

# Bennachie baillies will protect hill from vandals

TONIGHT sees the launching of a brand new society in Aberdeenshire whose sole function will be to act as watchdogs on a hill.

The hill is 1733ft. Bennachie which is in danger of being ravaged, vandalised, littered and burned, by the hordes of visitors who have been increasing since the provision of car parks and picnic sites during the last few years.

The group who plan to preserve the hill — the Baillies of Bennachie—will be officially formed at tonight's public meeting in Inverurie Town Hall.

They already have the blessing of the Forestry Commission, who own most of Bennachie, and they are expecting other landowners to add their support at tonight's meeting.

## BIG TURN-OUT

Mr Alex Watson, a geography teacher at Inverurie Academy, who is one of the organisers, said today: "There has been quite a lot of interest shown, and we are expecting quite a big turn-out at the meeting.

"I have been spoken to by quite a number of people and so have the others who started this off.

"There is obviously a good deal of interest in the thing."

He explained: "We shall be discussing the amenity of the hill, the question of litter, broken glass and so on, and the question of fire protection and safety.

"We'll also be looking at rights of way and any sign-posting that can be done."

They were also interested in compiling a detailed bibliography of everything that had been written about Bennachie.

The only decent book on the hill had been written in 1895, he pointed out, and a lot had happened since then.

Mr Watson expected a large number of other ideas would be thrown into the melting pot at the inaugural