At a Glance

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A Granite Day Out
Bus tours to Craigenlow Quarry, Dunecht

Sunday 13 May, 2.00pm
Architectural Walking Tour of Aberdeen

Monday 14 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Minerals to Monuments:
University of Aberdeen, Meston 4 Lecture Theatre

Tuesday 15 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Rubislaw Quarry, Then and Now
Cowdray Hall

Wednesday 16 May, 12.30-1.00pm
Circles, Buildings and Balls: Granite in Aberdeen before the Industrial Age
Aberdeen Maritime Museum

Thursday 17 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Art in Granite
Cowdray Hall

Friday 18 May, 6.30-7.30pm
Granite – a hot topic for renewable energy
Aberdeen Maritime Museum

Saturday 19 May, 10.30am – 3.30pm
Granite and the Gallery
Aberdeen Art Gallery

All events are admission free.
Book your tickets for tours and talks at Aberdeen Box Office unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday 17 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Art in Granite
Cowdray Hall, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, AB10 1FQ

Granite carving was a core component of the Scottish Sculpture Workshop (SSW) programming from its inception in 1979 until 2002. This panel discussion will feature alumni from SSW’s Granite Symposiums, as well as local sculptors who continue to work in Aberdeenshire Granite today, including Eden Jolly, Hironori Katagiri, Mary Bourne and Bruce Walker. Drawing on their own histories with this beautiful natural resource, the panel will reveal the skills, ideas and techniques of working with such a stunning material.

Friday 18 May, 6.30-7.30pm
Granite – a Hot Topic for Renewable Energy
Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) renewables champion Iain Todd will consider the region’s latest energy resource – hot rocks. Geothermals in Aberdeen is a new talking point as it becomes a potential renewable energy resource. With an abundance of granite in the North East, this interactive presentation will focus on the region’s potential at the cutting-edge of research and development of hot rocks. Delivering an imaginative portfolio of renewable energy activities and projects, AREG continues to position the North East at the forefront of renewables.

Saturday 19 May, 10.30am – 3.30pm
Granite and the Gallery
Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, AB10 1FQ

Travel back in time and meet key figures in Aberdeen’s granite industry and discover their influence on Aberdeen Art Gallery. Granite merchant Alexander Macdonald tells of how his success led to the creation of a first class art collection and to the establishment of the Gallery. Architect Alexander Marshall Mackenzie and stonemason Bob Adam discuss the design for the Gallery’s extension and how the granite columns will be prepared and finished for the Centre Court. Once you’ve met these people, you can take the challenge to design a new granite building for Aberdeen!

No booking required, just drop in.

This event has been supported with a Festival of Museums grant from Museums Galleries Scotland.

Images, clockwise from left to right: Construction of Memorial Court Dome, Cowdray Hall, 1924; Excelsior Granite Works sign, 1930; ‘Third Lesson in Juggling’, Ole Sjouold, Scottish Sculpture Workshop, 1989; Aberdeen Art Gallery Centre Court, 1905; Geological detail of Granite.

13-19 May 2012
ABERDEEN ART GALLERY & MUSEUMS
www.aagm.co.uk
Aberdeen’s Granite Festival

Welcome to Aberdeen’s Granite Festival! Back by popular demand, our second festival has twice as many opportunities to take part.

The Granite City has a geological legacy spanning millions of years and our festival programme aims to give you a taster of this vast inheritance. New events this year include a chance to visit a working quarry, to hear first hand from artists who have worked with this demanding medium and to find out why we are getting hot and bothered about granite power.

Our talks’ programme looks at the geological origins and ancient use of granite, and this year’s Rubislaw Quarry talk will feature the quarry’s new owners. Our walking tour focuses on the Granite City’s architecture and our drop in day at the Gallery provides a chance to have a go at designing your own building.

Sunday 13 May, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm
A Granite Day Out
Bus Tours to Craigenlow Quarry, Dunecht

Craigenlow is Aberdeenshire’s largest operational granite quarry producing in excess of 1/2 million tonnes of stone per year. The quarry was started in the early 1800s to build Dunecht house. Part of the Dunecht estate, it is now operated by Breedon Aggregates, the UK’s largest independent quarrying company. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to get behind the scenes to find out about modern day quarrying operations.

Pick up from Marischal College. Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the advertised time so buses can leave promptly.

Sunday 13 May, 2.00pm
Architectural Walking Tour of Aberdeen

Aberdeen boasts 18th and 19th century buildings designed by nationally recognised architects. Aberdeen City Heritage Trust’s Douglas Campbell and historian Chris Croly will sample some highlights and show how early 19th century street improvement works shaped the modern city centre. The tour, lasting 2 hours approximately, involves walking over uneven ground - appropriate footwear must be worn.

Meet at the statue of General Gordon, outside Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill.

Monday 14 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Minerals to Monuments
University of Aberdeen, Meston 4 Lecture Theatre
King’s College, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3UE

The varied hues and textures of granite and the skill of the mason in its preparation are evident all around us in Aberdeen. But how did Nature create such a versatile stone? Dr Malcolm Hole presents this illustrated account of the geological origin of granite: from the early theories of the Neptunists, through to the ground-breaking discoveries of the late 18th Century Scottish scientist James Hutton, to the 21st century and current thinking on the origin of the granites of Aberdeenshire.

Tuesday 15 May, 6.30-8.30pm
Rubislaw Quarry: Then and Now
Cowdray Hall, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, AB10 1FQ

Curator Jenny Brown gives an illustrated talk on Aberdeen’s most famous hidden gem, Rubislaw Quarry. Famously over 450 feet when it closed in 1971, this talk will look back to the quarry’s origins in the 1740s. There will also be the chance to meet the new owners Sandy Whyte and Hugh Black who wanted to own a piece of history, and are hoping to breathe life back into the quarry!

Wednesday 16 May, 12.30-1.00pm
Circles, Buildings and Balls: Granite in Aberdeen before the Industrial Age
Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY

Our characteristic local stone has been used throughout history and appears in the landscape as atmospheric stone circles, burial cairns and beautifully carved Christian symbol stones. It appears in the early built townscape, such as St. Machar’s Cathedral, with other examples being uncovered through archaeological excavations. In this illustrated talk Judith Stones, lead curator, will look at the use of this distinctive stone over thousands of years before Aberdeen became the Granite City.

Please call 01224 337714 to book a place on this talk.

Images, clockwise from left to right: Marischal College, designed by A. Marshall Mackenzie, opened in 1906; Polishing Shed at Excelsior Granite Works, 1910; Rubislaw Quarry, 1880; Standing Stones Stone Circle, Dyce; Marischal College today; Masons working, Rubislaw Quarry, 1900; Carving the War Memorial Lion, 1924; Craigenlow Quarry, Dunecht.