



Cove in Bloom

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS

South Loirston, Nigg, Aberdeen, AB12 3LJ Tel: 07595 046563/ 01224 894299

Email: jimhenderson@coveinbloom.com Website: www.coveinbloom.com

Working for Cove and Altens

Every year we add to the daffodils and crocuses around the area, and 2015 was no different. Through November we helped Friends of Old Cove plant bulbs along the side of the road down to the harbour; children from both Charleston and Loirston schools came out with us to plant bulbs outside their schools; and the new Fishies playground at the Altens Community Centre has bulbs along one side, planted with the help of the little ones from Big Fishies. In addition, we have planted more bulbs along South Loirston Road behind the Scylla houses, so we are looking for a good showing this spring.

The weather has not been very kind to us over the year end and we have not been able to get out to tidy up the beds around the village as we had hoped to do, please bear with us! In fact, the mild and wet weather means that the grass has continued to grow, but we are unable to cut it, and the bulbs around the village are showing their points, so unless we get a cold snap very soon, to halt growth, they will be flowering very, very early!

Despite not being able to get out we are not idle, however. We have purchased two benches with funding from Aberdeen Greenspace, and these are ready to be sited near the Heritage Stones, when the weather permits, for the benefit of walkers and visitors alike.

We have also purchased another two hanging baskets, with a voucher from Amberol won at last year's Beautiful Scotland awards ceremony, and we have planters ready for the Market Cart which is being prepared to add to our displays.

Some of you noticed the oil industry ornaments we sited at the community beds on Cove Road, and will know that they are no longer there. They will be returned once we have completed work on stabilising them for safety, as they were not as secure as we had hoped.

In addition 2016 is the 50th anniversary of Beautiful Scotland, so we intend to commemorate this with a special display in the Diamond Bed on Earnsheugh Road using their colours. We have been going through the brochures to choose our plants for this coming year carefully so that our beds can be as colourful as possible thanks to the generosity of our sponsors whose donations we celebrate with the plaques on the planters and in the beds. This year, in addition to our existing supporters, we have a new sponsor in Colin Lawson Transport, who has been very generous, allowing us to buy bedding plants from specialist nurseries to ensure a good display, and promising us help with transport when needed.

But of course, you know that our sponsors are only a part of the help we need to make Cove and Altens look good. We need YOUR help too, in the work that we do around the village. If you are able to give up just a few hours to join us in the regular tasks of weeding, tidying, and planting please get in touch. You could join our regular Saturday morning team going round our beds and planters to keep them in order, or you could take responsibility for just one bed, planter, or area and work on that whenever your timetable permits. You could also be involved in helping us with the heavier tasks, such as siting the benches and the ornaments, or keeping the footpaths around Cove and Altens clear and tidy, working either with a team or in your own time. Please get in touch and help us keep our village looking good, and a home to be proud of.



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