

The low-carbon classroom

We'll be building a low-carbon classroom thanks to a grant from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF).

Using timber from the forest and showcasing the latest energy-saving and low-carbon building techniques, the classroom will operate as a training centre providing sustainability- and outdoor-based courses. The new building will also incorporate the KCFC offices and will serve as a prototype for five new affordable self-build homes due to be built in the community forest. At key points throughout the build, we'll be providing workshops to community members, encouraging home owners to ask for high-quality, energy-saving measures in building works. If you're interested in finding out more about this, contact Sara on 01700 811159 or at sara@kilfinancommunityforest.com.

Finest Woods Award

We've been awarded 2016 winner of the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 'Community Woodlands' competition for Promoting Viable Livelihoods. This award recognises projects that focus on involving communities in using woodlands to deliver economic benefits and enhance people's livelihoods. We were also crowned overall Community Woodland Awards category winner and presented the Tim Stead Trophy.



New staff members

We're delighted to welcome three new members of staff to KCFC.

Mick Eyre has joined the team as our new Forest Access Coordinator, taking over from Sara Mclean. He'll be working with volunteers to carry out a host of activities here at the forest. From woodland workshops to volunteer days, he'll be creating opportunities for education and training as well as developing a range of recreational facilities. Mick has signed up for a forest croft, and is moving to Tighnabruaich from Glasgow with his family. He has a wealth of experience in the voluntary sector and is a long-term volunteer with the RSPB. Mick's post is part funded by the Robertson Trust.

Sara, meanwhile, is not leaving us. She has taken up the post of Community Engagement and Project Support Officer, and will be working with us one day a week to deliver the new Low-Carbon Classroom Project.

Nathan Mobeck and Gavin Martin are our new Sustainable Construction Apprentices. They'll be helping to build the low-carbon classroom and will be given on-the-job training, learning about all aspects of construction, including the latest energy-saving and low-carbon building techniques. Both posts are supported by CCF.

Summer work in the woods

This year's Youth Skills Development Programme will take place from 4th July – 10th August. Now in its third year, this course introduces young people aged 15 to 18 to working in the forest and provides them with invaluable experience.

This year sees the introduction of new topics, including plant identification and environmental communication and campaigning. Participants will get the chance to use their new skills by helping to design a recreation area and visitor signage. There will also be plenty of opportunity to work on CVs and develop employability skills.

To find out more, contact Mick Eyre on 01700 811159 or at michael@kilfinancommunityforest.com.



Tree planting

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at our Tree Planting Weekend on 2nd and 3rd April. Volunteers from New Caledonian Woodlands were joined by local volunteers and pupils from Tighnabraich Primary School and together they planted 840 native saplings.

Path network

We've been busy extending our path network, and you can now enjoy a circular walk from the car park, past the Victorian Waterfall, nature ponds and reservoir to connect back with the forest road.



Forest Open Day, 30th July

Come and join us in the forest for our annual **Forest Open Day**. We'll have great food, music, guided walks and more from 1pm onwards. We'll also be celebrating the achievements of all the participants on this year's Youth Development Programme. All welcome.

Woodworking Workshop, 11th & 12th July

This two-day workshop will introduce you to a range of **woodworking skills**, from green woodworking to wood carving. All the sessions will be delivered by talented local woodworkers. Last year this course was hugely popular, with over 30 people taking part. To find out more and book your place, contact Mick Eyre on 01700 811159 or at michael@kilfinancommunityforest.com.

Contact Us...

Kilfinan Community Forest, Tighnabraich, Argyll,
PA21 2BD
01700 811159

info@kilfinancommunityforest.com

www.kilfinancommunityforest.co.uk

Charity no. SC038908, Company no. SC333208

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