

BCT UPDATE

Birse Community Trust

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An Enduring Symbol

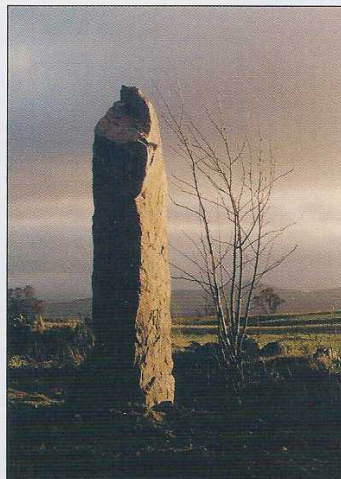
THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS NEWSLETTER started with a very special community event to mark the new Millennium. On 1st January 2000, nearly 300 local residents gathered on Corsdarder Hill to dedicate a newly erected standing stone as the Birse Millennium Stone. The remarkable turn out, fine weather and specially composed ceremony all contributed to an extraordinarily positive and very memorable occasion.

The event was organised by BCT and co-hosted with Finzean, Ballogie and Birse Community Associations.

During the unique ceremony, the Stone was dedicated by the Reverend Jack Holt, parish minister, as *"an enduring symbol of the community's gratitude for and remembrance of the past and of its hopes and dreams for the future"*. At the climax of the Dedication, he anointed the Stone with water drawn from each of the three rivers that define the parish's three local communities. The event ended with pipers playing "The Gathering at the Corsedarder Stone", a new pipe tune specially written by Tony Crease for the occasion.

The Millennium Stone shares Corsedarder with the parish War Memorial and the ancient Dardanus Standing Stone. The whole site is managed by Birse Community Trust on behalf of the community and extensive work was carried out by the Trust to improve the condition of the area in advance of the Dedication Event. This autumn, the Trust will install an interpretive panel to explain each of the distinctive stone monuments there.

At the end of the period covered by this newsletter, the Trust and three Associations joined together again to co-host a very successful Community Games and Picnic in Finzean on the 24th June.



The Birse Millennium Stone

BCT

Birse Community Trust, BCT, is a local community initiative *"to promote the common good of the inhabitants of Birse parish and deliver wider public benefits"*.

Everyone on the Electoral Registers for Birse parish is a member of BCT and responsible for electing the Trustees who run BCT on behalf of the community. The Trust's inaugural AGM was in February 1999 and during its first 18 months, BCT has developed an expanding range of projects to address local issues and capitalise on local opportunities.

BCT is a company limited by guarantee, a recognised Scottish charity (SC28220) and also a government approved Local Rural Partnership. The Trust won the Community Business prize in the 1999 Scottish Community of the Year Awards.

The Trust's role in developing and implementing projects as a community business complements the roles of the Finzean, Ballogie and Birse Community Associations that cover the parish and represent the views of the community. BCT is guided by the issues identified by the Associations and committed to working in full partnership with them on its projects.

(see Chairman's Comment on page 4)

Nearly 300 members of the local community at the Birse Millennium Stone on 1st January 2000



Photo by A. Addy