

# Blervie Package Hopes Expand

## FINDHORN GROUP INTERESTED IN A BIGGER ACREAGE

THE Findhorn Foundation's interest in acquiring Blervie House near Forres will be taken a step further next month when representatives of the community's core group meet the owners to thrash out details of a possible purchase.

A spokesman for the Foundation said that they will be meeting Mr Marius Ooan to work out the whys and wherefores of a possible sale and in the meantime are considering exactly what use they could make of the fine Moray mansion.

Mr Ooan represents the owners," the spokesman added. He'll be acting on their behalf in negotiations with us."

He explained that since news broke of their interest in the property the Foundation have agreed to talk to the owners about taking on up to 80 acres of grounds instead of the 20 or so first mentioned.

"It makes more sense to take the entire package than try and make do with just part of the grounds," he said. "If we do take it on I'm sure we could find a use for the complete grounds."

But before the

Foundation conclude a bargain for the old house they plan to find out whether they would get planning permission for carrying out alterations and developing aspects of the property which would suit it to their needs.

"It's not that we plan any significant changes," the spokesman explained "but we want to be sure there are no hitches which could make things difficult for us."

### PLANNING

He said they had been in touch with Moray District Council's planning department and were following up

their interest in the property.

The Foundation are considering Blervie because the lease on their residential caravan site at Findhorn Park expires in seven years.

"We'd much rather stay on at Findhorn where we started 20 years ago, but with little chance of the lease being renewed we've go to start looking now for the future."

It is understood that controversial Dutch businessman Mr Johannes Helinga, who at one time had a stake in Blervie House, is no longer directly involved with the property.

## FOUNDATION OUTLINE PLANS FOR FUTURE

AS THE Findhorn Foundation appear to move towards the acquisition of another major property they have issued a statement setting out their intentions and plans for the future.

They are anxious to dispel local fears about possible expansion and stress that that is not their reason for a move to the Rafford area - should they decide to buy Blervie House.

They say the Findhorn Foundation was founded on the basic belief and faith in the underlying spirit and intelligence within all life. For nearly 20 years members have lived on land in the Findhorn Bay Caravan Park, seeking to embody this belief and work consciously and openly with nature in the spirit of co-operation and co-creation.

They claim they are moving towards the vision of a new society, one that relates to people, the environment and the planet out of a sense of love, understanding and wholeness rather than fear and survival.

Much of what they have accomplished in the past, experience and learnings, has been on a consciousness and awareness level and they now wish to apply this awareness more fully to the physical level of how they live; to express the essence of what Findhorn is through architecture,

landscape and integrated ecosystems which harmonise the needs of people with the needs of the natural systems in which they live.

"To this end we are seeking to become the legal owners of land suitable for this next stage of our growth.

"One possibility - and our current preference - is Pineridge, 7.5 acres to the north-east of the central caravan site. Until now all our dwellings there have by law had to be of a temporary nature, but a change of ownership into our hands would allow us legally to qualify for different land-use statutes.

"We now feel ready to make the long-term commitment to the land and to right stewardship that will be required should we become the legal owners of Pineridge and erect more permanent buildings. Our work in energy conservation, horticulture and ecology over the past two years will contribute to our taking this next step."

### INTEGRATION

The land use plan which the Foundation has developed - at this point

for Pineridge - sees the area mainly as a residential centre within the community, integrating families, children, singles, couples, the elderly and visiting guests. There will also be areas for food production, recreation, facilities for family and child education, cottage industries and crafts.

The main features will be the central open informal gardens, clustered and individual earth integrated dwellings blending with the landscape, trees and the natural flora and fauna of the Findhorn peninsula.

They are committed to aesthetically and ecologically sound, energy-efficient homes heated with low-tech energy systems, limited vehicular traffic, water conservation, and the recycling of all organic wastes on site. They also want the conservation of adjacent wild areas, including primarily the sand dunes of the Moray coast and the tidal marshes of the Findhorn Bay.

"We see the area growing and being developed in an organic manner over a period of years, with nature as the focal point and key quality," say the Foundation.

"It is the aim of the Foundation to create a model village, one that combines the essential principles of community, connection to nature, appropriate technology and spiritual awareness to form an integrated life-giving environment; an environment that provides all the basic nutrients and growing conditions for all life and all beings."