

# Highland Council Countryside Ranger Events

## For Sutherland 2011

Ranger events divided into four areas:

Assynt

North West Sutherland

North Sutherland

Mid and East Sutherland

## Assynt

Contact – Andy Summers

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### MAY 2011

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 11am-2pm

#### **Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt**

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk. There is so much to explore here including redshanks, curlews and peewits settling down to their breeding grounds.

Meet Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-5pm

#### **Aeroplane Flats, Assynt**

Trek to the scene of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War aeroplane crash on Beinn an Fhurain (700m) and see the wildlife on the way. Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 217. Total 16km.

There will be an alternative shorter walk if the weather is bad.

Grade D

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 11am-3pm

#### **Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt**

What are you interested in? This delightful walk through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers covers it all. Watch out for dolphins too and hear lots of stories. Meet

Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248 .

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 11am-4pm

#### **The Old Man of Stoer, Assynt**

Cliff top walk to the point of Stoer. Encounter the nesting seabirds and look out for great skuas, peregrines, seals and dolphins. We will get close views of the Old Man of Stoer.

Meet Stoer lighthouse, NC005 328.

Grade D

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 11-2pm

**The Bone Caves, Assynt**

A fascinating walk back in time to the caves where bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered- one of the gems in the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph, NC254 179.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 11am-3pm

**The Secrets of Glen Leireag, Assynt**

Explore the lost township and discover the secrets of this magical woodland glen. Seek out moorland wildlife and golden eagles.

Meet at Nedd bridge 3km east of Drumbeg, NC148 315.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 11am-3pm

**Where did the Meteorite strike in Assynt ?**

Join us as we visit Europe's largest known meteorite strike. Learn about the ancient landscape over one billion years ago, which makes up part of the North West Highlands Geopark. Amazing views and stunning wildlife.

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273.

Grade B/C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May

11am-4pm

**Golden Eagles in Assynt**

Slide show talk followed by walk

Majestic but elusive, Golden Eagles are one of the Highland's special birds. There will be a short drive. Start at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver, NC094 225.

**Booking essential.**

Grade D

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 11am-3pm

**The Limestone valley of the Traligill, Assynt**

This is Biodiversity week so why not join us as we explore the ancient limestone scenery in search of alpine flowers: saxifrages, mountain avens, orchids and many more. Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

## JUNE 2011

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 11am-4pm

**Kylestrome & Glendubh, Kylesku.**

Hill and coastal walk with spectacular views, chance of seeing ravens, red deer, seals, divers, moorland flowers. Meet at Reay Forest estate car park [Kylestrome], NC 218 346  
Grade D  
£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-3pm

**Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt**

What are you interested in? This delightful walk through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers covers it all. Watch out for dolphins too and hear lots of stories. Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-3pm

**Drumbeg Peat Road, Assynt**

Journey to the mysterious interior of Assynt rich in wildlife and history and dangerous stories. Meet at Drumbeg View Point car park, NC120 330.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 9pm-11pm

**Bats Evening at Lochinver, Assynt**

Slide show at the Visitor Centre followed by a visit to the local pipistrelle roost to watch up to 100 bats leave their roost. Bring midge protection.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, NC094 225.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-5pm

**Bone Caves to the Traligill Basin, Assynt**

A fascinating walk linking two cave systems within the limestone area of Inchnadamph. Amazing tapestry of alpine flowers through red deer country.

Meet at Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph, NC254 179.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 11am- 2pm

**Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt**

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort.

Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole". Meet Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273.

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 11am-3pm

**River Inver to Glencanisp, Assynt**

A varied walk along riverside woodland via the Highland Clearance Village of Dubh Clais returning along the loch shore. We will be looking out for Black-throated divers.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver, NC094 225.

Grade B

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-2pm

**The Bone Caves, Assynt**

A fascinating walk back in time to the caves where Ice-age bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph, NC254 179.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-4pm

**The Old Man of Stoer, Assynt**

Cliff top walk to the point of Stoer. Encounter the nesting seabirds and look out for great skuas, peregrines, seals and dolphins. We will get close views of the Old Man of Stoer.

Meet Stoer lighthouse, NC005 328.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

## JULY 2011

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-1pm

**Survival skills, Culag Woods, Assynt**

Learn some wilderness survival skills. Including shelter building and fire lighting.

Meet Culag Woods car park, 500m south of Lochinver Primary School, NC093 213.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 4pm-5.30pm

**Rockpools at Achmelvich, Assynt**

There is more to rockpooling than a load of old crabs stuffed in a bucket. You just need to look at things a little differently. Meet at Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248.

Grade A

£2 Children.

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> July, 10am-5pm

**Quinag, Assynt**

Explore this fantastic Assynt mountain (808m). Look for Mountain Azalea, Mountain Hares and Ptarmigan. If the weather is not good we will do a shorter low level walk.

Meet at the car park 3km north of Skiag Bridge, NC232 274.

Grade D

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-3pm

**Stoer to Balchladdich Coastal walk**

Cliff top walk along magnificent scenery. Good chance of seeing dolphins, seabirds, seals and otters. There is also amazing geology along the way. There is no path.

Meet at Stoer Cemetery NC040 283.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-3pm

**Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt**

What are you interested in? This delightful walk through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers covers it all. Watch out for dolphins too and hear lots of stories. Meet Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-1pm

**The Gruffalo, Lochinver, Assynt**

A mouse took a walk in the deep dark woods... Follow the trail to find the Gruffalo.

Suitable for families with children 3 to 8 years olds. May get muddy.

Meet Culag Woods car park, 500m south of Lochinver Primary, NC093 213.

Grade A

£2 Children.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-2pm

**Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt**

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort.

Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole". Meet Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273.

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-3pm

**The Limestone Valley of the Trailigill, Assynt**

A fascinating walk through ancient limestone scenery, past secret caves, dramatic waterfalls and dry river beds. Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 11am-2pm

**The Snail and the Whale, Achmelvich, Assynt**

"This is the tale of the tiny snail and a great big grey-blue humpback whale". Suitable for families with children 3 to 8 years olds.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248.

Grade A

£2 Children.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-2pm

**The Bone Caves, Assynt**

A fascinating walk back in time to the caves where bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph, NC254 179.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm

**Otters in Assynt (slide show)**

Discover how to increase your chances of seeing an Otter in Assynt and learn about their really wild life-style.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver.  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> July, 10am- 1pm

**Otters at Stoer**

Walk along the cliff top to look for evidence of otters and other wildlife in their natural habitat. Meet at Stoer Cemetery car park, NC040 283.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-1pm

**Rockpools at Clachtoll, Assynt**

There is more to rockpooling than a load of old crabs stuffed in a bucket. You just need to look at things a little differently. Meet at Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273.

£2 Children.

## AUGUST 2011

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-4pm

**Clachtoll to Stoer Peat Road, Assynt**

A journey into the heart of Assynt and glimpse the old way of life and visit the druids cave and ancient stone carvings. Meet at Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm-5pm

**Whale and Dolphin Watching at Stoer Lighthouse**

A slide show at Stoer Hall all about whales and dolphins.

Then watching from the lighthouse cliffs to search for passing cetaceans (not guaranteed). This event is part of the National Whale and Dolphin Watching Week. Meet at Stoer Hall, NC041 297.

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-1pm

**Clachtoll Sand Sculpture Competition, Assynt**

Fun for all the family. Bring bucket and spade and lots of ideas. Great prizes. Judging at 1pm. Charity Barbeque.

Meet Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-3pm

**The Limestone Valley of the Traligill, Assynt**

A fascinating walk through ancient limestone scenery, past secret caves, dramatic waterfalls and dry river beds. Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-3pm

**Traditional Highland Uses of Wildlife, Achmelvich.**

How did people live off the land? and strange stories your Great Granny may have heard about wildflowers, creatures and more.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248.  
Grade B  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 7.30pm-9.30pm

**Bat Evening, Lochinver**

Slide show at the Visitor Centre followed by a visit to the local pipistrelle roost to watch up to 100 bats leave their roost. Bring midge protection.  
Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, NC094 225  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-3pm

**Drumbeg Peat Road, Assynt**

Journey to the mysterious interior of Assynt rich in wildlife and history and dangerous stories. Meet at Drumbeg View Point car park, NC120 330.  
Grade B  
£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-4pm

**Stoer Lighthouse to Culkein Cliff Walk, Assynt**

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk and see some of the most dramatic cliff top scenery in Scotland. See the famous Old Man of Stoer and the natural sandstone archway at Culkein. Transport can be provided back to the lighthouse.  
Meet at Stoer lighthouse, NC005 328  
Grade C  
£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

## SEPTEMBER 2011

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 11am-2pm

**Clachtoll Coastal Walk, Assynt**

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort. Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole". Meet Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273.  
Grade B  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am-2pm

**Fungi at Culag Woods**

Explore the marvellous world of fungi. Meet the different characters and learn their secrets in one of the best woods in Sutherland. Meet Culag Wood car park, 500m south of Lochinver Primary, NC093 213.  
Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 11am-3pm

**The Limestone Valley of the Traligill, Assynt**

A fascinating walk through ancient limestone scenery, past secret caves, dramatic waterfalls and dry river beds. Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216.  
Grade C  
£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 11am-3pm

**River Inver to Glencanisp, Assynt**

A varied walk along riverside woodland via the Highland Clearance Village of Dubh Clais returning along the loch shore.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver NC094 225.

Grade B

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 11am-3pm

**Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt**

What are you interested in? This delightful walk through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers covers it all. Watch out for dolphins too and hear lots of stories. Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1pm-6pm

**Glen Leireag to Tumore, Assynt**

Explore the old route from Nedd through to Loch Assynt.

Chance of eagles, ravens, red deer, divers and moorland flowers. We have timed it to get public transport back to start.

Meet at Drumbeg Stores, NC122327.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept, 11am-3pm

**Where did the Meteorite Crash in Assynt ?**

Join us as we visit Europe's largest known meteorite strike. Learn about the ancient landscape one billion years ago, which makes up part of the North West Highlands Geopark. Amazing views and stunning wildlife.

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273.

Grade B/C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sep 11am-4pm

**Stoer Bay to Stoer Lighthouse , Assynt**

Cliff top walk along magnificent scenery. Good chance of seeing dolphins, seabirds, seals and maybe otters. There is also some amazing views to see along the way.

There is no path. 7.5km

Meet at Stoer Cemetery car park, NC040 283.

Grade C

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 11am-3pm

**Achmelvich Coastal Walk, Assynt**

What are you interested in? This delightful walk through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers covers it all. Watch out for dolphins too and hear lots of stories. Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

# North West Sutherland

Contact – Donald Mitchell

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## MAY 2011

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2 - 4pm

**Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2 - 4pm

**Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2 - 4pm

**Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am– 1pm

**Scourie coast.** Dikes & garnets. Geology, views, otter's signs, seabirds.

Meet at Scourie beach bird hide, NC 152 446.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2 - 4pm

**Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade B/C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> June, 10.30am-1.30pm

**Talmine Treasures.**

Masses of beautiful plants including lesser butterfly orchids. Interesting geology and sea life on route to Port Vasgo. Meet at Talmine Pier, NC 588 632 ; please do not block pier access.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

## JUNE 2011

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 11am-4pm

### **Kylestrome & Glendubh. By Kylesku.**

Hill and coastal walk with spectacular views, chance of seeing ravens, red deer, seals, divers, moorland flowers. Walking on rough tracks and heath. Meet at Reay Forest estate car park (Kylestrome), NC 218 346.

Grade D

£5 Adult/£3 concessions.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2 - 4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2 - 4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30am-1.30pm

### **Scourie bay coastal walk. North shore.**

Superb views, wild flowers, geology, seabirds. Meet at Pier car park NC 155 448.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2 - 4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2 - 4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30am-1.30pm

### **Talmine Treasures.**

Masses of beautiful plants including lesser butterfly orchids. Interesting geology and sea life on route to Port Vasgo.

Meet at Talmine Pier, NC 588 632 ; please do not block pier access

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

## JULY 2011

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2-4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July. 10.30am-1.30pm

### **Talmine Treasures.**

Masses of beautiful plants including lesser butterfly orchids. Interesting geology and sea life on route to Port Vasgo. Meet at Talmine Pier, NC 588 632 ; please do not block pier access

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2-4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 10.30am-1pm

### **Scourie cliffs**

Fine scenery, sea caves & cliffs, wild flowers, seabirds. Not suitable for young children. Meet at Free church car park, NC 152 434.

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2-4pm

### **Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.**

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687.

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

## AUGUST 2011

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30am – 1pm

### **Scourie coast.**

Dikes & garnets. Geology, views, otter's signs, seabirds. Meet at Scourie beach bird hide, NC 152 446.

Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30am-1.30pm

### **Scourie bay coastal walk. North shore**

Superb views, wild flowers, geology, seabirds. Meet at Pier car park, NC 155 448.  
Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30am – 1.30pm

**Talmine Treasures.**

Masses of beautiful plants including lesser butterfly orchids. Interesting geology and sea life on route to Port Vasgo.

Meet at Talmine Pier, NC 588 632. Please do not block pier access.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

## North Sutherland

Contact – Paul Castle

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### MAY 2011

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 11am

**Clachan to Loch Meadie** Guided walk along a beautiful burn gorge and out to Loch Meadie great views over the wide open country.

Meet at Bettyhill TIC/Café car park NC715 622.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2pm

**Strathy Point Seawatch**

Join the ranger and watch for whales, dolphins and porpoise at this hot spot. Telescopes provided bring your binoculars and dress warm. Weather dependent. Dogs not welcome.

Meet Totegan car park (Strathy Point) NC827 687.

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

### JUNE 2011

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 11am

**Strathy Point to Armadale Bay**

Stunning guided walk along sea cliffs with coastal flowers and birds. Car needed to help return drivers please phone if you can help. Meet Totegan car park (Strathy Point)

NC827 687. Dogs not welcome.

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 11am

**Kirkton to Portskerra**

Guided walk out over the hill via Cnoc Eipteil and back along the burn gorge to Portskerra coast. Great views and stunning promontory fort site. Meet Halladale Inn car park to car share NC888 641 .

Grade D

£3 Adult/£2 concessions.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2pm

**Ard Mor.**

Great views from this wonderful headland at Bettyhill. Lots of great plants and a chance of porpoise in the bay. Some high cliffs.

Meet Bettyhill Pier by the River Naver NC701 620

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

## JULY 2011

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1pm

**Meet the Gruffalo**

Young children's event suitable for under 8's. Join the story and meet the fabulous creatures who live in Borgie Forest. Meet at Borgie Forest Gaelic tree alphabet car park NC685 586 . Limited numbers booking recommended.

Grade A

Family £5

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2pm

**Bumblebee safari and wildflowers**

Join the Ranger to help you identify our local bumblebees. Hopefully including the rare great yellow bumblebee then on to a superb wildflower area to find others. Meet at Bettyhill TIC/Café car park NC715 622

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 11am

**Kite making**

Join the Ranger and have fun making your very own kite from household objects then let's see them fly. All materials provided but limited numbers. Meet at Farr School main entrance NC705 619.

Grade A

Family £5

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July Time tide dependent please phone

**Captain Ivy's Cave and the Priest's Stone**

Come and see if we can locate the legendary Captain Ivy's cave on Strathy Beach then out on to the hill to see the Pictish Priest's Stone. Meet at Strathy Beach Log Cabin NC837 657

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 11am

**Portskerra Rock Pools**

Have fun catching and learning about the amazing creatures found in the rock pools at Portskerra. Some nets provided please bring your own as well. Meet at Portskerra old harbour slipway (not the pier) NC878 664 .

Grade B

Family £5

## AUGUST 2011

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 11am

### **Fossil Fun**

Join the ranger to make and decorate your very own plaster of Paris fossil. All materials provided but limited numbers.

Meet at Farr School main entrance NC705 619

Grade A

Family £5

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 11am

### **Mask making**

What mask design can you come up with just using household objects. Paint it and take it home to show everyone. All materials provided but limited numbers.

Meet at Farr School main entrance NC705 619

Grade A

Family £5

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2pm

### **Sea watching presentation and guided sea watch**

Enjoy a short digital presentation about whales and dolphins then head out to Strathy Point to see if we can see them for real. Meet at the Strathy Inn NC832656. Bring warm clothing/binoculars

Grade A

Family £5, Adult £3

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 11am

### **Farr Point and Swordly Bay**

Guided walk around Farr Point and Swordly Bay passing the remains of Borve Castle.

Meet at Bettyhill TIC/Café car park to pools cars NC715 622

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

## SEPTEMBER 2011

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 8pm

**Betty's Bats** As part of the international year of the bat Join the ranger and use our bat detectors to hunt for the local 'midgie munchers' found around Bettyhill. Learn about their life cycle and how you can help them.

Meet at the large car park opposite the fire station in Bettyhill NC707 624

Grade B

Family £5, Adult £3

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 11am

### **Poulouriscaig and Coast**

Enjoy a guided walk to the abandoned post clearance settlement of Poulouriscaig then return following the stunning high cliff coastal edge.

Meet at Armadale village hall NC787 644

Grade D

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

# Mid and East Sutherland

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## April 2011

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30-12.30

### **Green wood working.**

Make a three legged stool and learn the ancient craft of working with green wood.

Meet at the Falls of Shin visitor centre car park NH 575 995

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30-12.30

### **Bushcraft skills.**

Shelter building, fire lighting and cord making skills for all budding Ray Mears.

Meet at Dunrobin Castle car park NC 850 010.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30-12.30

### **Loch Fleet bird watch**

Come and get some tips on how to identify the birds of the Loch Fleet National Nature Reserve. Meet at the Balblair Woods car park on the Golspie-Littleferry road NH 815 977

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

## June 2011

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 14.30-16.30

### **Balblair rare.**

A pleasant walk through the national nature reserve looking for one-flowered wintergreen and twinflower.

Meet at Balblair woods, Loch Fleet by Golspie, NH 815 977.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 14.30-16.30

### **Blooming marvellous**

A walk through the dunes and grassland of the common good lands

Meet at the airfield car park, Dornoch, NH 802 884.

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

## JULY 2011

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30-12.30

**Bushcraft skills.**

Shelter building, fire lighting and cord making skills for all budding Ray Mears.

Meet at Dunrobin Castle car park, NC 850 010.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Tuesday 5th July, 14.00-16.00

**Osprey watch**

Join us on the lookout for a pair of Sutherland's nesting ospreys.

Meet at the Mound car park, between Golspie and Dornoch NH 776 982

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30-12.30

**Mud glorious mud**

Explore Loch Fleet's mud flats for the amazing hidden wildlife. Wellies essential.

Meet at Balblair woods, Loch Fleet by Golspie, NH 815 977.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 7th July, 10.30-12.30

**Rockpool rummage**

Explore the shore for the weird and wonderful wildlife normally hidden by the tide.

Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park ND 030 152

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 7th July, 13.30-15.30

**Gold panning**

Visit the site of Sutherland's gold rush and try your hand at gold panning.

Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park ND 030 152

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 concessions (plus £3 for equipment hire)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00-14.00

**Happy Bird-day**

Come along to our bird ringing session in the morning for unforgettable close ups of our native birds. We'll look at owl pellets and play bird bingo in the afternoon.

Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg NC 579 062

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 13th July 10.30-12.30

**Pond dipping**

Using pond nets and butterfly nets we will find whatever flip, flops and flies in the Skelbo pond. Meet at Skelbo Forest car park, near Dornoch, NH 780 942.

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Friday 15th July, 11am-1pm

**The Gruffalo,**

A mouse took a walk in the deep dark woods... Follow the trail to find the Gruffalo.  
Suitable for families with children 3 to 8 years olds. May get muddy.  
Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg, NC 579 062  
Grade A  
£2 children

Tuesday 19th July, 10.30-12.30

**Blooming marvellous**

A walk through the dunes and grassland of the common good lands  
Meet at the airfield car park, Dornoch NH 802 884  
Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Tuesday 19th July 14.00-15.30

**Osprey watch**

Join us on the lookout for a pair of Sutherland's nesting ospreys  
Meet at the Mound car park, between Golspie and Dornoch NH 777 983  
Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 10.00-12.00

**Seal watch**

Come and get some of the closest views of common seals anywhere in Scotland.  
Meet at small car park by Skelbo Castle, on south shore of Loch Fleet NH 793 953  
Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 21st July, 10.30-13.00

**Golspie to Brora cycle**

A round trip from Golspie to Brora (nearly) and back using forest roads and estate tracks. Great safe off road cycling. Approximately 10 miles.  
Meet at the mountain bike trail car park up the hill (and under the railway) from the fountain in Golspie NC 829 003  
Grade C  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

## AUGUST 2011

Weds 10th August 14.00-16.00

**Butterflies and flowers.**

If the weather permits we will catch and identify the varied butterflies of Loch Fleet  
Meet at the Littleferry car park, Loch Fleet, Golspie NH 815 977.  
Grade B  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30-14.30

**one, two, TREE**

We count on trees for a lot of things. Spend the day green wood working, exploring our woods and see a short film of the amusing puppet show "The man who planted trees"  
Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg NC 579 062

Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Tuesday 16th August, 10.30-15.00

**Brora river and hill fort**

An 8 mile walk along the Brora river followed by a climb to Duchary hill fort. With great views over Strath Brora.

Meet at the Brora Heritage Centre NC 898 042.

Grade D  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 18th August, 10.30-14.00

**Ben Bhraggie by Loch Lunndaidh**

A 6 mile walk around the back of Ben Bhraggie, finishing at the famous Dukes monument and the best coastal view in East Sutherland.

Meet at Golspie town centre car park, near Co-op

Grade D  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Friday 26th August, 21.00-22.30

**Bat walk**

We will watch bats emerge from a local roost. Details of location to be finalised. Please phone 01549 402638 for more details.

Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

## OCTOBER 2011

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 14.00-16.00

**Loch Fleet bird watch**

Come and get some tips on how to identify the birds of the Loch Fleet National Nature Reserve.

Meet at the Balblair Woods car park on the Golspie-Littleferry road NH 815 977.

Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30-12.30

**Green wood working.**

Make a three legged stool and learn the ancient craft of working with green wood.

Meet at the Falls of Shin visitor centre car park NH 575 995.

Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30-12.30

**Red deer rut**

We'll visit a local estate to get a close look at the fascinating spectacle of the red deer rut. Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg for onward travel to the site NC 579 062 .

Grade A  
£3 Adult/£2 concessions

All the walks are led by one of the Rangers. It is important though that you think of your own safety and that of any children for whom you are responsible. Remember too that these are country walks in the Highland weather so please dress accordingly. Bring sturdy shoes, or boots, a picnic and a sense of fun. *The Rangers reserve the right to cancel any of these events.*

**Walk Grades: A is easiest, D most challenging, including very rough ground and sometimes steep climbs.**

Sorry watching wildlife is not usually compatible with dogs.

Costs as per walk. There are also Family rates.