



Close-up of a page from the Book of Deer (Leabhar Dhèir)

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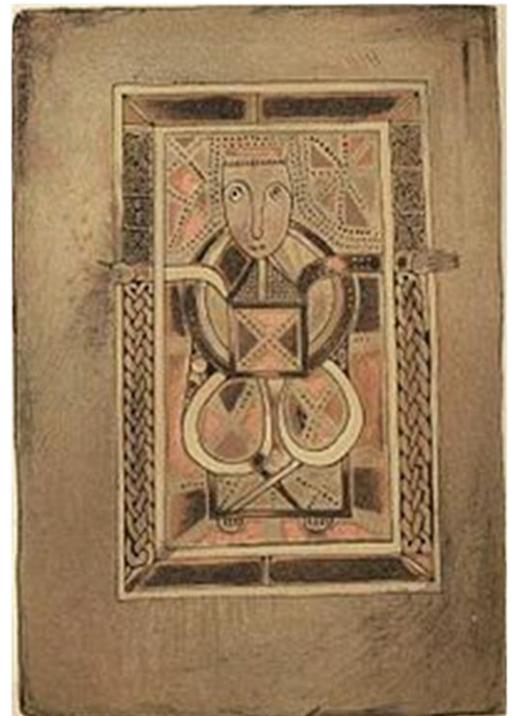
## THE BOOK OF DEER RETURNS AFTER 1,000 YEARS

The Book of Deer (Leabhar Dhèir in Gaelic) is a 10<sup>th</sup> century Latin Gospel Book with early 12<sup>th</sup>-century additions in Latin, Old Irish and Scottish Gaelic. It contains the earliest surviving Gaelic writing from Scotland. It is assumed that the manuscript was at Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland when the marginalia were made. It may be the oldest surviving manuscript produced in Scotland (*although the Book of Kells may be older*) and is notable for having possibly originated in what is now considered the Lowland area. The manuscript belongs to the category of Irish pocket gospel books, which were produced for private use rather than for church services. While the manuscripts to which the Book of Deer is closest in character are all Irish, most scholars argue for a Scottish origin, although an Irish scribe undoubtedly wrote the book. The book has 86 folios and is written on vellum in brown ink and is in a modern binding. The book has been in the possession of the Cambridge University Library since 1715, when the Library of John Moore, Bishop of Ely was purchased by King George I and given to the University.

Although the text and the script of the manuscript place it squarely in the tradition of the Irish Pocket Gospel, scholars have argued that the manuscript was produced in Scotland.

There are 7 Scottish Gaelic texts written in blank spaces surrounding the main items. These marginalia include an account of the founding of the monastery at Deer by St. Columba and St. Drostan, records of 5 land grants to the monastery and a record of an immunity from payment of certain dues granted to the monastery. There is also a copy of a Latin deed granted to the monastery by David I of Scotland protecting the monastery from “all lay service and improper exaction”. These Gaelic texts, written by as many as five different hands, **represent the earliest surviving use of Gaelic in Scotland** and are important for the light they shed on the development of Gaelic in Scotland.

There are four full page Evangelist portraits. Each portrait faces a page of text surrounded by a border of interlace. Each of these text pages has a large, decorated initial. The book opens with a full-page miniature of the four evangelists and closes with two facing pages each also with a full-page miniature of the evangelists. The final text of John ends with a half-page miniature of two men. There are small decorated initial letters throughout the text. There are also ten pages all in the final half of the book, with marginal drawings of men, animals and simple doodles.



Book of Deer

Continued next page Book of Deer

# BOOK OF DEER

The manuscript is named for the monastery of Deer, mentioned in the Gaelic texts and the Latin Charter of King David I. Unfortunately, Deer has left no other trace of its existence, although a Cistercian monastery, founded nearby in 1219, owned some of the lands mentioned in the Gaelic texts.

This ancient treasure is now slotted to go on tour thanks to a £128,588 grant to The Book of Deer Project from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The 10<sup>th</sup> century prize will be



*Evangelist portrait*

on loan from the university and will be shown at an exhibition at Aberdeen Art Gallery during the summer of 2022 as a part of the year of Scotland's Stories.

Plans to celebrate the return of the Book are now underway and a series of cultural events will take place in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and parallel events are planned in Cambridge. There are further plans to include an archaeological dig in Aberdeenshire, thought to be the site of the monastery where the book was annotated.

This community excavation will take place over ten weeks during the summer of 2022 in hopes of finding the monastery of Deer after 11 years of searching. The project will engage local schools allowing children, young adults and community members to be actively involved in the excavation, ensuring the legacy of the book's loan endures well beyond 2022.



*Article and Pictures courtesy of Wikipedia*



*John Moore, Bishop of Ely*

## KILMARTIN GLEN PREHISTORIC MONUMENTS

Over 5,000 years of human history have been preserved in the monuments surrounding Kilmartin Village. The landscape is dotted with cairns, standing stones, carved rocks, stone circles, forts, castles and a henge. Kilmartin Glen is considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland. There are more than 800 ancient monuments within a six-mile radius of the Village -150 of them, prehistoric!

Ri Cruin Cairn is the most southerly cairn in what is called the linear cemetery, a line of burial cairns. The cairn was built between 2200 BC and 1950 BC and the locals believe it to be the burial location of a king.

The Temple Wood stone circles contains a ring of 13 standing stones and it is thought that in the past, the circle may have had as many as 22. The center contains a burial cist surrounded by a second circle of stones. The circle may have been constructed around 3000 BC.

Nether Largie South is the oldest monument of the linear cemetery. It is a Neolithic chambered cairn, dating from around 4000BC. The inner chamber is currently open and visitors can enter to see the interior of the cairn.

So, if you visit Kilmartin, be sure to take a tour of the monuments.

*Article courtesy of STV News*



*Temple Wood*

## RARE POST BOX



*Article & photo courtesy of Glasgow Live*

In the Hyndland area you may chance upon a pretty rare object. It is an example of only 160 cast in the UK during the short reign of King Edward VIII. The pillar box was made in 1936 during his 325 days as king before abdicating the throne.



# RECIPE CORNER

## RUMBLEDETHUMPS

England has bubble and squeak, Ireland owns colcannon and, in Scotland, this delicious fry-up of vegetables is called rumbledethumps. Probably from the noises it makes while cooking. The dish is popular in the Scottish border regions and is perfect for using up leftover mashed potatoes and vegetables you have in the fridge.

This recipe calls for swede (also known as turnip or neeps) and cabbage or kale. The vegetable mixture is topped with cheese then baked until bubbling. It can be made the day before and heated up. All it needs alongside is a hearty stew or if you prefer to eat it on its own try it with a fried egg on top.

### Ingredients:

- **1 pound** potatoes, peeled, boiled and mashed or leftovers
- **1 pound** swede, peeled, boiled and mashed or leftovers
- **4 tablespoons** unsalted butter, divided
- **9 ounces** savoy cabbage or kale, finely sliced
- **1 onion**, halved and thinly sliced
- **<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup** sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- **1 teaspoon** chopped chives
- **Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper**, to taste

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°

Add mashed potato and swede to a large mixing bowl and set aside

Melt 2 ounces butter in frying pan over medium heat. Add the finely sliced cabbage or kale and onion and cook gently for several minutes until softened but not brown

Add the cooked cabbage/kale/onion to the bowl of potato and swede along with the chives and remaining butter and mash together thoroughly. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Place the mashed vegetables in an ovenproof baking dish and sprinkle the cheese on top. Cover with lid or aluminum foil and bake in pre-heated oven for about 30 minutes or until heated through.

Remove lid and cook for another 5 minutes or until golden brown and a little crispy.

Serve piping hot.



*Recipe and photo courtesy of Elaine Lemms*



## IMPRESSIVE SCOTTISH CASTLES



**Donnattar Castle:** Perched on a 160-foot cliff over the North Sea, the dramatic ruins of Donnattar are a sight you won't easily forget. The fortress of the Earls of Marischal, this castle once hid the Scottish Crown Jewels from Oliver Cromwell.

**Linlithgow Palace:** The birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots it was a stopping over place for royals traveling between Edinburgh and Stirling.



# A VALENTINE TALE of the QIXI FESTIVAL

According to Chinese legend, Zhinü, represented by the star Vega, was one of the daughters of the Jade Emperor (*one of the representations of the first God in Daoist theology*). Bored with her mundane life in heaven, Zinhü descended to earth and defied the rules of heaven by falling in love with the mortal Niulang, represented by Altair, the brightest star in the constellation of Aquila.

Zhinü's mother, the Goddess of Heaven, soon discovered that Zhinü had married a mortal and promptly sent soldiers to retrieve her. The soldiers recaptured her and tragically, the lovers were separated.



In the face of his devastating loss, Zhinü's mortal husband Niulang carried their two children to heaven in search of his beloved wife. Yet the Goddess of Heaven, ever the controlling mother, quickly learned of Niulang's arrival and created a tremendous river – the Milky Way itself – between him and Zhinü to separate them for eternity.

Moved by the couple's love, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> lunar month, a flock of beautiful magpies formed a bridge over the great celestial river so that the couple could meet on what came to be known as the "Magpie Bridge". On the Gregorian calendar this year the celebration of Qixi will fall on 5 August. Although not an official Chinese holiday, Qixi

has over 2,000 years of history and is widely celebrated by couples throughout China. It even has its own versions in Japan and Korea.

The traditional Valentine's Day, celebrated on 14 February is mainly popular among younger generations and celebrated a bit differently in China. It is usually the women who gift chocolate to their partners to show their appreciation and love. On 14 March, men are then expected to reciprocate by presenting their partners with white chocolates. They are also expected to buy gifts that are greater in value than those received from their significant other the previous month.

Although White Valentine's Day was originally created by the confectionery industry in Japan in the 1970's, it soon became very popular throughout East Asia.

I think this holiday could become very popular here! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Article and pictures courtesy of Tania Yeromian / CLI



## SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. What is a crowdie?
2. What does *uisge-beatha* mean?
3. Who is Tibbie Shiel?
4. The "Bloody Assizes" took place during whose reign?
5. What were the 'Bloody Assizes' ?
6. Who designed the Scott Monument (*Not the statue*)?
7. When is St. Andrews' Day?
8. What is the Bassandyne Bible?
9. Who is Jenny Geddes?
10. Charles I of Scotland became heir to the throne after whose death.?



**Bonus:** How did Henry Frederick Prince of Wales die in 1612?



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/698401680928383>



Instagram too

1. a soft white curd cheese 2. Water of life – referring to whisky 3. An Innkeeper known to many authors and poets 4. James VII 5. A series of trials in the aftermath of the battle of Sedgemoor which ended the Monmouth Rebellion 1685 6. George Meikle Kemp 7. 30 November 8. The first Bible printed in Scotland 9. She threw a stool at the minister in St. Giles Cathedral in objection to the first public use of the Scottish Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and started a riot 10. His brother Prince Henry in 1612

BONUS: Typhoid Fever