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Bailies' annual rally is a hit

THE SUN shone on the Bailies of Bennachie's annual summer rally at the Back o' Bennachie near Oyne last Sunday.

The tree-fringed meadow became a sun-trap and the perfect picnic spot for bailies of all ages with music provided by the Garioch Fiddlers.

Senior bailie Jackie Cumberbirch welcomed the gathering and made tribute reference to someone very much in the hearts of all bailies present – the late Algy Watson who died earlier this year.

One of the founders of the Bailies of Bennachie as a conservation body in 1973, Algy was a former senior bailie, served as clerk, membership secretary and was on the bailies council for 34 years.

A true 'man of the hill' he was also a trustee of the Bennachie Centre.

Sunday's rally featured a treasure hunt, Bennachie quiz and a beetle race.

Brian Cornock had thoughtfully provided demi-johns of his own blaeberry wine made from berries he had gathered on the blue hill and which he has christened Chateau Bennachie.

Brian has also had success with his Bennachie bell heather wine.

Biodiversity on Bennachie is the next bailies event on Sunday, August 29 and involves a 12-mile walk visiting some of the hidden parts of the hill.

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