

### Depot Renovations are complete!

After 5 years of community ownership, the old forestry Depot has finally been renovated. The improvements will help extend the life of the building which will continue to be the base from where all of our projects are run.



*New look for the Depot: vertical cladding, black windows and a chimney*

The most striking part of the renovation is the new vertical larch cladding, which will be treated in the spring so that it retains its colour. A few of the longest cladding boards in the gable ends were milled from a Japanese larch tree supplied by the community woodland. New PVC double-glazed windows and doors have been installed at the front of the building, with old windows and glass repurposed for use at the back. The front double doors (which actually fell off in the summer!) have been replaced by a double window, and an electric water heater now feeds hot water to the toilets and kitchen. The staff office - which used be in the kitchen - is now in the old deer larder, which has had a wood burning stove installed.



*The old deer larder is now the staff office*

Everybody at Glengarry Community Woodlands, would like to thank A. N. Fraser Joinery & Building Contractor for their excellent work on renovating the Depot.

### Firewood

We started selling firewood 18 months ago in April 2019. The objective of the firewood business has always been to generate revenue from the woodland which could be used to pay for some of its management. Now that we're in our second year of trading we can report on how the firewood business has grown.

In its first 12 months of trading, the firewood business took roughly £6,100 (before costs). Some of this income has been spent on machinery and equipment, (repairs, fuel, new parts etc.), while some was set against the costs of getting the next year's wood supplies ready. Our second year of trading has been significantly busier than the first; trade has more-than doubled and the business has already taken £7,200 between April 1<sup>st</sup> - Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.

The year so far...



*Firewood sales for the year since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020*

Because we only sell seasoned and dry wood, the main limitation to increasing firewood production is having enough shed space to dry it out. Next year we plan to address this and build a new shed behind the Depot, which will house our tractor, other machinery, and create space for more firewood. The success of the firewood business has been made possible by the help of volunteers, especially Ken Grant and Bryan Millar, who built the main log shed in 2018 - without which we wouldn't be able to dry any wood!

The surplus money generated from firewood sales allows us to fund important tree management works, such as the removal of dangerous or diseased trees, or responding to storm damage. Next year we will have some oak to sell as seasoned, air-dried logs. Oak is a premium firewood which generates more heat than other hardwoods, and is known for burning long and slow. So while it will be more expensive, you'll get more heat for your money! Get in touch if you are interested in pre-ordering some oak logs.

## Faichem Road Tree Removal

Residents in Faichem will know that for a week in November, we had contractors in to clear some of the trees along the western part of the Faichem Rd. These trees were predominantly ash, and last summer they were showing some early signs of ash dieback. As most of them were overhanging the Faichem Rd, they would soon have become a safety risk as they gradually die, so their removal was a priority.



*The Faichem Rd after all roadside ash and other hardwoods were removed*

Many of these trees had very bad form (shape). This was because they grew up in shade alongside the Douglas fir that was removed in 2018. Removing the roadside trees will allow the re-growth to take a more natural appearance as there is now a lot more light at this part of the road.



*Contractors unload ash logs removed from the Faichem Road*

This important management operation was entirely funded with the proceeds of firewood sales; customers who buy our firewood are directly supporting the community to carry out important management operations. The wood that was harvested during this operation will supply next year's firewood customers.

## Christmas Trees

Every year we are asked whether we supply Christmas Trees to the public; unfortunately there aren't enough trees of the right size in the community woodland to do this. However, since 2016, the community woodland has always supplied the village tree, trees for Invergarry Primary School, the Community Hall and the Invergarry Church of Scotland. Finding suitable trees within the community woodland isn't always easy (which is why they sometimes look a bit wonky!), and has sometimes involved carrying trees for a long time to get them to the roadside. This year, because of the lockdown, only 2 trees were requested which were supplied and delivered free of charge.



*The Invergarry Primary School Christmas tree*



*The Invergarry village Christmas tree*

## Looking ahead: 2021

2020 has been an unusual year for all of us. At the community woodland, the lockdown restrictions prevented us from running an entire year of clubs and public activities. We were able to continue to progress with our other project work – namely Ardoch Forest and our eco-tourism cabin development (as well as cutting a lot of firewood!). Next year, we will continue with the development of these projects, with the cabin business as a priority.