

Friends of the Book of Deer

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A **Shortened Newsletter** to inform those who take an interest in "that splendid little book", the *Book of Deer*. Prepared by Cecilia Penny and Andrew Kellock.



The Pilgrims on their journey from New Pitsligo to Aden Park "In the footsteps of St. Mary."

An enjoyable day got off to a good start with an inspiring talk from the Revd. Andrew Jolly, Chaplain to offshore workers. George had done his usual excellent job in compiling a booklet detailing the places of interest along the way. Just to mention two— Gavin Greig's schoolhouse, who after his day in the classroom cycled all over Buchan collecting the songs of Buchan which are contained in 40 volumes; and the vale of St. Mary on the Ugie where we can see the ruins of the Cistercian abbey.

The two **AGMs** took place as advertised and the Committees and Office Bearers remain the same as last year. Those attending enjoyed the talk given by the Very Revd. Gerald Stranraer Mull—"Dr. Pratt of Buchan."

"Awards for All" has approved the work we have done with the funds they awarded us. . We will see the benefits in a tangible form when we open the Project Room next year.

Part of the funds have been used to update the technology within the website which has been made easier to edit and update by Project workers. On the days 4th, 5th and 6th July there were 1018 "hits", more than four times our average. Perhaps someone can give us an insight regarding what might have caused this.

The **Friends** continue to increase in numbers, with 12 new members signing up recently. There are still a few subs to come in, so please take this as a reminder!

SPECIAL EVENT.

The "Friends" invite pupils, parents and teachers to join them in the Theatre in Aden Park on Saturday the 22nd September at the prize giving for the annual colouring in competition. The fun starts at 1pm when there will be refreshments available. After the prize giving, Bill Johnston from Udney will give a talk on "Bird Feathers and Man." Bill is well known for his knowledge of birds and his skill in communicating it, especially to young people. Do come along and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere generated by the young enthusiasts. Event finishes at 3.30pm. A small donation from grown ups will be welcome.



A.G.M's



We have started spending the funds awarded to us by purchasing computer equipment, including a laser printer, for the Project Room in Aden



Park. This makes the presentation more versatile by allowing the pages from the Book of Deer to be viewed and magnified for closer examination. Illustrations from some of the Friend's Seminars can also be viewed. It is now easier for us to print publicity material using the new printer, and there will be various

The second Seminar, entirely different, was on Gaelic in Banffshire in the 18th Century. The audience heard the sounds of that language demonstrated by Dr. Seumas Grant and he gave us a musical treat of Gaelic music and singing, which, unfortunately we cannot reproduce here.

There have now been 16 seminars, spread over 5 years and we now look forward to 2008.

Friends.

We are now 74 in number; and again there has been a widespread interest shown in the Book of Deer. Subscriptions are now due for the 2007–2008 season. You can sign up using the enclosed slip. There are also questionnaires for new members so that we can get to know you better.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers for the centre at Aden Park. Duties are not at all onerous, in fact, good fun, and training will be given. Volunteers will have to apply for "Enhanced Disclosure." This is required by anyone operating on Aberdeenshire Council premises and who is likely to come into contact with children and vulnerable adults. The Project will facilitate any application.

Friends are also reminded that we are always willing to take suggestions, particularly on subjects for our Seminars. It would be appreciated that any or all of our readers could e-mail us at bookofdeer@yahoo.co.uk and open up another channel of communication.

Book of Deer Project Management Structure

Patron Jack Webster **Hon President** George Smart

Directors: Sandy Ritchie, Bill Cruickshank, George Smart, Denis McHugh, Cecilia Penny, Alan Cameron, Andrew Kellock, Lynda McGuigan, Timothy Curtis.

Project: Alan Cameron (Chairman), Denis McHugh (Vice Chairman) Peter Elrick (Secretary), Maureen Stephen (Treasurer), Andrew Kellock (Project Manager): Cllr. Albert Howie, Betty Campbell, Sandy Ritchie, Sandy Cowie, Bill Johnston, Sheila Johnston and Cecilia Penny.

Friends: Andrew Kellock (Convener), Bill Johnston (Vice Convener), Maureen Stephen (Treasurer), Cecilia Penny (Membership Secretary), Peter Elrick (Minute Secretary), Betty Campbell (Social hostess): Elizabeth Pirie, Sandy Cowie, Sheila Johnston.

*Warmest good wishes from us to you all ; please keep in touch with Cecilia and Andrew
Contact details on Newsletter heading.*

