



Newsletter March 2025



Letter from the Editor

Hello, and welcome to our March Newsletter. It has been nice to see the lighter nights and we hope you have been enjoying this lovely weather.

This month we travelled to Birmingham for the RoSPA National Water Safety Conference and have been working with communities on resilience planning.

There is still time to book your place on 'Local Food Resilience' a free and interactive workshop with Propagate on civil food resilience. Read on for full details.



Lindsay Stewart- Editor

Chaos in Dalry!

Thank you to everyone who participated or came along to watch the recent Resilience Test event. Many thanks to Paul Goodwin for his below article on the event

Test Event

Paul Goodwin

A pilot resilience test event was staged in Dalry on 5 March. This was organised by the Loch Ken Trust, Dalry Community Council's resilience team, the Dumfries and Galloway Climate Hub (DGCH), and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, with support from D&G Council's resilience team. Light rain throughout the exercise added a touch of realism. The staged scenario included a car that had swerved to avoid a falling branch in a storm colliding with a telegraph pole, causing pedestrian, passenger and driver casualties. The exercise began shortly after 11am on Throughgate, which was closed for the next hour while the scene played out. The mock casualties were three adults (one of whom, played by a casualty simulator dummy, was not breathing), a shaken-up child and a dog. Members of the local resilience team took charge of the scene, administered first aid and called on passers-by and spectators to assist where necessary, including fetching the defibrillator from the town hall. After about twenty minutes, the emergency services arrived on scene and took over.



Chaos in Dalry!

The exercise ended with a demonstration of capabilities by the Fire & Rescue Service. At the debrief, Jenna Cains, from DGCH, said: "We created a scenario with similarities to the issues faced by the community during storm Éowyn, which left parts of the area without power for several days. More such weather events can be expected with changing climate, and the Climate Hub encourage all communities in Dumfries and Galloway to have up to date resilience plans," a message seconded by the D&G Council Resilience Team itself.



Chaos in Dalry!

Loch Ken Trust's resilience work is funded by the National Lottery Awards for All Community Fund and Drax Group, owners of the Galloway Hydro Scheme. The Climate Ready Glenkens project involves supporting all Glenkens communities with resilience planning.

“With extreme weather events on the increase, it is so important that our communities are prepared and know how best they can support themselves until wider help arrives. It was great to see so many members of the community come along and get involved with the test event. A huge 'thank you' to Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Council Community Resilience and all our fantastic volunteers who made this event a success.” - Loch Ken Trust Ranger, Leanne Pumpr

The test event had a wider message about considering vulnerable people in your community, as well as what local resources can be called upon following an extreme weather event. In the days following, ITV News ran an excellent segment on the event using real life weather damage footage from Dumfries and Galloway from this January. The D&G Climate Hub is funded by Scottish Government's Let's Do Net Zero strategy.



Climate Ready Glenkens

Our next Glenkens Resilience Meeting will be on **Thursday 15th May Dalry Town Hall 6:30pm**

We will have speakers from Sepa, Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), and Drax

All welcome, please let us know if you are coming on the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/250693843574063>



It has been great to continue with our Resilience work, supporting communities in the Glenkens with resilience planning. This month we have been working with New Galloway and Carsphairn Community Councils. Any resilience groups that would like support with their resilience planning, please get in touch Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Boat Registration

Loch Ken Trust are ceasing to run a boat registration scheme from the Loch Ken public slipway, Boat O Rhone, from April 1st 2025, due to increased multi usage and safety concerns.

Other launch points are available.

There will be a boat registration scheme on Loch Ken for the 2025 season- please contact any of the launchpoints; Loch Ken Marina, Crossmichael Marina or Galloway Activity Centre for further details.

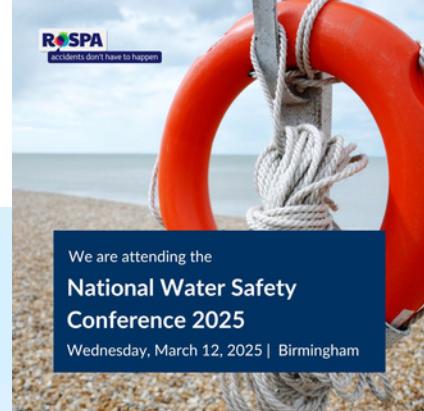
Seasonal Ranger Opportunity

We would like to thank everyone who expressed interest in the Seasonal role. At the time of writing we are currently going through the appointment process and will be able to update you next month.

Thank you again to everyone who applied.



RoSPA National Water Safety Conference



Earlier this month, Head Ranger Leanne and Support Officer Lindsay attended the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) National Water Conference in Birmingham, along with staff from the Galloway Activity Centre.

Head Ranger Leanne and Ben, Centre Manager at the Galloway Activity Centre gave a fantastic presentation on the collaborative Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme. It was great to meet other organisations and hear about the great drowning prevention work that is happening throughout the UK.

Local Food Resilience



Join Abi from Propagate for an interactive workshop looking at Civil Food Resilience - and how we in the Glenkens and other communities can make local plans to address shocks that affect our food system.

Thursday 17th April 2025
Dalry Town Hall
6:30pm

Tickets free, but please book on link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1248213172199?aff=oddtdtcreator>

Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety 2025



We are delighted to have received further funding from Cash For Kids towards the 2025 Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety Awareness programme. We would like to thank all the funders that are supporting the programme this year; Holywood Trust, Drax, the Galloway Glens Legacy Scheme and Cash For Kids.



Willow Tit Surveys

We have been continuing to carry out Willow Tit surveys in areas around Loch Ken, along with our volunteers. We are working with partners looking at potential for linking up a Willow Tit habitat corridor. If you would be interested in helping with Willow Tit surveys, please get in touch.





water safety
Scotland



**The risk of
cold water shock**
can make swimming difficult and make
exit from the water more difficult

Follow the Open-water
swimming activity-specific
advice code



water safety
Scotland



Group swimming
is safer swimming

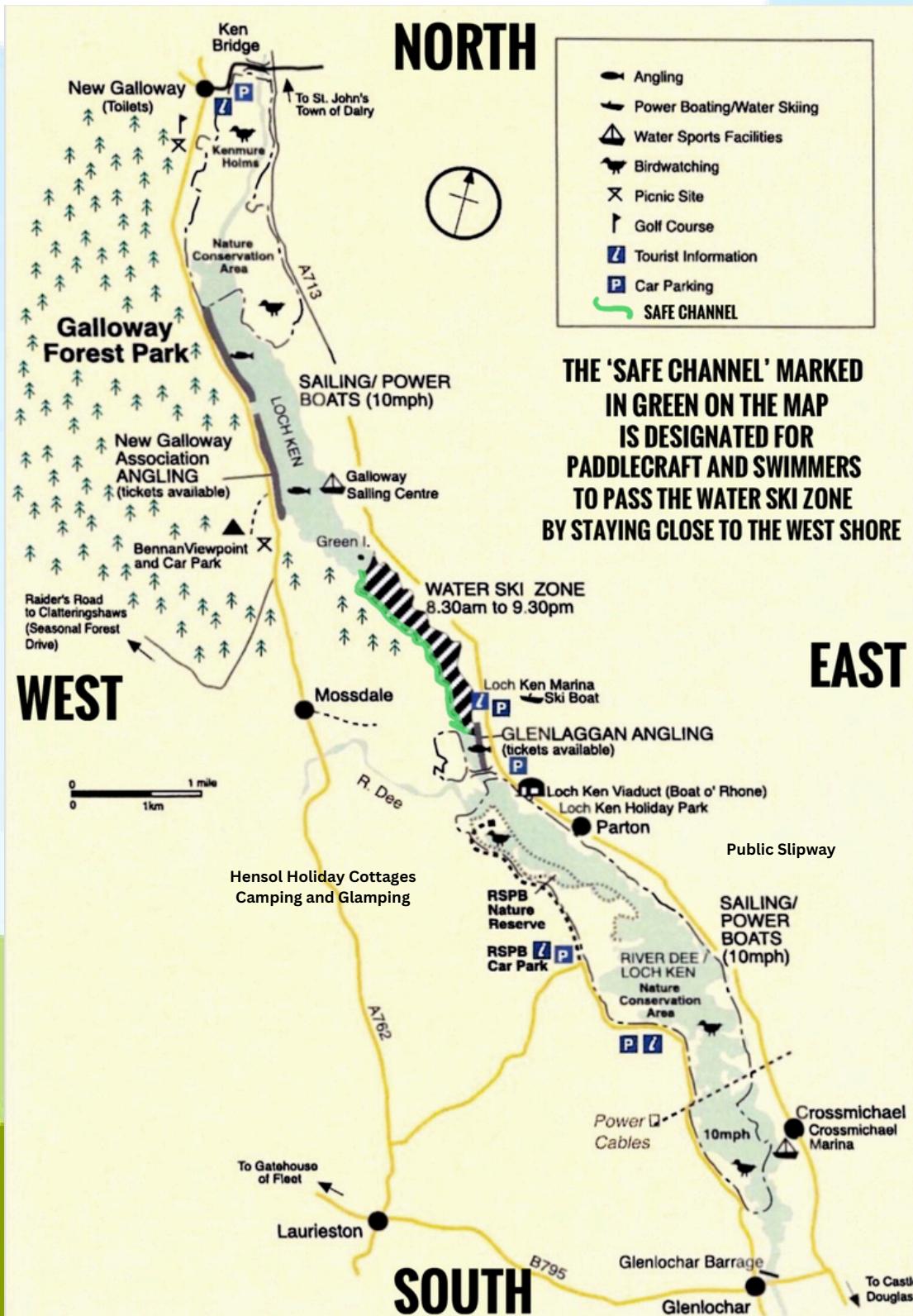
**Enjoy open water
swimming with friends**

Follow the Open-water swimming
activity-specific advice code



High Speed Zone

Please be aware that there is a High Speed Zone on Loch Ken. There is a designated channel where paddlecraft can pass, avoiding the High Speed Zone by staying close to the West Bank.



On Patrol with the Loch Ken Trust Ranger Service



CONTACT NUMBERS
07539029175 / 07918300889
Ranger@lochken.org.uk

The Ranger Service has been busy making plans and preparations for the season ahead.

We are currently looking for volunteers for the season ahead. Please get in touch if you would be interested in volunteering with us- full details can be found on the link below

<https://lochken.org.uk/volunteer-with-us/>

**Could you be a Loch
Ken Volunteer Ranger?**



Visit www.lochken.org.uk or
scan QR code for full
details of our volunteer
scheme



Ranger Group Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to the first Ranger Group meeting of the season. The next meeting will be held on Monday 28th April at The Crannog at 6:30pm.

All welcome to come along and find out about our community ranger service and how you can get involved.



WeBs core counts

We continue to carry out the monthly Wetland Bird counts.

If you would like to get involved please get in touch
office@lochken.org.uk



WATER SAFETY

Be safe around water

Don't swim in the water

**Don't enter the water if
someone is drowning**

**Use a rope if
someone is
drowning**

Help

**I'm
drowningggg**



Listen
for sirens
Look out for
strobe lights

Take care of
your dogs

Stay with an
adult

Watch out for
changes in
water levels
or flows

Be water Smart

Obey all
warning signs
and keep out of
restricted areas

Stay clear of dams,
power lines and all
electrical equipment

If someone is in
the water call 999
or you can throw
a rope to them



Never swim in the
water

Danger
Dam close

drax

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the funders who support us. We are extremely grateful for your support.



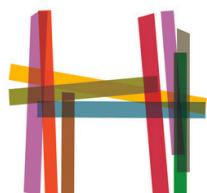
Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION



drax



Foundation
Scotland



The Holywood Trust

Scottish Charity No. SC009942



AWARDS
FOR ALL
SCOTLAND

