



# Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Newsletter - Winter 2025

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[www.kcdt.uk](http://www.kcdt.uk)

**Welcome to the latest Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Newsletter.** This edition sees us moving into autumn and winter with an article about the opening of the restored playpark, information about this year's Winter Fuel Grants, our February AGM, and a reminder of how to apply for funding support, either as a local community group, or as an individual wanting to access training.

Our community continues to benefit from funds made available to us by ScottishPower Renewables Kilgallioch Windfarm, RES Glenchamber Wind Farm, and Velocita Airies Wind Farm. We thank them for this generous support.

*The Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Directors*

## Five years in the making – and worth every moment!



Kirkcowan Playpark is now fully restored and it officially opened on 30th August, with former Kirkcowan Community Council Chair John Paterson doing the honours at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

This fantastic transformation is thanks to community benefit funding from ScottishPower Renewables and the dedication of KCDT directors – past and present – who poured their hearts into making this happen.

Now children of all ages can explore new play areas, packed with opportunities to climb, swing, learn new skills, and make lifelong friends.

This isn't just a playpark – it's a vibrant community hub we can all celebrate and enjoy for years to come!

## Does your community group need funding for projects this year?

If so, we want to hear from you! Here's a reminder of some of what the Kirkcowan Community Benefit Funds can support:

- Equipment for community groups
- Community events, festivals, and trips
- Activity-based environmental schemes

You can find information on what is eligible and how to apply by visiting the KCDT website, ([www.kcdt.uk](http://www.kcdt.uk)) or head straight to [www.foundationscotland.org.uk](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk) and search for Kirkcowan Community Fund to read the criteria and start your application.



The Autumn Club is kindly acting as a convenient drop-off point for correspondence for KCDT. Post can be left in the Club post-box and is only opened by KCDT



## KCDT Annual General Meeting

### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7pm - 8.30pm

### Kirkcowan Village Hall

Martin Marsh and Andrew Gladstone will be standing down from their positions on the Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Board at the AGM on 12th February. We offer our sincere thanks to Martin and Andrew for their hard work, dedication, and determination in furthering the work of the Trust, for the benefit of Kirkcowan's community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite interested members of the community to come forward to find out more about becoming a director.

## Winter Fuel Grants

This year's community winter fuel grants of £250 per eligible household in Kirkcowan are available. **You should have received an email or a letter detailing how you claim your grant.** Applications are open from October 2025 and close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 so do put in your claim asap to make sure you don't miss out.

## Kirkcowan Education and Training Fund

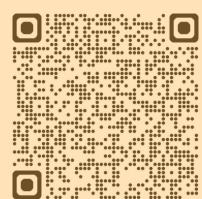
### GRANTS for individuals of up to £2,000 available

#### What is it?

A fund that can support you in obtaining new skills and qualifications to help you find employment or advance in your work. Awards can support costs that are directly related to attending your course or apprenticeship, including course fees, study and technical aids and equipment, travel and subsistence, accommodation, childcare to allow you to study. Courses must be approved by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) or similar.

#### Who is it for?

Anyone aged 16 or over who lives in **Kirkcowan**



#### What do I have to do?

Go to the Foundation Scotland website for more information or contact [grants@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:grants@foundationscotland.org.uk)

#### Driving Test grants also available

Kirkcowan is a rural community at some distance from the local service town and from infrastructure such as statutory facilities. The ability to drive is a significant factor in reaching employment, education and training opportunities, and to quality of life in an area with poor public transport infrastructure.

The sum available is £23 for the car theory test and either £62 or £75 for the driving test for cars depending on whether it's a weekday or evening/weekend/bank holiday.

£23 for the motorcycle theory test and either £75 or £88.50 for the on-road motorcycle test depending on whether it's taken on a weekday or evening/weekend/bank holiday.