



April - October 2022

What's On

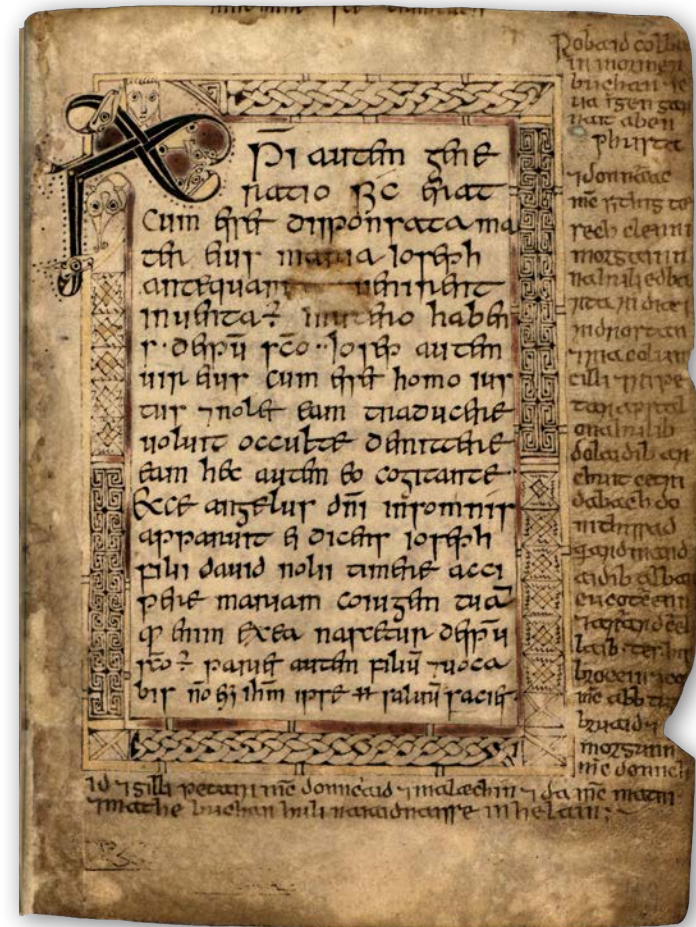
The
**BOOK OF
DEER**
Project

Presented by
The Book of Deer Project
in partnership with

Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council,
Cameron Archaeology, Cambridge University Library,
Live Life Aberdeenshire, University of Aberdeen

Supported by





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The BOOK OF DEER Project



A splendid little book

During Scotland's Year of Stories the remarkable 10th-century Book of Deer illuminated manuscript is returning to the North-East of Scotland for the first time in more than 1,000 years. With support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Book of Deer Project community heritage group has secured the loan of this exquisite little book, thought to be Scotland's oldest surviving manuscript, from Cambridge University Library. Join us as we celebrate its return, and discover its fascinating story through a rich programme of events and activities for all ages in Aberdeenshire and the City of Aberdeen, including an archaeological dig, expert talks, original music, storytelling, creative workshops and an unmissable exhibition.

www.bookofdeer.co.uk



Image © Cameron Archaeology/Book of Deer



The Book of Deer Project Archaeological Dig 2022

Monday 18 – Friday 29 April
 Monday 16 – Friday 27 May
 Monday 20 June – Friday 1 July
 Monday 1 August – Friday 9 September

Deer Abbey, AB42 4LP (2 miles west of Mintlaw on the A950)
 What three words: divorcing.diverts.untrained

Pick up a trowel with us! During this very special excavation we hope to find the site of the Monastery of Deer, believed to be where the Book of Deer was annotated with the first example of written Gaelic. Archaeological excavations in 2017-18 revealed an early medieval hearth, path and the foundations of several buildings. In 2022 we are opening our largest trench yet, in the hope of proving that this is indeed the site of the early medieval monastery where the Book of Deer is thought

to have originated - at the very least we will be uncovering an exciting Pictish site!

We welcome everyone on our digs. Please wear site-appropriate clothing. Please note that there is no parking at the site – contact us for a walking or cycling map or park at Aden Country Park and walk along the former railway line. Please DO NOT walk along the A950. To find our more contact Ali Cameron at cameronarch@btinternet.com

We welcome school groups every weekday – to find out more and to book please email cameronarch@btinternet.com

Open Days:
Saturday 23 April
Saturday 20, Sunday 21 August
10am-4pm
Free

Join our re-enactors as they re-create an early medieval village, enjoy demonstrations of metalworking, book binding and calligraphy, storytelling, medieval games, charcoal making and stonemasonry.

Book of Deer Project Exhibition

Continues until 30 September
 Thursday – Sunday 11am-4pm
 (last entry 3.15pm)
 Free

Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

Find out about the Book of Deer and the project's activities, our wonderful quilt, memorabilia, Pictish stones, children's activity area. All welcome.



Doodle Dig!

Continues until Sunday 30 October
 Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Road Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

Drop-in activity during museum opening hours: Thu-Sun 11am-4pm (last entry 3.15pm)

£2 per child – pay cash at the door
 Suitable for young families

Digby the mole has been dig, dig, digging up doodles from the Book of Deer! Bring your family for this fun trail around Aberdeenshire Farming Museum and pick up a small prize at the end.





Community Textile Project: From Book to Banner

1 May – 3 September

Aberdeenshire Libraries in Mintlaw, Peterhead, Banff, Banchory, Inverurie and at home

Free – for details of how to take part email libraryevents@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Suitable for adults

Calling all fans of fabric and stitch! Live Life Aberdeenshire seeks volunteers to help create fabric banners inspired by the Book of Deer, designed by textile artist Rachael Forbes. Stitchers and crafters of all kinds and abilities welcome. Be part of this ambitious community project! Final sign ups mid-June.



Silversmithing Workshop:

Wax Carving a Piece of History

Saturday 11 June
11am-4pm

The Smiddy, Old Market Place, Banff,
AB45 1GE

Free – 5 places available – [booking essential](#)
Suitable for adults

Live Life Aberdeenshire has invited The Smiddy to host a creative wax carving and jewellery making workshop for beginners. In this workshop you will learn about the Book of Deer and be taught how to wax carve a small charm inspired by this ancient manuscript. Charms will be sent away to be cast in silver using a lost wax casting process. When cast, charms can be added to participants' silver bangles which they will also get the opportunity to make at the workshop.



Talk:

Marvellous Manuscripts

Friday 17 June
2pm-3pm (1hr)

Aden Theatre, Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

Free – [booking advisable](#)
Suitable for adults

Join Live Life Aberdeenshire Curator Amy Miller for a captivating insight into the history, style and context of illustrated manuscripts.

Creative Writing Workshop:

Words of the Past

Saturday 25 June
10.30am-12.30pm

Mintlaw Library, MACBI Community Hub, Newlands Road, Mintlaw, Peterhead AB42 5GP
and virtually on Microsoft Teams

Free – [book now](#)
Suitable for adults

Intrigued by the culture and society that created the Book of Deer? Then join us for a creative writing workshop for adults of all writing abilities, inspired by the past.

Music:

Book of Deer Suite

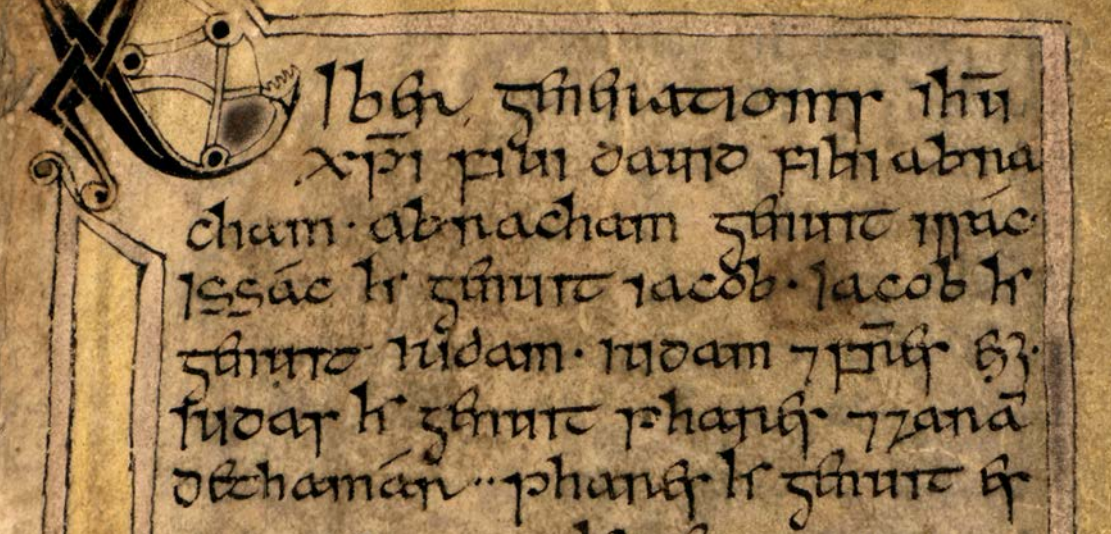
Saturday 30 April
3pm (1hr)
Pluscarden Abbey, Pluscarden,
Elgin IV30 8UA
£10 – [book here](#)
Suitable for all ages

Sunday 1 May
2pm (1hr)
Deer Abbey AB42 4LP (2 miles West of
Mintlaw on the A950)
What three words: divorcing,diverts,
untrained
£15 including refreshments – [book here](#)

Saturday 1 October
2.30pm (1hr)
Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen Art Gallery,
Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FQ
£13 / £11 concession – [book here](#)

Inspired by the extraordinary 10th-century gospel book, Richard Ingham leads Strangeness & Charm in a concert of plainsong, reels and electronic soundscapes: a sonic rollercoaster, with bells. The 12-part suite, commissioned by The Book of Deer Project, creates musical images of the book itself, the early monastery in Deer, and the local working community. Movements include *The Light of Columba*, *Cathal's Banquet*, *St Drostan at Deer*, *This Splendid Little Book*, *Dancing in the Margin* and *Still Shining*.

Richard Ingham, saxophones, whistles, bass clarinet, wind synthesiser
Maarten Verbraeken, trumpet, flugel horn
Fraser Burke, keyboards, accordion
May Halyburton, bass
Andy James, drums and percussion



Lunchtime Talk:

The Book of Deer with Derek Jennings and Anne Simpson

Wednesday 13 July
12noon and 1.30pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Free – no need to book

Join Anne Simpson and Derek Jennings, Chair and Vice Chair of the Book of Deer Project, as they consider the 'splendid little book' and what makes it so special.



Book of Deer Doric Writing Workshop

Saturday 16 July
1pm-3.30pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery

£6 – [booking essential](#)
Suitable for adults

Using a series of writing prompts, create your own page or mini Book of Deer in a workshop hosted by local writer and spoken word artist, Jo Gilbert, followed by an informal sharing event. Jo Gilbert is a spoken word artist and writer from Aberdeen who has been published widely in anthologies and magazines. Past projects and commissions include Look Again Festival, St Anza Poetry Festival, Loud Poets and Ten Feet Tall theatre company and Aberdeen Art Gallery's Micro-commissions programme.

The workshop will be followed by a short public presentation of work by participants in Gallery 3

Saturday 16 July
3.45pm (30mins)

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Free

Collections Close Up

Saturday 6 August
Saturday 17 September
11am-1pm

Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen, Bedford Road, Aberdeen AB24 3AA

Free, drop-in event – [more information](#)
Suitable for all ages

Explore treasures from our collection of rare books and get up close to exquisite examples of illuminated manuscripts from medieval history and the Church, and talk with curators and archivists from the University of Aberdeen's Museums and Special Collections.



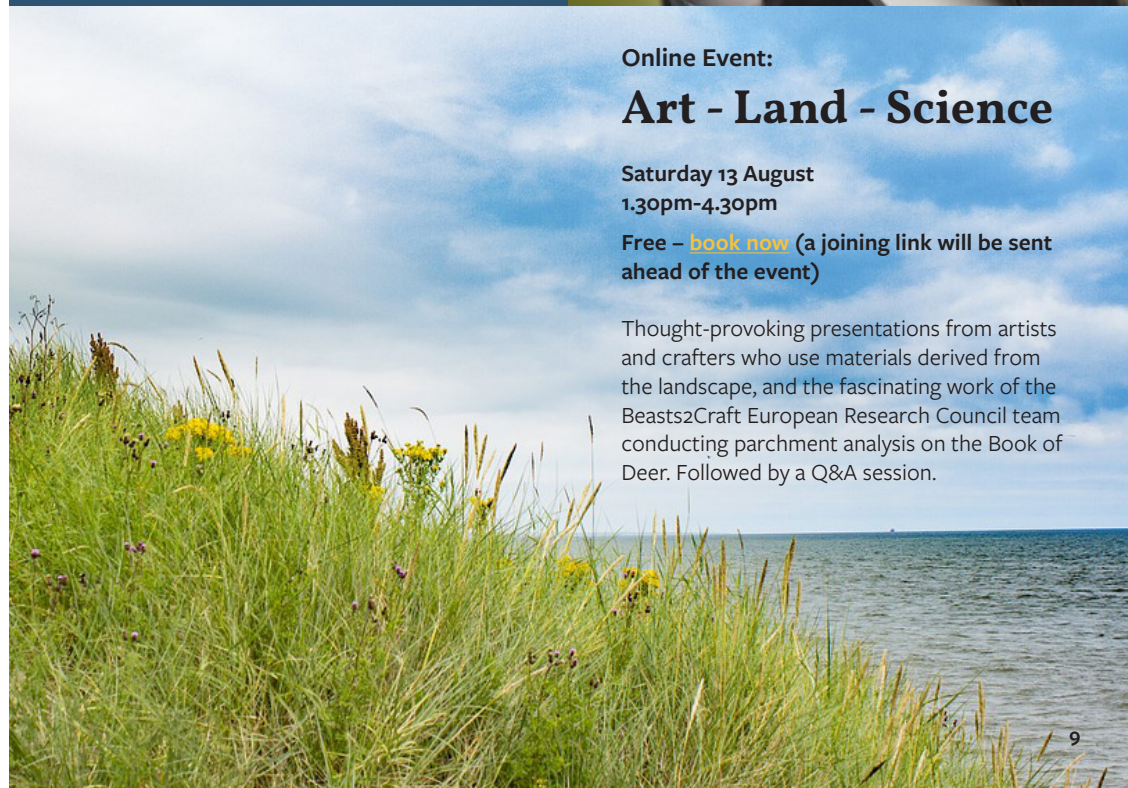
Online Event:

Art - Land - Science

Saturday 13 August
1.30pm-4.30pm

Free – [book now](#) (a joining link will be sent ahead of the event)

Thought-provoking presentations from artists and crafters who use materials derived from the landscape, and the fascinating work of the Beasts2Craft European Research Council team conducting parchment analysis on the Book of Deer. Followed by a Q&A session.



Talk:

Dr Ali Bonner, University of Cambridge Book of Deer Lecture

Saturday 27 August
2pm (1hr)

Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen Art Gallery
£6 – [booking essential](#)

Dr Ali Bonner is a Lecturer in the History of the Brittonic-Speaking Peoples and the History of the Gaelic-Speaking Peoples at the University of Cambridge. Her talk explores what the Book of Deer can tell us about political and religious developments in the late 9th and early 10th century. Dr Bonner also considers the significance of the Gaelic language notes written into the manuscript's margins in the 12th century.



Scots Gaelic Café

Saturday 20 August,
2pm-4pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery

Free, drop-in
Suitable for adults

We invite Aberdeen's Gaelic speakers to come together to explore the Book of Deer and the oldest surviving example of written Scots Gaelic within its margins.



Performance:

Buchan Heritage Society presents: Oor Ain Kailyard

Friday 26 August
7.30pm-9.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Mintlaw Village Hall, The Square,
Mintlaw, AB42 5EH

£5 – For tickets please contact Marlene
Lowe 01771 637344 or pay at the door
Suitable for all ages

Join Buchan Heritage Society and some very special guests for an evening of music, song, story and verse. Guests include Paul Anderson (fiddle), Shona Donaldson (song), Bob Mitchell (story and Doric verse).

Masterclass:

Inspired Illustration with Gabi Reith

Saturday 3 September
Sunday 4 September
11am-3pm (including lunchbreak)

Aberdeenshire Farming Museum,
Aden Country Park, Station Rd,
Mintlaw, AB42 5FQ

Free – [booking essential](#)
Suitable for adults

Create your own contemporary manuscript inspired by medieval illustrations. Embrace colour, page composition, pattern making and explore how to represent human or animal form. Led by accomplished North-East artist Gabi Reith, creator of Small Stories.



Mini-Bus Tour:

Art on the Road

Saturday 3 September
10am-4.30pm

Begins and ends at Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

£25 – [booking essential](#)
Suitable for adults

Immerse yourself in creativity and get on board our one-off minibus tour of artist studios in North Aberdeenshire. Visit local artists Bryan Angus, Kerstin Gren, Mark Green, Maria Guerreiro and Alison Milne, who create work linked to the Book of Deer through imagery, materials and local landscape. Visit to Aberdeenshire Farming Museum included.





Author Talk:

Talking Picts with Professor Gordon Noble

Saturday 17 September
2pm-3pm (1hr)

Mintlaw Library, Macbi Community Hub,
Newlands Road, Mintlaw, Peterhead AB42
5GP and virtually on Microsoft Teams
Suitable for adults

Free – [booking essential](#)

Join Professor Gordon Noble from Aberdeen University for an engaging and informative talk on the compelling history of the Picts in the North-East of Scotland.

Lunchtime Talk:

Aberdeen's Medieval Archives

Wednesday 3 August
12.30pm (45 minutes)

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Free

Join City Archivist Phil Astley as he introduces medieval period archives from the city's collection. Aberdeen has the earliest and most complete body of surviving records of any Scottish town, with a near continuous run of council registers from 1398 to the present. Such is the value and significance of these records that in July 2013 the eight volumes covering the period 1398 to 1511 were recognised by UNESCO as being of outstanding historical importance to the UK.

Online Talk:

Could the Book of Kells have been made at Portmahomack?

Dr Victoria Thompson Whitworth

Thursday 15 September
6pm

[Follow the link to book](#) - a Zoom link will be sent ahead of the talk

Dr Victoria Thompson Whitworth examines the world which produced the Book of Kells, and the art of the Book itself, and makes a compelling case for this most glorious of manuscripts to have been made in an eastern Scottish monastery. Dr Thompson Whitworth is a former lecturer at the Institute for Northern Studies in Orkney. She is the author of *Dying and Death in Later Anglo-Saxon England*, three historical novels set in the 9th and 10th centuries and a forthcoming major new study of the Book of Kells.

Local Heritage Symposium:

That Belongs in a Museum!

Saturday 24 September
10.30am-3.30pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Free – [booking essential](#)

That belongs in a museum...! Or does it? Join us for a day exploring how artefacts end up in museums, who puts them there and why – and what it all means once they're part of a collection.

Our Aberdeen

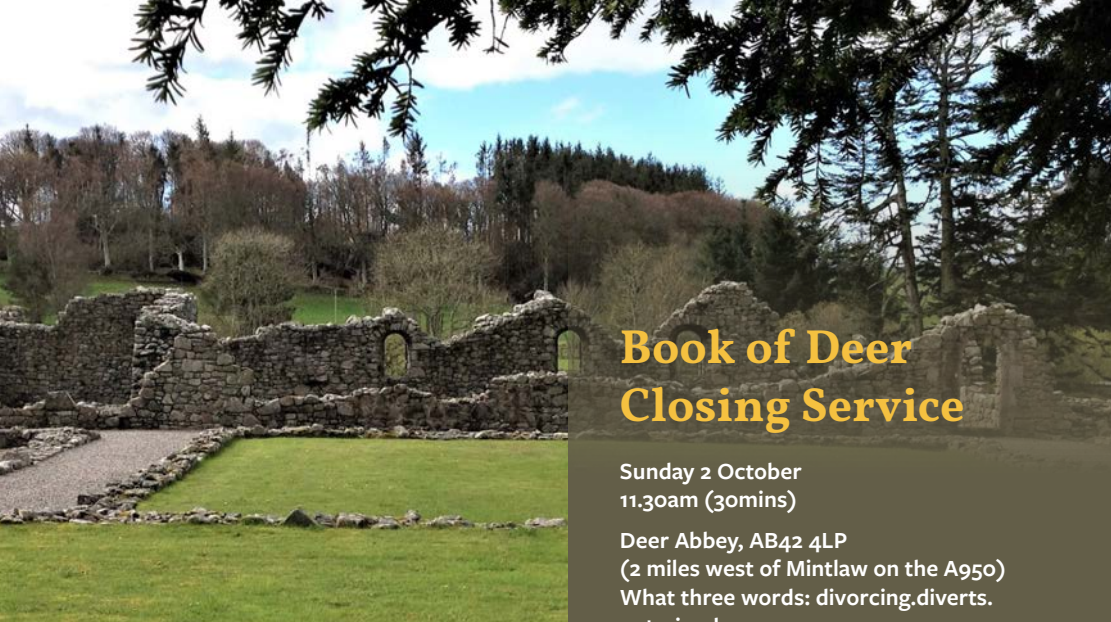
Thursday 29 September
1.30pm-3pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery

Free – no need to book, just turn up and join in!
Suitable for adults

Our Aberdeen is a programme of dementia and cognitive-friendly events which bring people together to share their stories and feel part of a community. They are relaxed sessions with friendly staff who enjoy a good chat while introducing special exhibitions. Join us to go exploring the medieval age through our current exhibitions *Book of Deer* and *The Galloway Hoard: Viking-age Treasure*.





Book of Deer Closing Service

Sunday 2 October
11.30am (30mins)

Deer Abbey, AB42 4LP
(2 miles west of Mintlaw on the A950)
What three words: divorcing,diverts.
untrained

Free – [booking essential](#)
Recommended for ages 7+

Please note that there is no parking at Deer Abbey – email info@bookofdeer.co.uk for help to get there, or park at Aden Country Park and walk along the former railway line.

Short Service and blessing to mark the end of the Book of Deer programme.

Book of Deer Closing Event

Sunday 2 October
1pm-3pm

Free – [booking essential](#)
Recommended for ages 7+
Aden Theatre, Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

Join us to celebrate the end of the Book of Deer programme, with live poetry and music, fascinating archaeological finds from this year's digs, and stunning textiles created during the From Book to Banner community project.

Gallery Late:

Medieval Mayhem

Friday 30 September
7pm-10pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery

£20 Early Bird ticket until 1.8.22 then £25
[booking essential](#)

Join us for a special after hours event inspired by our exhibitions *Book of Deer* and *The Galloway Hoard: Viking-age Treasure*. Expect cosplay, rune readings, Norse nonsense, medieval music and more. Full details to be announced.

Stories and Hands-on Activities for Families

Saturday 11 June and Thursday 14 July
12.30pm / 2pm / 3.30pm

Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

£2 per person
11 June – [book now](#)
14 July – [book now](#)
Suitable for all ages

Join Storyteller Pauline Cordiner and step back in time to the era of the Picts, Vikings and the creation of the Book of Deer! The story of a young monk who shows a talent for writing has been specially created by local historian Derek Jennings. Inspired by the stories, find out what life was like for our north-east ancestors 1,000 years ago with hands-on living history demonstrations.

Presented by the Buchan Development

Ghost Stories for grown-ups

Saturday 11 June and Thursday 14 Jul
7pm (1hr)

Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

£2 per person
11 June – [book now](#)
14 July – [book now](#)

Join Derek Jennings and Pauline Cordiner for an adults-only evening of scary stories from Aden and the North-East of Scotland. Expect ghostly tales of the Monks of Aden, the cursed families of Buchan and the canny chiel who summoned Auld Nick himself!

Presented by the Buchan Development

Music:

Book of Deer Suite

Saturday 1 October
2.30pm (1hr)

£13 / £11 concessions – [booking essential](#)
Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FQ

Inspired by the extraordinary 10th century gospel book, Richard Ingham leads Strangeness & Charm in a concert of plainsong, reels and electronic soundscapes: a sonic rollercoaster, with bells. The 12-part suite, commissioned by The Book of Deer Project, creates musical images of the book itself, the early monastery in Deer, and the local working community. Movements include *The Light of Columba*, *Cathal's Banquet*, *St Drostan at Deer*, *This Splendid Little Book*, *Dancing in the Margin* and *Still Shining*.

Richard Ingham, saxophones, whistles, bass clarinet, wind synthesiser
Maarten Verbraeken, trumpet, flugel horn
Fraser Burke, keyboards, accordion
May Halyburton, bass
Andy James, drums and percussion



Summer Reading Initiative

Monday 20 June – Saturday 27 August

Sign up at all Live Life Aberdeenshire libraries or register online from 20 June at www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries Suitable for readers of all ages

Fancy reading something different? Our Summer Reading Initiative runs from 20 June to 27 August and is suitable for all ages. Sign up to take part in this fun reading activity including a Book of Deer themed creative competition. Webpage for signing up goes live on 20th June.

Puzzle Zone Activity:

Murder Most Silent!

Wednesdays 6, 13 and 20 July

Various time slots available 10.30am-2.30pm, activity lasts approx 1 hour.

Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

£12 per team (6 max) – **booking essential**

Your team has taken a vow of silence and must complete the tasks and solve the clues to find out what happened to Brother Godfrey – without speaking to each other! A challenging medieval crime conundrum for families and groups.



Family Fun:

Illumination Art with artist Gabi Reith

Wednesday 13 July

10.30am-12.30pm or 1.30pm-3.30pm

Aberdeen Art Gallery

£6 – **booking essential**

Suitable for ages 6-12yrs

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Take inspiration from the beautiful Book Of Deer's incredible illustrations in this artist-led workshop to make your own illuminated illustration. Young artists will be encouraged to think about their own lives and what is important to them, before exploring ways to represent those ideas through illustration.



Puzzle Zone Activity:

Deer Doodle Gold Hunt

Wednesday 27 July

Wednesday 3 August

Wednesday 10 August

Various time slots available 10.30am-2.30pm, activity lasts approx 1 hour

Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

£12 per team (6 max) – **booking essential**

A fun medieval treasure hunt for families and groups! The pages in the ancient illuminated manuscript contain clues to the hiding place of a secret hoard of gold. Find and solve all the clues to discover where the hoard is hidden in the monastery.





Ruth Kent, Photo by Colin Thom

Dancing in the Margin

Thursday 11 August
2pm-4pm

Aberdeen art Gallery
Learning Space, Ground Floor
£6 – [booking essential](#)

Suitable for ages 8-12yrs

Join our Performance and Events Officer Ruth Kent, who is also a dance artist, for a movement workshop inspired by the illuminated letters in the Book of Deer. Wear loose clothing.

Puzzle Zone Activity:

Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?

Wednesday 19 October
Wednesday 26 October

Various time slots from 10.30am to 2.30pm,
activity lasts approx 1 hour
Aberdeenshire Farming Museum, Aden
Country Park, Station Rd, Mintlaw AB42 5FQ

£12 per team (6 max) – [book now](#)
Suitable for ages 7+

An archaeological medieval mystery for families and groups! It was a dark and stormy day back in 1294, when Brother Barnabus left the abbey to look for herbs and mysteriously disappeared. Travel through time following Jet, the witch's cat, solving the puzzles and clues to discover what happened to him.



Exhibition

The Book of Deer

Saturday 2 July – Sunday 2 October 2022

Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill,
Aberdeen AB10 1FQ
Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm,
Sunday 11am-4pm

Admission free
www.aagm.co.uk

The 10th-century Book of Deer is one of Scotland's greatest treasures. For the first time in a millennium this remarkable little illuminated manuscript is returning to the North-East of Scotland, on loan from Cambridge University Library. This is a rare opportunity to see what is widely regarded as being the earliest manuscript produced in Scotland. It contains a series of captivating illustrations, as well as the earliest surviving text in Gaelic. These Gaelic notes, dating from the 12th century, give the volume its title, referring to the monastery of Deer in Aberdeenshire, where the manuscript is thought to have originated.

Spotlight Tours:

Take a look at this 'splendid little book' in the company of members of the Book of Deer group, who have worked so hard to secure its loan from Cambridge University Library.

Saturday 9 and 30 July
Saturday 6 August
Saturday 10 September
Saturday 1 October
1pm (20mins)
Free



VENUES

Aden Country Park and
Aberdeenshire Farming Museum -
MINTLAW

MACBI Community Hub, Mintlaw
Library - MINTLAW

Mintlaw Village Hall - MINTLAW

Pluscarden Abbey - ELGIN

Aberdeen Art Gallery & Cowdray
Hall - ABERDEEN

Deer Abbey - near MINTLAW

Aberdeenshire Libraries - MINTLAW,
PETERHEAD, BANFF, BANCHORY,
INVERURIE

The Smiddy - BANFF

Sir Duncan Rice Library, University
of Aberdeen - ABERDEEN

ELGIN

BANFF

DEER ABBEY

MINTLAW

ADEN COUNTRY PARK

PETERHEAD

INVERURIE

BANCHORY

ABERDEEN



The **BOOK OF DEER**

Project Partners

Book of Deer Project

The Book of Deer Project is a community heritage group based in Aden Country Park, Mintlaw, dedicated to raising awareness of the 10th-century Book of Deer, one of Scotland's greatest treasures.

www.bookofdeer.co.uk

Aberdeen Art Gallery

Aberdeen Art Gallery is home to one of the finest collections in the UK, which includes works by acclaimed Scottish, UK and international artists, designers and makers. Winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2020, Scotland's Building of the Year 2021, and shortlisted for the European Museum of the Year 2021.

www.aagm.co.uk

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM>

Cambridge University Library

Cambridge University Library is one of the world's oldest university libraries – and home to one of the world's great collections of cultural treasures and research materials.

<https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/>

Cameron Archaeology Ltd.

Cameron Archaeology is an archaeology company based in Aberdeen carrying out commercial and research excavations in Aberdeen and Shire, Moray and Angus. We have been Book of Deer archaeologists since 2014.

Live Life Aberdeenshire

Live Life Aberdeenshire is an innovative approach to delivering Sports and Culture services on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council. The Book of Deer Programme 2022 is a key part of our ongoing commitment to celebrate the uniqueness of Place.

<https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/book-of-deer-events/>

University of Aberdeen

University of Aberdeen's Museums and Special Collections care for a wealth of material, including 230,000 rare books, large collections of archives and manuscripts dating to the 12th century, and museum collections which are recognised as of national significance by the Scottish Government.

www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/



Made possible with

**Heritage
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