



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

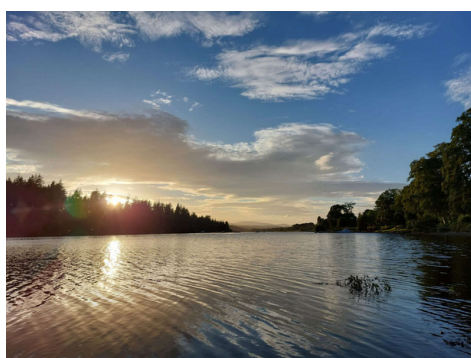
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to our August Newsletter with an update on all our activities over the Summer period.

It has been a busy Summer season with patrolling, ranger education, community projects and our Family Water Safety Day.

As always, please get in touch if there are any projects that you are interested in or to find out how you could get involved.

Thank you for your continued support





Loch Ken Trust JUNIOR RANGER

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-18



Work towards the
Scottish Countryside
Ranger Association
(SCRA) Junior Ranger Award



Learn new skills, build
confidence and connect
with nature



Wildlife, tracking,
maps & navigation,
conservation and
much more!

DATES

- Thursday 10th September 6-8pm
- Thursday 24th September 5-7pm
- Saturday 10th October 5:30-8pm
- Monday 19th October 1-3pm
- Thursday November 5th 5-7pm
- Thursday November 19th 5-7pm



TO BOOK CONTACT
Office@lochken.org.uk

Junior Ranger Autumn Programme

Our Autumn Junior Ranger Programme is now live!
Free block of six sessions in Castle Douglas, aimed at
11-18 year olds- block booking link and dates below.

[BLOCK BOOKING LINK](#)

The sessions will include map work, first aid, wildlife
(eels, bird watching, invertebrate sampling and a bat
event), and lots more.

Participants can work towards the Scottish
Countryside Junior Ranger and Leadership Awards
Sessions can be booked individually as well.

[Individual booking link for Session 1](#)

Thursday 10th September 6-8pm

Thursday 24th September 5-7pm

Saturday 10th October 5:30-8pm

Monday 19th October 1-3pm

Thursday 5th November 5-7pm

Thursday 19th November 5-7pm

Please email Office@lochken.org.uk for any further
information.

Loch Ken Family Fun Day



A huge thank you to everyone who braved the weather and joined us for the Loch Ken Family Fun Day.

Despite the rain, it was a fantastic day promoting water safety, learning valuable life-saving skills, enjoying outdoor adventures, and nature activities. It was great to see so many having fun on and around the water.

Thank you to all our volunteers, stallholders, activity providers, emergency services, local organisations, our fantastic compere, and everyone who came along to support the event.

The K9 Aqua Sports dock diving was an incredible spectacle and certainly one of the highlights of the day.

It was great to showcase the fantastic work being carried out by so many local organisations and emergency services.

Thanks go to all funders, Glenkens and District Community Fund, D&G Council, Drax Group UK and Glenkens Community Shop who have supported this event and to everyone involved in making the day a success. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Loch Ken Family Fun Day 2026

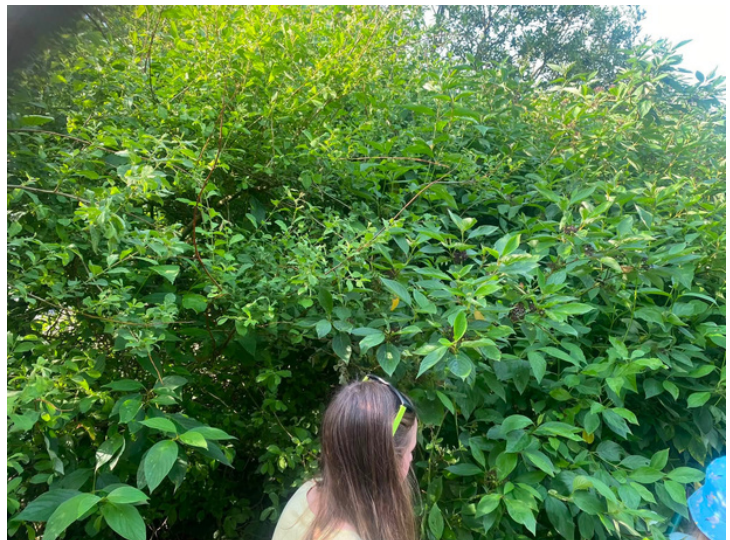


JUNIOR RANGER

It has been a great Summer for our Junior Rangers with a programme of outdoor sessions covering site surveys, water safety, outdoor first aid, map work, wildlife spotting and a water adventure.

Well done to those who achieved the Junior Ranger National Award.

If you fancy joining in with our Junior Rangers feel free to come along to any of our Autumn sessions, Please email Office@lochken.org.uk for further information.



COMMUNITY CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

The Ken Water Interest Group (Ken WIG) community citizen science water quality testing project is gathering momentum and there are now 13 members of the community trained as part of the Riverfly programme, which will involve monthly invertebrate sampling and recording.

Community volunteers have been sampling and testing water quality and we are beginning to establish a community baseline on pollution sources

This work is possible thanks to the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Healthy Planet, Healthy People Catalyst Award, developed in partnership with and funded by the Williamson Trust

The project is in partnership with the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, New Galloway and Kells Community Council and members of the community and will explore potential environmental impacts at Loch Ken, through citizen science, with findings that may have wider implications throughout the catchment.

Community volunteers will be involved in sampling and testing water quality, helping establish a community baseline on pollution sources and water quality. Thank you to everyone involved so far

Interested in getting involved?

We would love to hear from you. Please get in touch to learn more about joining the project.





NATIONAL
TRUST *for*
SCOTLAND

THE LOCH KEN WILLOW TIT PROJECT

The Willow Tit is one of the UK's
most severely declining resident UK birds.

Loch Ken and its surrounding woodlands
provide vital habitat for this declining
species, and with your help, we can
continue to protect its future.



SEEN A WILLOW TIT? PLEASE REPORT YOUR SIGHTING

Your sighting could make a vital contribution
to monitoring this rare species and helping us
ensure its long-term survival in our area.



REPORT SIGHTINGS
AND FIND OUT MORE

<https://lochken.org.uk/willow-tit/>



OR EMAIL

office@lochken.org.uk

HELP PROTECT A RARE BIRD, IN A RARE PLACE.

Every sighting helps us understand
where Willow Tits are, how they
are faring, and where conservation
action is needed most.



WATER SAFETY & EDUCATION



WATER SAFETY & EDUCATION

Youth Water Safety Programme Continues
The Loch Ken Youth Water Safety Programme continues throughout 2026, with further groups attending to learn vital water safety skills. Through practical activities and engaging sessions, young people are learning about hazards, safe decision-making and how to enjoy our waterways responsibly.

YOUTH WATER SAFETY PROGRAMME

The Loch Ken Youth Water Safety Programme continues for 2026 after a short break for the Summer holidays, with young people taking part in hands-on activities designed to build confidence on and around the water while learning essential life-saving water safety skills.



Delivered in partnership with the team at Galloway Activity Centre, the programme gives young people practical experience in a supportive outdoor environment while helping promote safe enjoyment of Loch Ken and other open water spaces.

A huge thank you to the instructors and staff at Galloway Activity Centre for providing positive and engaging learning experiences on the water, and to all of the young people who have taken part so far..

We would also like to thank our funders for helping make this programme possible, including The Holywood Trust, Drax Group UK, Glenkens & District Trust, Tesco Stronger Starts and the Galloway Association of Glasgow.

ON PATROL WITH THE LOCH KEN TRUST RANGER SERVICE

Please stop and say hello if you see our rangers out patrolling our
both on and around Loch Ken.

CONTACT NUMBERS
07539029175 / 07918300889
RANGER@LOCHKEN.ORG.UK



Ranger Patrols

Generally, visitor numbers have been down around the Loch. There have been several wildfire warnings throughout the Summer period. We are pleased to report that visitors have acted responsibly and we have seen an increase in the use of stoves rather than an open flame.



Loch Ken Fishing Update

Drax have created a new map showing the areas where bank and boat fishing is permitted on Loch Ken. The map also includes details on where to purchase fishing permits and register boats.

If you live near the Galloway Hydro Scheme and have any questions or concerns about their operations, you can submit them using their contact form.

The map and form can be found at [Fishing Map Link](#) or by using this QR Code below



RANGER GROUP MEETING

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Ranger Group meeting last month. We agreed that we will attend each community to listen to local views and understand how we can best support communities going forward.

We will be taking the Ranger meetings out into local communities going forward, with the aim of listening to community views and identifying how we can best offer support.

The next ranger group meeting will be Wednesday 16th September 6:30-8pm at New Galloway Town Hall.



Categorised Incident Data

July -August 2026



Category	Incidents
Litter / bags	7
Fly tipping	0
Abandoned camping rubbish	1
Fire risk – abandoned campfire	0
Fire risk – new campfire site	1
Non-permitted moored power crafts	0
Unregistered powered craft	3
Unlawful launch	3
Speeding powered craft	0
Powered craft advised	9
Non-powered craft advised	7
Swimmers advised	0
Loch users – ranger assist	1
Misc	6
Fishing without permit	3? Unknown
Motor / camper waste disposal	0
Tree damage	1
Environmental concern	1
Escalated incidents	0
Wildlife crime	0
Environmental crime	0
Anti-social behaviour	0
Social media	0
Risk to life	0
Loss of life	0
Total	43

Categorised Incident Data

August-September 2026



Category	Incidents
Litter / bags	8
Fly tipping	0
Abandoned camping rubbish	0
Fire risk – abandoned campfire	0
Fire risk – new campfire site	4
Non-permitted moored power crafts	0
Unregistered powered craft	0
Unlawful launch	0
Speeding powered craft	0
Powered craft advised	2
Non-powered craft advised	1
Swimmers advised	0
Loch users – ranger assist	0
Misc	3
Fishing without permit	2? Unknown
Motor / camper waste disposal	0
Tree damage	1
Environmental concern	0
Escalated incidents	0
Wildlife crime	0
Environmental crime	0
Anti-social behaviour	0
Social media	0
Risk to life	0
Loss of life	0
Total	21

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**



**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 99
or you can throw
a rope to them**



**Never swim in the
water**



drax

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



OWNED BY YOU.
RIGHT BY YOU.

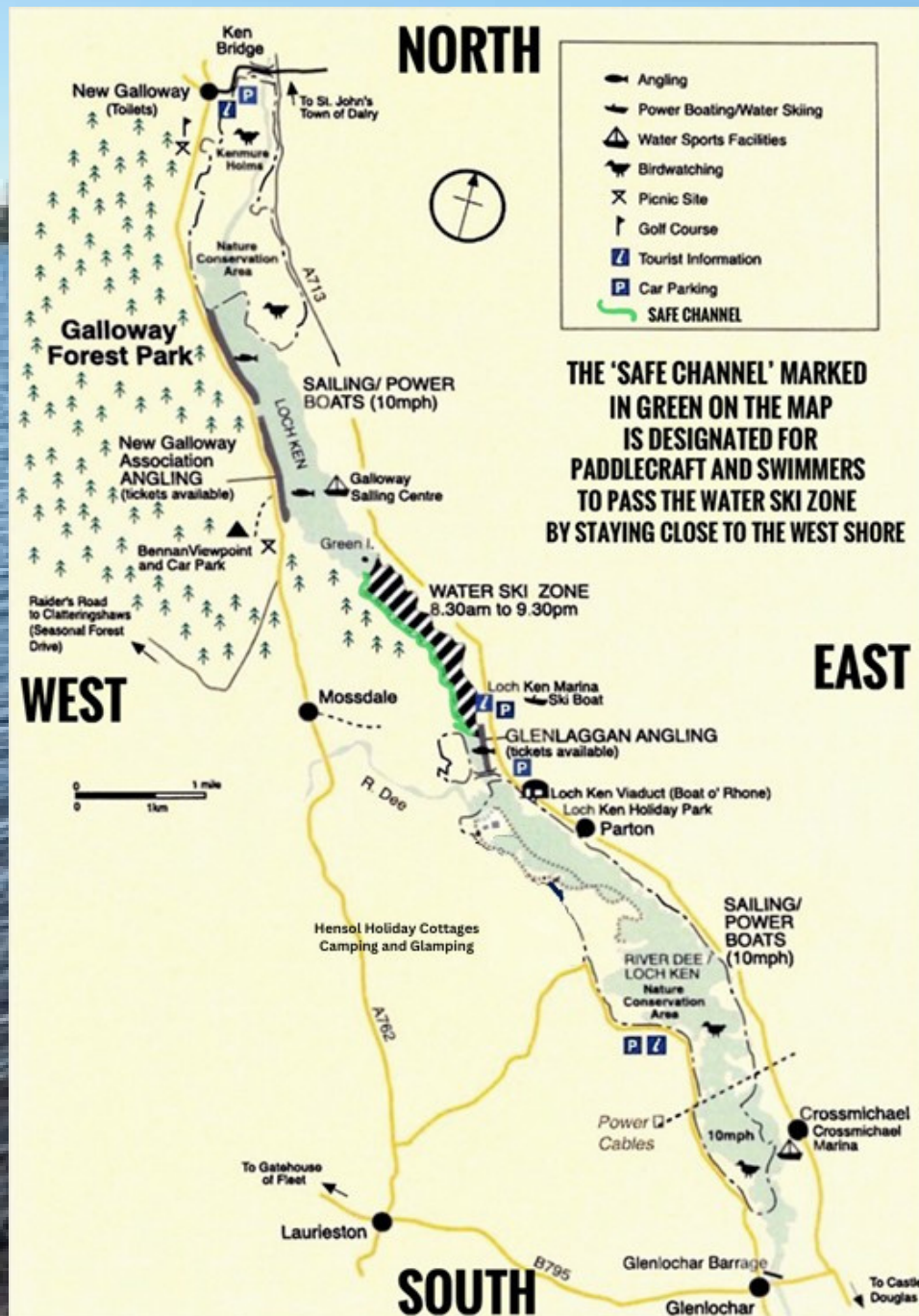
**You can support the Loch Ken Trust through the Coop
Local community fund on the link below.**

**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](https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/94695)

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.



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

drax



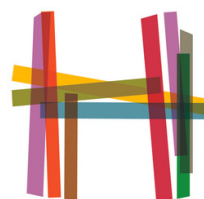
Foundation
Scotland



RSE

*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL



The Holywood Trust

Scottish Charity No. SC009942



AWARDS
FOR ALL
SCOTLAND



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

impact | FUNDING
PARTNERS

Funded by



Dumfries
and Galloway



Charity Registration Number SC006642
www.gallowayassoc.org.uk



GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

