

Friends of the Book of Deer

www.bookofdeer.co.uk

Contacts:

Area Office, Nethermuir Road, Maud, AB424ND.

E-mail : bookofdeer@yahoo.co.uk

Cecilia Penny : 01771624459.

Andrew Kellock: 01346532309.

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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Joint AGMs

After last year's successful meeting, the Project and the Friends will have their meetings at the same time in the theatre in Aden Park on Saturday, 9th of June. The proceedings will start at 1 30pm for registration and socialising before the business of the day begins at 2 00 and should be finished by 2 30 in time for you to enjoy our guest speaker.

This year's guest speaker is the Very Revd. Gerald Stranraer-Mull, Rector of St. Mary- on- the Rock, Ellon and St. James, Cruden Bay. For the past 20 years he has been Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney. It is apt that Gerald's talk will be entitled "Dr. Pratt of Buchan," the very man who built St. James Church.

Gerald hails from Blairgowrie and studied Theology and Church History at King's College, London. Before Ordination he was a journalist in Yorkshire and Devon. His latest book is entitled "A Church for Scotland-the Story of the Scottish Episcopal Church," which was written in 2000 and has been reprinted in an updated edition in 2006.

Book of Deer Project

We have started spending the funds awarded to us by purchasing computer equipment, including a laser printer, for the Project Room in Aden Park. This makes the presentation more versatile by allowing the pages from the Book of Deer to be viewed and magnified for closer examination. Illustrations from some of the Friend's Seminars can also be viewed.

It is now easier for us to print publicity material using the new printer, and there will be various postcards with themes from the "Book of Deer" for sale. Feedback on their suitability and quality would be much appreciated , as would ideas on different themes.

The Project has been given Dr. Stuart's book, also entitled the "Book of Deer" on extended loan. It is now on display in the Project Room. Dr. Stuart went to Cambridge on behalf of the Spalding Club and the results of his researches

were published in 1869. This is a rare, erudite and valuable book, beautifully illustrated, as you will have seen from a previous edition of the Newsletter. In the meantime it is being kept in a secure cabinet and the pages on display will be changed frequently. The Centre opened on Easter Sunday and will open as follows until mid October.

April	Sunday
May	Saturday and Sunday
June, July ,	
August	Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday
September	Saturday and Sunday
October	Sunday
Times 1 30 to 4 00pm	
Special parties can be catered for by contacting Cecilia on 01771624459	

The centre attracted 800 visitors last year, so it is many thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers, and here's looking forward to continued success in 2007.

Our 7th Pilgrimage will start out from the Royal British Legion Hall in Church Street, New Pit-sligo early on the morning of Saturday the 16th of June. Details are on the flier, available at the AGM registration desk. It is still possible to sign up, and there is no need to walk the entire distance as you can join in or leave where ever you wish.

Friends of the Book of Deer

To mark the end of another successful season of the project, Donald Murray , artist, calligrapher and Gaelic scholar returned and conducted a "Practical Calligraphy Workshop", which was immensely popular. Before the workshop, Donald judged the entries to the Book of Deer "colouring in" contest for the local primary schools and other children who had visited the Project Room.

Contestants proudly show their entries against



the backdrop of our tapestry, and below Donald shows his skills to an appreciative audience.

The seminars this year were held in the University



Chaplaincy near Kings College Chapel. The first, given by Dr. Alistair Mason was on the great religious order the Cistercians—The White Monks—who founded the Abbey of Deer and had a great impact on the European economy—particularly in agriculture.



Our picture shows clearly the warmth and companionship generated at our Seminars as Alistair accepts his gift.

The second Seminar, entirely different, was on Gaelic in Banffshire in the 18th Century. The audience heard the sounds of that language demonstrated by Dr. Seumas Grant and he gave us a musical treat of Gaelic music and singing, which, unfortunately we cannot reproduce here.

There have now been 16 seminars, spread over 5 years and we now look forward to 2008.

Friends.

We are now 74 in number; and again there has been a widespread interest shown in the Book of Deer. Subscriptions are now due for the 2007—2008 season. 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 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 and open up another channel of communication.

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.

*Warmest good wishes from us to you all ; please keep in touch with Cecilia and Andrew
Contact details on Newsletter heading.*

