



Cove in Bloom

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Winter has been very wet and windy, but not as cold and snowy as usual so far, and our plants are starting to grow early. Throughout the end of October and the beginning of November Cove in Bloom, working with children from both schools were planting daffodils and crocuses near to their schools, and also (without the help of the children, but with some members of the Community Payback Team) planting daffodils in the bank between the shops and the library, and along the footpath passing the Loirston Annexe Community Centre. There are more daffodils planted at the entrance to South Loirston Road, where it meets Cove Road, and we have added to those already planted along that road, for the enjoyment of the pedestrians and cyclists who use it as well as the residents there.

We have poppy seeds from Poppy Scotland to plant. This year, 2014, is the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, and we want to commemorate this, along with other areas in Aberdeen, by providing a show of the iconic red poppies that have become a symbol of our thanks to and for those who gave their lives for us during this First World War, and subsequent wars. The plan at present is to line the wall of the green in Old Cove with these flowers, but if you have any other sites you think would work, we are open to suggestions.

We now have a website (www.coveinbloom.com) and a contact route via that website, so you can find us and get in touch any time you are online, but for those who are not keen on computers, we still have phone numbers, so you can call any time, just leave a message if we're not available – or come by to South Loirston for a chat.

For the future, we expect to adopt some of the plant beds along Langdykes Road, taking them over from the council, and planting them up with shrubs, and we would appreciate volunteers to look after these additional beds. If you live near Langdykes Road and would be able to give us a little of your time, you could adopt a bed and keep it weeded. Our plans for the Welcome Stones move slowly, and we are looking at the problems of siting the boat we have been offered, a salmon coble, which we hope to site near the Makro Roundabout on Langdykes Road as a feature welcoming all to Cove and Altens. At present we are checking out the routes of services (electric, gas, telephones) to ensure that we do not site either the stones or the boat on top of important cables or pipes.

Our monthly workshops are held in Altens Community Centre at 7.00pm on the second Tuesday of the month, and all are welcome to come along, to learn about what we need to be doing in our gardens and village at this time of year. The workshops are there for all – those who know what they are doing and those who are new to gardening, come along to enjoy the company, help, and advice of other gardeners as well as helping prepare and grow on plants for the community as well as for ourselves.

Please remember that all this can only happen with your support and your help. If you can volunteer to look after just one bed, or one planter, if you want to become involved in the planning, or have an idea that we might be able to turn into reality you can contact us by phone or email, or just pop round to South Loirston for a natter. The Cove in Bloom group meets every month to plan and manage the work, and you are welcome to join us. All help is appreciated, and each person who takes on one small task makes it easier for all the others. Please get in touch, we will only ask of you what you are willing and able to do – and the team is always there to call on for support.