



Newsletter September 2025

Letter from the Editor

Hello, and welcome to our September newsletter.

As we approach Autumn, it is looking stunning around Loch Ken, and it's been great to see people out enjoying the crisp days by and on the water.

This month, the Youth Water Safety Programme has resumed after the holidays with local High School pupils achieving the Paddle Safe Award.

Our Ranger Service and Volunteers have ensured the Loch has continued to be patrolled this month- read on for more details.



Lindsay Stewart- Editor



**WILD
GOOSE
FESTIVAL** 

The background of the poster is a dark purple night sky filled with numerous small, glowing yellow stars. A large, bright, full moon is centered in the upper half. Several black bat silhouettes are flying around the moon. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

BAT WALK!

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

AT THE CRANNOG DG7 1EZ

4:30PM-5:30PM

FREE

**SUPPORTED BY LOCH KEN TRUST & WILD GOOSE
FESTIVAL**

**BOOK ON TO THIS EVENT VIA EMAIL TO
LINDSAY@LOCHKEN.ORG.UK**

Tesco Stronger Starts



Loch Ken Trust are in the customer vote for Tesco Stronger Starts for the Loch Ken Youth Water Safety Programme, providing vital, free hands-on water safety training for young people in the region! Tesco Stronger Starts is a scheme which gives community projects like us grants of up to £1,500. Tesco customers will now vote in Castle Douglas store from now until mid-January 2026 to decide how much funding we get, so please support us next time you shop at Tesco!

Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety 2025

This month, pupils from Castle Douglas High School took part in the Youth Water Safety Programme. All pupils completed the Paddle Safe Course and received this nationally recognised certification. The Paddler Safer course gives new and novice paddlers the opportunity to develop their safety skills when taking to the water, covering the four key modules : Equipment, Environmental factors, Planning and Rescues.

Well done everyone and we hope you had a great day on the water!





Loch Ken Trustee



We would like to welcome our new Trustee Les Kirkpatrick

“I was Born, educated, worked (electrician) all my life in the Castle Douglas area.

My interests include being in the outdoors (walking, cycling and Kayaking), music, photography, yoga and lately gardening!

For those that know me my passion is kayaking. I started around 1979 to coach with a local Scout group and quickly moved into competition to gain experience in White Water Racing, Sprint and marathon (was part of the Scottish marathon team 1986/1990) and lately racing in the Sea kayak challenges which are becoming popular events. I regularly train and coach on Loch Ken throughout the year.”

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Boat Registration



Loch Ken Trust have ceased 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.

Further information and map available on website

<https://lochken.org.uk/boat-registration/>

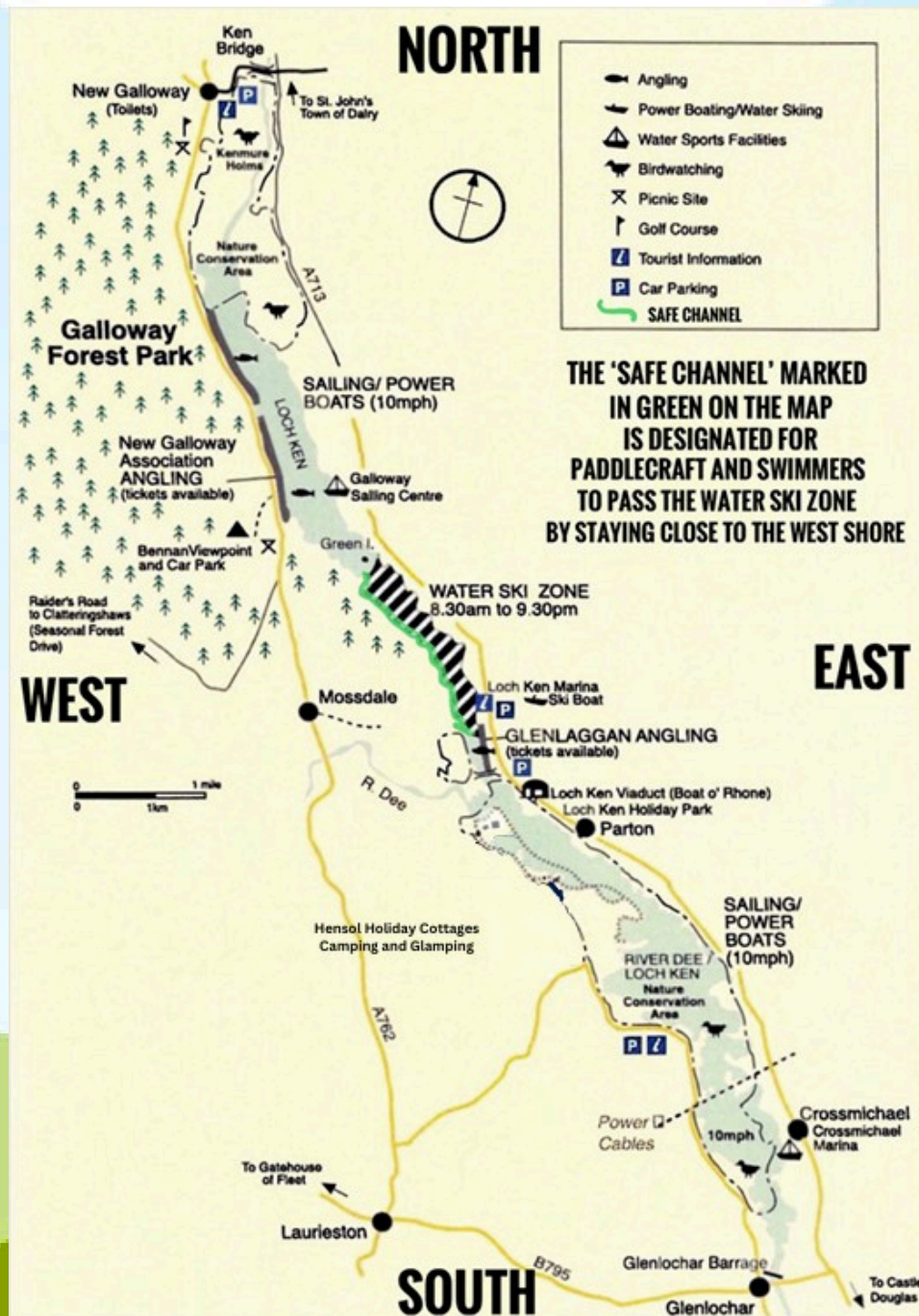
Sudden immersion in cold water can lead to Cold Water Shock



**Sudden immersion in cold water
can lead to Cold Water Shock. Cold
Water Shock is an all year-round
risk in Scotland's waters.**

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

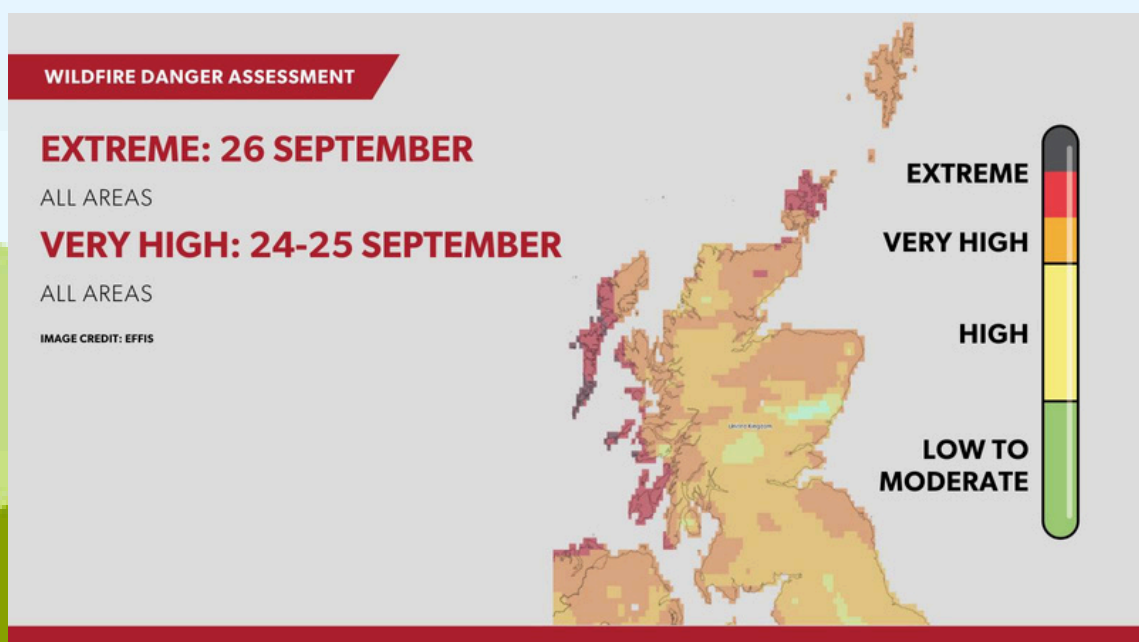
07539029175 / 07918300889

Ranger@lochken.org.uk

We would like to thank our Seasonal Ranger Toni who has now finished the Seasonal Role this year. Thanks for all your efforts this year.

Our Head Ranger and Volunteer Rangers continue to ensure the Loch is regularly patrolled.

There was another Extreme Wild Fire Risk in place during September, and we are pleased to report that our Ranger Service did not come across any irresponsible fire lighting during this time.



Volunteer Ranger Patrols

We would like to thank our Volunteer Rangers for assisting with patrolling around the Loch this month.

If you would be interested in volunteering with our community ranger service, please get in touch Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

K1 Scottish Marathon Championships

Head Ranger Leanne was assisting with safety cover for the K1 Scottish Marathon Championships on Loch Ken last weekend. Well done to all the competitors and well done to the organisers on a fantastic event.

A promotional poster for the K1 Scottish Marathon Championships 2025. The poster features a blue background with a large, stylized '2025' in the background. On the left, there is an illustration of a kayaker in a green kayak, wearing a yellow helmet and blue gear, paddling through white water. The text 'K1 Scottish Marathon Championships' is written in white, slanted font across the middle. Below this, the date 'Saturday 27th September' is written in orange. Further down, the location 'Loch Ken, Dumfries and Galloway' is written in orange, followed by 'Entries online via Paddle Scotland events listing by 10pm 25th Sept' in grey. Below that, it says 'Open to all kayaks, canoes & SUPs' in grey. The courses are listed as 'Courses - 13k, 6.6k and 4.6k' in orange. At the bottom left, the 'Kirkcudbright Canoe Club' logo is shown with the website 'www.kirkcudbrightcanoeclub.co.uk'. At the bottom right, it says 'viewing area for race starts, finishes and portages' in small grey text.

K1 Scottish Marathon Championships

Saturday 27th September

Loch Ken, Dumfries and Galloway
Entries online via Paddle Scotland
events listing by 10pm 25th Sept
Open to all kayaks, canoes & SUPs
Courses - 13k, 6.6k and 4.6k

Kirkcudbright Canoe Club
www.kirkcudbrightcanoeclub.co.uk

viewing area for race starts, finishes and portages

Ranger Group Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 27th October 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.

This month, there will be a chance to discuss the Carlingwark Project and its recommendations based on a water quality survey and an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) survey carried out by Galloway Fisheries Trust supported by Scotland's Rural College students.

Look forward to seeing you all there!



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



drax

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**



Be water Smart

**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**

**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**



drax

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

