

Volunteers call for a hill working party

LOCAL volunteers have been invited to a party with a difference - a working party on Bennachie.

For Bailies Council members Jackie Cumberbirch and Owen Vaughan have been organising parties to carry out path repairs and other work on the hill.

In a particularly wet area in the wood planted to commemorate Dr Danny Gordon and the Rev James Wood, founders of the Bailies, they are going to put in place a raised boardwalk to make it easier for rambblers to cross.

Work for this project is due to start this Saturday (July 21) when helpers are needed to raise a 40 metre path through the woodland.

Volunteers are asked to go along between 10am and 4pm. Tools, tea and other safety essentials are provided.

Details of a busy year pack the Bailies of Bennachie's annual report 2001.

Top of the list had to be that Bailies James MacKay and Algy Watson were honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours with the MBE in recognition of the tireless work they have devoted to Bennachie over the years.

On a pedestrian level one of the biggest things to have happened on the hill was the completion of the upgrade of the Rowantree path, which is still the most popular route up the hill.

The Bailies were also indebted to Dick Milne who has agreed to help stabilise the walls of the excavated Colony house.

There was some concern that the walls could crumble due to people

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walking over them and water undermining the foot of the walls.

In the past year the Bennachie Centre had collected a major national award, the only recipient in the North-east.

The Millennium Marque was awarded for demonstrating sustainable environmental excellence.

In May there was another accolade when the sculptures on Bennachie received a Civic Award

presented to the sculptors and to Norman Davidson of Forest Enterprise.

The Bailies thanked Dr Geoffrey Gill who as clerk has decided to step down.

For many years Dr Gill has attended to correspondence, kept records of meetings—and members!—in order and selflessly carried out 101 other duties in the name of the Bailies of Bennachie.

Anyone wishing to help with path work should contact Bennachie Visitors Centre on ☎ (01467) 681470.



Top Marque: Bailie James MacKay MBE (left) and Senior Bailie Fred Gordon with the Millennium Marque. (Picture by Griselda McGregor)