

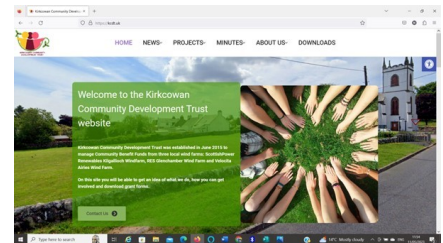


## To our Kirkcowan Community Council Area Residents

Hello, and welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of spring - hopefully, we will see some warmer weather soon!

The Trust has been busy building a new website which is now up and running and we hope will be a much clearer and more concise place to get information on what is going on as well as details of past and present grant awards. You can find the website at [kcdt.uk](http://kcdt.uk). Please take a look and give us some feedback!



Talking of grants, we have awarded a number in the last few months. The Parent Council was awarded money again to aid with the running of the School Fete on 27th May after a hugely successful event last year - fingers crossed for good weather again!

There was money granted to help with the Easter Egg hunt, the open show running this year on 2nd and 3rd September, as well as a grant for the running of the cultural trip to Glasgow for the Primary 7s of Kirkcowan and Wigtown School.

We have a preferred contractor in 3B Construction to help deliver the playpark project and after a couple of meetings with them are delighted to have a public meeting opportunity on 30th May for people to look at the plans brought forward by the Steering Group. Visit the website for more details.

Work has been taking place almost weekly in the Jenna Morra Wood, which is looking a great deal better already, many thanks for the enthusiastic volunteering going on there. There are some more plans coming forward to make the wood a bit more accessible with clearing and some path improvement and some small-scale thinning to take place in the autumn/winter.

As always, we welcome your input and comments, please get in touch through Machars Action or with any of the Directors.

Charlie McNeill, Chairman, Kirkcowan Community Development Trust

### Trust Directors

Andrew Gladstone, Lynne Dalglish, Bill Harkness, Hazel Johnston, Charlie McNeill (Chair), Hazel McWhirter, Martin Marsh (Vice Chair).

## **Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Updates**

### **Our dear friend Colin Richardson**

The Trust Directors were very saddened by the passing of their friend and colleague, Colin Richardson. Colin was an invaluable Director who worked hard to ensure the Trust carried out its duties for the benefit of the residents of Kirkcowan. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with Colin's wife and family.

### **Winter Fuel Allowance**

Nearly 300 households in Kirkcowan received £200 at the end of 2022 as part of the Winter Fuel Allowance from the Kirkcowan Community Development Trust. The payments were available to all households within the Kirkcowan Community Council Area. In these difficult times, with a cost-of-living crisis, we hope that the allowance payment went some way towards helping Kirkcowan residents to keep warm.

### **Educational and Driving Lesson Grant Schemes**

The Kirkcowan Community Development Trust is delighted to offer an Educational Grant Scheme, which gives up to £1,000 in a grant award to anyone studying at university, college or with the Open University. The grant can also be used for smaller courses. The Driving Lessons Grant Scheme is also available to anyone who is taking their driving test and covers both practical and theory tests. For more information on both Grant Schemes, please visit the Downloads page on the KCDT website [kcdt.uk](https://www.kcdt.uk).

### **We'd love to hear from you!**

Have you or a club or group you belong to received a grant from KCDT? If you have, we'd love to hear how the grant has helped you. Your feedback will give you a chance to tell the community what you have been doing and could also inspire others to apply for grants that could make a big difference to them.

### **Jenna Morra Wood**

Work is progressing well in Jenna Morra Wood, just south of the village of Kirkcowan, which is owned by the Kirkcowan Community Development Trust. A team of volunteers regularly work in the wood and have most recently been cutting back rhododendron, Scotland's most threatening invasive non-native plant, which forms dense thickets and shades out native plants. For more information on progress in the wood, visit [kcdt.uk](https://www.kcdt.uk).

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to join our team of volunteers to help improve Jenna Morra Wood, please contact Nicki Chadwick on [kcdtcontact@gmail.com](mailto:kcdtcontact@gmail.com).

### **Membership**

Membership of the Trust is open to anyone who lives in the Kirkcowan Community Council Area and is on the Electoral Roll. To become a member, please fill out an application form, which can be found on the KCDT website or by contacting Nicki Chadwick, KCDT Support Officer, or any Trust Director.

By becoming a member, you gain full voting rights at General Meetings and are entitled to stand for election as a director. To nominate someone for election as a director, you must also be a member of the Trust. Becoming a member of KCDT is free and liability of members is limited to £1.

For more information on how to become a member, contact Nicki on 01988 403450 or email [kcdtcontact@gmail.com](mailto:kcdtcontact@gmail.com).