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SOUND & VISION

Probus Club paid respects to Dr Gill

PRESIDENT Harry Strachan called for one minute's silence at the start of the first Garioch Probus Club meeting of the year, in memory of the late Dr James Gill.

Dr Gill joined the Club in 1980 and became an honorary life member in 1995. He served Inverurie from 1929 until his retirement in 1967, and often mentioned that he made his rounds on horseback in his earlier days. The esteem in which Dr Gill was held was amply demonstrated by the many affectionate tributes paid to him at the meeting.

Bill Joss was this week's speaker and he transported the Club from bleak January in Inverurie to the glories of the Canadian Rockies by means of a video covering a two-day holiday trip from Vancouver to Calgary through such intriguing locations as Kicking Horse Pass and Jaws of Death Gorge!

The final spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven in at a place called Craigellachie, apparently, and in the subsequent discussion one member claimed that the first train was, in fact, driven by a Huntly man called Bill Anderson.

Another recalled that the completion of the railway was signalled to the London Stock Exchange by means of the one-word code message "Craigellachie", while yet another said that was the first time he'd ever seen a "moose" with horns! Alistair Bonnyman gave the vote of thanks.

Looking ahead into the year, bowling convenor Bert Cadenhead intimated that the postponed game with Turriff Probus Club had been rescheduled for February 19.

The next meeting on Wednesday, January 30 will hear a talk from Kintore man John Scott on "The Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen".

Premnay Hotel plans

PLANS worth £160,000 were lodged earlier this month with Aberdeenshire Council for approval of reserved matters to build three houses at Premnay Hotel, Auchleven.

Alford-based applicant Alan Grant (Grampian) Ltd., Alford has proposed the building of three new houses on a 0.13 hectare residential site at the Premnay Hotel.

The plans, drawn up by Inverurie architect Colin Thompson, consist of two four-bedroom houses with a floor area of 137 square metres and one three-bedroom house with a floor area of 79 square metres.

The proposed site will have a new soakaway for surface water and the houses will be connected to a public foul or combined sewer to be enclosed by a one metre high retaining wall and a 1.8 metre high vertical boarding.

The application is to be considered by the local authority in due course.



Bennachie head ranger Fred Gordon (right) welcomes local area forest manager Norman Davidson as the 5,000th member of well-known organisation, the Bailies of Bennachie (Photograph by Ellice Milton).