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# DOCTOR WHO SWEEP A MOUNTAIN CLEAN

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THE TALL, white-haired man in tweedy suit and brogues who came striding out of the Spring sunshine near the summit of the 1700 ft. mountain suddenly stooped to pick up an empty crisp packet blowing across the craggy slopes from where a tourist family were picnicking in the heather.

"Good morning," he called cheerily, as he tucked the piece of litter into a plastic bag he carried. "Isn't it a beautiful day — and a beautiful mountain."

The surprised visitors had just met the reason why the green tree-clad Aberdeenshire peak of Bennachie is the tidest mountain in Scotland.

Mr Daniel Gordon, a retired family doctor, became so fed up with litter despoliation of his favourite peak, which each year attracts thousands of tourists and day-trippers, that seven years ago he decided to do something about it.

## Sprightly

But Mr Gordon, a sprightly 80 now no longer needs to climb the mountain on litter-picking expeditions but still does because it gives him so much pleasure.

A grandfather, of Coldwells Inverurie, he has formed a small group of enthusiasts who call themselves the bailies of Bennachie, with the object of restoring the peak to its former unspoiled grandeur.

They began a rota system of sorties through the mountain in search of dropped debris to carry back down for proper disposal.

That was in 1973. Today the bailies of Bennachie are 1,600 - strong with new enthusiasts from London and the Home Counties to America, Canada, Australia, joining at the rate of 40 a month.

Dr. Gordon said: "I'm thrilled that the small group I was privileged to start, with a handful of Bennachie admirers, has grown into such a worthwhile and thriving movement."



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