

9/20 Inverurie Advertiser 21 Sept. 2012 9/20

# Bailies meeting

**THE BAILIES** of Bennachie will hold their AGM in Chapel of Garioch hall near Inverurie tonight (Thursday 20), and anyone interested in finding out about the organisation and their works are welcome to attend.

The evening's events will start at 7.30pm and will be a happy opportunity to socialise with people passionate about 'the blue hill' and also to find out what the Bailies have been doing over the past busy year.

Planned undertakings by these stewards of the hill include the ongoing Bennachie Landscapes Project and events such as their popular Doric evening and a series of guided walks to various parts of Bennachie.

The Bailies welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of the new committee.

Next year will have a special significance as the Bailies will be celebrating their Ruby anniversary – 40 years since their foundation.

So thinking caps on for ideas as to how to mark and celebrate this special 'birthday.'

With the business of the AGM completed invited guest speaker project officer of North East Scotland Red Squirrels Stephen Willis will give a presentation entitled Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels.

Bennachie is, as is the whole of the North East of Scotland, a precious stronghold for the red squirrel still fortunately with large areas of good quality habitat for these woodland creatures.

Although much of this habitat remains free from grey squirrels, greys had begun to spread out of Aberdeen city and across Aberdeenshire, particularly down the river corridors of the Don and Dee.

Red squirrels had been disappearing from many areas including much of Aberdeen city.

With further populations currently at risk the North East Scotland Red Squirrel Project aims to prevent the greys from spreading and so endangering the reds.

Stephen's talk will discuss the many and complex issues involved. Light refreshments will be available.