

# NEWSLETTER

*Friends of the Book of Deer*

*Www.bookofdeer.co.uk*

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## NEXT SEMINAR.

After a short break last Autumn, the next Seminar has been organised for Friday the 5th February 2010 in the University Chaplaincy in Old Aberdeen. The talk will be given by Dr. Clare Downham who organised the successful " Cultural Icons of Medieval Scotland" and is entitled " 18th Century Perceptions of Vikings in the North East of Scotland." The doors will be open at 3pm and the talk will start at 3.30. There will be the usual light refreshments available and we will ask for a donation to offset the costs. More information from Andrew or Bunty—contact details above.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

The charcoal from the little fire-pit in trench 3 has been dated as 4930-4710 BC -- which dates to the Mesolithic period, before the introduction of farming in Scotland! The fire-pit looked as if it had been used just a few times, so it may have related to the campsite of people who were fishing in the river or hunting beside its banks

Charcoal from the matrix of the disturbed wall in trench 7, outside the churchyard wall, has been dated as 50 BC - 140 AD, during the later Iron Age; and the date from this trench shows that there was some kind of structure or enclosure, perhaps related to settlement, several hundred years before the monastery was founded. It might have enclosed or demarcated a settlement on the hill occupied by the churchyard.

While neither result is what we hoped for, both are interesting in their own right.



TRENCH 3



TRENCH 7

## CULTURAL ICONS OF MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND



The conference held in July was a great success, with 160 people attending and we owe a debt of gratitude to the University and Dr. Clare Downham, in particular, for giving such an interesting, instructive and thought provoking series of talks. Unfortunately it has not been possible to get the substance of these talks from the speakers, but some have responded to our request by providing us with their Power Points Presentations or a summary. Louise Yeoman who summed up the proceedings has provided us with her notes. We will have to think carefully on how we can make this available to a wider public.

Above—Professor David Dumville during his talk - "The Book of Deer—A monument to North eastern book production . . ."

Right—Project Chairman, Alan Cameron with Dr. Jane Geddes (The Pictish Stones of St. Vigean), Dr. Heather Pulliam (The Book of Deer and Pictish Art) and Dr. Alex Woolf who introduced the Thursday session.



### SANDY'S CONCERT.

The Concert took place in the Mintlaw Public Hall on Friday, 30th October 2009 and featured an array of fine talent from the North East.. Those taking part were Bill Gray, Barbara Ann Burnett, Kevin Cheyne, Peter Hawkey, Liz Slaven, Shona Jamieson and Billy Bruce.

There was a good attendance despite counter attractions in the area. The evening realised a profit of £355 which Sandy has handed over to the Project. Our grateful thanks.

All being well there will be another Concert around September/October 2010.

### WEBSITE.

The viewing figures continue to rise—50,879 sessions for the 12 months ending mid January 2010. Last year at this time it was 40,000.

### CHRISTIAN HERITAGE OF NORTH EAST SCOTLAND.

The YMCA based at the Gilcomston Church in Aberdeen mounted a display on the 150th anniversary of 1858—1862 Revival in the Central Library. The main display had a piece on St. Columba, St. Drostan and the founding of the Monastery. Parallel to this, there was a running exposition of the Book of Deer folios and publicity material made available to those attending. There was an excellent uptake. The exhibition was seen by the P6 and P7 classes of all the Aberdeen Primary schools with only one exception.

There are plans to circulate the display in all the the City libraries and those throughout Aberdeenshire.

We wish all our Friends and supporters a Happy New Year !