

MILESTONE REACHED IN BOOK PROJECT

LATER this year, a book which has been almost thirty years in the writing will finally be published by an author whose home is in Glass.

Anne Forbes, has not however, spent thirty years writing the book, *Trials and Triumphs: The Gordons of Huntly in 16th Century Scotland*, as events in her life forced her to take a break from her research and writing and it is only in recent years that she has been able to focus on the book and a subject which she has found to be truly fascinating.

In August, Anne will launch her book at the Aboyne Games, an event which is a highlight for members of the Gordon Clan from all over the world and it is this family in the 16th century which her book details.

Anne's interest in the Gordon Clan intensified during her studies at Aberdeen University where in 1994 she gained an honours degree in Early Modern Scottish History.

Her writing had to be put to one side however, when she and husband Nick, who taught at Blairmore School, left the area and went to Zimbabwe from the mid 1990s until early 2001.

"It was only when we came back that I was able to pick up again on

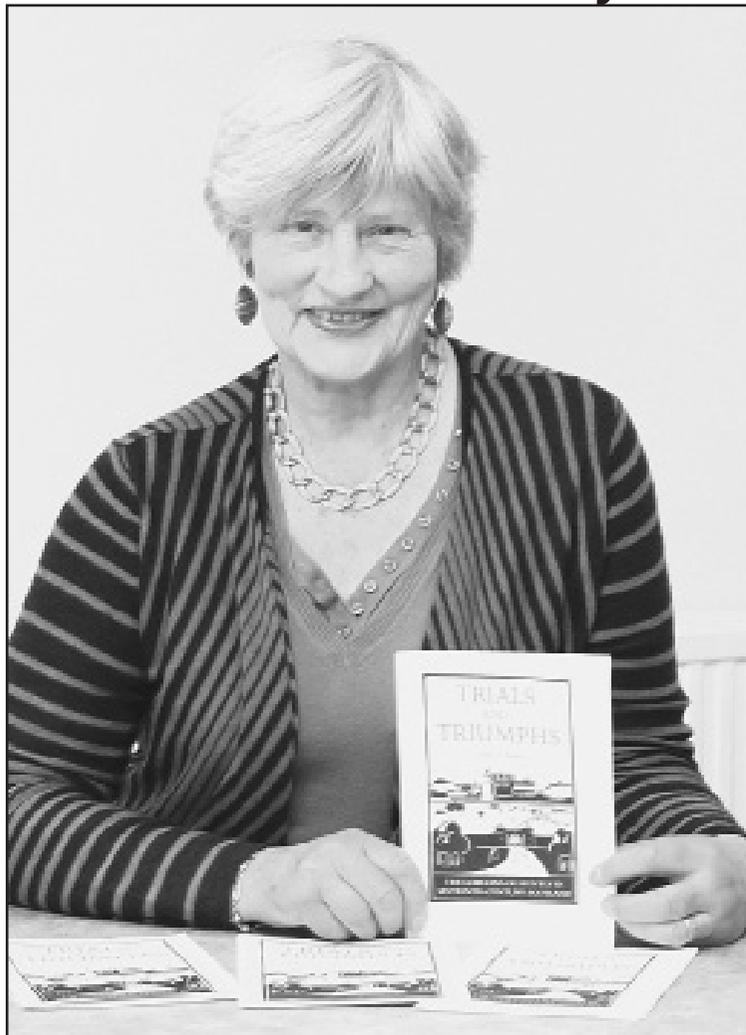
my research although topics which I had studied during my degree proved to be useful," Anne explained.

The Gordon Clan is one of Scotland's most historically important clans and Anne's book spans the dramatic rise of The Gordons, described by her as 'minor magnates in Berwickshire to major players in the north and nationally' and hugely important across a large part of Scotland.

Anne has spent long hours in libraries at Aberdeen University and further afield and hopes that her book will bring to life names and characters from Huntly's history.

As the book nears completion, Anne is now choosing pictures and maps to be used as illustrations and said, "I have really enjoyed researching and writing the book, I have loved every minute of it."

Her book focuses on the family of the 4th Earl of Huntly with parallel biographies of four of his sons and two of his daughters. Their very different stories illustrate the times in which they lived as part of the historic period of Mary Queen of



Anne Forbes, author of the book about the Clan Gordon with the image from a 1930s woodcut which will feature on the front cover. (H.E. Photo)

Scots and her son James.

Anne is delighted that her work, which extends to 320 pages, is now finally with the publisher, John Donald who will publish it on August 1st.

In addition to the launch at Aboyne Games, Anne hopes that she will be able to have an event in Huntly Castle to celebrate the publication of her book.

The cover of the book features an attractive

picture of Huntly which Anne acquired some-time early in her writing career. It is thought to have come from a 1930s woodcut but Anne would be interested to find out more about its history.