

# The Bailies of Bennachie Annual Report 2019



We care about Bennachie, its natural environment, history and culture -  
protecting this unique landscape for future generations



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**BAILIES OF BENNACHIE AGM: THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2020, 7.30PM**  
**AT THE ACORN CENTRE, INVERURIE**



Professor Gordon Noble is head of archaeology and Honorary Curatorial Fellow to University Museums, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen. He has undertaken landscape research and directed field projects across Scotland and worked on a wide range of landscapes and archaeology projects. The dig on Mither Tap in June 2019 was part of a major project into Northern Picts. It was funded by the University of Aberdeen Development Trust and Historic Environment Scotland and is focused on the post-Roman societies of northern Britain. Northern Picts research has also featured on BBC 4 *Digging for Britain*, Radio 4 *In Our Time* and many other media venues. For the Bailies AGM, Gordon will focus on the 2019 excavations and discoveries on Mither Tap.

New and existing members – All are welcome. Refreshments available.

### **BENNACHIE@THE GARIOCH HERITAGE CENTRE – PEOPLE, PICTURES & THE PAST**

**Saturday 25th April 2020, 10.15 – 13.00**

Tickets £10 (includes refreshments) from Garioch Heritage Centre & Bennachie Visitor Centre

Duncan Downie – The Sarah Cormack Collection of Photographs

Andrew Wainwright – Bennachie Quarries and Quarriers

Jo Vergunst – Stories from Bennachie: Our Oral History

Colin Shepherd – Lines in the Land - Decoding Pittodrie

*This is a fundraising event organised by the Bailies on behalf of the Garioch Heritage Centre*

#### **2017/19 Trustees**

Chairperson and Senior Bailie: Jackie Cumberbirch (from 13th March, 2017)

Treasurer: Brian Cornock (from 13th March, 2017)

Minute Secretary: Rosemary Sievwright (from 13th March, 2017)

Membership Secretary, Web Master and Social Media: Donna Taylor (from 13th March, 2017)

Publications: Ann Baillie (from 13th March, 2017)

Work Party Co-ordinators: Harry Leil (from 13th March, 2017)

and Willie Linklater (from 22nd March, 2018)

Annual Report Editor: Sue Taylor (from 13th March, 2017)

#### **Other Trustees**

Margaret Garden (from 15th January, 2018); Angela Groat (from 13th March, 2017);

Dave Peter (from 22nd March, 2018); Andrew Wainwright (from 13th March, 2017)

Please see our web site for more details [www.bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](http://www.bailiesofbennachie.co.uk) or write to:

Bailies of Bennachie, PO Box 11535, Huntly, AB54 9AD.

#### **Contact details:**

[info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](mailto:info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk) (General enquiries)

[chair@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](mailto:chair@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk) (Senior Bailie)

[workparties@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](mailto:workparties@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk)



# Report from the Chair



As always, at this time of the year, I cannot believe that it is already 2020!

I am very proud of the Bailies, especially all the individuals and trustees who volunteer tirelessly for the Bailies. When you look back over 2019 we have achieved a lot; so thank you to all. Without your support the Bailies would not succeed!

We did a lot of new things in 2019. Some of the activities or events mentioned can be read about in this report so I will just mention the NEW ones! Firstly was the improvement and launch of our new web site (aided by Global Web) – so please make sure you look at it and feedback to us all your comments! Secondly, we gave Mither Tap its first big bosie - thanks to over 400 people that took part in this successful and memorable event! Thirdly, we discovered new archaeological finds at Druminnor, on the Pittodrie Estate and Mither Tap. Fourthly, we successfully employed Fiona Cormack as our first ever Bailies of Bennachie Outreach Officer (see page 4 for more details). Fifthly, we

discovered more about the pine martens on Bennachie and where they can be found. Sixthly was the creation of a new design and layout for the 2020 calendar. Seventhly we ran a storytelling event as our first contribution to the “Across the Grain” festival, and finally with a lot of help from contributors and the editor Colin Shepherd we launched our fourth book in the Bennachie Landscapes Project Series. These are just the new activities and does not include work parties, Bennachie wildlife events, Rowantree toilet cleaning, walks, talks and committee meetings!

Looking forward to 2020, we have our AGM on **Thursday 19 March (see inside front cover for details) at the Acorn Centre** when **Professor Gordon Noble** will be telling us all about the **Mither Tap dig in Summer 2019** and the new discoveries!

At this AGM, we would really like more trustees to help steer the Bailies in the future so please step forward and join our committee; you would be made most welcome. In 2020, we plan to launch a new film and we want to work with partners to celebrate Bennachie whilst still being aware of the precious wildlife and heritage on the hill. In 2020 the Bennachie Visitor Centre will be 25 years old so the Bailies, together with centre staff and partners, will be planning some events to celebrate this anniversary.

Best wishes to all Bailies all over the world!

Jackie Cumberbirch  
Senior Bailie

Some of the contributors to the new  
Bennachie Landscapes Series of books.  
(Photo: Fiona Cormack)



# Treasurer's Report

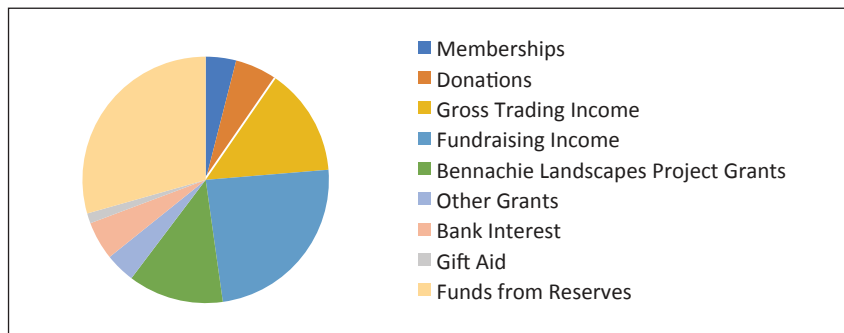
December, 2018, with all funds unrestricted. The 2019 figures are provisional and remain to be checked by the independent auditor.

Brian Cornock  
Treasurer

All financial matters for the Bailies were transferred to Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) number SC047231 on the 1st January, 2018. The financial year for the SCIO is the calendar year and this report is for calendar year 2019.

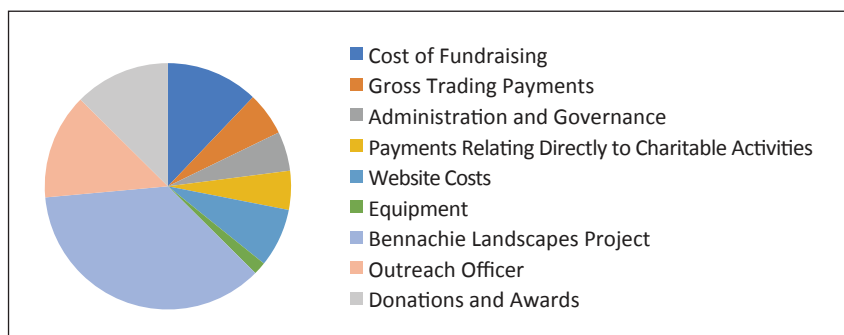
The two pie plots here show a split of income and expenditure for 2019. These plots have been shown at the same scale, which highlights the £9,439 of funding used from reserves. This drawdown from reserves was mainly needed to help fund archaeological work at the Bede House, employment of an Outreach Officer and printing of a fourth book in the Bennachie Landscapes series.

At the 31st December, 2019, the Bailies had reserves of £134,801, which compares with £144,240 held at the 31st



*Above: Source of funds for 2019 - £32,107.*

*Below: Expenditure for 2019 - £32,107.*



## Work Party News

It has been another busy year for the Bailies Work Parties. We have had quite a bit of variety in our jobs this year, including planting trees at Shepherds Lodge. We cleared a lot of whins and broom from the entrance to the Bennachie Centre as visibility for entering and leaving was not good. We also cleaned out part of the Clachie Burn and removed logs from the pond. We cleared out the water bars and drains from Rowantree to Mither Tap and Craigshannoch as well as clearing a lot of bracken at Shepherds Lodge.

The path at Heather Brig was resurfaced and we worked with a group from Aberdeen University helping to clear young spruce trees from Oxen Craig. We pruned the willow structures at the Back 'o' Bennachie and also put up a new fence there at the entrance to the car park, even though somebody stole some of the materials for the job! We also cleared all the water bars from Heather Brig to Oxen Craig.

With Alison Sutherland, the Garioch Ranger, we also worked on Corrie Hill clearing whins and broom from the Gordon Way. We always have plenty of other jobs as well: small things that need done. We try to keep the hill clean and tidy. Aye, there is always plenty of jobs to do.

Harry Leil

Work Party stalwarts  
Harry Leil and Peter Kellas



*(Photo: Jackie Cumberbirch.)*



# Bailies Website Report

In 2018 the Bailies trustees decided our website was rather dated and not user-friendly. Navigation through the website was difficult and finding information was often not very easy due to the many layers of information. This was not a good advertisement for the Bailies and we were of the opinion this could put users off using the website to learn about, and even become involved with the Bailies. In addition, the great amount of valuable information we have in areas such as history and projects was not readily visible for those attempting to access it.

Global Web were the company selected to develop the website and a significant advantage with this was their interest in Bennachie and wanting to see it promoted via the website. A steering group consisting of four trustees was set up to meet with Global Web, agree the contents and comment on the proposed layout of the website. In addition, the group reported back to the other trustees with progress and for comments as the website development progressed.

The new website was then launched in April 2019. In accordance with many other current websites, you are never 3 or 4 'clicks' away from accessing any information on the site. The homepage now has moving panoramic pictures of Bennachie, clear access buttons along the top or photographic links to four key areas within the website. There is also an area on the homepage that displays latest news items.

Within the website, with a few chosen exceptions, all the information was transferred over from the previous website. There were some areas that had not been updated for a few years. These areas were updated wherever possible, including various recent projects. There was an emphasis wherever possible to add more photographs, making the site more interesting.

We recognise the importance of keeping all the website information up to date and not just areas such as news and events. We are now updating on a regular basis volunteering - covering archaeology, projects, Bailies monthly work parties and Bennachie wildlife group. Some of these, such as work parties and wildlife group, are updated in the news page as the event takes place. Others, such as short term projects, are updated at the start detailing their scope and then at the finish with information about their findings. Long term ongoing projects are updated on an annual basis at end or start of the year.

One new feature which has proved to be very successful is the creation of an online shop. This allows users to purchase publications, pay their membership fee or make a one-off donation to the Bailies.

Fine tuning of the website layout and contents is continuing, learning as we progress. We are also considering future enhancements for the website.

Feedback on the website layout and the contents details are always welcome via:

**[info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk](mailto:info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk)**

Willie Linklater  
Trustee

## Membership

2019 has been a good year for the Bailies' Membership as we have had 125 new members join us. 23 of these were purchased as Gift Memberships and over 70 joined during our membership drive during the month of October. John McNally was the lucky new member to win an afternoon tea, kindly donated by Pittodrie House Hotel.

We have made it easier to join us as we now have online membership via our new website. This is now our most used application method, although there are also details online for those who prefer postal applications.

Donna Taylor  
Membership and Social Media Secretary

## Bennachie Centre

In 2020 it will be 25 years since the Bennachie Visitor Centre was founded. The anniversary will be celebrated by a varied programme of events throughout the summer. The plan is to have something for everyone: including indoor and outdoor yoga and meditation, navigation and hill skills workshops, monthly sessions for folk to learn CPR and defibrillator sessions, a corn dolly workshop and a NESBREC recording workshop. The Bailies' Bennachie Landscapes Group will be working with the Centre on an exhibition in September for Archaeology month. The Bailies of Bennachie and the Garioch Ranger will also be holding events as part of the programme.

# Meet Fiona Cormack - Our Outreach Officer

In April, the Bailies appointed Fiona Cormack as our Outreach Officer for 12 months, with a view to raising the profile of the Bailies and increasing our membership through engagement with landowners, the local community and other organisations. For the annual report we asked Fiona to reflect on her first few months in the role.

**Q:** What attracted you to the job of Outreach Officer for the Bailies of Bennachie?

**A:** I know Bennachie well, living on the lower slopes, and am regularly on the hill, with my dog, running or walking with family and friends. I have a strong attachment to the environs of Bennachie and was attracted to the idea of working with the Bailies to enhance and protect it.

**Q:** Having met the Bailies of Bennachie, were they what you expected?

**A:** I found that there isn't a stereotype of a Bailie – anyone who loves the hill can be a Bailie. This means men and women and people of all ages. I didn't know that the Bailies do as much as they do and the remit of their work is so large. They are passionate about what drew them to Bennachie and are incredibly knowledgeable about the history of the hill, the different paths, the trees and flora and fauna. They have been very willing to share this with me – and my job is to pass this on.

**Q:** What sort of things does the Outreach Officer do?

**A:** The main point of the role is to raise the profile of the Bailies. All this fantastic work is going on but even in the communities around Bennachie there isn't a clear understanding of who the Bailies are and what they are doing. I write news releases at least once a fortnight and we have enjoyed great coverage in the local papers, and I have done some radio interviews as well. I promote the Bailies through Facebook and we regularly 'share' our posts with other interest groups and community groups. I have also started an Instagram account which has gained us a new following. I give talks to local groups and I am building partnerships with landowners, the Bennachie Centre Trust and the Garioch Heritage Society.

**Q:** What has been the most enjoyable aspect of the job?

**A:** The most enjoyable aspect of the job is getting out on the hill with the Bailies. When the dig was happening on the Pittodrie Estate in the summer it was great to be shown around regularly and see and hear what was



*Fiona promoting the Bailies at the Chapel of Garioch Christmas Fair. (Photo: Sue Taylor.)*

being discovered. On other walks I have heard about landmarks and sites, plants and signs of animals that I would have never noticed by myself. Finding gems on the hill such as the kailyard by Shepherd's Lodge and the memorial cairn by Oxen Craig, to the airmen who have died in air crashes on the hillside has been another bonus.

**Q:** What have been your biggest challenges?

**A:** Technology! I thought I was computer literate but have found challenges in updating the website, Facebook, Instagram, sending mass emails and using high quality photographs. I had not used Instagram before and had to recruit the help of my teenage daughter to be able to use hashtags. It has also been a challenge to work on my own. However the trustees have been very helpful whenever I have asked for help.



**Q:** Looking back on 2019 what have been the success stories ?

**A:** The biggest success story of the year has to be the 'Bosie' event in June. Plans were well underway when I joined the Bailies in April but it was a big operation to take on with a lot of organisation to spread the word of the charity walk with a difference, and encourage people to sign up. We also needed to organise a massive number of marshals and helpers on the day. The event worked so well on the day with 400 people gathered round the base of Mither Tap to give it a real bosie. Many people taking part said they found it an emotional and meaningful experience. We were also so lucky with the weather.

Another success was the membership drive in October. There was a social media campaign illustrating individual Bailies saying "I'm a Bailie because...." showing all the different reasons why people join the Bailies. Over 70 new people joined the Bailies during the month and they were all entered into a prize draw for afternoon tea at Pittodrie House Hotel. I think the response to both events showed the affection that people in the North East have of Bennachie and the support that is there for the Bailies.

Sue Taylor & Fiona Cormack

## Give Bennachie a Bosie

When our Chair, Jackie Cumberbirch, came up with the idea of encircling Mither Tap with a human chain there were a few raised eyebrows amongst the Trustees. Was this just another one of Jackie's wild ideas? However, thanks to the planning, dedication and hard work of a small group of volunteers this became a reality on a sunny day in June this year.

Four hundred people walked from the Back of Bennachie car park to the summit of Mither Tap, where the Kintore Pipe Band were waiting to play at noon for the assembled human chain. The reasons for taking part were many and varied, with some people personally connected with the work of the charities who benefitted from the proceeds of the walk. Others just wanted to enjoy the walk and made it a day out for family or friends. Thankfully the weather was kind making it a day to remember for all those involved. It was great to see so many groups of people enjoying a well earned ice cream on the grass at the Back of Bennachie picnic area afterwards.

The event raised £3840 which was divided equally between Breast Cancer Care, the University of Aberdeen Development Trust's breast cancer research programme, and the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team. Cheques of £1280 each were handed over on Monday 15th July at Macdonald Pittodrie Hotel with the hill in the background. [see cover image]

Bailies' Outreach Officer, Fiona Cormack, said: *"We were delighted to present this money to these very worthy charities. Thanks go to everyone who took part in the walk and the many people who made additional donations. Mither Tap means mother's breast so we decided to raise money for breast cancer charities and we know that this made the walk especially meaningful for many of the people who took part. The mountain rescue team do a fabulous job of helping anyone who becomes in difficulty on the hill and we are pleased we have been able to support them through this event."*

Sue Taylor  
Trustee



Kintore Pipe Band on Mither Tap. (Photo: Ronnie McCallum, North East Remote Pilot Service.)



# 2019 Archaeological Excavations



*Looking down the steps to the Pictish well within the Mither Tap hillfort. (Photo: Jackie Cumberbirch.)*

In June, excavations were carried out around the summit area of Mither Tap by a team from Aberdeen University led by Prof. Gordon Noble. Several Bailies assisted in this dig which was hoping to obtain further information about a number of aspects of the hill fort, such as its functions, possible internal structures and dates of use. Although the weather was not always kind, the dig was completed successfully and subsequent radiocarbon dating of samples suggest a 7th century origin for the main phases of defence and Pictish occupation, and possibly an 8th century end date for its use. Evidence of internal occupation and structures was found, including an impressive well which was recorded in the 19th century before being filled in. You can hear more about this excavation when Gordon speaks at our AGM (see inside front cover).

Meanwhile, at Druminnor Castle, another well was being uncovered. This was discovered as a result of a Ground Penetrating Radar survey carried out with generous funding from the Castle Studies Trust. Eight years of excavation are demonstrating the wealth of information that Druminnor holds regarding medieval castle construction techniques, the 12th-century environment and land management of the Garioch as well as for its fascinating geological background. Further information on this important site is available from the Bennachie Landscapes section of the Bailies website as well as in the latest Bennachie Landscapes volume.

Last year's annual report highlighted excavations at the Bede House on Pittodrie Estate. These have also now been fully reported in our latest publication of the Bennachie Landscapes Series (see back page). Last summer Iain Ralston oversaw further investigations concentrated on an area of the Pittodrie Estate



*The Medieval - possibly 13th-century - well at Druminnor. (Photo: Emil Tanasie.)*

overlooked by the Bede House. This busy, multi-period landscape was revealed by field-walking and subsequent LiDAR survey. 2019 saw a series of excavations across this area, intended to begin the process of understanding this complicated landscape.

A number of sites were sampled, including a pre-modern farmstead, a mysterious rectangular enclosure and an even stranger 'enclosed mound'. Preliminary findings suggest some form of settlement activity originating in the Neolithic period and continuing intermittently through till the early nineteenth century.

Carbon 14 dates, generously funded by Bruce Mann from the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service, are eagerly awaited for both Pittodrie and Druminnor excavations.

Sue Taylor & Colin Shepherd  
Bennachie Landscapes Project



*Late- or Post-Medieval structures being excavated on the Pittodrie Estate. (Photo: Iain Ralston.)*



# The Colony Kailyard - Year 3

The 19th century reconstruction of the Kailyard at Shepherds Lodge has now completed its third year and is growing well and looking good – all thanks to our team of dedicated volunteers who have kept watch and carried out the necessary maintenance over the last 12 months.

Most of the work during the summer has been keeping the grass trimmed and the weeds down. In early Summer we had a sawfly infestation, mainly on the gooseberry bushes, which left them with very few leaves. To rid the sawfly grub we laboriously picked off and disposed of them, then removed the earth beneath the bush and replaced it with fresh soil. Once we had it under control the bushes recovered and grew fresh leaves. Luckily the fruit was not affected by the infestation and in July we were able to pick some tasty looking red gooseberries which were made into jam. It must be remembered that we are trying to recreate the garden using organic methods and ones that the Colonists could possibly have used themselves, so removing the grubs by hand seemed a fitting way to control the sawfly .... and it worked! However, we will have to be vigilant next year and be ready as soon as we see any signs.

During August we picked the ripened blackcurrants and were able to make a few more pots of jam. There were not as many blackcurrants as expected from earlier indications. Did the birds get there first or had we been a bit too slow in picking them and they had fallen off? Autumn saw the raspberries starting to ripen (lovely big ones) so once harvested we tried recipes other than jam to use them up. We made cranachan and, with the squashier raspberries, a fruit cordial. Would the Colonists have made cranachan? They would have had all the available ingredients, so it is quite possible. In November we carried out some light pruning and mulching ready for whatever the winter might throw at the Kailyard.

Our final objective is to provide a clearer insight into the lives of the colonists so, as we continue



*The Kailyard in Spring, 2019. (Photo: Chris Foster.)*



*The Kailyard in Summer, 2019. (Photo: Chris Foster.)*

our gardening in the Kailyard, a diary of our work, observations and thoughts is being kept for analyses at the end of the project.

The Kailyard is always open to visitors, so why not pop in for a look when next on Bennachie.

Chris Foster  
Bennachie Landscapes Project



# Bailies of Bennachie Wildlife Group

Wet, wet, wet - a description of most Bennachie Wildlife Group meetings in 2019 (not the 1980s soft rock band from Clydebank).

In April, the wetness dampened the spirits of those who rose early to listen to the dawn chorus with John Wills. John had better luck on a sunny morning in June when he led a walk alongside the river Don, clocking up 23 different birds. These included osprey and dipper which depend on the water, as well as woodland residents like the jay and great spotted woodpecker, and summer migrants like blackcap and willow warbler.

Only the very hardy, clothed in waterproofs, braved the trip to the Ythan estuary. But their reward was sighting an unusual visitor, a great white egret. These large white birds, almost the size of a heron, are normally associated with warmer climes but have started breeding in SW England in last decade.

The dawn goose watch in November was, yes, you guessed it, very wet. However, the low-hanging cloud meant thousands of geese, mainly pinkfeets, flew low over our heads as they left their roost on the Loch of Skene to fly to their feeding fields. Even in the rain this is a spectacle for the eyes and ears.

Our last event of the year is an evening walk to listen for owls in the dark – what will the weather be like?

Dave Bale experienced similar weather problems when looking closely at the plants in Tilliefour wood but, undaunted, the hardy botanists were delighted by the rain-dropped flowers David pointed out to them. Sticking with the watery theme, David's next excursion was to the misnamed Star Bog, which the botanists learned should really be called Star Fen. What's the difference? Both are wetlands, but a bog is more often peaty and acidic with anaerobic decomposition while a fen tends to be more nutrient rich and often has water flowing through it; each is home to a different suite of plants. Ask David about the hybrid sedges residing there!

In July we tried hard rock geology with Peter Craig who showed us exposures of different granites in



*Corrennie Quarry. (Photo: Jackie Cumberbirch.)*

local quarries. The rain washed away the dirt leaving clean rock faces for us to examine – what stories these rocks tell when you have an expert telling you how to read them. Geologically speaking granite involves phenomenal forces in the earth's crust over millions of years – the numbers are mind-bending.

As for mammals, we started the year indoors with an update from Keziah Hobson about her PhD on pine martens. Some of the group had collected hair samples from feeder boxes so that Keziah could analyse the DNA. She explained the complexity of the methods for the DNA analysis, which bamboozled many of us, but from her work she could tell us about the individual pine martens which visited the feeder boxes. In September Lizzie Bacon inspired us to carry on studying pine martens. We can't afford expensive DNA analysis, so instead we are using the trail cameras to take photos of the white chest bibs of pine martens as each marten has a bib with a unique shape and pattern. Getting a good photo is not simple, so Lizzie and her husband Philip ran a workshop showing us how to set up a simple rig so that the pine marten faces the camera at the right height, and Lizzie showed us how to draw the bibs to identify each individual. It is early days, but some people are already getting good pictures showing bib patterns on the pine martens.....watch this space for more information next year.



On a dreich day in October Michael Skelly from Forestry and Land Scotland gave us a master class on deer management in the area. He explained the many practical issues with keeping deer numbers low enough to allow trees to grow in the forest without fencing. His work involves everything from how, when and where to shoot deer safely, right through to how much income is earned from selling the meat. There are very few stalkers to control increasing numbers of deer – it's very difficult task.

This year we planned to survey local burns for water voles, but the wet weather put a stop to that. The idea was to find out whether water voles have re-colonised local water courses since mink were removed.

We had a great (dry!) day with Prof Xavier Lambin when he showed us how to distinguish water voles, bank voles and field voles and taught us what water vole signs to look for when wading along a burn. But after the training day, it rained and rained and rained, filling the burns with so much water that it was unsafe to do the survey. We're hoping there'll be less rain next year so that we can continue the survey.

The Bennachie Wildlife Group is open to all Bailies of Bennachie. We use a group email list to keep everyone informed about what we're doing. If you want to join this list please contact **wildlife.bennachie@btinternet.com**.

Jill Matthews

## Plane Crash Memorial Event

In 2012 the memorial cairn which had been constructed in the 1950s to honour the three RAF aircrew killed in two separate crashes on Bennachie, was rebuilt by the Bailies of Bennachie with the guidance of the late James MacKay MBE.

The memorial walk on Sunday 1st September 2019 coincided with the 80th anniversary not only of the beginning of the 2nd World War, but also the first air crash, when a Westland Wallace biplane crashed near Bruntwood Tap, with both the pilot and navigator being killed. The second crash which involved a Gloster Meteor in 1952 crashed near the cairn killing the pilot.

The Bailies felt it was important to mark the occasion and so a group of 30 walked from the Bennachie Visitor Centre via Oxen Craig to the cairn. The weather was ideal until we reached Oxen Craig and then literally the heavens opened. Rev. Joshua Mikelson from Kemnay Church led the service, with the wind and driving rain making for a very atmospheric and moving time of reflection. John Nicol from the Bennachie Centre Trust, Alison Sutherland from the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service and Fiona MacKay, daughter of James MacKay, all laid crosses at the cairn, whilst David Fraser of the Kintore Pipe Band bravely played Highland Cathedral. Of course, the inclement weather stopped as we descended back to the Gordon Way path.

A small exhibition at the Bennachie Visitor Centre of paintings by former RAF pilot David Wright were sold and over £1200 was given to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Ann Baillie  
Trustee

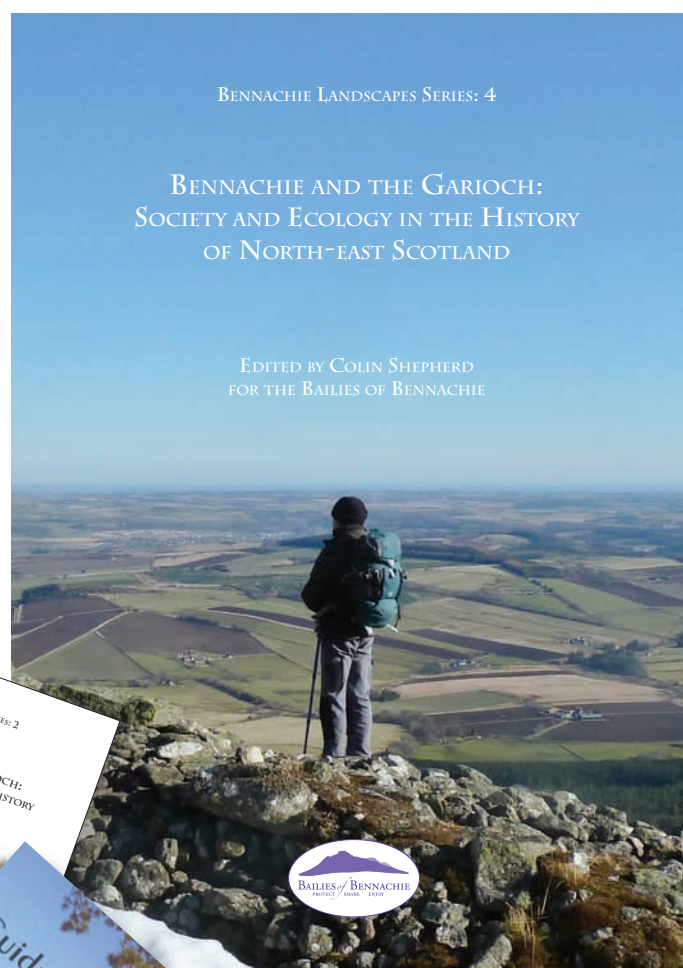


(Photos: Ann Baillie.)



# New Bailies Book

There was a good turnout at the launch of the fourth volume in the Bennachie Landscapes Series in November. Dedicated to the late Dr. Colin S. Millar OBE and edited by Dr. Colin Shepherd, this volume continues the work of highlighting recent research on a wide range of topics about Bennachie and its environs. This particular volume includes articles on geology, natural history, archaeology and social culture. At the book launch some of the authors gave short presentations on their research. Sales of the new book have been good, aided by the new online shop on the Bailies' web site. Previous volumes can also be bought.



## The Bennachie App

And don't forget - if you've not done so already, download the Bennachie App and learn more about the squatter 'Colony' of Bennachie.

