

COVE in BLOOM

THE ISIE CAIE SPONSORED WALK

raising funds for

A COMMEMORATIVE STATUE for COVE BAYO

and other community improvements

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER AT 10.00 am

Note: Children MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult.

THE COVE began life as a small fishing harbour to the south of Aberdeen, where a small, tight-knit community fought for a living from the seas. They fed themselves on the fish, crabs (known as partans) and lobsters they caught, and developed a trade with the 'toonsers' in Aberdeen that allowed them other goods than just fish. In time, a fishmeal factory came into being on the cliffs above the harbour, and along with the farming of the surrounding land and the granite quarry just inland from the coast, became a part of the life of the residents of Cove Bay.

Our subject for the statue we want to commemorate the history of The Cove is Isie Caie, the last fishwife in Cove Bay. Isie was not tall, slim, or traditionally beautiful, as fishwives have been depicted elsewhere, and although she was a pretty young woman, she is remembered as a bent little woman, all out of shape from years of carrying a huge, heavy creel of fish, that took two men to lift onto her back, from Cove Bay to Aberdeen to sell in the Green or the Market. Isie's face and figure bore the signs and lines of the hard life she lived, along with all the other fishwives along the east coast, and she is still remembered by residents of Cove who were children when she was still plying her trade in fish as late as the 1960's. Isie died in 1966 and was buried in Nigg Kirkyard.

Our statue will depict her with the creel on her back bent almost double with the weight of her load, and will suggest the weariness and the hard labour which was her life. We do not expect to recognise Isie's features in the completed work, but the struggle to survive and feed her family will be visible in the lines and shapes of the statue, and the trials of the tough lifestyle of our forebears should be seen and felt from the finished work. We intend this to be a tribute not only to Isie Caie, but to all her sisters and colleagues who worked the fish and partans out of Cove Bay for about a century up to the mid 1990s. Without their toil and commitment we would not have the life we have today, and this should be celebrated.

We hope to site the statue just beside the bridge across the railway linking the new areas of Cove with the historic village of Old Cove. Placed on a pedestal of local granite, we envisage this reminder of our history keeping watch over the merging of old and new, including the railway which brought the expansion of trade along with it, and made it possible for the homes and businesses we now have to come into existence.

The statue as envisaged, in marble, will take six months to a year from commissioning to emplacement, and will cost in the region of £20,000 for the statue, plus the cost of the plinth and siting. The main reason for choosing marble as the medium is the ease of working that this stone permits, as against the much harder granite, allowing the work to be completed in half the time, for around half the cost.

The walk from Cove Bay to Aberdeen starts from the Harbour and follows the coastal path - approximately the route that the fishwives, and in particular Isie Caie, would have taken walking into Aberdeen to sell their fish. We will be led by a walker dressed as Isie would have been dressed, and carrying a creel, just as she did. The walk is approximately 6 miles, and we will stop at Doonies Farm for a lunch break, then carry on to Aberdeen Harbour, finishing at the Maritime Museum between 2.00 & 3.00pm. Salmon sandwiches and soft drinks are provided free by Cove Bay Hotel, Doonies Farm has hot and cold drinks available in the Education Room at prices from 50p to £1.00.

We ask for a minimum sponsorship of £10.00 but of course, you will raise as much as you can for us, and bring our vision of a statue commemorating the fishing industry in the Cove closer to reality.

Send your Entry for the sponsored walk, along with £10.00 to:

Cove in Bloom, South Loirston, Nigg, Aberdeen, AB12 3LJ, or email to jim5henderson@talktalk.net

The balance of your sponsors funds raised should be sent to Cove in Bloom, South Loirston, Nigg, Aberdeen, AB12 3LJ within 2 weeks of completion of the walk.

Cheques should be made out to 'Cove in Bloom'

DOWNLOAD THE ENTRY & SPONSORSHIP FORM FROM THE COMMUNITY

COUNCIL WEBSITE – www.cove-bay.com