

## Eco building in the forest

We're delighted to announce that we are now in possession of a building warrant for our new forest centre, following a difficult year-long approval process. Once up and running, the forest centre will provide a facility for training courses, workshops and events, as well as a new staff office and meeting room, with toilet facilities for visitors. Our hope is to have this facility up and running in time for this summer's youth skills development programme.

Our eco-building apprentices, Gavin Martin and Stuart Mulholland (funded by the Climate Challenge Fund), have been busy renovating a disused shed into a valuable new workshop space. The skills they have acquired through constructing the workshop will equip them well to assist with the forest centre build. The forest centre will meet high standards of insulation and air-tightness, cutting power bills to a minimum and contributing to greenhouse gas reduction targets. It will use timber directly from Kilfinan Community Forest, further reducing its carbon footprint.

Trainee Stuart Mulholland says: "I only left school late last year to take up this post but now I feel that I have achieved something and become part of the team. At school I always enjoyed doing woodworking and it's great that now I get to do that as a paid job."

And Stuart is hopeful that the skills he gains during the building programme will help him with his future career: "It makes sense for us to use the timber that is on our doorstep, and this design is based on key principles like airtightness to produce a very eco-friendly building. The techniques I'm learning now will become more widely used in the building industry and hopefully keep me in work for years to come".



Apprentices Stuart and Gavin

## Timber for projects

Don't forget you can order cut-to-size milled timber for building and DIY projects. We offer untreated Japanese Larch or Sitka Spruce, which are great for cladding, sheds, picnic benches, raised beds and wood stores. So if you're a planning a Spring project, why not get in touch? Contact Rob on 01700 811159/ [robert@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:robert@kilfinancommunityforest.com).

## Affordable housing update

After a lengthy application process, KCFC is now a Scottish Government approved Rural Housing Body. This means we will soon be able to release land for affordable housing. We will be advertising housing opportunities to interested parties over the coming months so feel free to register your interest now!

## Rent a workshop space

Are you a budding woodworker keen to work in an inspiring forest setting? Following a complete renovation of a redundant storage shed, we now have two large workshops available for rent. In exchange for a small rental fee, you will be able to develop your project with other likeminded individuals to share tools and ideas. If you are interested in renting a space or to find out more, contact Rob on 01700 811159/ [robert@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:robert@kilfinancommunityforest.com).

Andy working the mill



## AGM

Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> February and we apologise it was delayed from the planned November date – this was due to an independent audit which has taken much longer than expected to complete. We hope those who attended the AGM were encouraged by ongoing progress and we look forward to a successful year ahead. A note to members that our final accounts will be available to view on our website in the next few weeks.

## Changes to the Board

Welcome to new Director, Don McInnes – with his background in finance and brilliant woodworking skills, he will be a huge asset to the KCFC board! A big thanks also to Willie McAllan, who has now stepped down from the board. Willie was instrumental in getting the hydro up and running, as well as helping develop the volunteering and youth skills programme, building paths, and being an excellent Treasurer to boot. He will be sadly missed, but thankfully still involved in path building, walking groups and other volunteering activities.

## Winter wood fuel

Despite our delivery vehicle still being out of action, we can offer a once-a-week delivery service to homes within the village. Here's our price list:  
£55 – cubic metre bag logs delivered (£52.50 collected)  
£45 – cubic metre bag offcuts delivered (£42.50 collected)

## Get involved...

- **Kilfinan Wayfarers Walking Group** – weekly walking group covering Kilfinan Community Forest and the wider Kyles area. Every Friday, 9.45am.
- **Baby Bears** – fun & games for parents & under 5's. Every Friday, 12.15pm.
- **Volunteer Foresters** – path maintenance and environmental management for those wanting to get fit in the outdoors, in good company. Every Tuesday, 9.45am.
- **Forest Gym** – for anyone wanting to improve their fitness but has to start slowly & gently. Every Monday, 11am.
- **Open Air & Mindfulness** – a short but calming meditation group using recorded mindfulness meditation routines around the campfire. Every Monday, 12.15pm.

For more information or to sign up for a group, contact Mick: 01700 811159 / [michael@kilfinancommunityforest.com](mailto:michael@kilfinancommunityforest.com)

## Dark Nights, Bright Lights

Thanks to all who came along to our Dark Nights, Bright Lights event on a gloomy January afternoon! Despite the dreich weather we had a great turnout, attracting over 100 people, who enjoyed a Viking boat burning, firework display and barbecue.



Viking boat burning!



## Forest Summer Open Day...

Is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> July with live music from Ayrshire-based foot-stomping duo Junkmans Choir, as well as local favourites The Grouchos. There will also be a barbecue, forest walks, and lots of other exciting activities for all the family. More info coming soon!

### Bird table making & singing workshops



## Contact Us...

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