



Visitors to the Trust



Visiting group Photo © John Addy

BCT has a lot to offer visiting educational and other groups and this is an area of activity which we would like to expand. Here a group from one of Aboyne Community Centre's adult education courses is looking at the regenerating pine woods and discussing nature conservation on the North Hill in the Forest of Birse Community.

We welcome visitors to all our projects including the Mills, Souter's Shop, Archive, Natural Heritage and to look at our forest management activities. Members of BCT, local community groups and individuals anywhere are encouraged to contact the office if they would like to arrange a visit.

Trustees Reception 2005



In December 2005, BCT Trustees hosted their annual Reception to thank those who had contributed to the work of the Trust during the year. The sixty guests included representatives of various organisations with which the Trust is associated. During the evening, Donald Silcock, Chairman of BCT spoke of the wide range of projects being undertaken and expressed the appreciation of the Board to all who had worked so hard, in many different ways, to make it another successful year. Guest speaker, Angus Farquharson, first Patron, gave an interesting address on the history of the development of the Trust since it was first proposed.

Donations to the Trust are vital for it to be able to continue its local work to conserve the parish's heritage. The Trust therefore very greatly appreciates any donations large or small. Please send your donation to BCT, The Old School, Finzean, Banchory AB31 6NY

And here was the weather – at Finzean Old School

20th January – 10th February 1941. Roads blocked with snow and drifting in high winds. Soldiers deployed to clear roads apparently with little effect. Snow and gales were back again by 27th February and similar conditions prevailed for a week at the end of March.

8th January 1945. When school resumed after holidays only very few children could attend because of heavy snow and high winds. By 12th of the month roads were filled in and by the 18th there was further heavy snowfall. Snow was still disrupting the school attendance at the beginning of February. Additional problems arose from all classes having to be taken in one classroom because of heating problems.

In 1954 a similar pattern of weather affected attendances when, from the day school resumed after the holidays, 4th January, to the 11th March,

heavy snow and wind caused drifting and blocked roads. It was a memorable occasion when, on 24 February the school-rooms were lit by electricity for the first time.

26th June 1958. Heavy rain flooded the porch and a classroom and children from other side of the Feugh were sent home.

5th December 1961. Snow closed the school. The next day those children who had made it into school through drifting snow were given cocoa in the Schoolhouse before being walked home again by the teachers.

6th February 1963. Heavy drifting snow closed the school and by the following day the school was completely snowed in. Several efforts were made to clear the school road but snow was still a problem at the 15th February.

[From Archive research]

Archive Corner



Photograph of a school visit to Forest of Birse, late January 1976. (Obviously before the Fire Prevention lecture). [BCT Archive]

Office / Studio space at Finzean Old School is available to rent. For more details, please contact the BCT Office. Telephone 01330 850200