

# Loch Ken Trust

Newsletter January 2026



## Letter from the Editor

Hello and we hope you have all had a great start to 2026!

We are pleased to welcome our newly appointed Ranger Volunteer Coordinator, Rachael.

Rachael has had a fantastic response so far from members of the community keen to volunteer with us. Please get in touch if there are any projects you are interested in- we are excited for the year ahead!

Lindsay Stewart- Editor

# Ranger Volunteer Coordinator

Hello, I'm Rachael, and I'm really excited to have recently joined Loch Ken Trust as Ranger Volunteer Coordinator.



I'm someone who truly believes in the power of community – in people feeling welcomed, heard, and valued – and this role brings together so many things I care deeply about: nature, connection, inclusion, and meaningful volunteering. Being part of a place like Loch Ken, which holds so much natural beauty and community significance, feels incredibly special.

# Supporting & Growing Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of Loch Ken, and supporting them is the most rewarding part of my role. I'm passionate about creating volunteering opportunities where people feel confident to get involved, supported to learn, and proud of the contribution they're making – whether that's their first time volunteering or they've been involved for years.

In my role, I work closely with rangers, staff, and partners to make sure volunteering is accessible, inclusive, and genuinely enjoyable. My focus is on building strong relationships, nurturing confidence, and helping people find a sense of belonging as part of the Loch Ken community.

Key areas of focus include:

- Coordinating ranger-led volunteer activities
- Supporting conservation and site-based projects
- Encouraging inclusive and accessible volunteering opportunities
- Helping volunteers build skills, confidence, and a strong connection to Loch Ken

I strongly believe that when people feel supported and valued, conservation outcomes thrive – and so do communities.

# SAVE THE DATE!

Our Loch Ken Family  
Water Safety Day will  
be held on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**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](mailto:Office@lochken.org.uk)

# Funding News

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding from Glenkens and District Trust Community Fund, administered by Foundation Scotland. We are extremely grateful for the support, which will allow our community ranger service to continue to thrive.

The award will also bolster the Loch Ken Youth Water Safety Programme and expand the Loch Ken Family Water Safety Event over the next three years, which will have a lasting benefit for our communities.

Many thanks for the continued support, and we are looking forward to the years ahead.



**Foundation  
Scotland**



We would also like to share the fantastic news that Loch Ken Trust has received a funding award from National Lottery Awards for All Community Fund.

A huge thank you to National Lottery Players. This award will allow our community ranger service to continue to thrive and look after Loch Ken, with an additional focus on launching our Junior Ranger Scheme. . This funding will make a huge difference to our communities.

We would like to thank National Lottery Awards for All for the support , which will make a huge difference to our communities!

# 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](https://coop.co.uk/membership)



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

The Glenkens Cardiac Responders Group was set up with Scottish Ambulance Service. Our ten trained cardiac responders are alerted to emergency calls and trained to attend out of hospital cardiac arrests, supporting resilience in our rural communities. We would like to equip all of our community cardiac responders with portable defibrillators, so they can attend out of hospital cardiac arrests without delay. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to date

Glenkens Community Shop

St Johns Town of Dalry Community Council

Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council

Natural Power

A kind donation from a member of the community

We will continue to raise awareness and funds towards equipping all of our volunteers.

Watch this space for fundraising events later in the year.

If you would be interested in getting involved or supporting, please get in touch.



# THE WALL ART SHOWCASE

FREE ENTRY



## 21ST

FEBRUARY

11:00 - 14:00

The Crannog  
Castle Douglas

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST  
BRING YOUR IDEAS, FEELINGS, AND CREATIVITY.

[Rachael@lochken.org.uk](mailto:Rachael@lochken.org.uk)

# Loch Ken Wall Art Project

We want YOUR artwork inspired by Loch Ken  
What does Loch Ken mean to you?

Is it peaceful mornings by the water, time with family, wildlife, adventure, memories, or simply a place to breathe?

As part of our Wall Art Project, we're inviting people of all ages and abilities to create artwork that represents their connection to Loch Ken. These pieces will come together as part of a community Wall Art Exhibition.

Saturday 21st February

11am – 1pm

You don't have to be a professional artist – just bring your ideas, feelings, and creativity. Painting, drawing, collage, photography, mixed media – all styles welcome. Every contribution will be displayed and celebrated as part of the Wall Art exhibition.

For more information email  
[rachael@lochken.org.uk](mailto:rachael@lochken.org.uk)

# Volunteer Junior Ranger Scheme

Ages 10-18

Get involved, learn new skills & help care for nature!

## What You'll Do:

- Habitat Conservation & Path Work
- Wildlife & Nature Activities
- Litter Picks & Surveys
- Fun Team Challenges

## Who Can Join?

- ✓ Ages 11-18
- ✓ Love the Outdoors
- ✓ Keen to Learn & Get Stuck In!

## Why Join?

- ✓ Make New Friends
- ✓ Learn & Explore
- ✓ Build Skills & Confidence
- ✓ Earn Certificates!

## Fully Supervised & Safe!

- ✓ Friendly Rangers & Volunteers
- ✓ Training Provided
- ✓ Parent/Guardian Consent Needed

## Find Out More & Apply!

Visit: [www.lochken.org.uk/juniorrangers](http://www.lochken.org.uk/juniorrangers)  
 Email: [info@lochken.org.uk](mailto:info@lochken.org.uk)  
 Email: [rachael@lochken.org.uk](mailto:rachael@lochken.org.uk)

**LOCHKEN Trust**

We are really excited for the launch of our Junior Ranger Scheme. Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest so far. Our Junior Ranger Lead will be in touch with details of the launch in the early Spring



CDCX, Round 3 of the South West Winter Series will be held in Castle Douglas on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at The Crannog, Lochside Park. There will be fun racing for all ages with entries going live soon on the British Cycling Website- watch this space and get your entries in!

If anyone is able to help with marshalling and sign on at this event, you will get the chance to watch some fantastic racing from 9am- please get in touch. Rolls and hot drinks provided for volunteers.

# Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety 2026

We are looking forward to launching the return of the Loch Ken Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme for 2026, in partnership with the Galloway Activity Centre. We will be welcoming young people from local schools and groups to learn vital lifesaving water safety skills from April 2026.



# 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



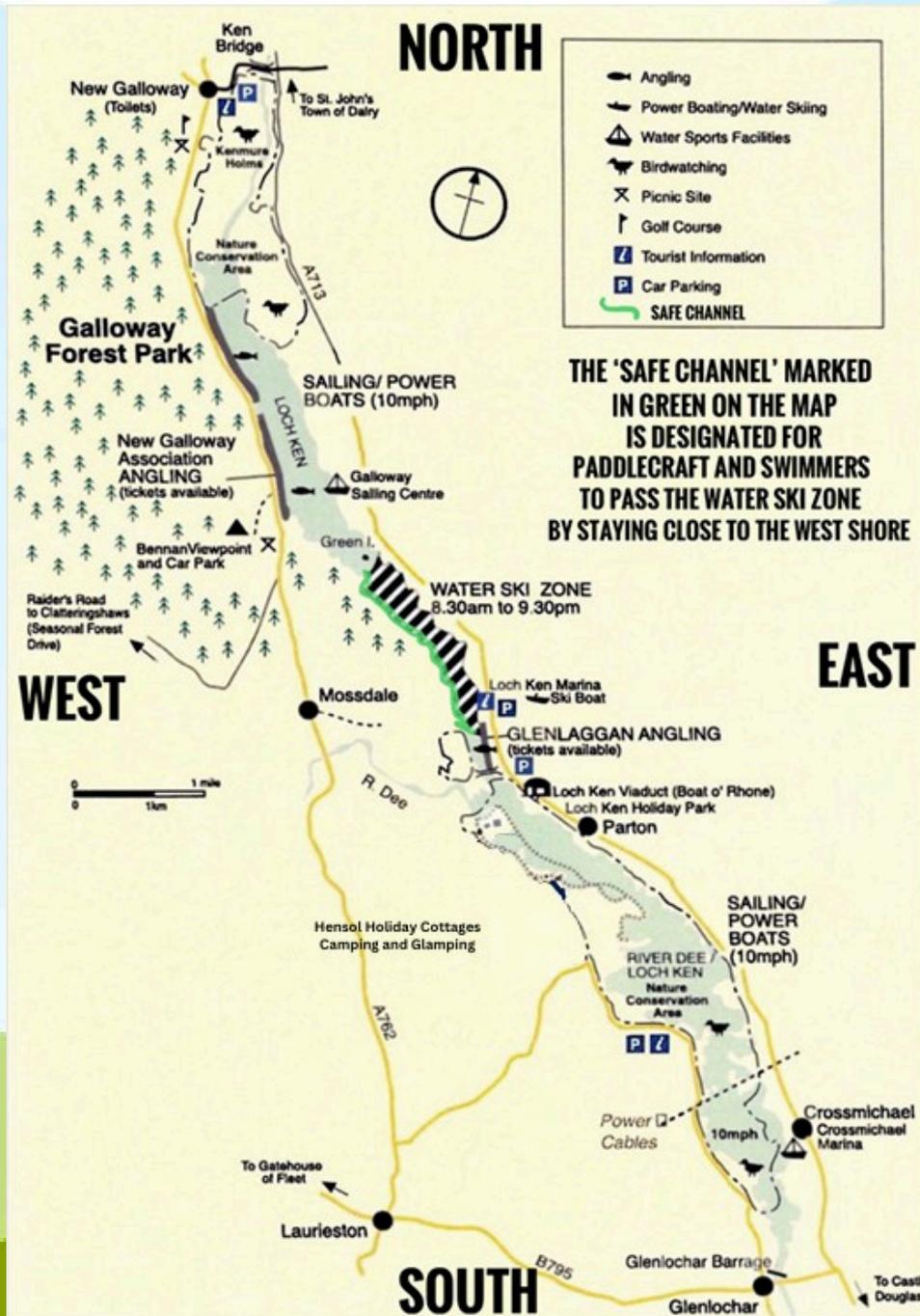
Supervise children  
and keep dogs on  
leads around ice



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

Our Ranger Service continues to patrol through the Winter months and make preparations for the season ahead. Head Ranger Leanne collected several bags of litter left on the shoreline.

### Scottish Outdoor Access Code

In Scotland, we're lucky to have the freedom to enjoy most outdoor spaces – as long as we do so responsibly. This is known as Scottish access rights, and it's something quite special

You can enjoy places like: Hills and moors, forests and woods, beaches and coastlines, rivers and lochs, parks and some farmland  
And activities such as: Walking & cycling, horse riding,, kayaking & swimming, watching wildlife

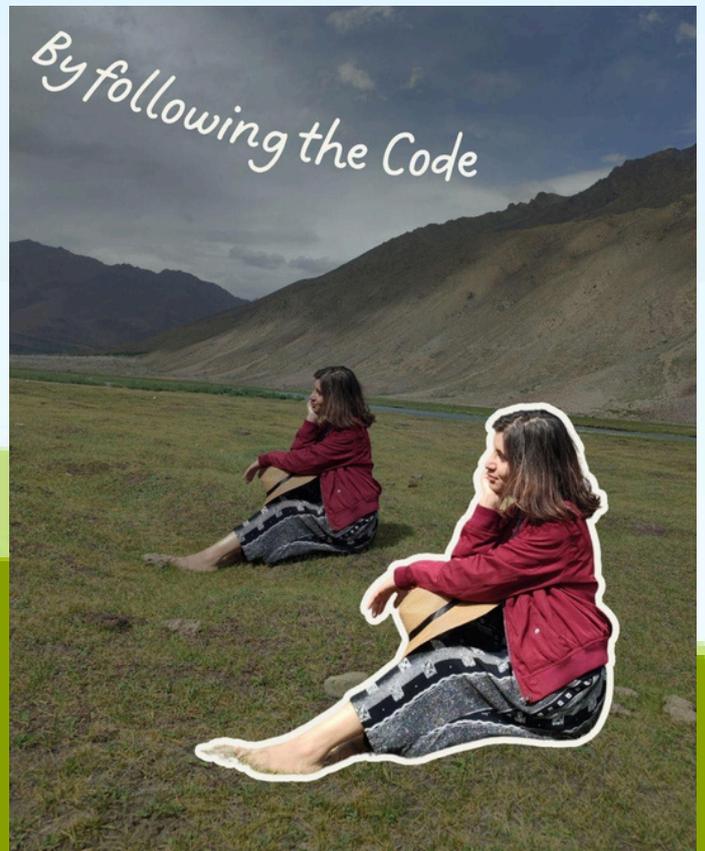
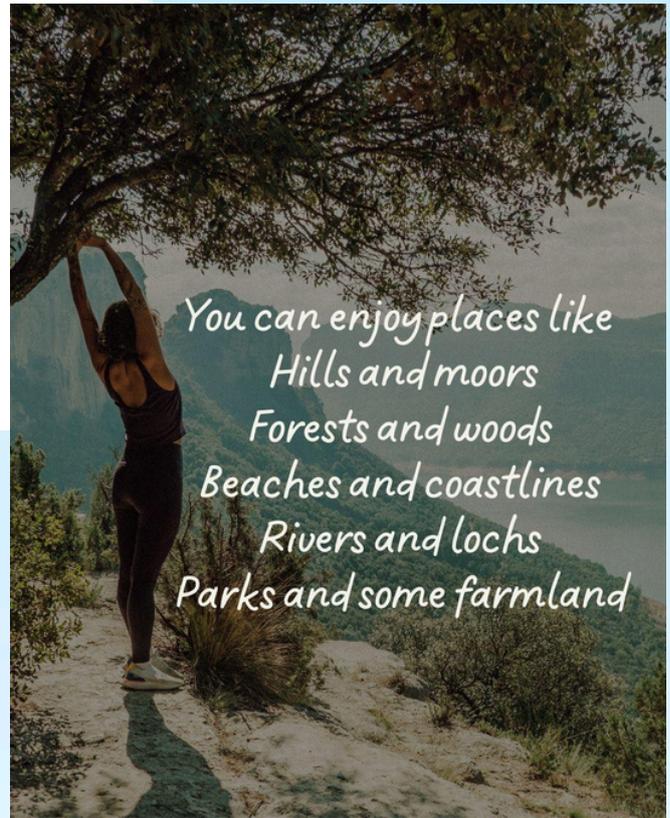
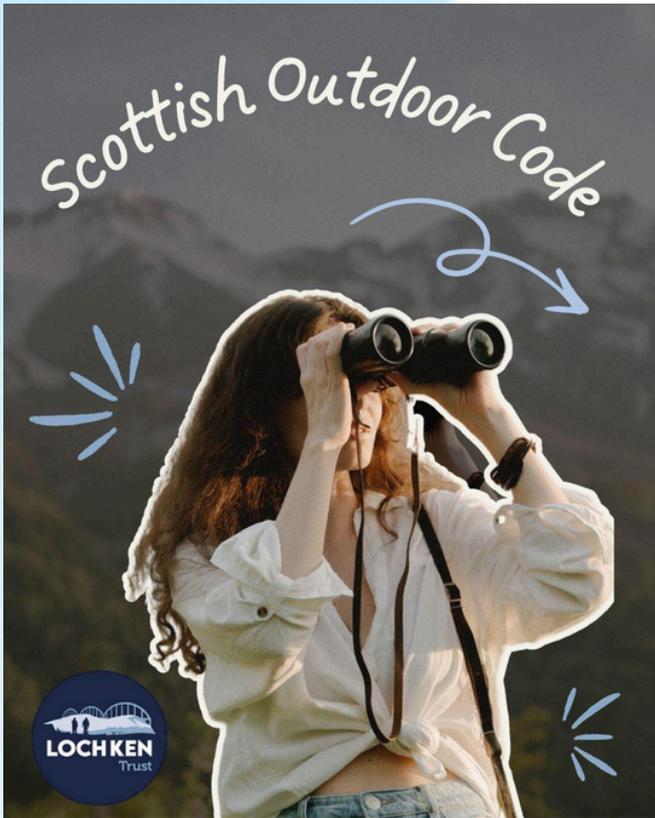
Some places are off-limits, for example, houses and gardens, school grounds, buildings and areas that charge for entry.

It's also important to know that Scottish access rights do not cover motorised access, or activities such as hunting, fishing, or shooting – these require landowner permission

By following the Code, we help keep Scotland's outdoors welcoming, safe, and enjoyable for everyone – now and for future generations

Read the full Scottish Outdoor Access Code here:

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/.../scottish.../>



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**



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



Charity Registration Number SC006642  
[www.gallowayassoc.org.uk](http://www.gallowayassoc.org.uk)

