

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. A.G.M. May 2005.

The Meeting was well attended, the Friends of the Book of Deer being supplemented by the Revd. David Ogston's friends from a' the airts. The talk on Celtic Christianity was informative and heart warming.



Bunty Penny, Revd. David Ogston and Alan Cameron who gave the vote of thanks

On the business side, the new Friends Committee is, Convener, Tim Curtis; Secretary, Andrew Kellock; Membership Secretary, Cecilia Penny; Hostess, Betty Campbell; Members, Linda McGuigan, Dr. Colin Milton, Elizabeth Pirie, Sandy Cowie and Peter Elrick.

Folks Notes.

Congratulations to Linda who has taken up the post of manager at Brodie Castle. Dr. Colin Milton is now at Edinburgh, but retains his links with us and Aberdeen University. Alan White now spends most of his time in the South of France, acting as our Missionary. Dr. Norman Allan has recently published "The Celtic Heritage of Banffshire", priced at £5.

Events and activities Autumn 2005.

Colouring Contest. There is a large entry this year with pupils from all the local primary schools taking part. The Prize Giving will be

on Saturday the 29th October at 1:30pm in the Aden Park Theatre.

The Monks of Deer.

This is a new play written by Wendy DeRusset, a drama specialist for Aberdeenshire Council. The play will be premiered by the children of Fetterangus Primary School in the Aden Park Theatre on Friday the 28th October at 2pm. This has been a joint effort between the School, Community Education and individuals in the Deer Project.

Friends wishing to attend should get in touch with Cecilia Penny or the Head Teacher, John Black on 01771623568.

There will be tea and coffee served and a Souvenir Programme will be made available. To defray costs, a collection will be taken up and shared between the School and the book of Deer Project.



The Monks pray for Bede's son

The Friends Seminars.

We make a good start to the season when Donald Murray BA, DA, calligrapher and watercolourist will give a talk on "Calligraphy in the Book of Deer" in the Aden Park Theatre.

Donald studied at Edinburgh College of Art and graduated in 1962. He specialised in Calligraphy (1962-63), researching into Anglo-Irish bookhands with the purpose of designing a letter form for modern Gaelic. He taught in schools in

East Lothian, Edinburgh , Aberdeenshire and retired as Head of Art and Design at Robert Gordon's College in 2000.

Donald's family is from Skye and he is a native Gaelic Speaker. He is one of 10 calligraphers working on the Leabhar mor na Gaidhlig—the Great Book of Gaelic— which has been described as the 21st Century Book of Kells , and has attracted great acclaim.

He is an accomplished watercolourist with many of his paintings North East Landscapes , coasts , and coastal villages. He has works in many permanent collections , including that of HRH, the Princess Royal. His next one man show will be in September 2006 at Tolquhon. Donald's talk will be at 1:45 pm on Saturday 29th of October. Light refreshments will be available. If you wish to attend get in touch with Cecilia , Andrew; or contact Maureen or Elizabeth on 01771613666.

For this Seminar, donations will be accepted at the door.

We will have the details of the season of Seminars , subject matter and venues, ready for you in December.

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.

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 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.



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

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.