

Bennachie to be backdrop for programme of events

HERITAGE

Aberdeenshire's landmark hill Bennachie will be this summer's focus for a series of events marking the Year of Natural Scotland.

Multi-media artists from the Scottish Sculpture Workshop at Lumsden - which welcomes artists from around the world to the village - will be leading a Natural Bennachie project, exploring the natural heritage and history of the hill.

SSW curator of facilities and programmes Emily Wyndham Gray said the programme, starting at the end of May, would involve artists working

alongside specialists in everything from archaeology to environmental sciences.

Local communities will also be involved in outdoor workshops and events taking place around Bennachie, public

"There is always so much going on at Bennachie"

exhibitions at Aberdeen University and sculptural work on the hill.

Archaeologist Colin Shepherd, who has recently co-ordinated a Bennachie Landscapes project involving hill guardians

group the Bailies of Bennachie and the university, said yesterday: "Natural Bennachie will contribute important information and enhance our understanding of the environment changes that have occurred on Bennachie since the last Ice Age."

Commission communities, recreation and tourism manager Calum Murray said: "The commission is looking forward to working with SSW, the artists and all the visitors to Bennachie who we know will want to be actively involved in this exciting project.

"There is always so much going on at Bennachie."



LANDMARK: A packed programme of events will take place around Bennachie this year

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wreckage, but died in hospital
Watson was later
breath-tester