



Newsletter May 2022

Welcome



As Chairman of Loch Ken Trust, I would like to welcome you, our members, to the first ever Loch Ken Trust newsletter.

Hard to believe, but in June the Trust will be 2 years old, and what strange years they have been! Setting up a new charity to promote the communities of Loch Ken, during a global pandemic, has been a real challenge. It is a challenge that we have met and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved along the way.

I would especially like to thank each of you for becoming a member of Loch Ken Trust. Our members are the lifeblood of our charity and we are starting this newsletter to try and keep you informed about all the different things that the Trust is up to. We'd love to know what you think of it.

One of the Trust's biggest achievements so far has been to establish the Loch Ken Ranger Service, as one of the very first community-led ranger services in Scotland. We've also included an update of recent activity by the Ranger Service with this newsletter.

With the newsletter, we are pleased to enclose a copy of the Loch Ken Plan. This is an important document for our future work, so I hope you get a chance to have a look through it and give us your feedback.

Mungo Bryson – Loch Ken Trust Chairman

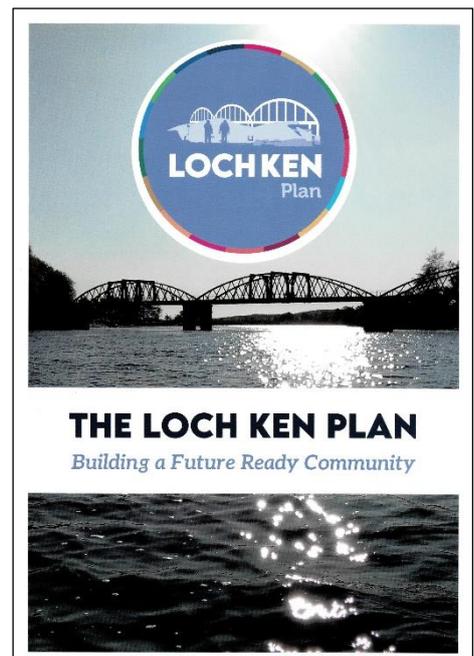
Introducing the Loch Ken Plan

Finally, after almost 2 years in the making, the Loch Ken Plan is finished!

The Loch Ken Plan aims to set out the priorities, objectives and actions for the Trust, over the coming decade. The Plan is not just about the management of activities on the water of Loch Ken itself, important though that is to our work. It is also about guiding the Trust to deliver on its purpose to '*...support sustainable local communities.*' This includes all the communities that enjoy Loch Ken, from the people who live and work here, to those who are just visiting.

There is a printed copy of the Plan with this newsletter, for you to keep as a member. We are in the process of finalising a digital version of the Plan, which we hope to share with you soon.

We hope you enjoy reading it and are inspired to get involved with our work. Writing the Plan is the easy bit. The real work is in actually delivering the Plan and that will need all of us working together!



Profile on...Barnaby Fryer – Loch Ken Trust officer



Each month we want to profile one of the people involved with running Loch Ken Trust.

First up is Barney, the Loch Ken Trust officer.

"I was born in West Yorkshire and grew up in Teesdale in the North Pennines. The son of a bookseller, I grew up working my dad's market stalls and shops. After graduating, I returned to the family business of publishing tourist guides.

During a spell working as a civil servant in Whitehall, I accidentally stumbled into a career in sustainable development! I have spent the last 20 years working across different sectors, trying to inspire and support people from all walks of life to make more sustainable choices.

With family in the area, I have been a regular tourist in Galloway for well over a decade, so when the chance cropped up to live and work here, I jumped at it. I never fail to be amazed at how beautiful this area is and what fantastic communities it contains.

I am a passionate believer in the power of communities to change the world. Even before the pandemic, I was seeing people all over the world, realizing that they needed to change some of the choices they were making with their lives. Realizing that the way we live is creating massive problems that our children will have to deal with.

What is lacking are inspirational examples of how communities can actually live sustainable lives. I believe that the communities of Loch Ken can be one of those inspirational examples. We already have such awesome natural and cultural resources to draw upon, as well as being in the heart of an UNESCO Biosphere.

It may sound like a very grand aim, but I think our community should set its sights high. Change has to start somewhere, so why not here? In the words of one of my favourite quotes:

'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.' "

Fancy Getting Involved?

We currently have some vacancies on our Board of Trustees that we are looking to fill.

Trustees are drawn from the ordinary membership and are in charge of overseeing the overall work of the Trust.

If you'd like to know more about what is involved, please email us at LKToffice@protonmail.com

Water Safety

As the weather improves, more of us will want to take to the water of Loch Ken, for all the delights it has to offer. Given recent tragedies on other Scottish Lochs, we would like to remind everyone to be careful and take all relevant safety precautions.

You can get more water safety information here: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/2383679/sfrs-water-safety-leaflet-001b-ah-digital.pdf>

What Would You Like To See Next Issue?

This is our very first newsletter, so we'd love to hear from you about whether you liked it, or not.

We'd also love to know what you'd like to see in future newsletters. As you can tell, we're not professional publishers! So if anyone out there is handy with words and would like to help us make future issues, please email Barney at barnaby.fryer@lochkentrust.org.uk