



Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Newsletter - Summer 2026

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www.kcdt.uk

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Kirkcowan Community Development Trust Newsletter!

Since our last update, the Board has been busy taking forward the priorities set out in the Kirkcowan Community Action Plan 2025-29, and this issue brings you news on funding, local events, projects, and how you can get involved – **including our brand new newsletter competition below!**

With best wishes from the KCDT Board

KCDT Newsletter Competition

Do you read the KCDT Newsletter? We'd love to know! We've had no feedback on the newsletter so far, so we've decided that from now on, every quarterly issue will include a competition – so please enter and let us know you're out there! Good luck, and we can't wait to see your entries.

Kids' Competition (Under 16s)

- Submit an A4 drawing or picture of Kirkcowan Playpark

Adults' Competition

- Photo competition – theme: "Kirkcowan View"

How to Enter

- Hard copies only – no digital/email entries
- Hand your entry into the **Autumn Club by Wednesday 26th August**
- Only one entry per person
- Make sure your name and a contact phone number / email address is on the back of your picture/photo.

**You can win a
£25 Amazon
voucher (one
winner per
category)**

Community Action Plan and Budget Update

The KCDT Board has been reviewing budget projections for the year ahead and progressing implementation of the priorities identified in the Community Action Plan. Work continues on a number of fronts, including ongoing support for Kirkcowan Village Hall, further development of Jenna Morra Wood, and continued improvements to the Play Park.

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

Funding Spotlight on Education & Training Fund Awards

Since the beginning of the year, KCDT has awarded **£15,885.00** through **11** grants to local people for education and training. Grants are available for anyone aged 16+ living in Kirkcowan and can be used towards course fees, travel, accommodation, tools, equipment or a laptop.

Whether you're leaving school, at college or university, doing an apprenticeship, mid-career or retraining – this fund is for you. **There are no deadlines, so you can apply at any time.** Visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk or email grants@foundationscotland.org.uk to find out more.

We've covered the cost of training for and obtaining an HGV Class 1 licence to further employment opportunities

We've supported the travel and study equipment costs associated with gaining a Social Work qualification from the University of the West of Scotland

We've covered the cost of a Practical Driving Test in order to obtain a driving licence which will facilitate access to future training and employment opportunities

We've supported the costs of achieving a Level 6 Qualification in British Sign Language Interpretation, providing access to quality education and employment opportunities

Kirkcowan Hall Renovation Project Update

The Kirkcowan Hall renovation project is progressing well, with the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and legal documentation with Dumfries and Galloway Council on track for completion by the end of the year.

We have appointed an architect and completed surveys and technical reports to assess the Hall's condition and identify opportunities to improve sustainability, reduce running costs, and maximise the use of the space.

The funding we've received so far from KCDT has been instrumental in progressing the project, in developing the CAT business plan, enabling the architect to develop detailed plans without unnecessary delays, and keep the project moving at pace.



Does your community group need funding for projects this year?

If so, we want to hear from you! You can find information on what is eligible and how to apply by visiting the KCDT website, or head straight to www.foundationscotland.org.uk and search for Kirkcowan Community Fund to read the criteria and start your application.

Kirkcowan Home Energy Grants 2026/27

We are pleased to be able to offer the annual Home Energy Grant (previously known as Winter Fuel Grant) to eligible households again for winter 2026/27. The grant this year will be £250 per eligible household.

If you received a grant last year AND we have your email address, **we will contact you** - all you need is this year's Council Tax Notice.

Households who did not apply last year, including new residents:

- Can apply online at **www.kcdt.uk**
- Come along to the Hall on **Saturday 12th September 2026 (date to be confirmed)** between 10am and 12.30pm to make your application in person
- Pick up a form from Kirkcowan Post Office and post it in to the Autumn Club (Please mark the envelope 'Confidential - Home Energy').

If you are applying for the first time you will need:

- This year's Council Tax Notice
- A recent bank statement in the same name/address (you can blank out the personal financial info - we just need the sort code, account number and address).

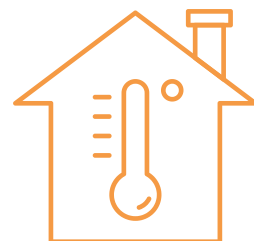
Find out more by visiting www.kcdt.uk

Applications open on 1st September 2026 and close on 31st January 2027

Questions?

Call Rosie at Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0338

rosanna@foundationscotland.org.uk



Funding Spotlight on Kirkcowan Primary Summer Fete

Kirkcowan Primary Parent Council held another successful Summer Fete in the park at the start of May. With the huge inflatable that is so adored, entertainment from Douglas the Clown, and face painting, all funded by the Kirkcowan Community Fund through KCDT, the children were able to have a fabulous time without needing to cost their parents a fortune. We are so grateful for the grant support to enable us to do this. The BBQ was kept busy, the tombola and raffle the perennial successes that they are, in addition to the delicious home baking on offer at the Cake Stall. Whilst the set up and first hour enjoyed lovely Spring weather, the clouds gathered and rain descended with gusto for the second hour. Spirits weren't dampened and the raffle holders clutched their tickets, all very keen to win prizes donated by local businesses and community members.

A huge thanks for all the support from the community to help organise, run and attendance at the fete. See you next Spring!



Update on Jenna Morra Wood

Work has recently been carried out to improve the riverside path through Jenna Morra Wood. This involved installing some additional culverts to improve drainage, and bringing in some crushed stone to provide a better surface. **Wellies are no longer required!** Some larger stones which had been excavated while creating the path have now been arranged to form seating areas along the path. The path has also been extended so that it is now possible to enter the wood at its top end and follow the river all the way down to Johnston's Bridge.



2026 Kirkcowan Open Show

Hopefully by now you will have collected your schedule for the 2026 Kirkcowan Open Show from the Post Office. This is our eighth show and we have been busy behind the scenes organising and preparing for show day on Saturday the 5th of September. There are many ways you can be involved with the show. You can enter - please enter! We get about 500 entries a year over our 120 classes, but there's always room for more. Entries can be handed in to the hall on the Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning before judging starts. The show opens to the public at 2pm on the 5th September, where you can come and admire the winning entries and watch the presentation of trophies at 2.30pm, afterwards enjoying a cake and a cuppa in the tearoom. There will be a raffle on the day, which is drawn at 4.30pm. If you would like to volunteer to help in the tearoom or donate a raffle prize, please ask at the Post Office. However you decide to get involved, we look forward to welcoming you then!

The Kirkcowan Open Show Committee.



Kirkcowan Bowling Club Open Pairs

