

Millbank sale

THERE will be a sale of work at the Millbank Community Education Centre on Tuesday 13 November at 7.30pm.

Among items for sale will be jewellery, paintings, knitting, toys and home baking.

Teas and coffees will also be served.

See inside
for 8-page
colour
Property
Showcase

Santa in Alford hall

THERE is a chance to visit Santa in his Grotto and buy your Christmas gifts at the Christmas Fayre, Alford public hall, on December 1.

Proceeds from the fayre will go toward the Macmillan Fund for Cancer Relief.

As well as gifts there's cake and candy, teas, shortbread and mince pies for an early launch into the festive season.

Donations toward the fund are welcome.

Towie firm has got it on tape!

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IT has been called the North-east's best-loved mountain.

There have been numerous poems, songs and books written about it and now Bennachie is the subject of a video.

The video has been commissioned by the Bailies of Bennachie and produced by the Grimley Partnership, a video company based in Towie.

"We hope that people who might not read a book will watch and enjoy this video" said Algy Watson of the Bailies.

"We are very pleased with it, the photography is superb."

Since it's foundation in 1973 the Bailies have published a "Book of Bennachie", and "Bennachie Again", a guide to the hill, which has sold around 10,000 copies, and numerous calendars and maps.

Video is a new medium for the mountain however and it proved to be a wonderful subject, in all seasons and conditions.

It took a year to complete the video, the Grimley's having to carry all the equipment up the hill on 20 occasions, in snow, rain and sunshine.

The video portrays the history of the mountain, its surrounding scenery, the objectives of the Bailies and some of the poetry and music associated with it.

Poems include some by Charles Murray, probably the most well-known of the mountains poets.

Danny Gordon, founder of the Bailies, appears in the video, explaining the objectives of the Bailies, to preserve and care for the mountain, its flora, fauna and geology.

The Bailies of Bennachie is a voluntary organisation carrying out invaluable work on the hillside, such as keeping it free of litter and broken glass, helping to preserve its amenities.

There are now about 3800 members, life membership being £1 per person.

They refuse, however, to take too much credit for Bennachie's appearance. Scouts, guides, schools and individuals often help out.

The Forestry Commission has installed new picnic tables, the District Council have improved road access to the hill, encouraging more visitors.

More funding is currently sought from the council to improve the Rowantree car park which is in need of repair.

The Bailies would also like to see a visitor centre built at Esson's car park,

which would be funded in conjunction with the District Council and the Forestry Commission.

The Bennachie video has proved to be very successful project so far with a great response from

local people and Bailies from farther afield.

"People seem very pleased with it", said Mr Watson.

"We are finding it hard to keep up with demand".

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