

Friends of the Book of Deer

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The **Newsletter** to keep those who take an interest in "that splendid little book", the *Book of Deer*, up to date. Prepared by Cecilia Penny and Andrew Kellock.

We wish all our Friends and supporters a Happy and fulfilling 2008

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF DEER.

Katherine Forsyth has been in touch via email with the news that she has sent all the text of the papers from the Book of Deer Conference at Aberdeen University in 1997 to the publishers. We have supplied her with two images to be used as illustrations, one of which you see here.

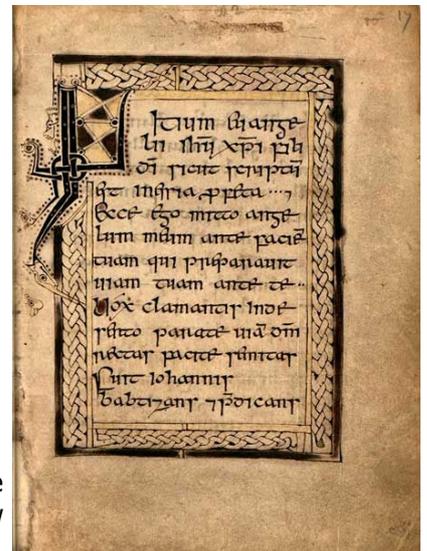
THE PROJECT ROOM.



We have been looking for larger premises for our presentations, but have had no success. We now have permanent neighbours in what used to be the Craft Shop.

A re-organization within the room is being discussed and hopefully will be implemented for the start of our new season which will be at an earlier date this year, the 23rd of March.

The Aden Park Management has erected new signs at the entrance, and the public can now see where our home is.



DIGITISING.

Our seasonal worker, Arleen, has made available on CD and hard copy additional material for the Project Room, including the work that was done for SCRAN (Scottish Cultural Resource Access Network) some time ago. It can be seen as Power Point Presentations.

WEBSITE EXPANSION.

The website was revamped in May and, on average, there have been more than 90 visits per day. Dr. Alistair Ross's work, explaining various issues contemporaneous with the Book of Deer has now been added to the website. Soon to be added are two essays by Arleen explaining what was happening in Britain and Europe over the period the Book was scribed and the Gaelic passages inserted; and how the people served by the Monks might have lived. If there is a strong interest in these, we will consider putting them into booklet form.



Arleen displays a folio from the Book of Deer.

FRIENDS OF THE BOOK OF DEER SMINARS.

Our annual Seminar Season will soon be upon us, and Bunty has arranged for two most interesting speakers. The Seminars will take place in the University Chaplaincy at 25 High Street, Old Aberdeen on Thursday, 14th February and Thursday, 6th March respectively. The doors will be open at 4 pm and light refreshments will be available during the registration/social time. The talks shall start at 4 30 and last for about an hour. There is car parking at the back of the chaplaincy and you can enter from there. There will be an entrance fee of £4, students free. We would be grateful if those wishing to attend got in touch with Bunty or Andrew.

The first seminar is *"Ratray and Strathbeg: a History"*, and will be given by Derek Jennings. Derek is Chairman of the Buchan Tourism Group, an enthusiastic local historian and has been involved in local archaeological digs. He organises his "Discover Buchan History Tours." He has published a book, "Notes on Historic Buchan" with another on the way. Presently he is making a movie for the R.S.P.B. about the radical changes they are making at the Loch of Strathbeg.

St. Mary's Chapel, Ratray.



St. Vigeans is just outside Arbroath and the church you see here can be seen from the window of the train compartment. Close by, there is a magnificent collection of Pictish Stones.



The second will be given by Dr. Jane Geddes, Senior Lecturer in History at Aberdeen University and is titled *"New Discoveries at St. Vigeans and the Pictish Stones Collection."* She will give a fresh interpretation on this site and its connection to the Coptic Church in Egypt. Dr. Jane has done research into Medieval Metalwork, Scottish Architecture and Insular Art (Hiberno-Saxon style of art produced in the post Roman period in the British Isles.)

PRIZE GIVING



We met in the Theatre at Aden Park in September to award the prizes for the "colouring in" competition and to hear Bill Johnson's excellent talk "Bird Feathers and Man." The entries were of the usual high standard and will be displayed in the Project Room when we open. Bill's wife, Sheila presented the awards.



A cheerful Betty Campbell serves up the goodies!

Denis saying thank you to Bill.



Book of Deer Project Management Structure
Patron Jack Webster **Hon President** George Smart
Directors: Sandy Ritchie, Bill Cruickshank, George Smart, Denis McHugh, Cecilia Penny, Alan Cameron, Andrew Kellock, Lynda McGuigan, Timothy Curtis.
Project: Alan Cameron (Chairman), Denis McHugh (Vice Chairman) Peter Elrick (Secretary), Maureen Stephen (Treasurer), Andrew Kellock (Project Manager): Cllr. Albert Howie, Betty Campbell, Sandy Ritchie, Sandy Cowie, Bill Johnston, Sheila Johnston and Cecilia Penny.
Friends: Andrew Kellock (Convener), Bill Johnston (Vice Convener), Maureen Stephen (Treasurer), Cecilia Penny (Membership Secretary), Peter Elrick (Minute Secretary), Betty Campbell (Social hostess): Elizabeth Pirie, Sandy Cowie, Sheila Johnston.

Friends.

We are now 74 in number; and again there has been a widespread interest shown in the Book of Deer. A few subscriptions are now due for the 2007–2008 season; and new members are always welcome. You can sign up using the enclosed slip. There are also questionnaires for new members so that we can get to know you better.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers for the centre at Aden Park. Duties are not at all onerous, in fact, good fun, and training will be given. Volunteers will have to apply for "Enhanced Disclosure." This is required by anyone operating on Aberdeenshire Council premises and who is likely to come into contact with children and vulnerable adults. The Project will facilitate any application.

Friends are also reminded that we are always willing to take suggestions, particularly on subjects for our Seminars. It would be appreciated that any or all of our readers could e-mail us at

bookofdeer@yahoo.co.uk