

FRIENDS OF THE BOOK OF DEER

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS



After the business had been completed in the usual efficient fashion, the Revd. Sheila Kirk gave a splendid talk - "How a Lawyer looks at the Book of Deer ." She went to the very heart of why the Gaelic Notes in the manuscript had been put there as a record of the lands, dues and privileges afforded to the monks over the centuries, and why it was important that it should have been done.

Even the experienced and conscientious attendees at previous talks, seminars and conferences were surprised and thrilled by the insights she provided. We are grateful for this important addition to our knowledge of the manuscript.

A summary will be prepared for inclusion in the website in due course.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND OUTREACH

Murray Archaeological Services will be supervising digs in Old Deer on the 11th, 12th and 13th of September. Then on the Friday children from local schools will be "field walking" just outside the village. As last year, Derek Jennings has worked hard to ensure that things will go smoothly, and in particular, the children will enjoy the experience .

The Project was proud to have been featured in the excellent series on BBC 2, the "Great British Story" and do thank the production team for the exposure it has given to our efforts.



PROJECT ROOM

Despite the bad weather and the reduced opening hours of the Heritage Museum, we are heading for a successful season. In addition to our advertised opening times, we have managed to have it open during events in Aden Park and also on request.

It is inevitable that numbers will be down because of the weather and shorter season, but volunteers have reported favourably on the interest shown by those who visit.

The new interpretation board has been on display and has attracted interest as has our resident brother who keeps as company when things are not so busy.



WEBSITE AND RELATED MATTERS

There have been 4924 visits to the website in the past year. We have a new system for analysing the figures and it shows that most of our visitors are based in the U.S.A. Overall 985 of all visitors paid us multiple visits. The Timeline has been added to the homepage. It can be enlarged, and the visitor can scroll through two millennia of history.

Although we are aware the Facebook is not everyone's cuppa tea we now have a page, and hopefully we can attract interest from a wider audience. We can only wait and see. You can visit at <http://www.facebook.com/TheBookOfDeerProject> and have a look at the set up.

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