

## Finzean Community Woods



Photo © John Hector

BCT's new bridge being lowered into position in the Community Woods in January. This provides access to the southern most part of the Woods and an additional option on the much used 1.5 km circular path through the Woods around Finzean Village.

## Finzean Old School

BCT has been carrying out repairs and improvements to the Old School buildings since it became owner of the site just over a year ago. The re-harling of parts of the main building and the former toilet block (now BCT's environmentally controlled archive) has been completed. The major project now is building a porch on to the Soup Kitchen. This will mean that the main room no longer opens straight to the outside and that the toilet can also be reached without going outside.



Doug Gray and Ian Hector building the new porch on the former Soup Kitchen. Photo © W Bailey

## Commonty Pinewoods

During the period covered by this newsletter, BCT has nearly completed all the tasks required to put in place a new five year forestry grant scheme for the over 500 ha of native pinewoods that BCT manages on the North Hill of the Forest of Birse Commonty. The tasks have included updating the agreements BCT has with the other parties with rights over the Commonty (Birse & Ballogie Estates), developing its management proposals and associated financial plans, and consulting locally with the Community Councils and Community Associations on its proposals. A particularly important and interesting aspect is BCT's proposed five year programme of community involvement and training related to the management of the pinewoods.

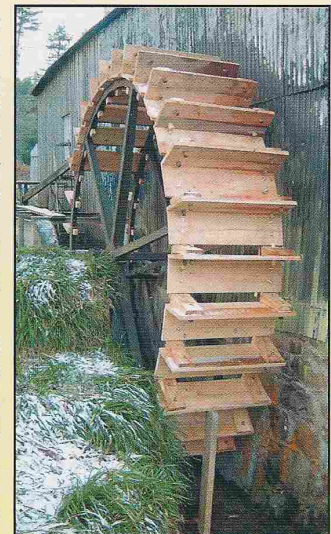


Photo © John Forster

The community consultation meetings which were facilitated by John Forster and Dave Latham, included the participants dividing into small groups to discuss particular topics.

## Finzean Wood Mills

BCT has continued its major project to restore the Sawmill, Turning Mill and Bucket Mill. It is now entering phase three of the works to these historic Grade A listed buildings to be approved and part funded by Historic Scotland. This includes repairs to the Bucket Mill wheel, the old forge at the Turning Mill and the sawbenches at the Sawmill and Bucket Mill, as well as the reinstatement of the timber loading ramps at the mills. The expertise of David Duncan at the Sawmill and Stan Moyes at the Bucket Mill is central to this on-going work. Other local expertise has included Doug Gray's pattern-making skills which have enabled BCT to have new cast iron rack and pinions made for the sluice gates.



The Bucket Mill Wheel  
Photo © John Addy



The 15 local residents who took part in a Food Hygiene Training Course held in Finzean Hall to enable members of local community groups to achieve a certificate from the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland. The course was co-funded by BCT, Finzean Community Association and the participants.