



### BCT PURCHASE OF THE OLD SCHOOL

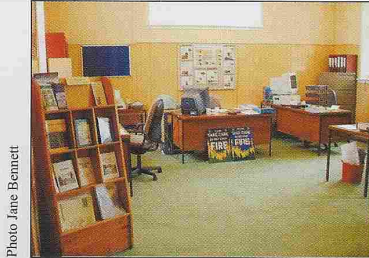


Photo Jane Bennett

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2003, BCT successfully concluded the purchase of Finzean Old School from Aberdeenshire Council with the help of grants from the Scottish Land Fund, Cairngorms Leader+ Programme and MacRobert Trust.

The Trust first became involved with the Old School in 2001, when it secured a lease on the site from the Council to safeguard the future of these historic buildings for community use. Since then, BCT has

carried out extensive work to renovate both the main school building and the former soup kitchen. The former Soup kitchen houses BCT's local archive while the Old School now provides BCT with an office and makes local affordable office space available for rent,

By becoming the owner, BCT has secured the long term future of the Old School as a community facility and ensured that the value of the Trusts investment in the site will not be lost at the end of the lease. Ownership of the site also allows BCT to consider longer term decisions, which would previously not have been considered a worthwhile investment

**If you are interested in renting office or studio space from the Trust please call the office for terms and conditions.**

### BALLOGIE SOUTER'S SHOP

Passers by will have noticed big changes next door to the Souter's Workshop, Ballogie, as Ballogie Estate pushes ahead with its development plans for the Muir Croft. At the workshop itself, BCT has been busy training guides as part of

its long term plan to build a body of guides for all Trust sites. The Trust is now hoping to raise funds to push ahead with further work at the Souter's Workshop. Plans - given appropriate funding - include repairing the impressive south window, creating a body of educational material so that a programme of guided visits can begin and continuing to gather local knowledge about



Photo Tricia Feldman

the souter, James Merchant, and the part he played in the local community.

If you want to know more about the workshop, have memories of James Merchant or would like to give us information about rural souters in general, please contact the Trust on 01330 850200.

### Grannies Attic

One afternoon in February 2004, the pupils of classes 1 and 2 of Finzean Primary School and their teachers crossed the playground to the Old School to visit to the BCT Archive. This was part of a class-room project called "Granny's Attic" looking at every-day objects and life when their grandmothers were young.

A diverse collection of school, personal and household items from the Archive was put on display and a lively hour spent trying to guess what each item was before having its use explained. A school slate, a pen with nib and inkwell and the now-banished leather tawse were of special interest. Great fun was had with a tin hip-bath which came from Muircroft at the Soutar's Shop. After realising that the water would have had to be carried into the house and heated on the fire before filling the bath, the children were intrigued by the fact that the same water might have been used by more than one person. They then worked out how to empty the bath!

The visit was very interactive with the pupils showing great interest in everything on display. It clearly illustrated the value of the Archive in preserving this aspect of history.

Eileen Bailey. Archivist.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Scandinavian Study Tour

Improving the suitability of our forests for the endangered capercaillie is an important issue for BCT. Last September, Paul Chapman represented the Trust on a four-day study tour looking at forest management for capercaillie in Scandinavia. Visiting Uppsala in Sweden and Oslo in Norway, the tour attracted about 30 participants involved in capercaillie conservation in Scotland,



Photo John Chapman

including representatives of the Forestry Commission, private estates and conservation bodies. A series of talks and field visits were led by local researchers and forest managers and various issues were discussed, including timber harvesting methods, providing ground cover for females and chicks, predator control and disturbance by people.

Davy Duncan with students on a visit from an agricultural collage in Sweden



BCT runs stone dyke course Over the last 6 months BCT has provided two drystone dyking weekend courses. The courses have been popular and BCT is considering running further courses over the summer on weekday nights. If you are interested in participating please contact the office.



Photo Jane Bennett

**A date for your diary  
BCT's AGM 23rd June 2004  
at Ballogie Hall  
Everyone Welcome**