



BCT UPDATE

Birse Community Trust

ISSUE 6 Reporting on JULY – DECEMBER 2001

A Helpful Endorsement

DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS NEWSLETTER, BCT's main involvement has been its project to re-develop the Finzean Old School buildings to form offices for the Trust and other local businesses (see report on page 3).

An early visitor to BCT's new offices was Scotland's Deputy Minister for Rural Development, Rhona Brankin. She made a fact finding visit to BCT in November to learn more about the many different aspects to the Trust's involvements and gave a very positive and helpful endorsement of BCT's work.

Quoted in the press afterwards, the Minister praised the Trust for its innovative approaches to delivering local benefits and said "I have greatly enjoyed my visit to Birse Community Trust. It has been fascinating to find out more about the Trust first hand. I congratulate the Trust for all that it has achieved so far in such a short time and wish it well with its continuing endeavours on behalf of the local community".

Ms. Brankin, also the Scottish Forestry Minister, was particularly interested in the successful partnership BCT has formed with Forest Enterprise over the management of Balfour Wood and Slewdrum Forest. She cited it as "a shining example of its kind from which other rural communities in Scotland could learn".

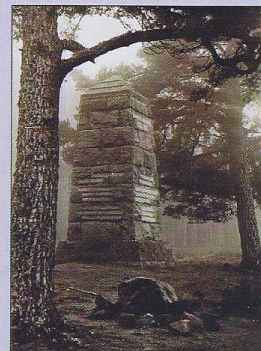
For BCT's work to be endorsed so fully by the Minister and be given such positive recognition at a national level, is particularly helpful to the Trust when it is

seeking outside funding for its projects (see Chairman's Comment page 2).

The photo below shows BCT's Chairman, the Reverend Jack Holt, with Scotland's Deputy Minister of Rural Affairs, Rhona Brankin, at BCT's new offices during the Minister's visit in November.



Photo by John Anderson



A photograph from BCT's Local History Archive (see page 2) of the parish War Memorial at Corsedardar. It was taken on the day in 1946 when the Memorial was re-dedicated after the names had been added of those who died in the Second World War. The tree on the right of the photo was removed in the mid fifties, when the public road was re-aligned to pass to the west side of the nearby Dardanus Standing Stone.

BCT

BCT IS A LOCAL community business "to promote the common good of the inhabitants of Birse parish and deliver wider public benefits".

Everyone on the Electoral Registers for the parish is a member of BCT and responsible for electing the Trustees who run BCT on behalf of the community. The Trust is a limited company, Scottish charity (SC28220) and government approved Local Rural Partnership.

The Trust has now been going three years and has taken on a wide range of projects to address local issues and capitalise on local opportunities. BCT's role in developing and implementing projects as a community business complements the roles of the local Community Associations and Community Councils that cover the parish and represent the views of the community. BCT is guided by the issues identified by them and works in full partnership with them on its projects.

BCT's Trustees are the Reverend Jack Holt (Chairman), Robert Dinnie, Joanna Strachan, Guy Haslam and Pam Taylor.

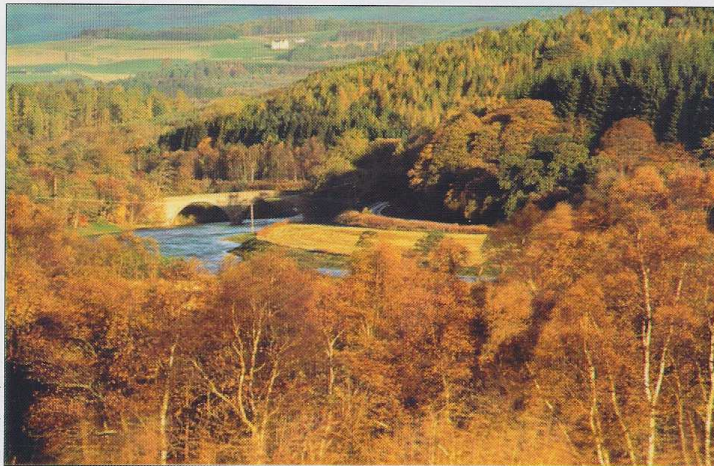


Photo by Andy Hall

The view northwards from Slewdrum Forest to the bridge over the Dee at Potarch. The Forest is managed jointly by BCT and Forest Enterprise under a long term agreement.