

Summary of the talk presented at the 2011 AGMs by Gordon Hay

Bunty introduced Gordon Hay to give his talk on “*The Translation of the New Testament into Doric*”.

Firstly, Gordon pointed out it was the translation of the New Testament using many sources, not just the King James or Authorised Version, indeed he has had help from a minister who specialises in Greek, the original language of the Gospels. His intention is to translate the Old Testament also in due course, but as it has taken over 4 years to translate the New, and the Old is 3 times as long, then the scale of the task is daunting.

Gordon gave a history of the various versions of the bible starting with St. Jerome’s translation in 382AD into the Vulgate. Before the advent of the printing press, the bible was always written in Latin. After the printing press, the first English vernacular version by William Tyndale was printed in 1526. King James (VI and I) went south in 1603 and immediately set about promoting a new English translation of the bible. It took 47 scholars 7 years to create the King James Version.

In 2006, at the Buchan Heritage service, Gordon translated 2 readings into Doric and that was the start of the venture. He made further contributions at his daughter’s wedding, and spoke at the General Assembly, partly in English and partly in the Doric, which was very well received. He has been the subject of various newspaper articles and his version of the Doric is based on what he heard in his childhood around Turriff. He gave several examples of his translation, giving both the original and the new, and they were excellent – “doon tae earth and jist as we spik!”

There followed a brisk question and answer session on various aspects of the talk during which Gordon emphasised that his translation was in “vernacular” Doric and it may well be that it would be understood in a different way, or even not understood at all 50 years on as the meanings of words are for ever changing.

Derek Jennings thanked Gordon for a most interesting and informative talk.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and those who had participated and contributed to the success of the A.G.M.