

# FOREST NEWS... SUMMER 2015



## Hydro lift-off

You may have noticed quite a bit of activity up in the forest in the past month. That's because our **75kW hydro-electric scheme** is currently being installed by Co-hydro Ltd. It should be up and running by autumn, generating electricity that will be sold to the National Grid under the Government's feed-in-tariff. This will deliver a monthly income to KCFC that will enable us to further develop the forest, creating more jobs, more training and more facilities. Great news all round!

## New post to widen access

We're delighted that **Sara Maclean** has joined the team as **Forest Access Coordinator**. She'll be working with volunteers on a range of activities in the forest, including a Heritage Walk, a geocaching trail and the Froglife Project. Many of you will know Sara, as she worked for KCFC as Carbon Savings Project Officer from 2010-12. She said: 'Volunteering has always been at the heart of KCFC and I'm looking forward to getting even more people involved. There's a role for everyone. It's not all brush-cutting and path-building!'

Contact Sara on 01700 811159/  
[sara@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:sara@kilfinancommunityforest.com). There's more from Sara in our blog  
[www.kilfinancommunityforest.co.uk/forest-blog.php](http://www.kilfinancommunityforest.co.uk/forest-blog.php).



Sara and volunteers map the Heritage Walk.



## Essential woodworking – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**Fancy building your dream shed, carving your own sign or spending some time in the forest learning some new skills? Then sign up for our two-day FREE 'Essential Woodworking' workshop on 1st & 2nd August.**

The course is aimed at beginners and will be split into four half-day sessions including green woodworking, building a structure out of timber, wood carving and creating a forest sculpture. The sessions will be delivered by talented woodworkers. A £5 booking fee applies. Contact Nikki on 01700 811159/  
[nikki@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:nikki@kilfinancommunityforest.com).

## Timber from the forest

Our sawmill opened in February 2014 and since then we've **supplied milled timber** for a range of building and DIY projects. We offer untreated Japanese Larch or Sitka Spruce, which are great for cladding and sheds. So if you're planning a summer project, why not get in touch? We supply timber sawn to your requirements. Contact Rob on 01700 811159/  
[rob.borruso@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:rob.borruso@kilfinancommunityforest.com).

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## Mapping the forest's heritage

Last summer a team of archaeologists and volunteers carried out a survey of the forest and they identified a number of fascinating features, including a curling pond, reservoirs and an ancient drovers' route. We're now developing a '**Heritage Walk**' that will provide access to these sites.

We want to get as many people as possible involved in the creation of this walk. We want to hear people's stories about the curling pond and the reservoir and we'd love people to help us develop our interpretation. We also need lots of hands-on path building support! As a first step we're offering FREE training provided by Paths For All on 15th & 16th July. The training will include surveying, designing and building community paths as well as path maintenance. If you'd like to take part, contact Sara on 01700 811159.

## Affordable homes get go-ahead

Great news! Our **Housing Master Plan** has been approved by the Argyll and Bute Council Planning Committee. We should be in a position to offer our first self-build plots for sale by the end of the year and the first KCFC-built houses in 2016. Two ready-built homes and two self-build plots will be made available, with the hope of more in the future. Find out more at

[www.kilfinancommunityforest.co.uk/forest-housing.php](http://www.kilfinancommunityforest.co.uk/forest-housing.php) or contact Rob on 01700 811159/  
[rob.borruso@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:rob.borruso@kilfinancommunityforest.com).

## Youth skills development

We're all set to go with this year's **youth skills development project**, which will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August. We can't wait to work with this motivated bunch of young people aged 15 to 18. We've got loads of activities lined up. They'll all be taking part in the Essential Woodworking course and will be helping to map the forest's heritage and create a geocaching trail.



## Forest Open Day – rescheduled!

We're sorry we had to cancel our open day in June. We've rescheduled it to **8<sup>th</sup> August** to mark the end of the youth skills programme. Come along to celebrate the young people's achievements and enjoy music from fab local bands Kantrio and The Grouchos, storytelling with The Walking Theatre Company, a barbecue, Scouts' baking stall, forest walks, woodworking demos and more.

## Contact Us...

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