

The Friends of the Book of Deer arranged their 32nd Seminar for the afternoon of Saturday the 24th September at 2 30pm in the Kemp Hall, Old Deer. Laura Dorantt ,a researcher currently working in Mintlaw library delivered her paper - **Stuartfield and Crichtie: an Historical Relationship** - which she originally presented during a Conference in the U.S.A. The Conference was “ **Dimensions of Political Ecology** “ and the talk featured in the Rural –Urban Interfaces Session and was well received.



What did she say? Denis is caught by surprise as he thanks Laura for her excellent talk and presentation

“Between 1725 and 1850, some 450 planned villages were founded throughout Scotland of which 100 or so were built in the northeast. . The planned village of Stuartfield is in the Buchan district of Aberdeenshire and is surrounded by the Crichtie estate, which in the 21st century continues as a working farm estate. The lands of Crichtie and Dens have been owned and managed by the Burnett Stuart family since around 1700. Mr John Burnett Stuart, a linen merchant and the then laird of the Crichtie estate, built Stuartfield for his bleaching fields. The paper introduced the village of Stuartfield and the Burnett Stuart family; discussed the political, social, and economic factors surrounding the founding of planned villages in Scotland; placed Stuartfield as an example of a planned village in the northeast of Scotland during the 1700s and 1800s; and illustrated the changing relationship between society and the natural environment; the village of Stuartfield and its residents; and the Crichtie estate and the landowning family.”