



# BCT UPDATE

Birse Community Trust

ISSUE 10

Spring 2004

## Finzean School Wood appears on Beechgrove Garden!

The Finzean School Wood lies across the road from Finzean Church. The wood was originally planted by pupils of Finzean Primary School as part of "Plant a tree in '73". Since then it has suffered neglect due to a lack of resources. In November 2003 Maureen Vernal, Headteacher at Finzean Primary School and Jane Bennett, a BCT Project Manager, put together an application for the School Wood to appear as a community garden on the BBC Scotland's "Beechgrove Garden" TV Programme.

It came as a surprise to hear in the following March that the wood had been selected as a finalist and filming would take place in May, just six weeks away. A meeting was held at the school in April and an action plan worked out. The meeting was well attended and a series of evening and weekend work parties were scheduled. With just over a month to prepare the Wood for filming it was never going to be an easy task, however the community in Finzean rallied to help prepare the site for planting.

The Beechgrove Garden contributed a small amount of money to help towards the cost of plants, materials and work. They also provided the services of Ian

Anderson, a garden designer. Most of the machinery and plants were donated by local business. Using the ideas of the school pupils, and taking into account BCT's wishes for native planting, Ian created a design for the Wood. The children wanted their wood to contain both sensory and tactile plants, encourage wildlife, birds, butterflies and, of course, be fun. The wood contains bird boxes and bat boxes, and a hand woven screen for observing the wild life. There are also giant wooden mushrooms and enormous spurtles, tattie mashers and rolling pins made at the Sawmill and representing part of the history of the area.

Photo Jane Bennett



At the end of March 2004, P6 and P7 pupils from Finzean Primary School helped BCT to plant some alders in the South Wood section of Finzean Community Woods.



Photo Jane Bennett

By the first day of filming, the Wood was almost ready. Filming took place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, particularly the school children who had the chance to see how a TV programme was made. They discovered that being film stars involved a lot of hanging around and waiting for shots to be set up, and quite a few retakes! The Beechgrove Team also visited gardens around Birse parish and filmed places of interest in the parish, such as the Twin Trees and the Queen of Firs in Ballogie. Some of those original children who planted the trees in '73, and are themselves parents of children at the school also appeared in the film.

The School Wood is now completely transformed and the pupils will be no doubt be using their wood a great deal in the future, as will the rest of the community.

A large number of local businesses kindly donated plants, machinery and equipment and BCT would like to thank them all, and also all those people who put in so much effort.

More details can be found on the BCT website [www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk) on the Finzean School Page.