

Community Support is Requested

The 2012 British Cemetery Ceremony and reception are scheduled for Friday May 11, 2012 at 11.00 A.M. This year is the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the H.M. Trawler Bedfordshire off the coast. Sub-Lieutenant Cunningham's son and his wife will be coming from England for the event. There will be representatives from England, Canada, and Germany participating in the ceremony. Ocracoke high school seniors, Molly Lovejoy and Virginia Downs, will read the history of the H.M. Trawler Bedfordshire and the names on the Roll of Honor. Seniors, Leslie Espinoza and Echo Bennick, will welcome the guests and distribute the programs.

The Ocracoke ceremony can trace its ties to island families back to May 1942. The British Cemetery site has meant a lot to the people of Ocracoke, as well as becoming an important stop for many visitors. As one stands at these gravesites, you begin to understand the kindness and respect people have shown for these four men who died so far from home. The Ocracoke community has continued to help care for the gravesites and to honor these British sailors.

The money raised each year goes to landscaping the grave sites and providing food for the reception. Much of the physical labor at the cemetery site is lovingly done by members from Coast Guard Station Hatteras / Ocracoke. The reception is catered by a local restaurant. The setting up, serving, and clean up is done by local volunteers from the community.

Each family and business is encouraged to make a donation to help fund this event. Please write a check designating that the money be used for the Ocracoke British Cemetery events and mail it to the Ocracoke Civic and Business Association by March 31. Mail your check to:

**OCBA
P. O. Box 456
Ocracoke, NC 27960**

We need volunteers for the reception. Please call Janey Jacoby at 928-1881 for specific information.

Thank you for your support.