

book of deer project newsletter

april 2017 no21

Cecilia Penny 1934- 2017



A TRIBUTE

"Thriving, successful local communities depend heavily on active, energetic, unselfish and inspired individuals, who appreciate the importance of positive promotion of local culture and development." On January 20th this year, we lost a prime example of one those inspired individuals, our sadly missed Cecilia "Bunty" Penny. She worked tirelessly with many groups and clubs which research and promote the unique culture of Buchan, for example: Buchan Heritage, Buchan Field Club, Buchan Countryside Group, but especially the "Book of Deer Project". Amongst many contributions over a period of more than twenty years, Bunty inspired and organised the Friends of The Book of Deer, a crucial fund raising and promotional offshoot of the Project. Bunty will be very sadly missed.

Contributed by Denis McHugh.

POPULAR LONG SERVING CHAIRMAN RETIRES

Alan Cameron's term, 2005 to 2016, as Chair of the Book of Deer Project was a period of energetic development from a cultural and an archaeological angle. Alan developed connections with local authority and academic institutions which increased the credibility and visibility of the Project. Within the project, his warm, considered, encouraging approach made a testing project much more achievable! We owe Alan many thanks for a unique, invaluable contribution to the Book of Deer Project.

We will continue to benefit from Alan's expertise as he will remain on the Project Committee.

Contributed by Denis McHugh



RESIGNATION

Sadly, Derek Jennings has decided to resign from the Project Committee. He has been responsible for driving the Project's archaeology efforts for the past five years and his talents will be greatly missed.

Derek is seen here introducing Professor Richard Fawcett whom he had organised to give a talk on the Pre Reformation Church located behind the present Deer Parish Church.

Derek remains as a Project Member.



CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE

As intimated in the October newsletter, the Project, as from the 9th March, 2017, has become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), a legal form which is unique to Scottish Charities. As such the Project can operate in a much simpler more efficient way.

PROJECT'S ARCHAEOLOGY PLANNED FOR 2017

The geo phys has already been carried out and the digs will take place within the walls of Deer Abbey between Saturday 24th June and Sunday 2nd July.

SPRING SEMINAR

The Seminar will take place in the Aberdeen University Chaplaincy, 25 High Street, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3EE on Thursday, 27th April 2017. The talk, given by Mary Melville, will be **"ABBEY of DEER, a HIDDEN GEM."**

This meeting is free and open to the public. Doors will be open at 1 30 pm for refreshments and the talk will start at 2 30pm. For further information contact Joyce Brown on 01779821411.

ANNUAL COACH TRIP

This year the trip is to Burghead, Elgin and Forres and will be on Saturday 29th April. In the morning it will visit Burghead Pictish Fort and Well and Sueno's stone in Forres.

Please bring a packed lunch.

After lunch there is a choice of visits in Elgin: Biblical Gardens, Cathedral, Museum or Johnstons of Elgin. On the way home there will be high tea at Strathlene Golf Club, Buckie.

The coach departs Mintlaw Academy 9 am and the approximate return time is 7 30 pm. Cost £ 20.

For more information and to book a seat, contact Sandy Ritchie 01779841844 or Joyce Brown 01779821411.

Closing time for bookings 22nd April 2017.

ADEN COUNTRY PARK

DIG IN THE PARK

There will be several digs in the park exploring the archaeological sites, the dates of two of them given here.

1-13 May 2017 Excavation of WW1 practice trenches. Open day Sunday 7th May.

5-11 June 2017 Investigation of possible stone circle sites. Open day Saturday 10th June.

These projects are open to people of all ages and abilities to take part.

For more information contact Ali Cameron, cameronarch@btinternet.com
or phone 07581181057 or Derek Jennings 01779821343

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