



## News January to June 2022

### January – New Directors

Formed 4 years ago, (Sept 2018) Kinda Education's Directors steer the Kinda ship. In January we welcomed back Eloise and welcomed Dianne. We said farewell to one of our founding directors, Kym, and thank her for all her service and laughter to Kinda. She has been both inspiring and practical. Kym still works with us and her children still come to forest school, so we are still connected and hear the laughter. Our Directors are: Mell Harrison, Louisa Yallop (Finance), Eloise Wilkinson, Dianne Belcher-Hackett and Rachel Kellett. More about us and our growing team of facilitators is here <https://kindaforestschool.com/who-we-are/>

Pauline (Po) Midwinter is our Administrator Astronaut, who occasionally facilitates for us and also works at Beccles Forest School.

We will have an AGM in September to which you will all be invited.

### January - RUMI strategy weekend

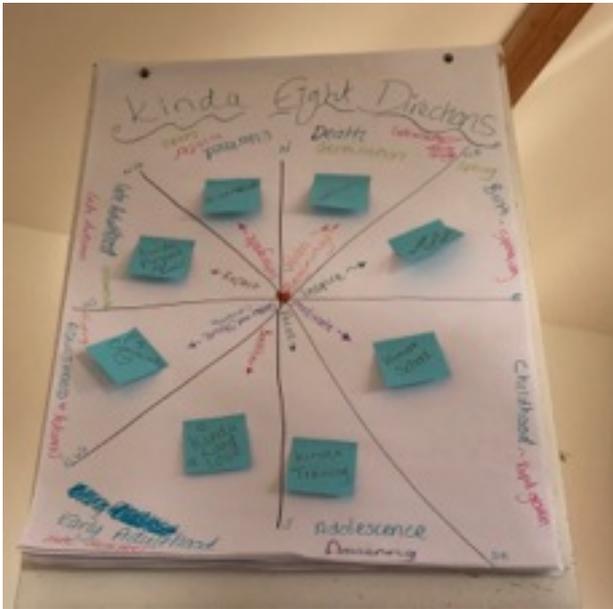
Our last, and first, Kinda strategy weekend, was more than two years ago, at Breathing Space, Hickling Broad, February 2020, (remember those days, when we'd not yet heard of COVID, while in China....). This time, Kinda team of directors, facilitators and volunteers gathered in a beautiful building in a field overlooking a Norman church, in between the Evergreen Oaks



which were the hotels for hundreds if not thousands of Rooks. We lived in the luxury of underfloor heating, sunshine space, and a bonus of a hot tub.

Here we gathered: Mell, vision holder, Kym on Admin, Eloise on land and new projects, Rachel on funding and Kaliwoods, together with our facilitators: Alice, Heidi, Meg, Shona, Jo, Theo, and Po. Kally and Blake both in COVID isolation, joined us on Zoom. Christina, who guided us 2 years ago, returned to facilitate, a perfect outside insider, to guide us, watch us, invite, to explore the wider Kinda vision of expanding into our 8 directions, building on what we laid the foundations of two years ago.

**Kinda Land:** The foundation for KE's work is the management of outdoor spaces to balance the needs of people and nature. Environmental stewardship (North East)



**Kinda Forest School:** The on-going development of Kinda Forest School at Kaliwood and the development of programmes on a second site, remain a priority. This currently runs Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and some Saturdays. Child-led facilitation (East)

**Kinda School:** KE's long-term vision is a Kinda School offering an alternative curriculum for children of all abilities, combining the ethos of Forest School and child centered learning. Social and emotional learning (South East)

**Kinda Training:** KE is committed to delivering professional training, embedded in Forest School principles for continuous professional development. Quality and sustainability (South)

**Kinda Community:** KE's vision is grounded in kindness will thrive if it is rooted in the community. KE's well-being programmes encourage connection and community building (South West)

**Kinda Multi-generational:** KE's vision for education has multi generational learning at its heart. It takes a village to raise a child'. Synergy (West)

**Kinda Elders:** Elders also enjoy the benefits of Forest School principles and

learning and creating. Wisdom, utility, inclusion and social equality (North West)

**Kinda Opportunity:** KE is open to the unknown and the unforeseeable. This element focuses on future opportunity. Kindness and earth (North)

## Dec/Jan Wood Sisters

Wood Sisters started, undeterred, in the cold dark end of December days, open for women aged between 14-114. A place to learn new stuff, build community, be in nature, cackle together and to simply be yourself. This group is run on a donation basis and is managed by Mell and facilitated by Mell, Meg and Eloise. It's popular, always full, and brimming with laughter, mindfulness and community.

Details and dates are on facebook.



## Tuesday Tribe

Tuesday tribe is a nurture group for children over 5s - building a sense of belonging by holding a space where everyone is seen and heard. This group is intimate and offers the opportunity for children to build their self esteem and confidence while building community with us. We have been exploring the world of magic and small things while the seasons have turned and life has been springing up. Our tribe has been growing and evolving along with this

seasonal shift as the days have been warming up. Bikes are ridden, hammocks are swayed in, swings are swung and lots of running play and games!



## Wednesday Tribe

Our Wednesday tribe has been running for almost 4 years. Some of the children have been with us all of this time, and others join us for flexi schooling and nurture. We are now full! We have a mixed aged group, the youngest 5 the oldest 14. We support our children through their life stories, the good and the challenging, with all the usual wonderful play. Led by Mell and Blake and Heidi with Theo, Jo, Clare and Debs.

## March - Community Forest School

'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child' and we can be that village together. Community Forest School began in March and goes on through summer. It's a tribe for children and adults, especially those who are a child at heart, bringing people of all ages together to kindle a community fire. Grounded and connecting through exploration of nature, crafting, games, projects, fun, collective



camp fire cooking, stories. Thanks to funding from the Limbourne Trust, which is supplemented with donations from families. Kally, with the support of Mell, Alice and Rachel took on the baton of piloting Community Forest School on Saturdays for her Level 3 case study. Run by Kally, and supported by Shona, Alice, Heidi, Nikki and Lesley.

## April - Easter Holiday Club

Kinda offered holiday club days during the Easter Holidays. There was climbing, making, creating, cooking, fire-lighting, bushcraft skills, singing, dancing. Sketching in the spring sunshine, making ears, a new bus service, biscuit gambling, learning to ride a bike. Easter egg chase, a tour by a horse driven bus around just some of the woods where Kinda Forest School nests itself. Thanks to all that supported this.





## Elders 'Weaving in the Woods' - one year old

Managed by Shona, working with close support by Rachel and Kally, the Elders Weaving in the Woods became a year old in April. After an 8 week pilot project, started in April 2021, we received funding from Connected Communities, Suffolk CC, and the Lottery to extend it to a years programme. They came through the dark days of January and February, as these can be the most difficult and darkest times for people, especially those alone. We only had to re-locate 3 times, each time to the Pear Tree, where we sat in the luxury of electric light, as we explored moss and events outside our lives, like war in Ukraine breaking out, and the uncertainty and anxiety this arose. We watched outside the window at the wind during the storms and shared how the element of wild wind made us feel.

Nikki, a volunteer who travels miles to come to us, has inspired us with her Puppet making, which was centre of our end of term show, in May. Lesley, a more local volunteer, has been with us from the start, and is a practical observer, good spirit,

woodland kitchen extraordinaire and inspired crocheter. Both have been wonderful additions, woven into the team. Theo has appeared, the pixie he is, tending to fires and supporting tool work with Elders, and even had a puppet made of him for the last days show.

We've invited visiting experts to get involved: Dean came and compiled a community poem with us that will live on in our lives; Sue wove stories of spiders; Paul talked about trees; Meg came with her accordion, got us singing in rounds and invited us to dance. Some of us hadn't danced for 30 years. Martin from our elders tribe has morphed into the Tuesday tribe and turns out to be a fabulous cook, making hot cross buns in our dutch oven.

The woven tapestry that the Elder's have been weaving will soon go 'On Tour' across Halesworth! Look out for the colourful beauty in a shop, library, museum, church or doctors surgery soon!

Our years story is here: <https://kindaforestschoo.com/wood-weaving-central/>

## Time in our Life - Compassionate Communities + Pear Tree + Kinda Education - year long project

The Pear Tree Fund and Kinda Education, through the umbrella of Compassionate Communities, began a year-long project in October 2021 to walk and talk around the ideas of love, life and end of life. This 'Time in our Life' project supports and nurtures a growing compassionate community in Halesworth and the surrounding area: The Pear Tree supports cradle to grave, local community wellbeing, the edges of well being, including death and dying, that are often not addressed by mainstream systems. Kinda Education promotes kindness through nature connection also from cradle to grave, specialising in children with the Kinda Forest school. This



project embraces death and dying, aptly starting at Samhain, the time to recall our ancestors.

So far we have celebrated:

- Oct - SAMHAIN - with Philip Carr Gomm
- February - IMBOLC at the Pear Tree, where Mell introduced us to This is your Life books
- March - EQUINOX in Kaliwoods, choosing our Woodland Island Discs
- April - BELTANE - boogying around the Maypole MOVIE
- May - Asking a Socratic question: why is it so difficult to talk about death?

Next dates are:

- June 19th - SOLSTICE in the Woods
- July 23rd - at the Pear Tree
- Aug 21 - in the Woods
- Sept - at the Pear Tree
- Oct - in the Woods SAMHAIN

A key part of the project is having Compassionate Conversations, where we invite a question about our lives and listen to each other sharing stories in a safe, confidential space. This builds connections, trust and community and is a vital aspect of the gatherings. People who have not spoken openly with others for some time are practising this once again.

<https://kindaforestschoo.com/time-in-our-life/>

## Volunteers and time given

None of this work would have been possible without our community of volunteers. Some travel miles to get here. All of our groups rely on them and are enriched by them. On Tuesday we have Theo and Jo, and now Martin from the Elders has started.



Wednesdays: Theo , Jo, Clare and Debra  
 Thursdays: Lesley, and Nikki and Theo  
 Community Forest School: Nikki and Dianne and Debra



Compassionate Community: Rachel, Kevin, Guy, and Jo

It's also important to remember the Kinda Directors who give many hours each week to help the vision grow.

Our Mya Red Wolf who has been a member of our tribe, then a volunteer, then a trainee has fledged the kinda nest! Mya headed off to college during her traineeship with us and there she found lots of new skills and confidence. Mya fell in love with cooking on the campfire for our tribes and is taking that passion into Chef/ catering college. We will miss you Mya and have so much gratitude for all you have done to support our tribes children ❤️. But we are so happy that you



are stepping onto your new path. Don't forget us when your on the Bake Off!

## Alternative Provision builds

Kinda Forest School developed our Alternative Provision for children aged 5-16 years, who are in need of some time out of the formal education system and who would benefit by being within nature. Our sessions help children who are facing challenges to find a space where they can

think, relax, build, create and lead themselves in a supported and safe space. <https://kindaforestschool.com/alternative-provision/>

## FUTURE - SEND Forest School

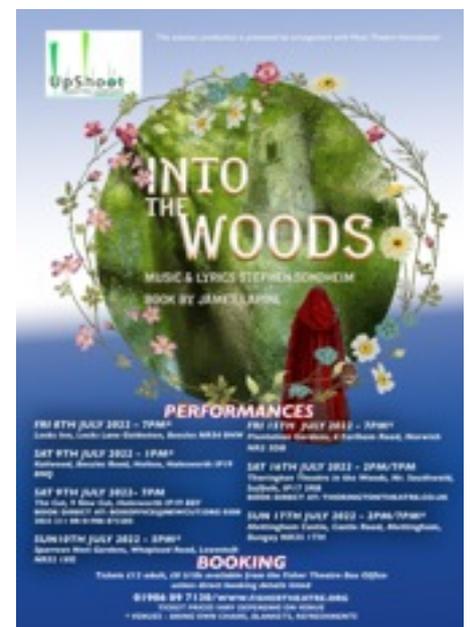
SEND Forest School will begin on Mondays at the end of May. This is for young people who have disabilities, learning difficulties and/or special educational needs. It is a small group where within nature we will explore, create, learn conservation skills, cook food and share time together in the woods. Mondays from 10 – 2.30.

Plans are a-foot for a venture that takes us out of the woods, into re-wilding and growing food with a new SEND Over 16's tribe. Another step towards our big multi-generational vision...Watch this space ... Don't worry, Kinda Forest School will stay in Kali Woods too!

## Theatre coming INTO the WOODS

<https://www.upshoottheatrecompany.com/> Upshoot Theatre's 'Into the Woods' by Stephen Sondheim, is coming to Kaliwoods in July. As in any fairy tale, this story also begins with the words 'Once Upon a Time', as Sondheim weaves together classic fairytales of old showing the less idealistic and more likely outcomes of these stories, filled with humour and pathos. The Grimm brothers inspired musical reminds us all to "Be careful what you wish for".

9th July, 1pm,



## News from the Wood

The bathbomb became an Igloo with a waterproof transparent tarp as a dress over it. Inside is sometimes like a green house, and with the elders we planted a few moss balls which are doing well. Do you have any tomato, or growing plants we could plant here? Bring them along!

A summerhouse was gifted by Gill and with the help of Gos and Theo and Rachel, it was taken down from a Beccles garden, transported and put together in our wood. It is home to all our crafting material. At the back is our potters wheel, donated by Gabrielle. After the coppice work this year, the Elders made a bender out of the hazel leading directly to it, which was ceremoniously opened with a Shakespearean flavour by Berti.  
<https://kindaforestscool.com/week-28-its-a-wrap/>



Water is being connected to the wood!  
After 4 years of porting water from East Lodge to the woods - it's heavy - we are

getting connected to the mains, (June 6th) thanks mostly to a generous grant from Community Restart Grant (helping small organisations such as ours start up again after COVID) and the groundwork masterfully done by Myles Yallop.

## Contact us!

We'd love to hear from you, if you are interested in joining a group, if your child has enjoyed their experience at Kinda, or you'd like to volunteer or like to write for the next newsletter or just like a chat.

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