



The Lion's Face



Newsletter of Clan Farquharson UK

NUMBER EIGHT

NOVEMBER 2004

www.farquharson-clan.co.uk

2005 GATHERING

Wednesday 10 August to Sunday 14 August

More details shortly.

CLAN FARQUHARSON GATHERING

August 2004

Ballater Games

For those who chose to arrive early for the 2004 Gathering a trip to the traditional Ballater games was in store. Armed with a tent, banner, visitors book and a wee dram, we headed off to the games unsure if the weather would hold out and, for those first time visitors, uncertain what to expect.

Kilts were definitely the order of the day as men of all shapes and sizes limbered up for their chosen competition. Hammers were thrown, cabers were tossed, ropes were tugged, shots were put and weights were lobbed over a bar. Around it all ran the athletes, competing in sprints and the longer distance races. Then, just as the cloud was once again coming down over the hills, the gun fired and the runners were off. Men and women, keen runners and amateurs, began their two laps of the arena before breaking and tearing up through the town onto the mountain paths for the "hill run". Looking up to the top of the mountain from the arena the runner looked like specks as they reached the peak before turning and racing back down to be first to cross the finishing line. As spectators cheered the runners back into the stadium the pipes and Scottish dancing contests reached their conclusions.

For those who wanted to take things more at their own pace stalls and games surrounding the arena offered entertainment including sweets, jewellery and the opportunity to win another bottle of whisky. Tucked near registration the Farquharson Clan tent was popular all day. Members of the Clan were on hand to answer visitor's questions and encourage them to sign the visitor's book.

Finzean House

Single file along windy lanes, Clansmen slowly made their way to the first official Farquharson Clan outing. Boarding a bus outside Finzean village hall everyone was driven to Finzean House where we were welcomed by Angus Farquharson, the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, his wife Alison and family for the first official clan event of 2004.

With a cup of coffee and a shortbread biscuit in our hands we listened to the history of Angus' family and how the land had been passed down to him and onto his sons.

As the sun broke through the clouds we wandered outside, looking out over the family's estate and were told about the farming that takes place in the Finzean Valley. The area, once famous for its ancient Calladonian pine, has in recent years become more focused on modern farming although the tree is once again thriving in certain parts.

Then it was time for more family history as we moved onto the Corsedardar Stone. We were able to look out at the land and were given thorough detail on the way the land was managed and is managed today. For the Finzean community the church and school play an important part in village life. In this small community, there was evidence of Farquharson's having played their role in many aspects of rural life.

Then it was time for lunch back at the Finzean Hall. Joseph Farquharson presented the hall to the people of Finzean in 1928. However it had been restored and extended by the Finzean community in 2002 and officially opened a year later. As people finished their food from the stunning buffet, a vote of thanks for the day was given to Angus, Allison and the family.

Now it was time to learn more about the regeneration programme at work within Finzean.

The Birse Community Trust works to keep traditions such as the saw and bucket water mills alive. As we arrived at the sawmill, David Duncan, a fourth generation operator of the saw and turning mill greeted us. Both this mill and the bucket mill, which we were to visit later, are owned by the Birse Community trust. All the mills are operated by water. David will be the last Duncan to operate the mill as his son left the area to make what David described as ‘a more realistic living’.

“I thoroughly enjoy my work,” said David who still carves works items to be sold in the Birse Community shop. As we left David, having had a nose around his work shop, we were each handed a Spittal – used to stir porridge – made from local wood and carved by his own fair hand.

We then moved onto the bucket mill, situated a little further up-stream. It was at its most productive in 1850 and had a big royal contract for buckets to support the Navy. The forest behind the mill had re-seeded itself after being cut down. The buckets made from the wood retail in the Birse shop for £80 these days. Those feeling energetic left the bucket mill by foot and wandered back to the sawmill alongside the river.

As the bus waited for some of the slower walkers those wanting to get warmed up for the evening’s ceilidh continued to walk back towards the village hall, until the bus met them along the road.

Tired but after an enjoyable day it was time to get the glad rags on and pull on the dancing shoes.

Ceilidh

From the first note of the first tune people were on the dance floor tapping their feet and swinging each other around – almost in time to the music.

Drinks flowed and would be nice to say that as the evening wore on the dancing improved, maybe for some, for Kate it did, but for the rest of us the music got faster and our feet stayed at pretty much the same speed. But hey they kept on moving, and moving and moving.

Laughter dominated the air as people twisted and turned the wrong way bumping into each other and desperately trying not to step on their partner’s feet. Young and old danced along side each other and even when people were sat at the tables their feet continued to tap. Rapturous applause greeted the final tune as

the band, the Randan Ceilidh Band were thanked and people wandered home worn out from the day’s activities.

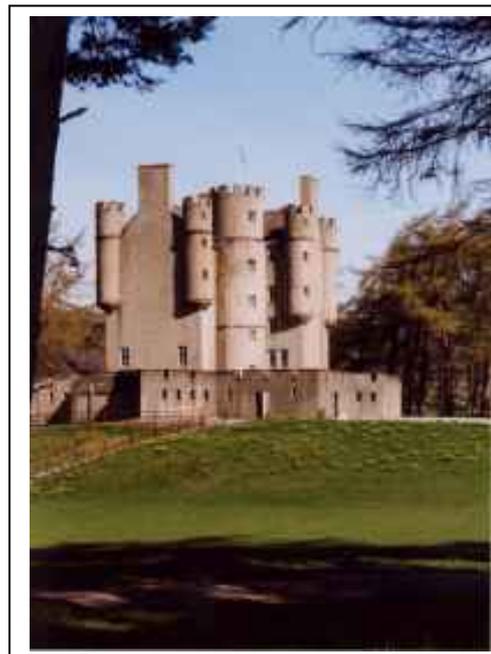
AGM

A good attendance at the Clan’s AGM helped to set out the aims for the future and consider ways of extending our appeal to new members. [See minutes].

Ideas included smaller events providing an element of choice to members at the gathering and more information about the history and heritage of the area and the Farquharson’s.

Braemar Castle

In fantastic summer sunshine we drove up the drive to Braemar Castle, to be welcomed by Bruce McCudden. The former fortified hunting lodge, laid out in much the same way as it had been when the Clan Chief and his family had lived in it, the Castle is now a museum and welcomes its guests with an extensive Clan history.



At one o’clock members of the Clan gathered outside the castle and the 2004 gathering photo was taken. The bright sunshine in the clear blue-sky overhead made the picture very special (see the Website), just like a wonderful tourist post card. Lunch was provided in Gordon’s tea room in Braemar.

Clan Farquharson Formal Dinner

An afternoon of free time gave everyone the opportunity to pamper themselves and prepare for

the Clan's formal dinner that evening at the Huntly Arms Hotel in Ballater.

Once seats were taken, the Chief, Martin piped Madame Farquharson and distinguished guests in. Martin piped at all the major events of the weekend to provide a very Scottish feel. A lovely meal was laid on and once again the wine flowed freely.

Both the Chief and the President welcomed clan members from around the world and glasses were raised in thanks to everyone who had worked so hard to make the weekend such a success. With the meal eaten it was time to keep drinking, catch with old friends and get to know more about new friends.

Visit to Cairn

For those able to stay, a final morning a trip to the Cairn was organised. Led by the Chief we marched across a cow filled field to spend a moment reflecting and remembering those who gave their lives for the freedom of others. Martin provided the

FINZEAN AND CLAN FARQUHARSON

Reproduced here are the talks given by Angus Farquarson and his family during our visit to Finzean during the 2004 Gathering.

The Parish of Birse, of which Finzean is part, was granted to the Bishops of Aberdeen, sometime before 1157, but, after the Reformation, was broken up into a number of small properties, acquired by various families. In 1580, Donald Farquharson of the Castletown of Braemar, son of Finlay Mor, by his second wife, Beatrix Gardyne, acquired Tillygarmont, the first Farquharson property in the Feugh valley.

Donald was a brother of the Laird of Invercauld, and a man of considerable influence, for he was Baillie to the Earl of Huntly in Strathdee, and four years after acquiring Tillygarmont, was appointed by King James the Sixth, Keeper of the Forests of Braemar, Cromar and Strathdee. Over the years he acquired more property, adding Balfiddy to his adjoining lands of Tillygarmont. His four sons went on to found the Monaltrie, Finzean, Inverey and Tillycairn branches of the Clan, and it is from Inverey, that the Balmoral branch are descended.

However his second son, Robert, acquired Finzean in 1608, after marrying Margaret, who was the widow of Angus Macdonald, younger of Glengarry, the son of the 8th Chieftain, who was killed in a skirmish by the Mackenzies on the Isle of Skye. Shortly before his marriage Robert was reputed to have fallen out with his father, Donald and left the

pipes, and the chief helped us reflect as he read a poem he had written and explained the history of the site.

Then it was explained that a stone had been selected from the site that would be heading back to Australia with Beryl Hardy-Nesbitt... from the Clan down under. Desmond Quaite said a few words and lead a prayer.

As people headed back towards the farmhouse where the cars were parked, it was time to say our goodbyes and make promises of catching up with each other soon – hopefully before next years gathering.

Report by Hannah Farquharson.

Milltown of Crathie, where he then resided, to go to Dundee and set up in business there.

Margaret was devastated after her first husbands death, and happened to come to Dundee with her father, Lachlan, who was the 16th Chief of the Clan Macintosh. The story goes that one day she noticed a tall good looking man passing by, and fell deeply in love with him, to the point that she became ill with a fever, much to her fathers alarm. When the Macintosh found out the actual source of the trouble, he accosted Robert as he passed by the house and laid the matter before him. Robert was astonished and being a cautious man, did not want to become involved.

However, the Macintosh pleaded with him to see his daughter, and asked him to marry her. Robert was quite stubborn about marrying a widow he had never seen or met, but finally agreed. Rather unwillingly he was introduced and was stunned by her beauty and charm. He too fell in love, and the marriage took place at once, and his grateful father-in-law endowed him handsomely. They bought Finzean with the proceeds of the dowry and lived happily together there for many years, bringing up a large family. So the story goes, but be that as it may, Robert would probably be not unknown to the Macintosh, as he was the son of Donald, the King's Keeper of the Forests of Braemar, Cromar and Strathdee, and grandson of Findlay Mor and so a distant kinsman of the Macintosh himself. This famous love match of Robert and Margaret started a long line of Farquharsons, which so far has lasted 17 generations. Their descendants have survived war, civil strife, economic disaster and bankruptcy, probably because of a deep attachment to a

beautiful valley and much loved home, but perhaps too they came to develop a commitment to the people, who made up the community around them.

The early part of the seventeenth century was a period of expansion. Robert and Margaret acquired land elsewhere on Deeside, at Aberarder and Glenmuick. They had an interest in land in the Macintosh country on Speyside, but these small areas were subsequently sold to consolidate the family estate here in Finzean. Roberts elder brother inherited Tillygarmont, to be followed by his son, the renowned Colonel Donald Farquharson of Tillygarmont and Monaltrie. Described at the time as "a brave gentleman and one of the noblest captains amongst all the Highlanders of Scotland". He was killed in 1645, having played a distinguished part in the Civil War in Montrose's army.

During that unhappy period, the whole Parish of Birse suffered severely, as a consequence of their Royalist sympathies, and the Finzean valley was laid waste by the Earl of Argyll's army in 1644. It is most likely that the original Finzean House and that of Tillygarmont were destroyed at that time, but after Donald's death, the Tillygarmont lands were eventually acquired by the Finzean Farquharsons. Their Tillygarmont cousins went on to rebuild their fortunes at Monaltrie and Whitehouse. Today, no a trace remains of the old Tillygarmont house, but he names of four Finzean farms, bearing the name Tillygarmont, continue to remain with the family. Finzean House was restored in 1686, three years before the Battle of Killiecrankie, where the Finzean Lairds cousin, the Black Colonel, fought so bravely.

In 1706, Queen Anne established the Finzean lands as a Barony, with the Laird of Finzean holding his property directly from the Crown, and from no other feudal superior. For that reason, the Earl of Mar was unable to force the Lord of Finzean to take part in the 1715 rising, while so many of his relatives wee to play a more active role. The Laird of Finzean's sister was the mother of Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie, the well-known Baron Ban of the 1745 rising. It is possible that there would have been Jacobite sympathies in the household, but there is no evidence of that today, apart from the old white rose, which still adorns Finzean House.

By the end of the 18th century the Finzean lands continued to expand, taking in all the properties within the middle reaches of the Feugh, on both north and south banks, as well as other lands at Lumphanan, north of the Dee, and the small estate of Migvie, in Cromar. In 1784, the Court of Session granted an entail, establishing that all these properties remain undivided, to be passed down

the male line, with provision that, if it were ever to die out, the female line would succeed on the understanding that the surname of "Farquharson of Finzean" was retained.

Not until Joseph Farquharson RA died in 1935, was that understanding broken, and sadly it was then forced on the family to pay for the death duties of three Lairds. Lumphanan, Migvie and Auchabrack in the Forest of Birse, were all sold. Nevertheless, in 1961, when Alison Farquharson inherited Finzean, on her marriage to Angus, the surname of "Farquharson of Finzean" was retained, fulfilling the terms of the 1784 entail. Since then all the lands have been passed onto the 16th generation, who own separate estates, run now as a partnership.

Finzean probably reached its zenith in the early part of the nineteenth century, when Archie, the then Laird, married Frances Russell of Blackhall, which brought together all the adjoining territory between Finzean and Banchory, as well as the extensive lands of Glendye, consolidating a magnificent estate of 45,000 acres. Unfortunately this was all very short-lived, for Archie lived well beyond his means, spending a large sum of money on a new castle at Blackhall, establishing a race course there, gambling and losing three legal cases in the House of Lords. He led a colourful life as an MP and Regency Laird, attending George IV at Holyrood in 1822, and often travelled in great style, accompanied by three family pipers, attired in Farquharson tartan. Eventually he became bankrupt, sold Black hall and Glendye and, had it not been for the entail of the Finzean properties, no doubt he might well have lost that too.

A short time after Archie's death, Finzean was inherited by his cousin Dr Francis Farquharson, who carried out many improvements and helped to replant the woodlands, previously stripped by Archie's creditors. The Estate prospered once again under his two sons, Robert MP for West Aberdeenshire and his younger brother, Joseph Farquharson, the artist.

In more modern times, a slimmed down version has been adopted to suite the age we now live in. Finzean House was burnt down in 1954, when many of the family treasures, pictures and historical papers were lost. Rebuilt shortly afterwards by William Marshall Farquharson-Lang, 14th Laird, who did so much to rescue the estate after the devastating death duties had been met. Acting against the advice of his Edinburgh lawyer to sell in 1938, he reinvested all the income over a period of 23 years, to present a property, unencumbered by debt, to his only daughter, Alison. The house was improved considerably in 2002, by Donald and Catriona Farquharson.

The Home Farm was greatly expanded after 1969, taking in several smaller properties and is now managed by Donald's younger brother Andrew, who resides with his wife Kate, in the historic house of Tillyfruskie. Over the last fifty years, over 2000 acres of forestry were restored after the devastation caused by the wartime fellings and the 1953 gale. Today the estate continues as an agricultural, forestry and sporting property, with enlarged tenanted farms and a number of rented houses.

At the same time, the Farquharson family initiated the first rural sheltered housing scheme in Aberdeenshire, donating the land to the Castlehill Housing Association. There has been a continuing policy of providing low-cost sites for young local people, born and bred in the valley, so that they are able to build their own homes and bring up another generation within their own community. In 1994 the first Community Wood, in the North of Scotland was established round the village alongside the magnificent public hall, built originally by Joseph Farquharson RA in 1928. At a cost of over £300,000, it was recently restored and improved, to be officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal in 2003.

Finzean means in Gaelic "the fair place" and was the first home of Robert and Margaret Farquharson, who would both have been Gaelic speakers. Over the course of time it came to mean something much more than the modest family property in which they lived, developing into an estate and then a parish in its own right. For other people today, it means something else, both a village and a community and the Farquharsons continue to play a positive role in its development.

Shortly before the Millenium, Alison Farquharson, who still holds the Barony title, along with her children, Jean, Donald and Andrew voluntarily decided to make over their historic rights in the Forest of Birse, established in the Crown charters of 1708. They transferred them to a newly formed Birse Community Trust, a registered charity. This novel idea was conceived by their family lawyer, Hugh Cochran, who happened also to be descended from the Farquharsons of Balfour, and held similar rights. In addition to this gift, the Community Wood, which had already been established by the family some years before, was leased to the new Trust and the historic watermills on the estate were donated to ensure their future preservation.

On the strength of all of this, Birse Community Trust secured a generous Millenium Forest Grant. As far as Clan Farquharson is concerned, it celebrated and marked over four hundred years of

residence in the valley and the Millenium itself provided the motivation to make this all possible. On New Year's morning, 2000, before two hundred people gathered on Corsedardar Hill, a standing stone was erected. The legal documents were handed over and a new pipe tune, "The Gathering at Corsedardar Hill", dedicated to Angus and Alison Farquharson, was played to celebrate the occasion, hopefully bringing in a new prosperous and peaceful era for the 21st century.

Footnote

Colonel Alastair Rose, who is Catriona's father, and who very kindly played the pipes outside the house when the Clan arrived, has agreed to play this tune at Corsedardar and I am most grateful to him. I would like to say a few words about him. It is interesting that his family had an association with Finzean 350 years ago, for one of his ancestors was Laird of Easter Clune, at the time of the Civil War, and imprisoned in the Edinburgh Tolbooth, with Donald Farquharson of Tillygarmond, for his royalist sympathies.

The Roses were an astonishingly talented family and his particular branch of the family has produced statesmen, diplomats, judges, poets, authors, a Field Marshall of the British Army, a dozen generals, many colonels and officers of other ranks.

I don't know if Alastair is the longest serving soldier in the British Army, but having joined the Black Watch in 1943 and subsequently served with the Gurkhas, he must be at least very near that point in his career.

Corsedardar

At the beginning of the 19th century, the road over Corsedardar Hill was being straightened and improved, and in the course of doing this, the standing stone opposite, was broken, much to the distress of the Laird, Archie Farquharson, who believed it was a bad omen. He arranged for a bar to be made by the blacksmith to hold the pieces together. During the night the stone fell apart. To make sure, two bars were put in place, but the following night the same thing happened. So finally three bars were bolted together and there they remain to this day.

The stone is supposed to mark the site where King Dardanus, a pictish king was killed and tradition has it that he was buried beneath the Long Cairn, where you will be taken shortly. There is another tradition, that a viking chief is buried under this Cairn, but probably it is of a much earlier construction being, in fact a Neolithic long cairn.

At this site, on New Year's Day 2000, there was a historic gathering of about 200 people, and here some of the deeds for Birse Community Trust were handed over by the family, making possible the release of funds from the Millennium Forest Fund. A new standing stone was gifted to the Community and a pipe tune, written specially for the occasion by Major Tony Crease of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was played.

Colonel Alastair Rose, who is Catriona's father, has kindly agreed to play this tune "The Gathering at Corsedardar Stone", as it seems to be most appropriate to do this on this occasion. After this Andrew will give a little talk on the land use of the estate. Following the talk we will walk up through the woods to see the Long Cairn, which is not another Cairn na Queen, with Clan associations, but is nevertheless worth seeing, for it is the oldest made structure in the Parish.

One other thing worth mentioning, is that you will notice some newly planted trees in the vicinity. These were planted by Birse Community Trust to commemorate each of the young men, from this Parish, who lost their lives in the two world wars. I think it was rather a nice thing to do, at the beginning of a new millennium, just to remind us all about the sacrifice made for our benefit in the two world wars.

Finzean Church

This Kirk was built in 1863 by Francis Farquharson, 10th Laird of Finzean. That same year he had lost his devoted wife, Alison Mary Ainslie, who had borne him six sons, and this building is perhaps a fitting memorial to her. She was the daughter of Robert Ainslie, WS of Edinburgh, the friend and companion of Robbie Burns, and about whom Burns once wrote "I find the idea of your friendship necessary to my existence. I doubt, upon the whole, if you are one of the first fellows in God's world, but you are so to me".

It is very much a family church, and within it are not only the memorial plaques of Francis and Alison Mary, but also of Robert, his son, the 11th Laird, who was Liberal MP for West Aberdeenshire for 25 years, and Joseph, his younger brother and 12th Laird, an RA and noted artist of so many Finzean scenes. In the stained glass window, above the vestry door, two lights commemorate John, yet another son, who died aged 16, after an accident at Glenalmond, and William, father of Francis, an Edinburgh physician, and president of the Royal College of Surgeons. The stained glass windows on the south side bear the symbols of the lion and pine tree, part of the coat of arms of the family, and the motto "In memoriam maiorum," meaning "in memory of the greater men".

Finzean was built as a mission church, being part of the greater and ancient parish of Birse, with an ecclesiastical history stretching back to 1157. Birse Kirk is situated two miles from Aboyne and was inconveniently placed for the residents of Feughside and the Forest of Birse, who for the most part, had to walk over 10 miles for the Sunday services in all weathers. In 1904 Finzean became a parish in its own right, with a resident minister, installed in the adjoining manse. It was later linked to Strachan in 1959, and reunited to the mother church of Birse in 1987, to become now known as Birse and Feughside.

The Church of Scotland have recently sold Birse Church and are in the course of selling Strachan Church so that Finzean Church, which lies in the centre of the united parishes will become the sole church for Birse and Feughside. Plans are progressing to enlarge the Church building out on the north and east sides to provide more accommodation, with a small hall and Sunday School room, a kitchen and facilities for the disabled.

The new combined Parish Church is catering for all the people south of the Dee between Banchory and Aboyne to the Cairn o' Mount, including Glen Dye and the Forest of Birse. This vast and beautiful area now forms one of the largest parishes in the Presbytery of Kincardine and Deeside. The adjoining Manse is the residence of the Minister.

Forestry in Finzean

The old early 19th century maps for Middle Deeside seem to indicate that Finzean and Glen Tanar were the most significant areas where the ancient Caledonian Pine reigned supreme, and it is perhaps significant that the Coat of Arms of the Farquharsons of Finzean have three pine trees emblazoned on the shield, along with the Lion Rampant and the Scottish saltire.

But the Finzean forests were not really exploited until 1825, after Archie Farquharson was bankrupted. There was an entail on the estate so that land could never be sold, but the creditors were able to plunder the woodlands and this they did in full measure. Timber was felled and transported to the banks of the River Dee at Potarch and Banchory, where they were subsequently floated downriver to Aberdeen, to be used for shipbuilding. Aberdeen became a great shipbuilding port at that time and gave birth to the tea clippers with the streamlined Aberdeen bow.

When Archie died in 1941, the estate was devastated, for the cream of the forest had already gone. However the latter half of the century

became a time for replanting and regeneration. As far as we can tell, natural regeneration played a huge part in this, but at the same time, woodland was also created for both commercial and amenity reasons. You may have observed the massive, exotic conifers, the Wellingtonias, Tsugas, Cedars and Larches, planted round Finzean House and the amenity hard woods, which were planted in these policies. These seem to date from the same period, and by 1900 the original woodland cover on the estate was once more complete and the landscape was healed again.

However, during the First World War, and the following twenty years, once again financial pressures were put on the family due to death duties of three successive Lairds. This meant that a huge amount of timber had to be felled. It was further compounded by compulsory fellings during the 1939-45 war and to add insult to injury, the 1953 gale devastated much of what remained.

It was thanks to my late father-in-law that a massive post-war replanting programme was started in 1958, but nature played a part in this too. Myxomatosis wiped out the rabbit population at a crucial time and although the rabbits have once again, become a menace, for almost 15 years pine seedlings were able to regenerate freely, particularly in an area where there had been a major fire in the last war.

Much of this replanting was done with the help of generous forestry grants, and the programme continued on for another twenty years, until forestry grants became less generous. Small woods and farm woodlands were for a time, created to add to the amenity of the valley, giving shelter for game and wildlife and in 1997, we created a community wood of 26 acres, round the village. This was the first Community Wood in the north east of Scotland, but many more have been created since then. We recently handed over the management to Birse Community Trust and the ground is leased to them.

The woodland cover now extends to 2500 acres, so it forms once again, a significant part of the estate. Most of the early plantations have now been thinned and this for a time, provided an income but there is not the commercial activity that I had hoped for, as the timber prices are at rock bottom. You have to be philosophic about these things. Trees on growing and one day, can be a major resource. Our main aim now is to manage the woods for continuous cover and encourage regeneration where possible. The timber will always be there to support the estate in the future.

The bulk of the woodlands today have been replanted with Scots Pine of Glen Tanar origin but there are Larch mixtures and Norway Spruce in the

wet flushes. Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce were more frequently planted during the seventies and are growing well, but in the areas which are managed for amenity and game, Birch is encouraged too. Oak, Beech, Alder, Rowan and the Wild Cherry, known in Scotland as the Gean tree, are all common species.

It is because of the rich variety of trees that so much wildlife abounds, together with the conservation work that the Keeper does on the estate. This produces a rich spin-off in the variety of the different species of birds and wild mammals in the valley.

The school wood, on which we are standing, is now managed by Birse Community Trust, but was started in 1973, with the encouragement of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. My own children, who were at Finzean School at the time, all planted trees. My aim was to teach young people about different tree species, to learn about their names and from there they originated. The latest planting was extended so that the children appreciated the native species of the valley and my own grandchildren took part in this exercise. The television programme "Beechgrove Garden" took an interest in this wood, earlier in the summer and produced a delightful half-hour programme. The children themselves, helped to design the present lay-out, which has certainly made it look more interesting, and gave them a practical interest too. They had a lot of fun doing it. I can see that, over the years, the scheme will continue to expand and the different generations will come to appreciate the environment in which they live.

The four new houses, over the road, have been built recently by young Finzean families, who are now occupying them.