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Tributes flood in for Bailies' founder

HEARTFELT tributes have flooded in for Dr Danny Gordon, the man who founded the Bailies of Bennachie.

Gordon Provost Raymond Bisset said Mr Gordon (92) was "one of the great characters of Gordon District."

Dr Gordon was born in 1901 at Tayloch, Clatt.

He was the second son of RS Gordon, farmer, lay preacher and county councillor.

He attended Kennethmont School, the Gordon Schools Huntly, and graduated MA at Aberdeen University in 1921 and MB Ch B in 1924.

After medical experience in Insch and hospitals in London, he joined a practice in Ellon in 1928 where he was a much loved GP for the remainder of his medical career.

He served in the Second World War as a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, being mentioned in despatches.

Despite the demands of a busy general practice he was heavily involved in medical committees before and after the formation of the National Health Service and was made a Fellow of the British Medical Association.

He was at the forefront in any advances in medical services for the good of the community.

Apart from medicine he had a wide range of community interests, being a county councillor and chairman of Garioch Community Council.

He had a great facility with the pen and his encouragement of the Doric led to his membership of the David

Rorie Society and chairmanship of the Charles Murray Memorial Trust.

He was a founder member of Garioch Probus Club and a kirk elder of Ellon and Inverurie West.

A lifelong interest in the outdoors and the environment led to his forming the Bailies of Bennachie in 1973, a conservation society which now has a worldwide membership of over 4000.

His idea of a footpath over Bennachie, the Brindy and Suie Hills to Rhynie came to fruition when Gordon District Council and the Forestry Commission invited him to open the West Gordon Way.

When he retired from Ellon his home became Coldwells, Inverurie, a farm he inherited from his uncle.

This included a magnificent beech wood which was a great source of enjoyment.

He had a keen interest in and knowledge of forestry and was always planting trees - "Aye keep stickin' in a tree, it'll be growin' when yer sleepin'."

Many people in the Inverurie area and beyond have in their gardens trees or shrubs given to them by Danny from his nursery.

His first wife Dr Peggy Mitchell died suddenly in 1939 and in 1945 he married Betty Shepherd, now living in a nursing home.

He is survived by his son Peter, a minister in Airdrie, and daughters Margaret in Glastonbury, and Betty who stays in Edinburgh, all from his first marriage.

His memory will live on in a new Guide to Bennachie shortly to be published - "Dedicated to Dr Danny Gordon - beloved physician, man of vision, literary giant, upholder of the Doric, raconteur par excellence, tree and shrub wizard, lover of nature, born leader, but friend and servant of all, and founder of the Bailies of Bennachie."

Paying his own tribute, Provost Bisset said: "I knew him for many years and enjoyed his company."

"He had a sharp intellect, great wit and a great love of his fellows and the land around him."

"He was a first class country doctor, much loved and respected by his patients and those he worked with."

Mr Bisset added in his tribute: "But apart from all the hard work he put into medicine during his many years as a GP he contributed much more to the communities he lived in."

"He was a great promoter of the Doric language and heritage but perhaps his greatest legacy is the Bailies of Bennachie, the organisation he formed to conserve and promote the hill what he loved so much."

Provost Bisset concluded: "Its members are now established throughout the world and the care with which Gordon District Council and other bodies involved with Bennachie approach any projects involving Bennachie is a testament to the awareness of its valuable place in our heritage created by Danny Gordon and the organisation he inspired."

"He is a great loss."

Provost to attend

Council to meet

Meet club's