

 [Saint Ternans](#)



## 8 Stonehaven Community Fire Station

1 Mill Of Forest Lane, Stonehaven, AB39 2LN



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th CLOSED

The community fire station, purpose-built and opened in 1980, provides a base for fire service personnel to respond to emergencies, train and engage with the community. It is currently home to 20 on-call firefighters. Two more appliance bays were added in the late 1990's which now accommodate two emergency fire engines and a water carrier. They are often called to various incidents, such as road traffic incidents, domestic and commercial fires, flooding and water rescue.

On the day there will be tours of the station and demonstrations of our equipment. These will start on the hour and take approximately 30 mins.

Crews will be available to provide fire safety advice and information about being an on-call firefighter. The opportunity to register for a home fire safety visit will be offered.

 [Stonehaven cfs](#)

 [firescot](#)

[www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)



## 9 Stonehaven Lifeboat Station

Old Pier, The Harbour, Stonehaven, AB39 2JU



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED

Sunday 17th 10am - 3pm

RNLI Stonehaven Lifeboat Station includes both the station crew shed and the boat shed. The boat shed sits adjacent to the harbour and is as old as the harbour itself.

On the day visitors will be welcomed into the station crew shed and can view the kit and crew room. The lifeboat crew will be on hand to tell you about their job and all that it entails. Visitors can then wander round the historic harbour of Stonehaven to the boat shed and experience the scale of the working lifeboat, a fantastic opportunity for children.

\*Please note that the crew will be on call that day and so may need to attend emergencies.

<https://rnli.org/find-my-nearest/lifeboat-stations/stonehaven-lifeboat-station>

 [RNLI Stonehaven](#)



## 10 Tod Head Lighthouse

Kinneff, DD10 0TH

Turn east at Roadside of Kinneff (signposted Tod-head Lighthouse) travel for approx. 800m to pass the school where you turn right then first left. At the next junction turn right then immediate left, following the single road to the light house after 1 mile.



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th CLOSED

Tod Head Lighthouse was built by David Alan Stevenson in 1897. It was decommissioned by the Northern Lighthouse Board in 2008 when all of the light mechanisms were removed. It was sold into private ownership in 2012 and in 2018 Tod Head won 'Highly Commended' in the Aberdeenshire Architectural & Landscape Design Awards.

Doors Open Days allows for a rare opportunity for visitors to climb the lighthouse tower encompassing the light room, lamp room and outer gallery which are now part of a private residence, and experience stunning views out over the sea and Shire.

**Note:** Please be aware that whilst the access road is public, it is in a very poor condition, particularly the ¼ mile section immediately after the farm to the corner of road above the lighthouse.



All visits must be pre-booked; places are limited due to the size of the property and availability of parking. Road access is via a single-track road with limited passing places.

**Available time slots are:** 10.15am, 11.15am, 12.15pm, 1.15pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm

**Booking link:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tod-head-lighthouse-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689281859597](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tod-head-lighthouse-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689281859597)

 [Todhead Lighthouse](#)



## 11 Tolbooth Museum

Old Pier, Stonehaven Harbour, AB39 2JU



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4.30pm

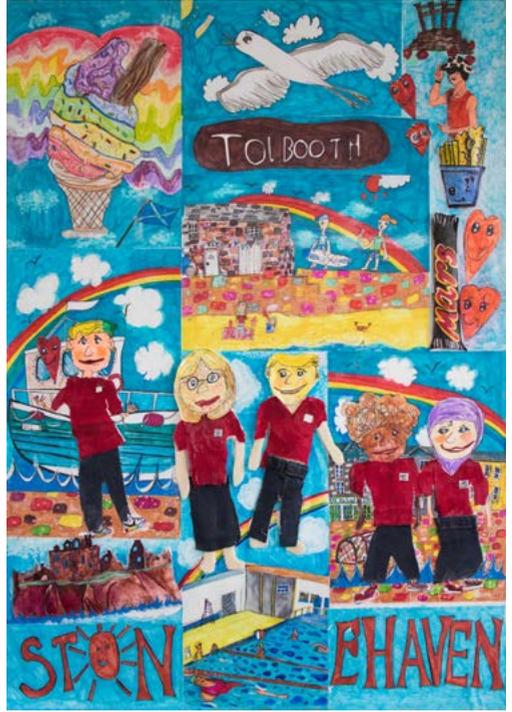
Sunday 17th 10am - 4.30pm

The Tolbooth is the oldest building in Stonehaven, dating from the late 16th century. The original use of the stone building was that of courthouse and prison. Today the ground floor contains a museum that showcases the building's turbulent past and Stonehaven's rich history. Visitors can examine the model of the Earth's earliest known air breathing animal found at nearby Cowie, reminisce over past domestic life, read informative panels on notable past individuals and events, including the founding of the Scotch Colony in New Brunswick, view old photographs of the town and study the local geology.

[www.stonehaventolbooth.co.uk](http://www.stonehaventolbooth.co.uk)

 [stonehaventolbooth](https://www.facebook.com/stonehaventolbooth)

*\*Please note – the 1st floor contains the Tolbooth Restaurant which is not part of Doors Open Days.*



# MARR

## 12 Aboyne-Dinnet Church

Huntly Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HE



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 17th CLOSED  
*Open only for Sunday Service at 11am*

Visitors to Aboyne-Dinnet Church will be offered a rare opportunity to gain entry to the secret vault located below the original church which is usually kept locked. The church was constructed in 1842 on the site of the original church which was erected in 1761. The church is listed Category B.

The church will also be hosting a display on the Church of Scotland and the history of Aboyne-Dinnet Church. In the Sanctuary, a video will be shown about the refurbishment of the church in 2007, and the more recent refurbishment of the Church Bell will be illustrated with a photographic display.

Refreshments and biscuits will be served for a small donation. Children's activity table: drawings & table tennis.

[www.aboyne-dinnet-cromar-churches.org.uk](http://www.aboyne-dinnet-cromar-churches.org.uk)

 [Aboyne-Dinnet Church](#)



## 13 Alford Heritage Museum

3 Mart Road, Alford, AB33 8BZ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

The Alford Heritage Museum, a popular attraction in the town, is housed in the A Listed cattle auction market building in the centre of Alford. First opened in 1905, the building has operated as a museum since 1991 following the mart's closure in 1986.

Through exhibits and displays, the Museum aims to preserve local heritage and educate people regarding the traditional and historic way of life in rural Donside. A wealth of social and agricultural history is contained within the collection.

The museum is entirely operated by the time and commitment of volunteers. Historic Environment Scotland describe it as "an exceptionally rare example of a largely intact livestock mart of timber construction in Scotland."

[www.alfordheritagemuseum.com](http://www.alfordheritagemuseum.com)

 [Alford Heritage Museum](#)



## 14 Alford Valley Community Railway

Main Street, Alford, AB33 8AD



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

Alford Valley Community Railway (AVCR) is a narrow-gauge railway and a much-loved community attraction that runs from the centre of Alford Village to Haughton Country Park and back. Alford Valley Charitable Community Benefit Society (AVCCBS) was formed to get this attraction back up and running and received significant funding to do so. We are a community railway operated by the community for the community. We will be delighted to welcome the public along to see how we have spent our funding.

There will be displays within the Station Building, behind the scenes tour of the Engine Shed and an opportunity to have a ride on the train from the village centre to Haughton Country Park and back. A Doors Open Days experience not to be missed!

**Train times:** 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

[www.avcr.org.uk](http://www.avcr.org.uk)

 [Alford Valley Railway](#)



## 15 Ballater Street Furniture Walking Tour

Red Telephone Kiosk, Station Square, Ballater, AB35 5QB

### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 2pm (PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th 2pm (PREBOOK)

Join street furniture expert Dr Steve Johnson for a fascinating walk around Ballater looking at the variety of often overlooked marks and structures which are to be found on our streets. Beginning at the iconic red telephone kiosk this walking tour will visit letterboxes, street signs, wall plates and marks and many more obscure features. After the tour participants will have the skills to spot, date and understand these features in their own village or town.

This walking tour shows participants how often insignificant marks and structures around a village or town can give vital clues to understand how to age an area and to discover how an area was used. Many letterboxes and telephone kiosks date back to the 19th and 20th century and so are valuable in use elements of living heritage.

Suitable for adults and children, the tour runs on both Saturday and Sunday at 2pm and will end with a private viewing of an item in Steve's street furniture collection. Approx 90 mins. Pre-booking essential. To book please email

[info@thegordonguesthouse.com](mailto:info@thegordonguesthouse.com)



## 16 Braemar Castle

Braemar, AB35 5XJ



### Opening Times

A community run heritage visitor attraction in the East Cairngorms, Braemar Castle has been leased from Invercauld Estate by Braemar Community Limited since 2007. Over the last 15 years a team of volunteers and staff has managed the castle, successfully growing visitor audiences and sustaining a thriving historic asset.

Built by the second Earl of Mar in 1628 as his Highland Hunting Lodge, Braemar Castle is closely tied to Scotland's history, particularly to the Jacobite uprisings. Changes of use through time have seen the castle used as an army garrison, country home, seasonal party house and as a backdrop to many lives within the Braemar community.

In 2022, Braemar Community Limited began a new £1.5m project to conserve the Castle, re-develop its grounds and deliver an exciting and innovative community engagement activity programme for volunteering, learning and wellbeing called Raising the Standard. The Castle is scheduled to reopen to the public for a testing period of its new offering from August to October 2023, and then to again for a full season from April 2024.

The repair and preservation of the Castle exterior and Curtain Wall included re-harling and lime-washing, completed by the specialist firm Harper and Allan in masonry under the expert guidance of conservation architects. The project has given Harper and Allan an opportunity to train a new apprentice in their traditional masonry craftsmanship.

[www.braemarcastle.co.uk](http://www.braemarcastle.co.uk)

[f braemarcastle](https://www.facebook.com/braemarcastle)

[@ braemar.castle](https://www.instagram.com/braemar.castle)



## 17 Cairngorm Bothies

Near Raebush, Logie Coldstone, AB34 5PZ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED

Sunday 17th 12.30pm - 4.30pm(PREBOOK)

Cairngorm Bothies, holders of a Green Tourism's GOLD AWARD, offer woodland retreats within a 100-year-old Scots pine forest to eco-conscious guests seeking self-catering dog-friendly holidays. Each of the 12 bothies is completely off-grid, powered entirely by renewable energy. The accommodation is ideal for adventure seekers, natural advocates and guests who share environmental awareness.

We are showcasing a behind the scenes tour of our sustainable off grid tourism offering and running an introduction to Geocaching – booking required.

Sustainable Tourism tour: 12.45pm

Introduction to Geocaching tours: 2pm and 2.45pm

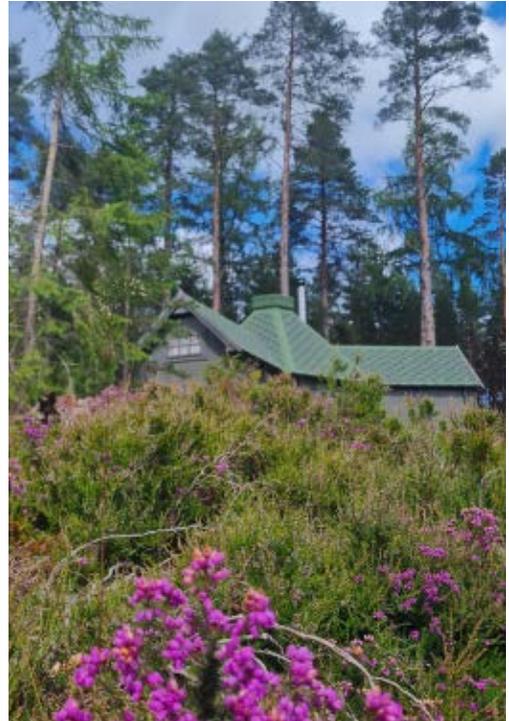
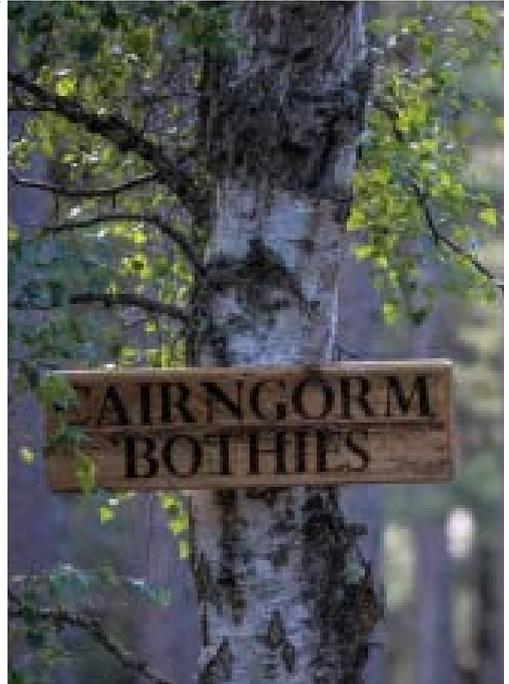
Booking Link: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cairngorm-excursions](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cairngorm-excursions)

[www.cairngormbothies.co.uk](http://www.cairngormbothies.co.uk)

 [CairngormBothies](https://www.facebook.com/CairngormBothies)

 [cairngormbothies](https://www.instagram.com/cairngormbothies)

 [cairngormlodge1](https://twitter.com/cairngormlodge1)



## 18 Chapel of Saint Lesmo

Glen Tanar, Aboyne, AB34 5EU



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED

Sunday 17th 11am - 3pm

Enjoy the quiet serenity of the Chapel, with its rustic charm and many original features still in existence including highland style ceiling rafters and decorative stained glass. Converted in 19th century from a drovers' inn, many of the stained glass windows have been recently renovated by local craftsmen.



On the day guided tours will be provided, relating the building to the history of Glen Tanar from the 18th century to the present.

Toilets and car parking are available at the Glen Tanar Visitor Centre where visitors must park, from which a 10min walk will be required to access the site of the Chapel.

Tour times: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

[www.glentanarcharitabletrust.org/chapel.htm](http://www.glentanarcharitabletrust.org/chapel.htm)



## 19 Clashindarroch Wind Farm

Huntly, AB54 4UX



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 9.30am - 4.30pm(PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th 9.30am - 4.30pm(PREBOOK)

Clashindarroch is an 18 turbine onshore wind farm located near Huntly in Aberdeenshire owned and run by Vattenfall UK. Clashindarroch has been in operation for over 8 years and powers about 27,000 homes annually. It also has a successful community benefit scheme, run by local people with support from Foundation Scotland which has distributed over 1.9m to local communities so far.

**Bussed tours up to the wind farm will be running from Cabrach Heritage and Distillery, The Acorn Centre, The Cabrach Trust, Inverharroch, Lower Cabrach, AB54 4EU. Pre-booking is essential via the links on page 21.**

Information at venue about community benefits and Clashindarroch wind farm. Refreshments provided.

<https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/clashindarroch>

[VattenfallUK](#)

[VattenfallUK](#)

[vattenfall/](#)





**Tour Booking:**

**1st Tour 10am 16/09**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/682292153197?aff=oddtcreator>

**2nd Tour 1.30pm 16/09**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/682298351737?aff=oddtcreator>

**3rd Tour 10am 17/09**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/682295453067?aff=oddtcreator>

**4th Tour 1.30pm 17/09**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/682298793057?aff=oddtcreator>



## 20 Glen Tanar Ballroom

Glen Tanar, Aboyne, AB34 5EU



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED  
Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

Built by Glen Tanar's original founder in 1869, and originally the music room of Glen Tanar House, the unique Ballroom provides a spectacular space for a variety of events.

From its vaulted ceiling adorned with over 700 antlers, to its original oak floors, the Ballroom is airy, atmospheric and spacious. The Ballroom boasts a roaring open fire, a beautiful grand piano and excellent acoustics. A visiting opportunity not to be missed where you will find yourself enveloped in an experience of Victorian grandeur.

Exhibition of original photos and gamebooks from past generations to showcase their living heritage.

[www.glentantar.co.uk](http://www.glentantar.co.uk)

 [GlenTanarEstate](#)

 [glentantar](#)

 [Glen\\_Tanar](#)



## 21 Glen Tanar Walled Garden

Glen Tanar, Aboyne, AB34 5EU



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED  
Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

Glen Tanar Walled Garden is looked after by The Seed Box, which provides horticultural training and outdoor therapy to adults with additional support needs. Gardening activities are carried out within the walled garden, supporting workers to develop employability skills, confidence and independence.

The garden comprises a curved herbaceous border, orchard, vegetable beds, cut flower beds, fruit cage, lean to greenhouses and potting shed set within substantial stone walls. The various sections are divided by paths and hedges providing a different view at every turn.

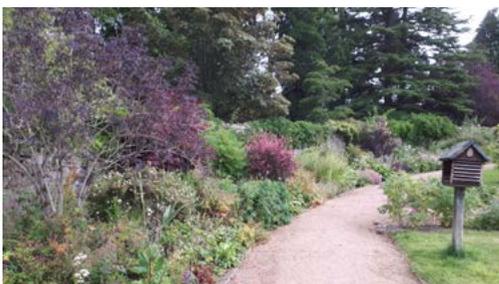
Come along and explore the many wonders of Glen Tanar Walled Garden, round every corner lies a world of beauty, nature and mystery that has provided fruit and vegetables for the landowners for many years. Records can be viewed of the planted and harvested crops as well as planting diagrams of the original layout.

On Doors Open Days there will be a selection of plants available to purchase along with refreshments and a children's scavenger hunt.

[www.theseedbox.org.uk](http://www.theseedbox.org.uk)

 [theseedboxltd](#)

 [seedboxorg](#)



## 22 Leith Hall

Kennethmont, AB54 4NQ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10.30am - 4pm (TOURS)

Sunday 17th 10.30am - 4pm (TOURS)

Leith Hall was originally built as a traditional Scottish tower house. It has been added to by successive generations of the Leith-Hay family with the last additions being completed in 1912. It has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1945.

The Doors Open Days Tour will complement the normal NTS guided tour, and will focus on Leith Hall architectural history and the changing shape of the house across the different Lairds' tenure. The tours will start by examining the façade of

the house followed by an exclusive visit to the South Wing including the Oval Room - which is soon to be reinstated on the guided tour - and gain an insight into some of the 'behind the scenes' challenges of caring for historic properties like Leith Hall.

Leith Hall is offering a special architectural tour for Doors Open Days. Places on these special tours will be limited, booking essential.

**Tour times:** 11am and 2pm.

**Booking link:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doors-open-day-at-leith-hall-tickets-692412503437>

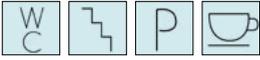
[www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/leith-hall](http://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/leith-hall)

 [LeithHallGardensEstate](https://www.facebook.com/LeithHallGardensEstate)  
 [leith\\_hall](https://www.instagram.com/leith_hall)



## 23 Masonic Temple, Ballater

19-21 Queens Road, Ballater, AB35 5NJ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 11am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 11am - 4pm

The building is a purpose-built Masonic Lodge standing in its own grounds. Visitors will be able to enter the main hall, view photographs and browse through membership records and minute books all going back over 100 years. An exciting glimpse beyond the doors of this historic society where 200-year-old manuals and Minute books will be on display for Doors Open Days.



## 24 St Margaret's Church, Huntly

30 Chapel Street, Huntly, AB54 8BS



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10.30am - 4pm

The Parishioners of St Margaret's invite you to visit this beautiful A listed octagonal church. The church was built in 1834 with the support of the influential Gordon family of Wardhouse. Located on a prominent corner site, its unusual Spanish Baroque tower and spire is presented to its best advantage. The colourful interior gives a warm and uplifting welcome and your eyes will be drawn by the stencilling, large oil paintings, the intricate altar design and magnificent ceiling. You can also learn about the interesting history and links to Jerez-Gordon Sherry.

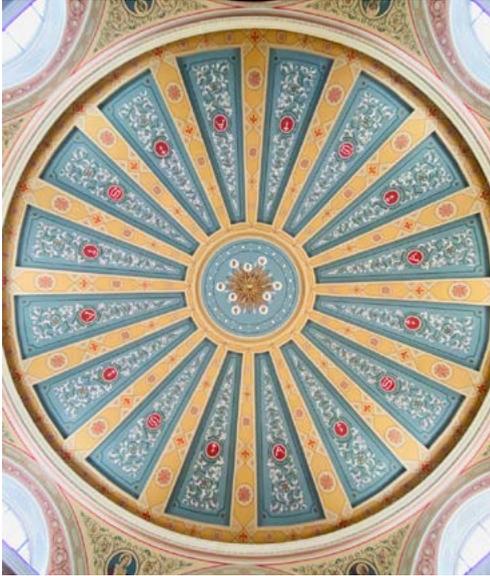
The church continues to be at the heart of an active community, hosting a weekly welcome café through the winter and having an active church choir, whose music will be shared during the Doors Open Days event.

A host will welcome visitors and answer any questions. We will have information on the history of the Church, and the story of St Margaret of Scotland.



St Margaret's Church choir and organ music will show off the exceptional acoustics of the octagonal church.

 [St Margaret's RC Church, Huntly](#)



## 25 The Bucket Mill

Finzean, AB31 6NE



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

The water-powered Finzean Bucket Mill is a unique Grade A listed historic site. It was built by Peter Brown in the 1850's to make wooden buckets, or pails, using timber from the Forest of Birse.

The Bucket Mill has been operated by three generations of the Brown family. The current miller, Stan Moyes, took over the running of the mill in the 1970's. In 1999, Birse Community Trust became the owner of the mill and Stan Moyes continues in his stewardship role.



The Bucket Mill will not be operating during Doors Open Days, but the skills are very much alive in the miller Stan Moyes, who is semi-retired. He learned how to operate a water-powered mill from David Duncan at the Finzean Sawmill and Turning Mill, a mile east along the River Feugh.

Doors Open Days offers a rare opportunity to access the mill for a guided behind the scenes tour.

**Tour times:** 10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 3pm

**Booking link:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-bucket-mill-finzean-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689184267697](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-bucket-mill-finzean-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689184267697)

[www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk)

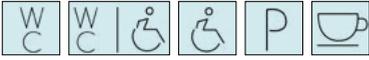
 [BirseCommunityTrust](#)



# GARIOCH

## 26 Bennachie Visitor Centre

Pitcaple, Inverurie, AB51 5HY



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4.30pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4.30pm

The result of a design competition, the circular building of the Visitor Centre reflects the historic hill fort on the dominant peak of Mither Tap. The south facing high windows allow natural light and solar warmth into the building. The building uses natural materials to reflect the woodland setting and the drystone dyking heritage of the area.

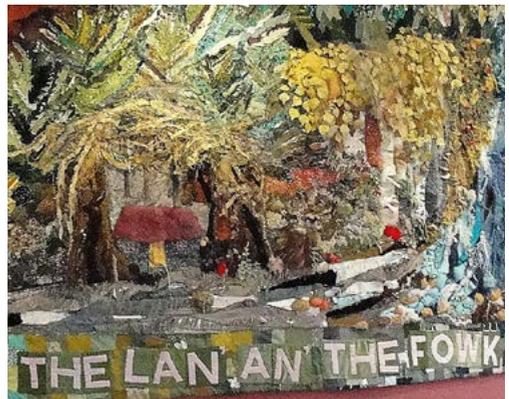
The Bennachie Visitor Centre is managed and maintained by the Bennachie Centre Trust, a voluntary organisation and registered charity. The Centre, which is open daily April-October, provides a focus for visitors to discover Bennachie and increase their understanding and enjoyment of the social, cultural and natural history of the area. We provide exhibition space, educational materials, multi-media interpretation, and act as a focus for public events and activities as well as community initiatives. Entry is fully accessible, free, as are most events and activities. Our facilities include toilets (open all year round), a community room, refreshments and a gift shop.

Arts and craft skills, from making clothes and pots to decorating our homes, are ancient traditions. Meet the modern-day makers as we show-case the work of six local artists as part of the NEOS (North East Open Studios) festival.

[www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk](http://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk)

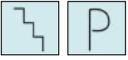
 [bennachievisitorcentre](https://www.facebook.com/bennachievisitorcentre)

 [bennachievisitorcentre](https://www.instagram.com/bennachievisitorcentre)



## 27 Elyza Fraser Mausoleum

Old Cluny Kirkyard, Cluny, Sauchen, AB51 7RS



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 17th 2pm - 4pm

The Mausoleum was built in 1808 for Miss Elyza Fraser, the owner of Castle Fraser (now a National Trust for Scotland property). It was designed by her friend the architect James Byers of Tonley, a noted Scottish architect of the 18th Century, founder member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a prominent Jacobite.

Miss Elyza Fraser died in 1814 and is buried in her Mausoleum along with several generations of her family, the last interment being in 1946.

Now more than 200 years old, the Elyza Fraser Mausoleum sits within Cluny Kirkyard is a category A listed building. North East Scotland Preservation Trust (NESPT) own the Mausoleum and are developing a future restoration project in partnership with the Friends of the Elyza Fraser Mausoleum.

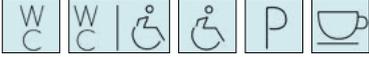
On the day Members of the Friends of the Elyza Fraser Mausoleum will be on hand to talk about the building and answer any questions you may have, a valuable opportunity to find out more about the work the group undertake.

[www.nespt.org/portfolio/elyza-fraser-mausoleum](http://www.nespt.org/portfolio/elyza-fraser-mausoleum)



## 28 Garlogie Mill Beam Engine and Turbine House

Garlogie, Skene, AB32 6SA



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

Garlogie is the site of a 1799 wool spinning mill which contains the oldest steam engine in Scotland still in its original location. The engine dates from the 1830s but incorporates an 1805 Boulton and Watt cast iron beam. A 1923 72kW hydroelectric power station is also to be seen. The surviving mill buildings are Category A listed. The Garlogie Beam Engine Trust was formed in 2019 to preserve and restore this historic machinery and a 99 lease for the site was signed with Aberdeenshire Council in July 2023.

This venue never disappoints and guides from the Garlogie Beam Engine Trust will be on hand to show you around the site and explain the operation of the beam engine and turbine and plans for the future. An exhibition in the Garlogie Village Hall will explain the site's history and the significance of the Leuchar Burn in providing



energy to Garlogie Mill over several centuries of industrial activity.

Teas and light refreshments will be served.

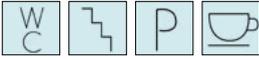
<https://garlogie-engine.org.uk>

[f garlogie.engine/](https://www.facebook.com/garlogie.engine/)



## 29 Leslie Castle

Leslie, Inch, AB52 6NX



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10.30am - 3.45pm (PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th 11.30am - 3.45pm (PREBOOK)

Leslie Castle was one of the last great Baronial castles to be built in Aberdeenshire in 1661, incorporating the original home of the Leslie Clan, a wooden motte and bailey, later replaced by a stronger stone building.

Falling into disrepair in the 19th century; the roof was lost, gradually becoming ruinous until it was purchased by architect David Leslie in 1979. Leslie spent 10 years restoring the castle and ran it as a boutique hotel for a decade before it became a private residence. In 2018 the castle changed hands again and now welcomes overnight guests.

On the day Guided Tour of the castle by the Baroness of Leslie, will be conducted, an opportunity not to be missed.

Teas/coffees/home-bakes/souvenirs available at a cost.

Booking essential. Tours last 40min, maximum of 12 people in each group.

### Tour times:

Sat: 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Sun: 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Booking link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leslie-castle-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-6892146886](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leslie-castle-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-6892146886)

[www.leslie-castle.com](http://www.leslie-castle.com)

 [leslie.castle.guesthouse](https://www.facebook.com/leslie.castle.guesthouse)

 [lesliecastle1](https://www.instagram.com/lesliecastle1)



## 30 Manar House

Burnherrie, Inverurie, AB51 5JQ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

An elegant example of a Georgian Mansion, Manar House stands majestically within the heart of the Don Valley between the River Don and Bennachie. The estate in its entirety is made up of manicured grounds and parkland, agricultural land and ancient woodlands.

Manar House was designed and built by renowned architect John Smith and is considered an important early commission for the man who went on to become City Architect to Aberdeen. Smith's crowning glory was to win the commission from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to build their new castle at Balmoral (1853) following the purchase of the Estate in 1848.

Beautifully restored in recent years the house is still primarily a family home. Self-catered guest suites are also now available and the house and grounds/estate are available for events & location shoots. We also offer Scottish native breed agri-tourism experiences with our resident Highland cows and ponies who enjoy the lush organic pastures at Manar.

### Tour Booking:

**The Grounds** (45min)

**Tour times:** 10am, 11.30am, 2.15pm

**Luxury West Wing Apartments** (60min)

**Tour times:** 10am, 1pm, 3pm

**The Main House - Ground Floor** (30min)

**Tour times:** 11.15am, 1.30pm, 3.15pm

**Booking link:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/manar-house-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689289853507](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/manar-house-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689289853507)

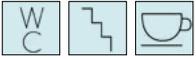
 [houseofhorspool](#)



# FORMARTINE

## 31 Ellon Masonic Temple

Station Road, Ellon, AB41 9AE



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED  
Sunday 17th 12noon - 4pm

The building of this Masonic Temple began on 21st March 1923 and is steeped in history celebrating this its 100th year. On Doors Open Day you are welcomed in a small entrance hall leading through to a library room then into the main Temple to experience and investigate this vast history yourself.

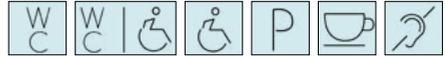
The centrepiece of the Temple is its vast fireplace, which is an intricate part of the building's fabric, both decorative and functional. Adorning the fireplace are names of previous Right Worshipful Masters of Lodge Ythan 892. A small ante room was added onto the building after the initial construction. This is a well-attended lodge in the province of Aberdeenshire East and has a bountiful source of historic documentation which can be viewed.

Freemasons will be in attendance to assist visitors on the day.



## 32 Fyvie Parish Church

Beech Row, Fyvie, AB53 8PD



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 17th CLOSED

There has been a worshipping community in the village of Fyvie for over 1000 years. The Church is thought to have been founded by monks who evangelised Aberdeenshire in the 10th Century. The Priory of Fyvie (now marked by a Cross) was a sub-Priory of the Abbey of Arbroath and monks took Services in the Church until the Reformation. Evidence of a Pre-Reformation Church may be seen in the graveyard. Part of the congregation 'went out' at the Disruption and formed a Free Church at Woodhead which closed in 1960 when the Churches reunited.

The present Church was built in 1808 and in 1902 the Chancel was added together with the 'Laird's Laft', the organ, the Vestry and the Session Room. The crowning glory of the Chancel is our unique East Window by Louis Comfort Tiffany and depicts the Archangel Michael on the Wheel of Time. The Church including galleries has seating for 1000.

Knowledgeable guides will be on hand to show visitors around and answer any questions.

[f Friends-of-Fyvie-Church-1038552509550934/](#)



### 33 Haddo House

Methlick, Ellon, AB41 7EQ



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 11am - 3pm

Sunday 17th 11am - 3pm

Haddo House is an 18th Century Palladian style mansion house and was the ancestral home of the Earls and Marquesses of Aberdeen and Temair for over 200 years. The Georgian exterior was designed by William Adam and its beautiful Victorian interior was part of the extensive renovations from the 1880's. From the stunning chapel to bedrooms fit for a queen, Haddo House should be on every traveller's "must see" list.

Doors Open Days offers a rare opportunity to come and see the ancestral home of the Earls/ Marquesses of Aberdeen and Temair at your own pace with guides ready to answer any questions you have.

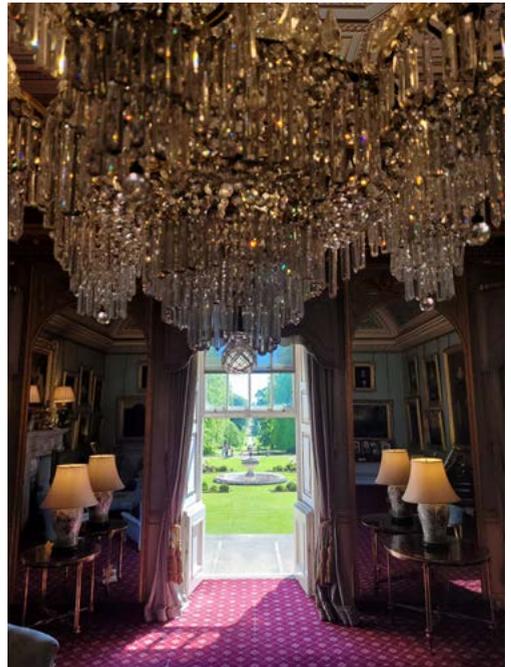
There will be a small demonstration by our Collections Assistant and children's activities to keep the little ones entertained while you look at the beautiful Victorian interior.

We will be open for free entry for this weekend only.

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

 [HaddoHouse](https://www.facebook.com/HaddoHouse)

 [haddo\\_house](https://www.instagram.com/haddo_house)



## 34 National Decommissioning Centre

Main Street, Newburgh, AB41 6AA



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th CLOSED

The National Decommissioning Centre (NDC) is a multimillion-pound research and development complex located in Newburgh Aberdeenshire. The centre works in partnership with industry, regulators, and other key stakeholders to transform the decommissioning of energy assets and support the sector's transition to net zero emissions.

The NDC's project portfolio is multi-disciplinary and covers engineering, environmental, economic, and regulatory aspects. The NDC is home to a unique state-of-the-art simulator - a walk-in 9m diameter, 300-degree visual immersive environment with 4 control stations providing real-time and real-physics simulations. Other advanced facilities at the centre include a high-power laser, indoor water immersion tank, hyperbaric testing and several large capacity environmental chambers.

On the day visitors will receive a brief Introduction/presentation to the NDC: Guided tour and demonstration of our walk-in 9m diameter, 300-degree marine simulator, offering a visual immersive environment with 4 control stations providing real-time, real-physics simulations. Attendees will have the opportunity to operate the control chair and a simulated activity.

- Guided tour of other NDC facilities in South Building e.g. indoor immersion tank, hyperbaric testing, environmental chambers etc. (Simultaneous with 2 and swap over)

- Activities for children e.g. simulator, pressure test, kitchen science, drawing and colouring, etc. Children's activities start at 10.00 throughout to 16.00 – children can drop in and out of these activities
- Displays and films highlighting research/projects at NDC.

Introduction presentation to NDC followed by Tours of Simulator and facilities (90min)

**Tour times:** 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

**Booking** required, please email NDC Administrator Fiona Barr to book: [f.i.barr@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:f.i.barr@abdn.ac.uk)

[www.ukndc.com](http://www.ukndc.com)

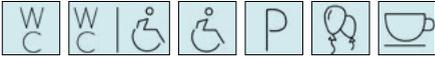
 [decomcentre](#)

 [showcase/thendc](#)



## 35 The Sand Bothy

Balmedie Country Park, North Beach Road,  
Balmedie, AB23 8XG



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

The Sand Bothy was built in the 1980's originally as a Beach Rangers base. After remaining closed for about 15 years, Belhelvie Community Trust reopened the building to the public in 2016. The Sand bothy aims to be a hub for the local community and visitors from afar. Run by volunteers, you can find the Kiosk open at the weekends (April-October) for ice-creams and refreshments. The main room houses an information centre, where you can find out about everything from local wildlife, shipwrecks and local history.

Additionally, we will be hosting an exhibition with two local Artists, Sarah Peacock and Rachel Sinclair. They will be visiting The Sand Bothy to show and sell some of their artworks.

Don't miss this opportunity to find out more of the history of the building and the work we do with other organisations such as Balmedie Beach Wheelchairs who provide free hire of all-terrain wheelchairs for families to explore Balmedie beach. Belhelvie Community Trust is a Scottish Charitable Organisation.

[www.thesandbothy.co.uk](http://www.thesandbothy.co.uk)

 [The-Sand-Bothy](https://www.facebook.com/The-Sand-Bothy)



# BUCHAN

## 36 Aberdeenshire Farming Museum

Aden Country Park, Mintlaw, AB42 5FQ



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 11am - 3.15pm

Sunday 17th 11am - 3.15pm

Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, operated by Aberdeenshire Councils Museum Services, is set in the former stables to the Mansion House in Aden Country Park. The buildings in the courtyard date to the early 1800's. The Aberdeenshire Farming Museum houses a nationally recognised agriculture collection. The Horseman's house which is also located within the Museum, is a step back in time to 1919 and shows how Jimmy Thomson who was the Aden Estate Horseman and his family lived, whilst looking after the horses of the Russell Family.

We will have guides in the Museum bringing the exhibitions to life including a children's trail within the Museum.



In addition to the Farming Museum Aden Country Park offers an excellent opportunity to stop and picnic on your day out with its brilliant new children's play area suitable for all ages and abilities.

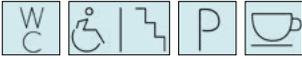
[www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/museums](http://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/museums)

 [Aberdeenshire/MuseumsService](#)



### 37 Burnhaven School

South Road, Peterhead, AB42 0YX



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th CLOSED

Burnhaven School is the smallest school in Peterhead but is rich in history. Originally the school roll comprised of Prison Officers' and RAF Officers' children. Although Burnhaven School has changed over the years it is one of the few buildings which remain of the forgotten village of Burnhaven.

The forgotten village of Burnhaven was demolished in 1960 but the present children of Burnhaven School have been learning all about it and would love to share their local history with you. You are welcome to visit the school, see the exhibition of learning about our local history and have a tour of the school. Everyone is welcome and if you have a story to tell us about our school, we would love to hear it.

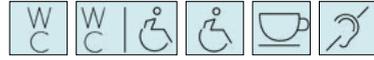
On Doors Open Days informative tours of the school and exhibition will be provided by our Prefects, refreshments provided by the Parent Council and other surprise entertainments will be available throughout the day.

<https://burnhaven.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>



### 38 Longside Parish Church

Inn Brae, Longside, AB42 4XN



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 1pm - 4pm

Longside Parish Church enjoys an elevated location within the village and can be seen from many directions. It dominates the village skyline with its impressive rectangular silhouette designed by John Smith and built in 1835/36. The west gable is capped by a bellcote. The adjoining old parish church, a roofless ruin, dates from 1620 and is accessed through a lychgate of 1705. Some notable monuments are in the surrounding graveyard.

On the day guides will be on hand to provide information and refreshments.

[www.longsidekirk.org.uk](http://www.longsidekirk.org.uk)

 [Longsidekirk](#)

 [longside church](#)



## 39 The Old Manse, Stuartfield

4 Windhill Street, Stuartfield, AB42 5DR



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

Stop off at the Old Manse where a warm welcome awaits visitors who are interested to find out more about the history of the 215-year-old Manse. Visitors will be greeted within the Manse, which is now a private residence, by the owner and will be enthralled by his traditional storytelling. The tales will include images, illustrations and video covering the origin of the church and manse and the lives of some of the ministers, concentrating particularly on the first minister, James Robertson and his children, who later in life achieved tremendous success! You will also delve into the lives of the many occupants of The Old Manse, where odd coincidences exist between the first inhabitant and the existing one! The storytelling will take place in one of the rooms of the house, which can cater for a maximum of 6 people at a time.



A Doors Open Days must as cited by previous visitors:

"It was the best hour we have spent in a long while."

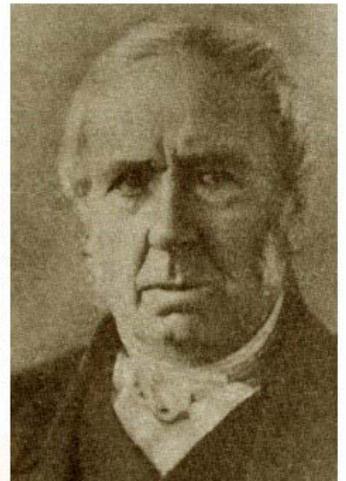
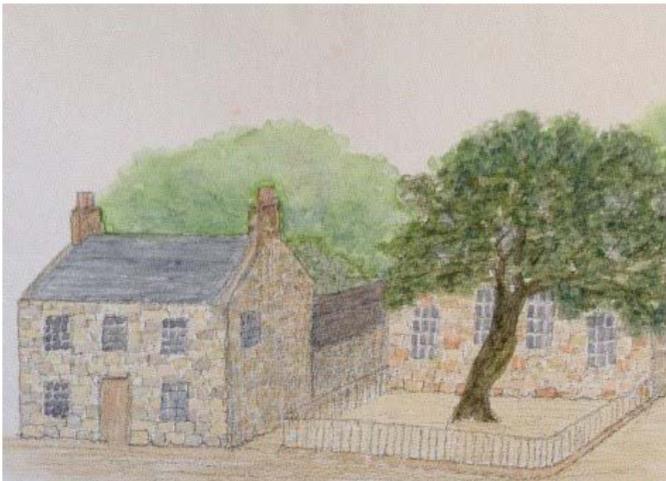
"A fabulous insight into some fascinating local history, brought to life brilliantly."

"The effort put into the research was evidently visible in the slides. We loved it!"

Booking Essential. The talk is approx. 45 minutes long and should be booked in advance by either phoning 01771624412 or 07855537824 or by email –

[ablo.home@gmail.com](mailto:ablo.home@gmail.com)

Tour times: 10am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm



## BANFF & BUCHAN

### 40 1 High Shore, Banff (Merchant's House)

1 High Shore, Banff, AB45 1DB



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 1pm

1 High Shore is an original Merchant's House in the centre of Banff, adjacent to the Silversmith's House and the Market Arms; they are three of the oldest houses in Banff, forming a historic grouping. Opposite lies a Medieval Churchyard.



The Merchant's House continues its life as a private family residence engulfed with history and architectural detail, including a huge fireplace, spiral stone stairs, turret, courtyard garden, nooks and crannies and interesting reliefs. Doors Open Days offers an extraordinary opportunity to see inside one of the iconic houses in Banff, often referred to as the "pink house".

Banff Elvis' Gary Aaron Stuart will be performing at the venue on Saturday afternoon, from 2-3pm.



### 41 Banff Parish Church

High Street, Banff, AB45 1AE



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 1pm - 4pm

Banff Parish Church originates from 1789 and was designed by Andrew Wilson architect and builder. In 1849 the iconic spire that can be seen on the landscape was added by William Robertson. The spire stands majestic on top of a tower constructed in toolled and polished ashlar. The chancel was later added and the interior altered in 1929. A small chapel was created at the rear of the church in 1994. The pulpit, font, communion table and stained glass in the chancel were all gifted in 1929. Take a moment out of your busy Doors Open Days adventure to stop and take a breath within the walls of this magnificent building.

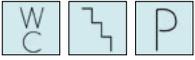
[www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk](http://www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk)

 [Banff-and-King-Edward-Parish-Churches-472513689469569](https://www.facebook.com/Banff-and-King-Edward-Parish-Churches-472513689469569)



## 42 Craigston Castle

Turriff, AB53 5PX



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 11am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

Sunday 17th 11am - 4pm (PREBOOK)

Built in 1604-1607 by J. Urquhart, Craigston Castle continues to be the residence of the Urquhart family.

The exposed sandstone dominates, emphasising squareness and strength, further supported by two main wings flanking the entrance and connected by an elevated arch which is surmounted by a richly corbelled parapet. Craigston Castle is regarded by many as one of the finest in Scotland.

The grandeur continues to the interior and as you enter the front door, you come face to face with a splendid woodcarving of the family crest.

Furnishings in the main rooms date back to the mid-18th and 19th centuries. The drawing room on the first floor contains unique 17th century wood carvings which depict biblical themes, Scottish kings and great heroes. Two stone spiral staircases take you from the drawing room to the different bedrooms, the gallery as well as the old library.

You are also welcome to come for a nice walk in the castle grounds, we have recently developed, thanks to a Scottish Government grant, 3 different paths with 2 picnic areas and a dedicated parking area. You can download the map from <https://craigston-castle.co.uk/walks/>

On Doors Open Days, visitors can enjoy unique tours conducted by family members who often reside at the castle. The tour usually lasts around 45 minutes. Maximum number of people per tour is 8.

**Tour times:** 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.

**Booking Link:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/craigston-castle-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689200486207](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/craigston-castle-aberdeenshire-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-689200486207)

<https://craigston-castle.co.uk/>

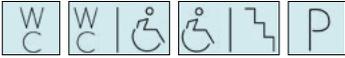
 [CraigstonCastle](https://www.facebook.com/CraigstonCastle)

 [craigstoncastle](https://www.instagram.com/craigstoncastle)



### 43 Duff House Mausoleum

Wrack Woods (1 mile south of Duff House),  
Banff, AB45 3SX



#### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED  
Sunday 17th 10.30am - 3.30pm

Built on the site of a Carmelite burial ground this "Gothick" structure houses the remains of the first five Earls Fife amongst others. Outside is a tomb that used to be in Banff cemetery and falsely used by the 2nd Earl to claim a family connection to Robert the Bruce. The Mausoleum is in an extremely peaceful and picturesque location above the River Deveron and contains several excellent examples of quite early Coade stone. Also worth visiting close by are Mount Carmel, St Mary's Well and "Hospital Island".

Available at the Mausoleum will be leaflets with a map showing walks around Wrack Woods highlighting key features. A separate leaflet with the history of the Mausoleum will also be available, to supplement the information the stewards on the day get a chance to talk about!

Subject to weather and good fitness of visitors, ad hoc walks (circa 20 mins) may be conducted to Mount Carmel, Hospital Island and St Mary's Well.

Main parking and the nearest toilets are near Duff House; most visitors are then asked to walk to the Mausoleum (about 1 mile which will be signed), either along a track or the lower footpath. There is space adjacent to the Mausoleum for just 2 cars, reserved for disabled parking. The Mausoleum is fully wheelchair accessible outside. To get to the flat floor inside there are 3 steps.

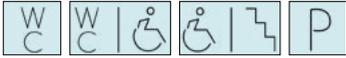
[www.friendsofduffhouse.org.uk](http://www.friendsofduffhouse.org.uk)

 [friendsofduffhouse](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofduffhouse)



## 44 Faithlie Centre

Saltoun Square, Fraserburgh, AB43 9DA



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 11am - 2pm

Sunday 17th CLOSED

The Faithlie Centre in Fraserburgh is a modern multi-purpose facility that is located in the heart of the town. The building was constructed from 2013 to 2015, replacing the old Faithlie Centre which had been in use since the 1970s. The Centre used to be the old police station. The new Centre has been a welcome addition to Fraserburgh, providing a business hub and also a new space for the registrar and local council service point.

On Doors Open Days visitors will receive a tour of Fraserburgh Enterprise Hub and an explanation of our services.

[www.elevatoruk.com/business-support/fraserburgh](http://www.elevatoruk.com/business-support/fraserburgh)

[!\[\]\(9503f98ca25dae0acc783cc7bfa3022d\_img.jpg\) FraserburghEnterpriseHub](#)

[!\[\]\(d5b865035bfbe790b5ce04127faffad2\_img.jpg\) fraserburgh-entepriase-hub](#)



## 45 Forglen Hall, Turriff

Forglen, Turriff, AB53 4JL



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th CLOSED

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

In 1924 the hall was built by members of the community in Forglen. The centre piece of the Hall is a stained-glass window depicting Jacob's Dream designed by Clayton and Bell, world famous manufacturers of religious stained glass windows, that the community were gifted.

Take a quiet moment to view the window in all its glory, colours shining vibrantly subsequent to its careful restoration in 2019 by Linda Cannon, art conservator from Glasgow. There will be an opportunity to sit and watch a short video detailing the story of the stained glass window and its restoration.

Take a wander within the grounds of the Hall to view the War Memorial and inside there is a Role of Honour and a plaque to Piper Findlater VC, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1898.

Refreshments and activities for children will be available.

[!\[\]\(796cd277752e45a0cd4157a98fd1f6eb\_img.jpg\) forglenhall](#)



## 46 Fraserburgh Old Parish Church

Saltoun Square, Fraserburgh, AB43 9DA



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 1pm

Sunday 17th 2pm - 4pm

The current church was built in 1803 on the site of the very first church to be built in 1571 by Sir Alexander Fraser in what was known then as the area of Faithlie. Sir Alexander Fraser went on to build a new town around the church, which became the town of Fraserburgh.

The main stained glass window of the church is a work of great art and beauty which is one of Douglas Strachan's first and best works based on Psalm 148. The window was unveiled in 1906 and fully refurbished in 2012.

The pulpit is a War Memorial to those of the town who fell in the Great War which was gifted to the church by Lord Saltoun in 1923. The pipe organ was added to the church in 1898 at a huge cost at that time of £500. The organ dominates the back of the church with its beautifully decorated and painted pipes and is another example of historical excellence. The church has the largest capacity of the three Church of Scotland church buildings in Fraserburgh with seating for over 800 people.

Guides will be on hand to show visitors around the church. There will be a suitable activity for children such as a quiz/treasure hunt about features within the church.

<https://fraserburgholdparishchurch.org.uk>



## 47 Macduff Parish Church

Church Street, Macduff, AB44 1UN



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

(Sunday Service takes place at 11am)

The church occupies a prominent position in the community of Macduff. On a hill overlooking the harbour, the building was opened in 1805. With its Italianate square tower, domed roof and cupola added in 1865, it is a landmark for boats approaching the town. Points of particular architectural interest include the stained glass windows installed in 1922 to the memory of local people who died in World War 1. These were created by the City Glass Company of Glasgow and displayed at the Royal Academy in London. More recently stained glass windows by the artist Jennifer-Jane Bayliss, were added to the vestibule to commemorate the links with Malawi. The organ was built in 1903.

The building has been continually updated and renovated to meet the needs of an active congregation. On Sunday, visitors in the morning



will be able to attend the regular service of worship that starts at 11am.

The graveyard surrounding the church is also worth a visit with many interesting gravestones as well as a number of Commonwealth Commission Graves.

Guides will be available to talk about the church building and the work of the congregation.

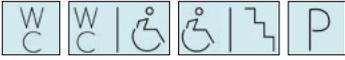
[www.macduffparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.macduffparishchurch.org.uk)

[f MacduffParishChurch](#)



## 48 Salmon Bothy

Links Road, Portsoy, AB45 2SS



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

A former working Salmon House, the Salmon Bothy has been lovingly restored and now comprises a museum, a base for family history research and a fully functional community space and venue.

The museum showcases displays, artefacts and information about Portsoy's harbours, the industry and trade, the salmon fishing operations, the unique geology of the area and the flora and fauna of the area

Upstairs at the Bothy is a fully functional community space and venue used by many clubs and societies on a regular basis, providing the perfect backdrop for cosy folk music evenings, musical recitals and small theatre groups. It is also the home of Folk at the Salmon Bothy, a highly active traditional music club which now holds its own annual festival, The HAAL. The venue is available for hire for meetings, workshops, classes and many types of events and gatherings, including weddings and parties.

The Salmon Bothy is run entirely by a group of enthusiastic volunteers, as part of Portsoy Community Enterprise. The group receives no public funding towards operational costs, all costs are met through donations and venue hire charges which are kept as minimal as possible.

The Bothy is recognised as a four-star Historic Attraction by Museums Galleries Scotland and attracts in excess of 3,000 visitors and users per Annum.

In 2023 we have a new children's area.

We have a DVD of the history of Portsoy and the fishing seen through the eyes of the young people of Portsoy.

Our latest exhibit of the unique geology of Portsoy has been updated and we have on loan an exhibit regarding the Portsoy Marble industry.

[www.salmonbothy.org](http://www.salmonbothy.org)

[www.facebook.com/PortsoySalmonBothy](https://www.facebook.com/PortsoySalmonBothy)



## 49 Sandhaven Meal Mill

Sandhaven, Fraserburgh, AB43 7EB



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 5pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 5pm

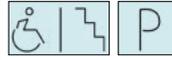
Sandhaven Meal Mill is a fine example of an early 19th century rectangular mill and kiln. The mill is unique in that all the machinery survives including the electric motor that powered the mill in its last years. It also has a built-in hinged top desk that was used by the miller.

Visitors will be treated to an exhibition of farming and fishing lives over the years, including guided tours by the mill curator. This is a Doors Open Days experience not to be missed!



## 50 The Granary, Portsoy

Shorehead, Portsoy, AB45 2PB



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 12noon - 4pm

Sunday 17th 12noon - 4pm

The North East Scotland Preservation Trust (NESPT) has been left six historic, listed buildings at Portsoy Harbour in the will of the late Tom Burnett-Stuart. The category B listed Granary will be open together with the Portsoy Marble Shop located in the category A listed Marble Warehouse.

The category B listed Granary will contain a small exhibition about Tom, the legacy, the work of the NESPT and proposals for bringing the buildings back into productive use. The Portsoy Marble Shop will be open (located in the category A listed Marble Warehouse designed by John Adam) and it will be possible to view the category B listed Marble Workshop, the category C listed Rag Warehouse and the category B listed house at 7 Shorehead from the outside.



## 51 Vanilla Ink The Smiddy

Old Market Place, Banff, AB45 1GE



### Opening Times:

Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm

The Smiddy was converted into a blacksmiths in 1902 and is a part of Banff's rich history. It has been restored as part of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme to become a centre of excellence for silversmithing and jewellery.

The Smiddy is now our second social enterprise jewellery school in Scotland. Our lovely and fully kitted Smiddy workshop was established to provide more opportunities for people to learn

jewellery making and silversmithing. We are very proud to continue to support and encourage local craft, heritage and skills in the beautiful town of Banff.

For Doors Open Days, Vanilla Ink The Smiddy is delighted to welcome visitors to come along and look around the workshop, find out how we operate and the experiences that we can offer; you may even get a peek into some working practices.

[www.vanillainkthesmiddy.co.uk](http://www.vanillainkthesmiddy.co.uk)

[f vanillainkthesmiddy](#)

[@vanillainkthesmiddy](#)

[vanillainkcic](#)



## Further Information & Updates

Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this leaflet is correct at time of print. For up-to-date information on our venue listings and for any changes to the programme, updates, amendments and additions, please look at the national website and on our Facebook page at the addresses below:

[www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/doorsopendays](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/doorsopendays)

 [Aberdeenshire Architecture Heritage Design](#)

If you would like any further information about the event or have any queries, please email the Aberdeenshire event coordinators at: [doorsopen@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:doorsopen@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Please note that visitors entering buildings do so at their own risk. Children must be accompanied. None of the participating buildings or organisations are responsible for any accidents or damage that might be incurred. The owners/custodians of the buildings retain the right to refuse access.

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### Share your experience of Doors Open Days Aberdeenshire

We would love to hear from you about the event, the buildings you visited and your feedback. Please send us your photos of your favourite buildings and share your experiences of the day by posting them to our Facebook site.

 [Aberdeenshire Architecture Heritage Design](#)

### Doors Open Day 2024 and beyond

If you are involved with a property that you think would make a good addition to Doors Open Days in the future, please get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you!

Clare Tierney, Aberdeenshire Doors Open Days Coordinator

With so many buildings to visit across Aberdeenshire on Doors Open weekend, there's something for everyone – what better excuse to explore the region!

[www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)

DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS

