

Press Release

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Celebrating Fife's Great Outdoors: Fife Outdoor Access Festival Launches its 2010 Programme

Fife Outdoor Access Festival has today announced an extensive programme featuring over 100 outdoor events, designed to promote access and enjoyment of Fife's great outdoors.

The festival, which is in its third year, has gone from strength to strength, this year almost doubling the number of events on offer to visitors, ranging from walking to cycling, and rambling for the disabled to horse riding.

For the first time ever this year, organisers are teaming up with nearby Dundee Parkour club to bring urban free running and parkour into Fife. Parkour, a non-competitive sport with French origins where participants run along a route attempting to climb or negotiate obstacles in the most efficient way possible, is relatively new to the UK. However the growth in its popularity, accelerated by its high profile presence in many pop music videos, is fuelling an interest in clubs at a local level, of which Dundee Parkour is one.

Rustic Bodomov, who will be running Fife Outdoor Access Festival's "Passionate about Parkour" events, commented "Parkour is the most accessible sport the world has ever seen. It's open to everyone and requires no specialised equipment or training areas. It plays a key role in developing an 'access for all' approach by encouraging participation no matter what your age, ability or background."

Councillor Marilyn Whitehead also commented on the festival's new addition, "We're delighted to have such a strong range of events at this year's festival. There is clearly something for everyone and the addition of Parkour is symbolic of what's at the core of the festival: promoting access to the outdoors, whether it is rural access, or urban. I'm very excited about this year's festival and what it has to bring to Fife."

The festival is run jointly by Fife Coast & Countryside Trust and Fife Access Forum and the events are run by a wide range of over thirty commercial and public sector organisations including Fife Council Outdoor Education Team, Ramblers Scotland, Forth and Tay Disabled Ramblers, British Horse Society and Blown Away Land Yachts.

This year's festival also plays a key role in the "Celebrating Fife" campaign which is co-ordinated by Fife Council. Dorothy Browse, Service Manager, Libraries, Arts & Museums commented: "Fife Council's investment in the Fife Outdoor Access Festival recognises its importance as a key event in this special year of culture. Celebrating Fife 2010 showcases Fife's unique environment, cultural identity and lifestyle activities. The programme of events and opportunities is ambitious, and aims to raise awareness of Fife's heritage and its hidden cultural gems. There is something here for everyone and we know that visitors will take away vibrant images and strong memories of the Kingdom".

The full programme of events can be viewed and booked online at www.fifeoutdooraccessfestival.co.uk. Printed programmes will be available at various venues in Fife from June 2010.

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