

Stewards Of The Hill

words and photo by Griselda McGregor

The Bailies of Bennachie annual general meeting and soiree at King George V Memorial Hall, Chapel of Garioch, near Inverurie was a well attended and convivial gathering.

Senior Bailie Owen Vaughan handed over the reins to stalwart member Gordon Cowie and Jackie Cumberbirch was elected depute Senior Bailie. Aberdeen university graduate Gordon was born in Inverurie and came to know this Donside area well as a student of forestry, before working with the Forestry Commission, latterly as Chief Executive. In his report, out-going Senior Bailie Owen praised the sterling labours of Bennachie work parties who last year devoted 300 hours to maintaining and creating paths on Bennachie and the Forestry Commission staff who have been undertaking surveys involving the hill-users on trees. He was rewarded by a picture of peregrine chicks by local artist Jane Milloy. The evening continued with a presentation by Alan Smith on the John Muir Trust.