

Loch Ken Trust

Winter Newsletter
November/December 2025



Letter from the Editor

As we approach the end of 2025, it has been great to reflect on all that the Trust has achieved throughout the year. We are excited to see what 2026 will bring.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our AGM last month, the support from the community is much appreciated.

This winter has already seen some extreme weather with named storms. Make sure you are prepared by completing a Household Emergency Plan.

Good Wishes to all

Lindsay Stewart- Editor

Gold Award for Dalry Resilience Team

Congratulations to Dalry Community Resilience Group, who have been presented with the Gold Award by Dumfries and Galloway Council. This is the first Gold Award to be received by the Council and follows resilience planning efforts, including a Test exercise earlier this year. We have been pleased to work with the Dalry Community on both resilience planning and the test exercise.



Ranger Volunteer Coordinator

We are currently appointing a Ranger Volunteer Coordinator, who will be in post for 6th January 2026.

Thank you to everyone for their interest in the role.

We are grateful to funders the Volunteering Support Fund.

Having a dedicated Ranger Volunteer Coordinator will help us grow capacity for our community ranger service.



Tesco Stronger Starts



A reminder that 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!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Loch Ken Family
Water Safety Day will
be held on **Tuesday 4th**
August 2026



We would love to hear from any groups , organisations, stallholders, businesses, individuals who would like to get involved in this growing event. Please email Office@lochken.org.uk

Coop Local Community Fund

CHOOSE US AS YOUR LOCAL CAUSE

Co-op Members can help us receive a share of £5m from the Local Community Fund.

Choose us on the Co-op App or at coop.co.uk/membership



co
op
OWNED BY YOU.
RIGHT BY YOU.

You can support the Loch Ken Trust through the Coop Local community fund on the link below. If you are a member you can support our project, or become a member and support by following the link

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/94695>

Glenkens Cardiac Responders Group

We were absolutely delighted to receive a grant award from the Glenkens Community Shop and an additional discretionary amount to enable us to purchase a portable defibrillator for our community cardiac volunteer responders. Many thanks to the Glenkens Community Shop for supporting this community lifesaving initiative.

Our Glenkens community cardiac responders are trained to respond to out of hospital cardiac arrests in the vital first few minutes before an ambulance arrives.

We have also received a very generous donation of a defibrillator from a Dalry resident, for which we are extremely grateful, thank you!

Our goal is to raise funding to equip all of our ten volunteers with a portable defibrillator so they can respond without delay. If you are interested in getting involved or supporting the group, please get in touch office@lochken.org.uk



Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety 2025

As the end of 2025 approaches, we are pleased to look back on the 2025 Loch Ken Youth Water Safety Programme, which, this year alone, has seen over 200 young people receive this vital life-saving hands on water safety training!

Our thanks, as always, go to everyone involved, particularly our funders and the fantastic team of instructors at the Galloway Activity Centre. Thanks also go to all schools and organisation for taking part in the programme.





Education Programme

During 2025, over 153 pupils from local schools attended our ranger education sessions

It has been amazing to see the young people so engrossed in nature.

During our 2025 bio blitz sessions over 125 species were recorded.

These records included one *first record of species*, a *previously unrecorded site for invasive species*, and a *new site for species*.

Inspiring a love of nature in our future generations is a top priority for us and we are already making plans for next years ranger education programme.

Thank you to everyone involved.





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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/>



water safety
Scotland

Be prepared when walking beside water in the dark

- wear bright clothing and carry a torch. It is good to familiarise yourself with the Water Safety Code.

#DrowningPrevention

DON'T TEST THE ICE



water safety
Scotland



Never go onto ice



Keep a safe
distance from the
edge



Check for safety
signage near ice



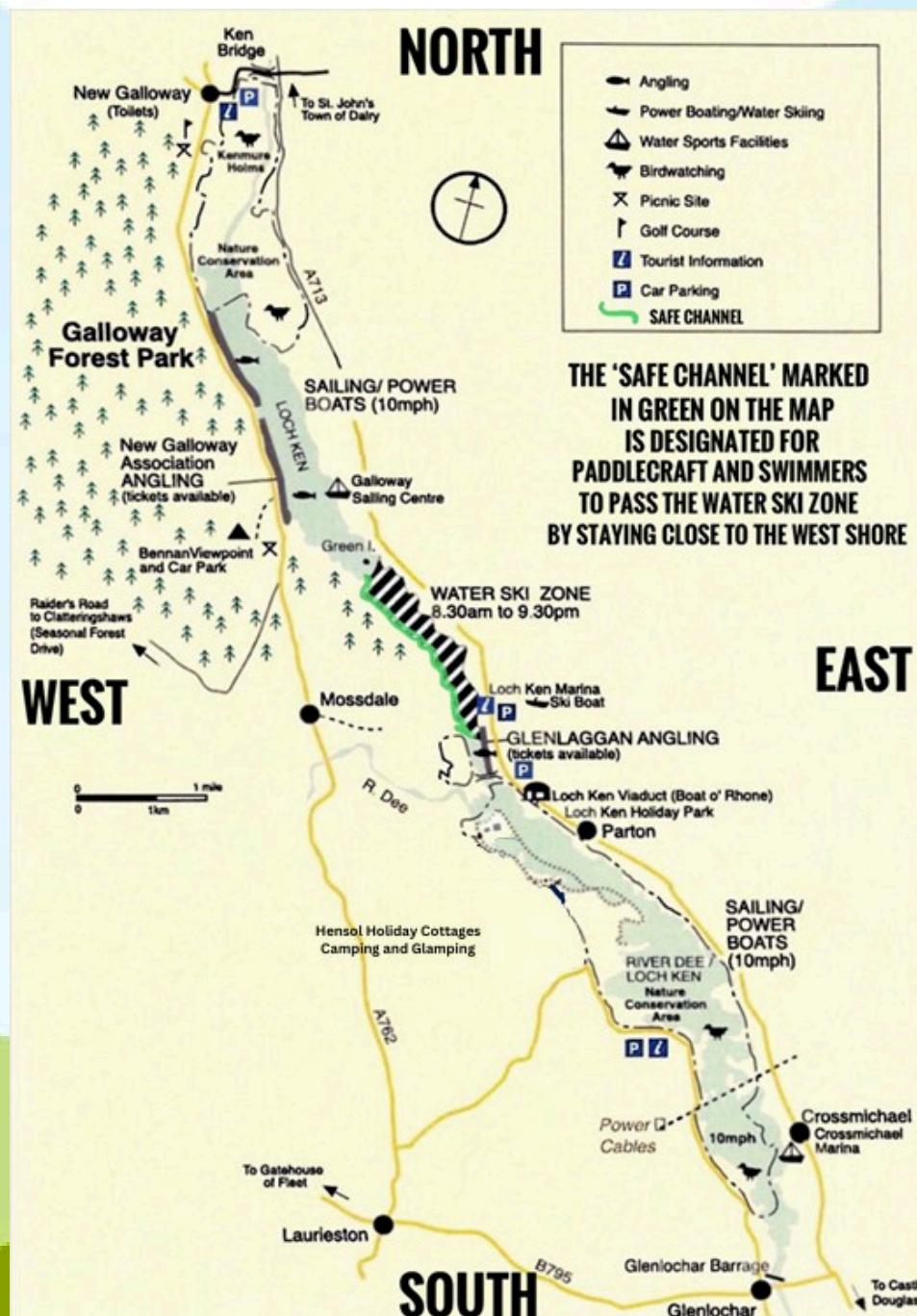
Supervise children
and keep dogs on
leads around ice



In an emergency,
call 999

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

There has been some extreme weather over the last few weeks with heavy rainfall and gusty winds. Our Ranger Service continues to carry our patrols over the Winter. Please consider having a home emergency plan ready and sign up to weather alerts- read on to find out more information.

Community Resilience

Why not consider joining your community resilience team?

We have worked with resilience groups in our communities around Loch Ken, to assist with creating robust resilience plans. Community Resilience Groups are made up of volunteers who give their time to support neighbours, protect local resources, and reduce disruption during a crisis.

Emergency Household Lifesaving Plan

With more extreme weather this month, we would urge you to consider completing an emergency lifesaving plan and kit so you know what to do to take care of yourself and your family during an extreme weather event.

Suggested emergency kit

- A radio with spare batteries or a wind up radio
- A torch with spare batteries or a wind up torch
 - Sleeping bag/roll mat/duvet
 - First aid kit
- Copies of important documents birth certificates, insurance policies, this plan
- Bottled water and ready to eat food with can opener if required.
 - Toiletries and sanitary supplies
 - Prescribed medication
 - Playing cards/games
- Special equipment required for infants or the elderly
 - Mobile phone and charger
 - Cash/credit cards
- Spare clothes/blankets ·Home/car keys
- For full details of the household emergency plan visit [Household Emergency Lifesaving Plan](#)

Community Resilience

Useful web links

DGVost: <https://dgvost.dumgal.gov.uk/>

For weather advice: [Metoffice weather advice](#)

For flood warnings [Sepa flood warnings](#)

For flood Advice:

<https://scottishfloodforum.org/news/latest-news/>

Power cuts map:

[https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/power cuts_map.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/power_cuts_map.aspx)

Emergency School Closure

<https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/esc/home>

For winter preparedness: [Ready Scotland Ready for Winter](#)

Food Bank [Steppinstanes Community Larder and Food Bank](#)

[Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#)

[Mental health helplines](#)

Patrols and Incidents Recorded over the 2025 Season

Overall Totals and Patrols

- Total incidents recorded: 124
- SFRS responded to a fire during high wildfire risk
- Land patrols: approx. 200
- Water patrols: approx. 20

Joint patrols conducted:

- Police Scotland community police: 15 patrols
- Scottish Fire & Rescue: 7 patrols

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

Ranger Group Meeting

A reminder that we are having a break from our ranger Group meetings over the festive period, and will reconvene in the New Year. Thank you to everyone for all the support throughout the season. These Ranger meetings are open to anyone and a great chance to have your say and find out how you can get involved.

Loch Ken Trust would like to
wish all our Members and
friends a safe and happy
festive season.



Photo credit Ken Scott

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

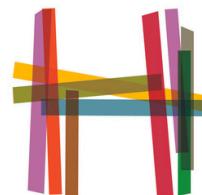


Never swim in the
water

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.



The Holywood Trust
Scottish Charity No. SC009942



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION



Funded by

