

Bailies Are Hale And Hearty!

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INDICATIONS are that the Bailies of Bennachie are hale and hearty. There was a splendid turn-out for the 13th Annual General Meeting last week in Inverurie Academy and according to the Treasurer Mr Gordon Ingram, the accounts are in a healthy state.

Senior Bailie, Mr Algy Watson, in his Council Report, thanked all who had helped to make the Annual Rally on August 11 so successful. The weather had remained dry and almost 600 Bailies and friends enjoyed the occasion.

Mr Watson reported that the Bailies Room in Inverurie Town Hall has now closed for the winter. Attendances had been poor initially but had picked up in August and September. Tribute was paid to Mr John Ogston for arranging the supervision of the Room.

The Bailies of Bennachie Calendar for 1986 is reported to be selling "like hot cakes". The artist is James Kelman, Deputy Senior Bailie and the calendar is printed on cartridge paper made by Thomas Tait & Sons Ltd., Inverurie. The water colour views of the hill are breathtaking.

Mr Watson spoke of the repair work which continues on the hill under the direction of James Kelman. Many extremely wet areas have been tackled and the battle against erosion of footpaths goes on.

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An amendment to the Constitution was proposed and approved. Postage is a very costly item. This year it cost £270.00 to send notices to all the members who are scattered all over the globe. It was felt that a review of members was required as many people move away or die and the Clerk is not notified.

At next year's A.G.M. a pro-forma will be issued with the Annual report. Members will be asked to state whether they wish to receive the report each year. They will not be given a copy unless they ask for it. This should make a considerable saving on postage and also paperwork by the Clerk.

The election of office-bearers took place. Senior Bailie Algy Watson retired, remarking that he "wished to make way for others with fresh ideas." The appointment of James T. Kelman as Senior Bailie was a popular choice, as was Mr Bert Cadenhead as Deputy Senior Bailie.

Many tributes were paid to Mrs Helen Fraser who has retired as Clerk. James R. MacKay spoke of "her dedication to duty, far above what could be expected". Algy Watson too mentioned Helen's "extreme care and diligence" in her work as Clerk. Mr Michael Davidson of Whiteford was appointed as her successor.

After tea a most enjoyable programme of entertainment followed. Highlight of the evening was the music provided by the Fiddlers Forte. The talented foursome consisted of Judith Davidson on piano and Inga Scott, Rebecca Hunter, and Derek Reid on fiddle. They played many Scottish tunes and some composed by Judith. Their performance was of an exceptionally high standard and members of the audience were astonished to hear that they were only 14 years of age.

A group of dancers who meet regularly at Monymusk, showed their skills and their obvious enjoyment in dancing. James Glennie recited several of his poems and James Kelman held the audience spellbound as he sang in his wonderful bass voice. Algy Watson recited poems by J. C. Milne and Charles Murray. James MacKay thanked the performers and all who had contributed to another happy get-together for the Bailies of Bennachie.