

*Welcome to our ninth newsletter. The St Dionysius project has made some significant progress with major ivy cutting taking place.*

### Grant Applications

Since the last newsletter we have been awarded £20,000 from the Fallago Windfarm Trust. We have certain commitments to be met with this award and with the Heritage Lottery Fund one. We are working on a programme to ensure we meet these commitments as well as getting on with the ivy removal and stonework consolidation.

### Ownership

We now have a letter from Scottish Borders Council confirming that they are the owners of the land upon which the church was built and that they have no objections to Ayton Heritage carrying out preservation work on the ruin. This should remove the ownership obstacle from further grant applications



### Ivy Cutting

Work began in earnest at the start of the month with Alan Hogarth working on the ivy at heights beyond those reached by volunteer work. The Fordyce Aisle is the first to be tackled and these photos show the good progress made, despite it being very difficult work.



Volunteers removed the cut ivy to a skip provided by Scottish Borders Council. This will

continue in the coming weeks with Alan working two days per week.

After each cutting session we need volunteers to do the tidying up. If you haven't already done so, please let me know if you can help with this and I'll add you to a mailing list which I will send out when help is required. It may not always be the same day every week and you don't have to come every time.

Bill Black

