



Cove in Bloom

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS

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Working for Cove and Altens SILVER MEDAL WINNERS FOUR YEARS RUNNING!

A new year, and a new start for us all! We managed to get most of our bulbs planted in good time last year (2016) and we've tidied up all the planters for the winter. The two beds on Earnsheugh Road are planted up with winter flowers, and will be blooming in the spring for us along with the bulbs, and the beds in the Community Garden on Cove Road, and on Langdykes Road are providing winter havens for the wildlife within their dead leaves. We'll clear them out early in the year, but meantime, let the hedgehogs, mice, birds, bugs, and so on enjoy some shelter.

We hope to get started on improvements to the Green in Old Cove soon – that's the area on the corner of Stoneyhill Terrace – with a rockery which we will fill with alpine plants, and we are still keeping this area in mind for the statue.

The work on the Woodland Walk will progress again this spring, we plan to start cutting the grass earlier this year, which will make it easier to maintain, and we have more cable drums for tables and some timber for seats and so on, as well as wild flower seeds and planters to add to the space. We are working with a new group which is being set up as a charitable body with the aim of purchasing and maintaining this land for Cove, and we look forward to progressing this through 2017. We hope to involve the Rangers with a walk through the area to identify the trees and plants, and we would love to have the children helping us sow seeds and make bee and bug houses for this walk. We'll be speaking to the schools in the spring.

2017 will be a big year for us, as our Fishing Industry Statue of Isie Caie will be completed and moved to its final resting place, probably in early summer. This is the last of our major heritage installations, and is very special for us. We have the Welcome Stones on the Coast Road, provided for us by Leiths, to remind us that quarrying has been a part of the life of Cove for centuries, the Ploughs and the Market Cart, all of which came from a local farm, to remind us that agriculture has been at the heart of Altens since records began, and our memorial to our heritage of Fishing, which was the reason Cove became a settlement, is the last of these. Isie Caie herself was the last fishwife in Cove, and this statue symbolises the hard life these fisherfolk led, the women as well as the men. We are planning a few events with Albertino in connection with the sculpture during the spring – watch out for news on the Cove & Altens Facebook page as well as our own website and facebook page.

So apart from planning the year ahead, choosing and ordering our flowers, we are also looking about for sponsors to support the work, so while you may not see us doing much in the gardens just now, we are not idle. 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 or Thursday morning team going round our beds and planters to keep them in order, you could join Mike's team working on the woodland walk of an evening, 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 tables and benches, or keeping the footpaths around Cove and Altens clear and tidy, working either with a team or in your own time. Every little thing makes a difference, so please get in touch and help us keep our village looking good, and a home to be proud of.



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