

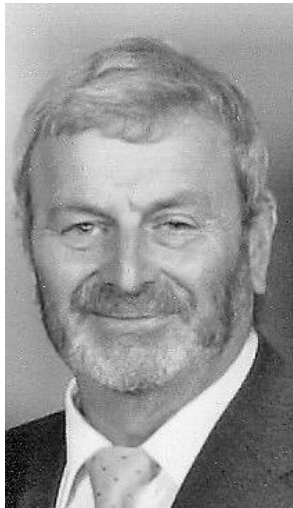
NEWSLETTER No 19 – JUNE 2015

Friends of the Book of Deer

www.bookofdeer.co.uk

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The 2015 AGM will be held in the Kemp Hall, Old Deer on Saturday 27th June at 2.00. The Hall will be open from 1.30 for coffee and fellowship. As in previous years, we are always looking for those who might wish to help in the various tasks associated with the project. As far as the committee is concerned we had a welcome injection of new committee members last year but would welcome anyone who would like to help in carrying forward this very important historical project.

The speaker at the AGM will be Alan Cameron, Chairman of the Book of Deer Project. Alan's talk is entitled "Further thoughts about Deer". After more than 30 years in education, Alan retired in 1996 as Rector at Ellon Academy. Having studied chemistry and physics at Glasgow University, Alan enrolled in Aberdeen University after he retired and did a degree in Gaelic and Celtic Civilisation. He has always been fascinated with Scottish history and culture

and his talk will be related to the monastery and the book.

ARCHAEOLOGY

It is hoped that during this year, we will further explore the possibility that the Monastery of Deer was sited in the Churchyard of the Parish Church, Old Deer. It was the custom in past times to build new churches on the sites of previous churches. As there is a modern church, and a pre-Reformation church already on that site there is a strong possibility that these were built on the site of the monastery. The Book of Deer refers to the monastery as being in a bend on the River Ugie. In many ways, the site of the Parish Church is a typical site since by building within a natural bend on the river, they could enclose the monastery by forming a ditch or vallum across the mouth of the loop. In this way wild animals could be kept away from the settlement. It is intended to seek permission from Historic Scotland to pursue this further quest to find the monastery.

As usual, Derek Jennings along with Archaeologist, Alison Cameron, will lead an archaeological dig in Aden Park from Wednesday, September 2nd – Wednesday, September 9th. This will involve the young people in the local primary schools. Digs such as this, have been a very successful feature of the project for the past few years.



THE BOOK OF DEER IN CONTEXT



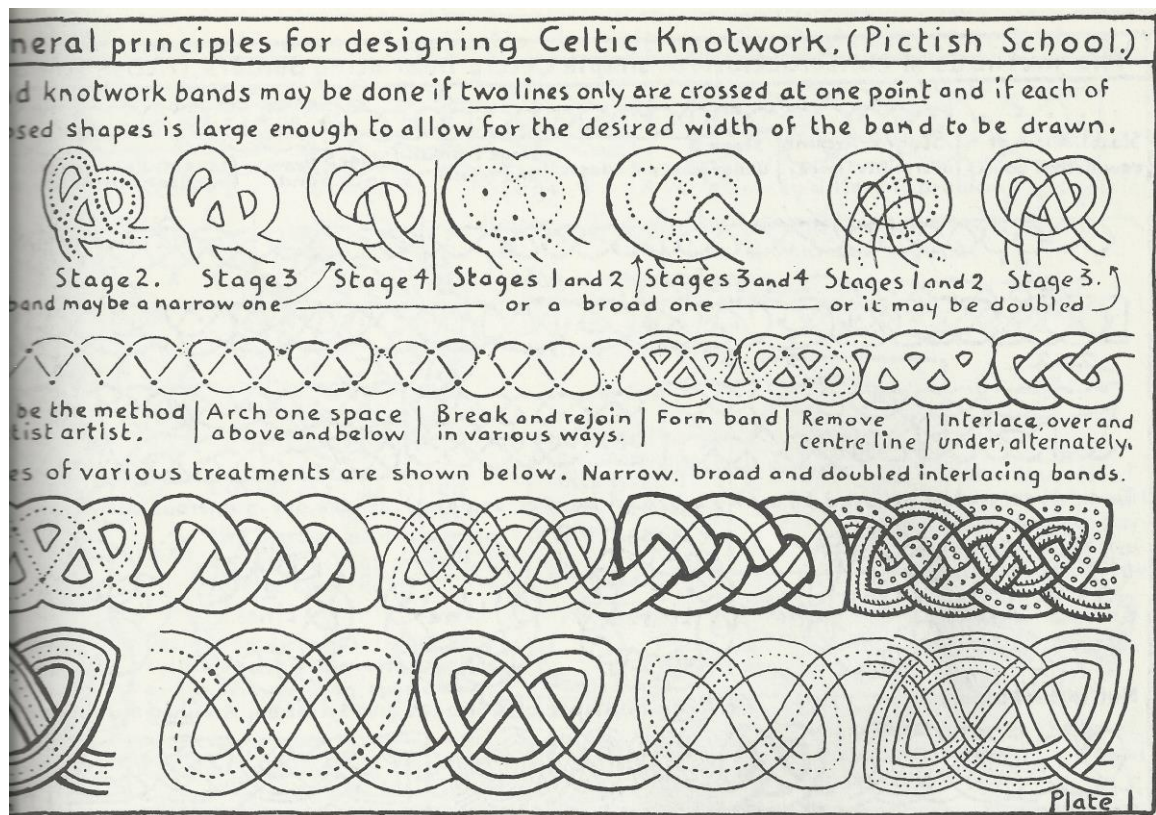
We are currently working with the University of Aberdeen Library to explore the possibility of having the book on exhibition at the Library for a period of time in 2017. This is extremely exciting and it will give everybody in the north of Scotland and perhaps further afield the opportunity to have a look at the actual book – albeit in an enclosed glass case.

At the same time, we would hope to have a conference focussing on the latest research on the Book of Deer and all of the aspects of its history, its art work and so on. You may remember that in the last newsletter, I talked about a suite of music which was especially written for the Book of Deer. We would hope to have that performed at the same time and would like to tie in local events in the area and involve all of the schools in raising the profile of this most important part of our history. We would welcome any input from yourselves as to how we could celebrate the book and the monastery in our own communities.

CELTIC KNOTS

Did you notice the Celtic knot patterns around the page in the previous article. They are wonderful and look simple but have you ever tried to create one?

Here is a possible approach.



Why not have a try yourself? We can offer a small prize for the best Celtic knot entry. Closing date is 31st July, 2015. Please send completed entries to: **Alan Cameron, 5 Fechil Brae, Ellon. AB41 8NS**
 Why not get the young people to try their hand. A prize will also be awarded for the best entry for a youngster who is 12 or under during 2015.