

# Friends of the Book of Deer

[www.bookofdeer.co.uk](http://www.bookofdeer.co.uk)

A Newsletter to inform those who take an interest in "that splendid little book", the *Book of Deer*. Prepared by Cecilia Penny.

## Contacts:

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## The Book of Deer Project.

### Meetings.

Meetings usually take place on the last Wednesday of the month in the Area Office, Maud. If you are interested in helping out, why not come along and introduce yourself?

The AGM is to be held in the Theatre at Aden Park at 2pm. Following the Meeting, Moira Greig, Assistant Archaeologist for Aberdeenshire will give an illustrated talk on "Aerial Archaeology". This is of particular interest to the Project as it is committed to do all it can to locate the Columban Monastery founded by St. Drostan.

### The Pilgrimage.

This year the Pilgrims will walk in the "Steps of St. Murdebar", from Tarves to Aden Park on the 18th of June. Details of the route and a booking Form are available from the Area Office, Maud. To add interest there will be short stops during which historical details and points of interest will be explained. The Pilgrimage has proved to be a popular event in the Project's calendar.

training will be given!

There is always plenty to do, so if you think you can help, contact Andrew or myself. (See form at end of letter)



A proud day-the opening of the Book of Deer Heritage Centre

## Friends of the Book of Deer.

### Activities/Events.

**Saturday 9th April.** The visit to the Benedictine Abbey at Pluscarden is fully booked.

### Thursday 28th April.

The third Seminar in the present series takes place in the Chaplaincy, 7 High Street, Kings College, Aberdeen. (Invitation and map enclosed.) . The speaker will be Dr. Simon Taylor and his subject will be "Place names in the Gaelic Notes in the Book of Deer". Simon knows the area well through his researches and local contacts. He has been working in Place Name Studies for some time and is a founder member of the *Scottish Place Name Studies*. Now working free-lance, he was an *Anderson Fellow at St. Andrews University*. Three of us attended a recent lecture of his at Aberdeen University-*Place Names of Fife*. Outstanding. He is a contributor to *Studies in the Book of Deer* (ed Katherine Forsyth) which we hope to see in print later this year. You are advised to book early for this event.

Also at the meeting will be artist Leslie Reid who will be displaying his work inspired by the art of the Picts, Scots, Celts and other early civilisations. You can have a preview at his website



Happy faces at the end of The 2004 Pilgrimage.

## Book of Deer Centre at Aden Park.

Open in the afternoon on Sundays during April; Saturdays and Sundays during May; and hopefully, also on Wednesday afternoons during the Summer season. Special visits can be arranged on application.

More volunteers would be welcome and they would be sure to enjoy the experience. Full

www.ancientstoneart.co.uk/index.htm  
 Note that we have changed the times slightly to give us more time to socialise and to view Leslie's work, which will be for sale.

**Thursday 26th. May.**

*Friends of the Book of Deer* AGM will be held in the Theatre at Aden Park, 5pm for 5.30. At this meeting the Revd. David Ogston will give the fourth and final Seminar of the current series, entitled *Celtic Christianity*.

Although born in Ellon, he spent his early years at South Kiddshill Farm, Auchnagatt. On moving to the Inverurie area he attended the local Academy before going on to Aberdeen University, graduating in Divinity. He was assistant minister at St. Giles and Balerno, Edinburgh. Now he is at St. John's Kirk, Perth. David is well known in the North East, not only as a friend, but as an author of books, such as *White Stone Country*, set in the area of his childhood.

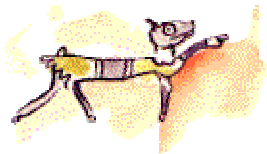
Details of his talk are on the enclosed, purple invitation, giving you the chance to plan ahead. Also enclosed is a subscription form to ensure your status as a *Friend of the Book of Deer*.

**Reprise.**

Mary Melville is presented with a bouquet by one of the young prize winners of the colouring in competition, the occasion being the introduction of Mary's booklet, *Deer Abbey*. Copies can be purchased at £2 each.



Also on sale are comfortable, wine coloured sweat-shirts with the Book of Deer logo in gold.



All sizes £18.

**The Friends have an important role as a "think tank", and your ideas and suggestions on such things as talks and activities have been most welcome. Please keep them coming so that we can continue to improve our performance.**



The magnificent quilt you see here has been gifted to the Project by Liz Ferguson and will be on show at the Book of Deer Project AGM. Liz, now living in Falkirk, was inspired to craft it by the *Book of Deer* when she was staying in Cruden Bay.

*Warmest good wishes to you all; please keep in touch!*

Cecilia Penny  
 Membership Secretary of the Friends.

**ADEN CENTRE ROTA**

**I would be willing to help at the Centre in Aden Park.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to Mrs. Penny, Membership Secretary of the Friends. Area Office Nethermuir Road, Maud. AB\$24ND**