



# BCT UPDATE

## Birse Community Trust

ISSUE 14

Spring 2006

### Slewdrum Ballot Success

The postal ballot conducted by BCT in February over its proposal to buy Slewdrum Forest was a huge success. There was an 80% response rate from the electorate of 615 voters in Birse parish and over 98% supported the proposal.

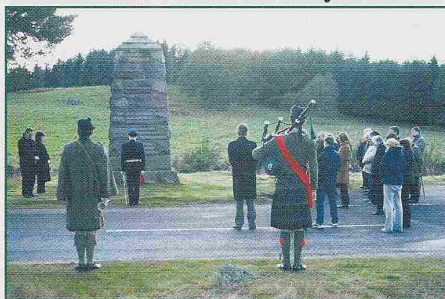
BCT is very grateful to everyone who voted. The ballot has been a great boost for BCT's applications to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to buy Slewdrum and to funders for grants towards the purchase price. While these bodies have seen high percentage levels of support in land purchase ballots in recent years by other communities, the turn out in Birse was exceptionally high and a great credit to the community.

There has been little progress so far since the ballot with the bid to buy the Forest. BCT's

application to the NFLS has been through its Evaluation Panel, but BCT will not know if its application is approved until near the end of March. The main grant body also postponed its February meeting until the end of March. Not for the first time, progress has been slower than expected.

BCT remains optimistic, however, that it will eventually be successful in its bid to buy Slewdrum on behalf of the local community and continues to develop plans so it will be prepared to take on the management of the Forest. It is an exciting prospect and BCT will keep the community informed about progress with the purchase. BCT hopes to be consulting locally on management plans for the Forest before too long!

### Remembrance Day 2005



*Birse War Memorial, Corsedarder. Photo © W. Bailey*

Lord Lieutenant Angus Farquharson laid a wreath at Birse War Memorial, Corsedarder at the Remembrance Day Service.

Organised by BCT, the service was well attended and was followed by a service at Birse Church War Memorial.

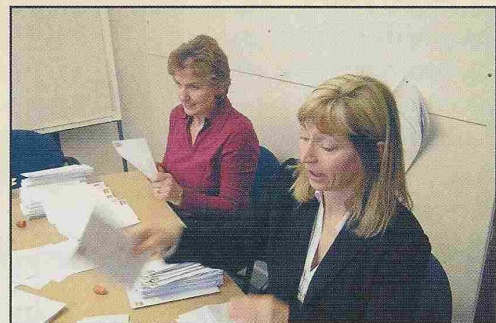
This year is the 60th anniversary of the ceremony marking the addition of the names of the men of Birse who fell in WW2.

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*Sandra Forster, BCT Trustee hands over the Ballot Papers to local Postman Richard Fowlie and Finzean Postmistress Jill MacGregor. Photo © Robin Callander*



*The Ballot being counted at Aberdeenshire Council's Marr Area Office.*

### BCT

BCT exists "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 five Trustees who run BCT on behalf of the community. The Trust has been in operation since 1999 and undertakes a wide range of projects on behalf of the local community. 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.

Birse Community Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a Scottish charity (SC28220) having its Registered Office at 51 Atholl Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5BU It is a government approved Local Rural Partnership.