

Friends of the Book of Deer

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 and Andrew Kellock.

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Friends of the Book of Deer. Recent Activities.



The *Monks of Deer* was premiered on Friday, the 28th October in the Aden Park Theatre, and a second performance took place in Fetterangus Church in November. The fine performance was due reward for the combined efforts and teamwork of the children and staff of Fetterangus School, the Drama teacher, members of the book of Deer Project and the general public.

We would welcome suggestions on how to build on this success.

The *Calligraphy in the Book of Deer*, first in this season's programme of seminars, held in October, was the usual great success. In addition to the main subject, Donald touched on the history of Calligraphy, or handwriting, as he preferred to call it; and conducted a mini workshop for those that wanted to improve their handwriting skills.



Donald shows Claire how it is done.

That same afternoon, *the prize giving of the colouring competition*, so ably organised by Bunty took place. There were over 200 entries from all the local primary schools. Claire Kellock had the difficult task of Judging and Dr. Norman Allan, the pleasant one of presenting the prizes



Claire, Dr. Norman and Bunty pose with the prizewinners

Looking Ahead.

Bunty has done a wonderful job in organising excellent speakers for the next two seminars both of which will be held in the University Chaplaincy, 25 High Street, Kings College, Old Aberdeen. (next door to the Catholic chaplaincy). There is a car park at the rear and you should enter by the rear door. There will be someone there to welcome you.

Please contact Bunty, Elizabeth or Maureen at the Area Office –01771613666—for Seminar details.

Roy Pederson M.A., FRSA, MCILT, will give a talk "*Ancient Divisions of Scotland.*" on Thursday, the 23rd of February.

Roy was born in Ayrshire, but brought up and educated in Aberdeen, attending Aberdeen Grammar then on to University. He started his career with the Ministry of Technology in London and it was there he started to learn Gaelic and developed his interest in Scottish History.

His "real" career started on 1st November 1971 when he joined the Highlands and Islands Development Board and its successor the Highlands and Islands Enterprise with whom he served 30 years. Among his posts were Head of Transport and Head of Community and Culture. In the latter he was instrumental in founding a network of pioneering community enterprises and developing the Gaelic College at *Sabhal Mor Ostaig* in Skye and *Comunn na Gaidhlig, the Gaelic Development Agency*. His interest in Scotland's Ancient Provinces goes back to his days in London, but it is only recently he has brought all the data together in what, he hopes, is a coherent story. Come along and judge for yourself.

The Book of Deer Project.

The Way Ahead.

At the recent Directors Meeting and Management Meeting, it was decided that the 2005/2006 Agenda needs a fresh, carefully planned approach with consideration to all our options.

The Quilt.



This has been on loan to the Tarves Heritage Centre, where it is on display. A visit to the Centre is highly recommended.

The Pilgrimage.

In the steps of St. Murdebar from Tarves to Aden was a great success despite it being on the warmest day of the year.



Congratulations, we've done it!

George Smart, now thankfully recovering from a serious operation, will be planning a Pilgrimage for next year. As has now become tradi-

tional it will be held on the Saturday closest to Midsummer's day.

Membership.

The forty Friends from home and abroad who have renewed their subscription up to May 2006 will receive a receipt and thank you with this newsletter. We would dearly love to hear from the twenty or so "Friends" who have not rejoined, not just for the sake of the fiver, but also for their opinions and input to the cause—the promotion of awareness of the Book of Deer and its place in our heritage. A Subscription Form is enclosed either to use or to pass on to someone who may be interested. And, if this Newsletter happens to fall into the hands of anyone not already a Friend we would be pleased to hear from you too.



Pilgrims and helpers enjoy a refreshment at the end of the day.

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.

Dr. Norman's booklet (£5) and Mary Melville's "Deer Abbey" (£2) will be available to buy at all the "Friends" events.

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

Cecilia Penny.