

The Friends of Bellie Churchyard



Dear Friends

The Friends are pleased to report that we have had another successful year in looking after and continuing to enhance Bellie Churchyard, Cemetery and surroundings ... with the generous support once again of Mr and Mrs Gordon Baxter, we were able to fund the planting of shrubs and plants in various parts of the Churchyard area, which will provide new interest and colour to the Churchyard throughout the year.



Plans for 2011 include the planting of various trees and shrubs within the new cemetery to add height and interest to this particular area. An application to the **Abbeyfield Fochabers Society Ltd** for funding towards this project has been successful and we are very grateful indeed for this wonderful support from the local community.

It is our intention also to introduce a rota of 'gardening parties' to help out from March to October next year to keep the new garden developments in good order and also try to keep the self-seeded ivy and sycamore in check around the churchyard. We had 3 happy visits to the Churchyard during the 2010 season and look forward to recruiting some further help ... if you have an interest in gardening and can give an hour or two of your time each month, we would love to hear from you for next year's rota!

We have also been contacted by many people during the year for help in tracing ancestors and in visiting the churchyard. One couple from Canada, Bob and Pat Russell, spent an emotional afternoon visiting the grave of Pat's Uncle, Flt Lt J T Hardy of the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was the pilot of a Halifax bomber that crashed into the sea in November 1944; all 7 crewmen were killed. Pat and Bob enjoyed investigating the information available in the Fochabers Heritage Centre and also having a tour of the Spey Bay area during their brief visit. It was a great pleasure for all of us to help them on this special journey.

Thank you all again for your continuing support and on behalf of the Friends of Bellie Churchyard Group, I take this opportunity of wishing you and yours a peaceful and happy festive season and a healthy 2011!



Kay P Jackson, Secretary, FOBCY, Baxters Food Group, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7LD

If you wish to make a donation to The Friends, or wish to consider life membership, please do so with the enclosed form. Many thanks.