

Proposed Week Long Holiday Events - Royal Deeside, Scotland --August 2010

The Scottish Section are working on the idea of organising a week long series of leisure/holiday events centred on the Aboyne - Ballater region of Deeside in Aberdeenshire. The object of this short report is to gauge likely interest and participation from fellow members throughout the country.

This area is one of renowned natural beauty, usually blessed with good weather due to its geographical location, and thankfully, has not the scourge of midges that plagues the west coast highlands. The Royal Balmoral Estate is located in our area and apparently Queen Victoria chose this area to have her highland retreat for precisely these same reasons!

The week chosen would be from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010, and the reason for this is that, uniquely on this particular week, a series of events are organised in the same week at Ballater and Aboyne (10 miles apart).

On Saturday, the world renowned Aboyne Highland Games are held and on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, in the same week, you have the Ballater Highland Games! Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>), sees the start of Ballater Victoria week, which is a week of organised events in the area, starting on the Sunday with the parade of cars and road run. This event sees an interesting collection of classic and rare vehicles start off with a grand parade throughout the village, led by the local pipe band and of course, if you come with a classic Citroen, you are very welcome to join in the fun. The organised events include hill walking, races, dances, boules competitions etc., and on top of these events, our Section would organise tours to distilleries, shortbread tours, road runs etc, culminating in a grand supper dance with Scottish dance band so you dance the night away, or just appreciate this marvellous music and dancing. We could even organise a couple of evenings for anyone wanting to learn a few of the easier Scottish dances, prior to the big dance, if there was enough interest.

We would have a comprehensive list of places to stay in the area, from camping and caravan sites, B and Bs, guest houses, chalets and apartments and hotels on our Scottish section website, and early booking would be advisable as the area is busy at that time of year anyway. Of course, there are numerous sightseeing and visit opportunities galore in this area without the planned events - much more than a week can cover and obviously, you need not take part in every event every day unless you wish.

That is the bare format of what we have in mind, and if you are interested in joining us, please let our Ian Smith know ASAP, who is collating initial interest, to allow us to plan further.

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If all is favourable as we think it will be, those who have registered an interest will have first chance of taking part, with further news and progress detailed in the Citroenian and on our website.

Andy Burnett.