

ABERDEENSHIRE TIMBER CO-OPERATIVE MARKS SILVER JUBILEE WITH A BANCHORY BURNS NIGHT



DWP Harvesting, the privately owned timber co-operative based on Deeside, Aberdeenshire, got their Silver Jubilee Year off to a good start by initiating their celebrations on Burns Night. Prior to celebrating the Bard with a champagne toast and a feast of Haggis, Neaps and Tatties, co-operative members and guests were given a special preview of the Hill of Banchory Energy Service Company's new biomass fired power station.

The power station will shortly be commissioned to heat over 600 homes in the new Hill of Banchory housing estate. It will be fuelled entirely by woodchips made by Inverurie based Treelogic Ltd using local timber from DWP members timber resources.

Cont/...



*1987 – 2012 – 25 Years
Jubilee Year*

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Andrew Nicol of Andrew Nicol Chartered Forester who has run the DWP Harvesting Co-operative since its inception in 1987 said that despite the recession the demand for timber has never been higher and new markets for it continue to open up with in both the building and power generation sectors. During his “Timber: for building or burning” presentation to the meeting Mr Nicol advised that investment by sawmills in recent years had succeeded in doubling the market share of British Timber from 20% to 40% .

Mr Nicol’s claim that the DWP Harvesting business model was ideal to assist local timber growers of all sizes to access the benefits of the advice, services and access to market of a large operation was backed up by Mr James Cordiner, of Cordiner Sawmills Ltd. Mr Cordiner commented to the meeting that Banchory’s new energy centre, fuelled by local timber made a lot more sense than the big international biomass plants that were being discussed in the press.

Whilst there is no doubt demand for timber is set to outstrip supply, DWP Members, collectively owning over 30,000 acres in 36 locations, with a 2011 turnover in excess of £ 1.1 million are ideally placed to expand and benefit from their timber operations in the years ahead.

ANDREW NICOL CHARTERED FORESTER

30th January, 2012