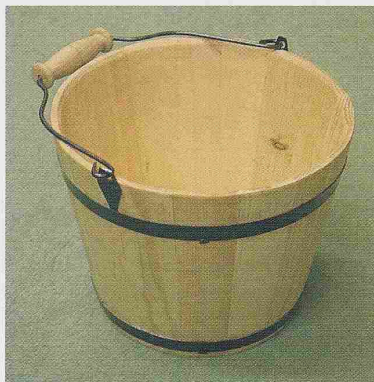


## WOOD IS GOOD



Following the refurbishment of the water wheel at the Bucket Mill we now have a limited number of buckets traditionally crafted in native pine by Stan Moyes. These are for sale at £75 +VAT carriage extra.

David Duncan at the Turning Mill has produced for BCT a range of turned wooden goods including spurtles, tattic mashers, rolling pins, egg cups, kitchen roll holders and rounders bats.

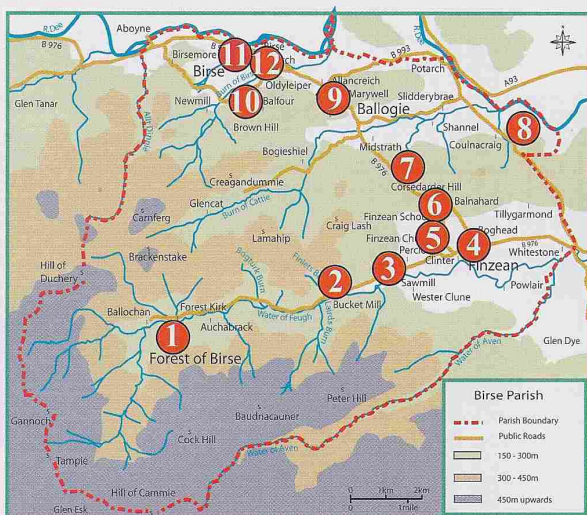
### Associate Membership

Anyone who lives outside Birse parish can support BCT's work by becoming an Associate Member. The annual subscription is £20 in the UK and £25 overseas. Membership runs for 12 months and includes two issues of BCT Update, special discounts on BCT's publications, invitations to visit the sites managed by BCT and other benefits. Only one subscription is needed per household. Subscriptions should be sent to: BCT, The Old School, Finzean, Banchory AB31 6NY

### Acknowledgements

BCT is very grateful to all those who have supported BCT's work during 2005 so far, including the following for grants: Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms Leader+ Programme, Forestry Commission Scotland, Forward Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Scottish Land Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage.

**Birse Parish** covers over 125 sq.km (50 sq.mls) of Mid Deeside and has a total population of nearly 750 in c.260 households. The four main parts of the parish that form the basis of BCT's logo are the communities of Finzean, Ballogie and Birse and the largely uninhabited Forest of Birse. The sites that BCT is directly involved in managing are marked on the map and listed below with the legal basis of that involvement.



1. Forest of Birse Community. c.3750 ha. ancient rights.
2. Bucket Mill. c.1 ha. ownership.
3. Finzean Sawmill. c.1 ha. ownership.
4. Finzean Community Wood. c.15 ha. long-term lease.
5. Finzean School Wood. c.0.3 ha. long-term lease.
6. Finzean Old School. c.0.3 ha. ownership.
7. Corsedarder. c.0.3 ha. long term lease.
8. Slewdrum Forest. c.155 ha. long term agreement.
9. Ballogie Soutar's Shop. Building only, ownership.
10. Balfour Wood. c.240 ha. long term agreement.
11. Birse Community Hall. ownership.
12. Historic Birse Kirk. ownership.

#### Data Protection Act. 1998

Members' details are stored on computer for administration purposes only, and will not be given, lent, or sold to any third party.

### Chairman's Comment

WOW!" – this was one of the many comments following the Slewdrum community ballot – we campaigned for a good response and WOW did we get one, nearly 80% return rate and an emphatic YES vote. You all certainly know how to keep BCT busy! We now need to convince all the grant bodies to be as positive as our community members – many thanks for all those involved and to everyone in the community for backing BCT so positively. It gives us all great encouragement in our work with BCT to have such good support from our members.

Since my comment last Autumn the Trustees have been busy challenging our Management team to conclude funding applications, check cash flows on their projects and report on key targets achieved. All this in order to finalise the end of year accounts for 2005 ready for our AGM on 10th May whilst also focusing on the way ahead for 2006.

The Trustees have changed the management strategy of BCT in the last few months following the recommendations of the development project and are exploring a Co-ordinator role which we are pleased to say is promising to be extremely beneficial. It is also providing a good platform to review the business management processes with a view to increasing non grant income.

Health & Safety is high on the agenda as we all know that a risk assessment is needed for virtually every activity undertaken these days so my fellow Trustees and managers have been diligently creating a revised policy for BCT and promoting a healthy & safe ethos throughout the Trust.

All exciting cogs in the BCT machine... anyone fancy a challenge?

Donald M Silcock  
Chairman