

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Book of Deer

Www.bookofdeer.co.uk

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STUDIES ON THE BOOK OF DEER—Edited by Katherine Forsyth Publisher—
Four Courts Press, Dublin.

This high quality volume is available from Four Courts Press Dublin, list price 85 euros (£72.62); web price 76.50 euros (£65.30). This at current exchange rates, post and packaging included. Online at Amazon it is £84.24 + £2.75p & p. The better news is that the Project now has two copies it can lend out (one courtesy of Kate Forsyth); also available are copies of David Dumville's paper "

The Palaeography of the Book of Deer and Dominic Marnier's "The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God and the Book of Deer". If you want a read get in touch with Andrew.

ARCHAEOLOGY

The trial trenching has been completed with rather disappointing results. However an ash pit and a post hole were unearthed and a quantity of carbon in two of the trenches. The carbon has been sent for dating and it is hoped that we will have the results during July. The work created a great deal of local interest and information has emerged that is worthy of following up in the near future.



The Friends Seminar PITFOUR: "THE BLENHEIM OF THE NORTH." given by Alex R Buchan was held in the Kemp hall in Old Deer Village and was very well attended. There was a keen and perceptive question and answer session and our thanks go to Alex, seen here with one of his excellent slides, for his presentation

The Joint AGMs

Held this year in the Kemp Hall, Old Deer, on the 6th June it proved to be an interesting afternoon during which several suggestions were put forward by members of the public, and which the new committees will certainly follow up. Folks will hear of the progress in future Newsletters.

The new management structure which emerged is

Patron Jack Webster **Hon President** George Smart

Directors: Sandy Ritchie, George Smart, Denis McHugh, Cecilia Penny, Alan Cameron, Andrew Kellock.

Project Committee: Alan Cameron (Chairman), Denis McHugh (Vice Chairman) Peter Elrick (Secretary), Maureen Stephen (Treasurer), Andrew Kellock (Project Manager): Joyce Brown, Derek Jennings, 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, Bill Johnston, Sheila Johnston and Joyce Brown.

After the business was done and dusted, Bill Johnston gave a talk "Bygone days and bygone ways" which was done in a proactive way as most attending could remember the days when the horse reigned on the farm. Well done and thanks, Bill.



Our annual **Pilgrimage** took place on the 20th of June, 2009. The Pilgrims were met by the Revd. Carol Ann Parker who gave the blessing and sent the Pilgrims on their way "In the Footsteps of St. Ethernan." They walked on through Cortes, Fetterangus and the beautiful Pitfour Estate arriving at the Project Room in Aden Park for hospitality provided by Betty and Bunty. George is now planning the 2010 Pilgrimage and we look forward to another super day.

George and the Revd. Carol in the beautiful setting of St. Ethernan's church.

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The viewing figures are now back to the levels of 2002-03 which was 40,000 sessions per year. The viewing had dipped to 24,000. Acting on a suggestion made at the A.G.M. we will research the introduction of a children or youth section and thankfully we have been offered some help to do so. Through the "Visitor's Book" we have been able to reconnect some exiles with their roots in the North East.

CULTURAL ICONS OF MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND

The events listed here will highlight the cultural achievements of the Medieval North and those objects which help us define the early history of Scotland.

The first will be a public lecture at 6pm on Wednesday the 22nd July, 2009, and is given by Professor David Dumville of Aberdeen in King's College (KCG8)



"The Book of Deer" '... A Monument of North- Eastern book production.'

This will be followed by ten talks each lasting about 30 minutes in four sessions on Thursday the 23rd by distinguished speakers in the James McKay Hall. Registration at 8 45 am and talks start at 9 15. There will be breaks for tea and coffee and a lunch break from one o' clock until two fifteen.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening and Thursday

The sessions throughout the day will be chaired by Alan Cameron (Chairman of the Book of Deer Project), Colm O'Boyle (Aberdeen), Sally Foster (Historic Scotland) and Alastair McDonald (Aberdeen).

Speakers and subjects include:

Heather Pulliam (Edinburgh) The Book of Deer and Pictish Art

Ewan Campbell (Glasgow) The Stone of Destiny

Jane Geddes (Aberdeen) The Pictish Stones of St Vigean

Ragnall Ó Floinn (National Museum of Ireland) The Monymusk Reliquary

Ted Cowan (Glasgow)
The Declaration of Arbroath

Susan Youngs (Oxford)
St Ninian's Isle Hoard

Gareth Williams
(British Museum)
Skail silver hoard, Orkney

Ted Cowan (Glasgow)
The Declaration of Arbroath

Peter Davidson (Aberdeen)
The Aberdeen Breviary

Louise Yeoman (BBC) Closing remarks

17.30 End of Conference

More information by contacting Andrew on 01346532309 or bookofdeer@yahoo.co.uk or

www.abdn.ac.uk/celtic/celticmlitt.hti