



GLENKENS
& District Trust

GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST

Annual Report & Accounts

2024-2025

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Chair's Report

It is now seven years since I was appointed Chair and Glenkens & District Trust (GDT), a community-owned and led vehicle, which has taken on the role of making decisions on how to allocate the £264,500 annually received from the Blackcraig Wind Farm for community benefits. Working in partnership with fund distributing charity Foundation Scotland, we have awarded over £1.5 million to local organisations to date. We have also built on this experience and are now in receipt of community benefits from Windy Rig Wind Farm (c£60,000 per annum) and have signed an agreement with Red Rock Power which means we will receive community benefit payments from Benbrack Wind Farm from late summer 2026 of c£110,000 per annum. We continue to engage positively with funders in relation to the monies received from them, reporting annually to them on how their monies are utilised to make a real difference to the people who live and work here.

The funds we receive from Blackcraig Wind Farm do not grow in line with inflation and we sent a detailed proposal asking them to consider an increase in their annual payment to maintain the real value of the monies. We received a response from them in November 2025 agreeing that no contribution towards Foundation Scotland's fees would be paid from the fund leaving the full £264,500 available for distribution. The fund continues to be non-index linked.

Community benefit monies have made a real and tangible difference to our area, and we appreciate the support of our donors and the continued enthusiasm of all our community groups. The availability of these funds can and does make a real difference to the communities we love and is a clear demonstration of the value of local decision making.

This year has been a year of consolidation and preparation for the future. The Glenkens & District Community Fund is now well established as the public facing fund with the monies from the different developers sitting below that as sub funds. This enables a more efficient process for applicants giving a single-entry point. We allocate monies to the various sub funds and report to our funders on how their monies are used.

The Education and Training Fund is now an established part of the ecosystem, and we have again allocated £40,000 to that fund. It has helped 40 individuals this year and we have had very positive feedback. We did a review of the criteria recently and have slightly amended them to enable more support for training which contributes to community wellbeing activity.



During the year and after a robust process we provided, proactively, core funding to the two key anchor organisations in our area, Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) and Moniaive Initiative (MI). These organisations not only provide significant impact (as many groups do successfully in this area) but also leverage in significant other funds and provide support to their communities and crucially to other groups in the area in furtherance of the Community Action Plans. We are making an annual contribution of £50,000 to GCAT and £10,000 to MI subject to availability of funds and satisfactory continuing delivery. This provides these two organisations with some stability in the turbulent funding landscape and supports them to focus on delivering the additional benefits they bring to the wider community they serve.

As we reported last year there is considerable debate at a local and national level on the provision of high-quality education in rural areas against the background of rural depopulation and falling school rolls. GDT took the step of commissioning research to provide information and learning relating to how other communities facing similar circumstances are responding. This research was published and can be found on our website

<https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/news-1/research-links-education-innovation-to-community-sustainability>. It has garnered considerable interest both locally and nationally. This has been both in relation to the topic covered and also as an innovative example of community led research. It has been used by the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group to further the debate on this topic and to provide input into their recent report.

We remain very focused on carrying out our activities effectively to secure the best outcomes for our area and the people who live here and to demonstrate the robustness of our approach to existing and potential funders.

In line with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles in relation to community benefit, our Fund Strategy is aligned to the priority themes in local Community Action Plans and, through a mixture of open grant making, commissioning and targeted awards, we have sought to maximise how we use the monies to support these themes and maximise the outputs. We are focused on communicating openly and transparently about all we do. We also continue to play an active role in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group where three of our Trustees are members.

However, we also recognise that we need to keep our governance arrangements fit for purpose and to this end we have carried out a detailed review and put in place various arrangements to ensure we are able to deal with the future well and effectively.

This review also highlighted the need for us to make a small change to our Purpose in our Constitution (reflecting the likely broadening of community benefit to include all renewable energy sources) and approval of Members will be sought at the AGM.

We are careful to retain a neutral position on any wind farm development in our area, with Community Councils dealing with the consent and construction issues. With the support of our member Community Councils, we remain focussed on ensuring that, if any wind farm or other renewable energy source is commissioned, the community benefit monies are paid by the owners in line with best practice and that the community remains at the heart of any decision making on how monies are utilised. This last point is, in our view, crucial to the successful future of community benefit in our communities.

With this in mind, we have actively engaged with all wind farm developers in our area and sought to build effective, open, and trusted relationships to articulate why we are a community who can make effective use of these potentially transformational sums of money in the longer term. While we recognise that the timing of future developments is dependent on a number of factors such as consents, financing and grid capacity we continue to work with all developers to understand the likely timing as this input is important to planning for the future.

There continues to be interest in how community benefits are utilised from both regional and national bodies and we seek to monitor developments and to put forward our views as required.

There have been two critical consultations during the year to which we have spent considerable time providing responses.

The first was by the Scottish Government in relation to the Good Practice Principles and the second was by the UK Department of Energy Security and Net Zero on Community Benefits from Low Carbon Technology. The outcome of these consultations will have a material impact on the future use of funds by communities, so it was important that we responded in detail. Our key objective is keeping the community at the heart of decisions on how any community benefit monies are used. We, along with over 40 other organisations, signed an open letter voicing our support for Scotland's good practice on community benefits. Information on our responses can be found here <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/news-1>

Under our Constitution, this is my last year as Chair, and we are embarked on a process to recruit a new Chair. I am confident that we have the strong governance arrangements in place as well as support from Foundation Scotland that will ensure a smooth transition and deal with the exciting future.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow GDT trustees, Community Council Members and Associate Members for their support and Foundation Scotland for the expertise they bring to the work of the Trust. Catherine Seeds and Allan Todd retired as Trustees during the year and we will miss their input. We also welcomed Brian Johnstone and Carole Laverick as our new Trustees during the year.

Fiona B Smith

Chair, Glenkens & District Trust



Who We Are

Our Mission

As a fund distribution body our role is to **resource, enable and stimulate community development** in the Glenkens and surrounding communities defined as the Community Council areas of Balmaghie, Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael & District, Dalry, Dunscore, Glencairn, the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish and Parton.

Our Members

Our members are the Community Councils of Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael and District, Dalry, Dunscore, Parton and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish. The Trust felt it was important to maintain a link to democratically elected bodies. Members are the only bodies with the power to vote at our General Meetings.

We also have Associate Membership open to any individual, institutions organisations and bodies who support and want to engage with the work of GDT.

Governing Document

Glenkens & District Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with the charity number SC042489. Our governing document is our constitution which was last amended on 9 December 2020.

We hold regular meetings of trustees and communicate openly on what is discussed at these meetings. We have in place relevant policies and guidance to ensure we have an effective governance framework. Details can be found on our website www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

Charitable Purposes

The purposes of the Trust as set out in our governing document are:

- to advance citizenship and community development by distributing Wind Farm Community Benefit money and other grants, to local groups, organisations, or individuals according to criteria and need as defined from time to time, as well as commissioning and providing funding for, projects that will benefit local communities within the Community Council Areas,
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement, including the preservation or conservation of the natural environment or particular parts of it and the promotion of sustainable development. "Sustainable development" means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and
- the prevention or relief of poverty including preventing those who are poor from becoming poorer, as well as preventing those who are at risk of being poor from becoming poor.

Trustees

GDT's membership comprises the Community Councils in our area of operation that choose to join. Each of the Member Community Councils can nominate a trustee and we can have up to five independent trustees. The Constitution requires the person nominated by each Community Council Member to be either a member or associate member of that Community Council and requires the Community Council to take into account any role description/skills matrix provided in making that nomination. This has been provided as part of the Members' Handbook available on our website.

Trustees can, by two thirds majority, appoint an independent trustee based on their skills, experience, background, profession, expertise, and any other relevant factors. During the year the role of independent trustee has been promoted locally with a pack setting out the requirements being freely available and applications sought.

Trustees as of 6th January 2026

Stephen Connelly
Independent

Giles Dearden
Independent

Brian Johnstone
Appointed by Dunscore Community Council

Carole Laverick
Appointed by Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council

Denise MacDonald Kiernan
Appointed by Balmaclellan Community Council

Thomas Marshall
Appointed by Parton Community Council

John McGaw
Appointed by The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

Geoff Monk
Appointed by Balmaghie Community Council

Morag Paterson
Appointed by Dalry Community Council

Matthew Shedden
Appointed by Crossmichael and District Community Council

Fiona Smith (Chair)
Independent

Trustees who served during the Financial Year 2024-2025

Catherine Seeds (Retired June 2025)
Crossmichael and District Community Council

Allan Todd (Retired March 2025)
Dunscore Community Council

Richard Middleton (Retired October 2024)
Crossmichael and District Community Council

Graham Walker
(Retired September 2024)
Dunscore Community Council

Willie Dickson (Retired December 2024)
Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council

Trustee Remuneration

The trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period nor were any expenses reimbursed.

What we have delivered this year

1

Resourcing and enabling community development activities

- We embedded the Glenkens & District Community Fund arrangements. This reflects the multiple sources of income to be distributed by GDT but maintains one application process for community groups. It also sets up a firm foundation for any future income streams to be integrated into this arrangement.
- We agreed 18 awards from the Glenkens & District Community Fund enabling numerous organisations to deliver projects and services to meet community need. You can read more about the Fund on pages 9 to 15.
- We distributed small grants to every Community Council in the fund area of operation to enable local microfunding of projects.
- We provided core funding to two key community organisations, GCAT and MI, who not only provide significant impact (as many groups do successfully in the area) but also leverage in significant other funds and provide support to their communities and groups in the area.
- We supported 42 individuals via the Education and Training Fund.
- We maintained an effective working relationship with the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering group.
- We published the research we commissioned by CoDeL titled 'A review of rural education in the Glenkens'. This research has been used by local groups and attracted interest nationally both in relation to the topic covered but also as a concrete example of community led research.

2

Positive Partnership Working

- We worked alongside our member Community Councils ensuring a clear feedback mechanism is in place to and from our meetings. The Chair also attended Community Council meetings across the area, including Carsphairn Community Council. She also met representatives of Glencairn Community Council and local groups in Moniaive to explain our role and how we operate. While Carsphairn Community Council and Glencairn Community Council area are part of the area of benefit covered by the fund they have chosen not to join as Members.
- We maintained our relationship with local community anchor organisations which are instrumental in delivering community development across the area.
- We continued to liaise with wind farm developers to understand their timelines and intentions to help us plan and develop for the future.
- We continued to work positively in partnership with Foundation Scotland, a grantmaking charity with expertise in community benefit which has worked with us since the fund was established in 2019. The combination of our respective strengths has proved valuable in evolving the Fund to meet the needs of our communities
- We continue to build links with other similar groups and with public bodies to share knowledge and to keep abreast of developing practice on this topic.
- We attended the Skills and Job Fair arranged by GCAT and Dalry Parents' Council to promote the Education and Training Fund.

What we have delivered this year

3

Maximising funds for long term benefit

- We have entered into a contract with Red Rock Power Ltd to secure an additional c£110,000 per annum for our communities from around 2026. This agreement covers the lifetime of the wind farm and arrangements will be reviewed at five yearly intervals.
- We maintained regular contact with the numerous developers across the area to ensure a good understanding of our approach and the value that the combined fund brings to the area. We also sought to understand the timing and issues associated with their developments to assist longer term planning.
- We worked with Foundation Scotland to use its expertise to build a long-term strategy and robust governance arrangements for the Fund to ensure we can meet the challenges and opportunities
- We submitted detailed responses to consultations by the Scottish Government on the Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit from Net Zero Energy Developments and to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero in relation to community benefit arrangements for low carbon energy sources. The Chair is also a member of the Advisory Group set up by the Scottish Government on the Good Practice Principles.

4

Keeping our communities updated

- We continue to add content on our website and Facebook pages aiming to make information easily accessible.
- We publish articles in the Glenkens Gazette highlighting the work done and the value accrued to our communities.
- We make reports available from every Board meeting within one week of our meetings, circulated to our Members and Associate Members and posted on the website aiming to make information open and transparent.
- We approved the Annual Reports to our Funders and made them available on our website.

Fund Snapshot

Financial Overview

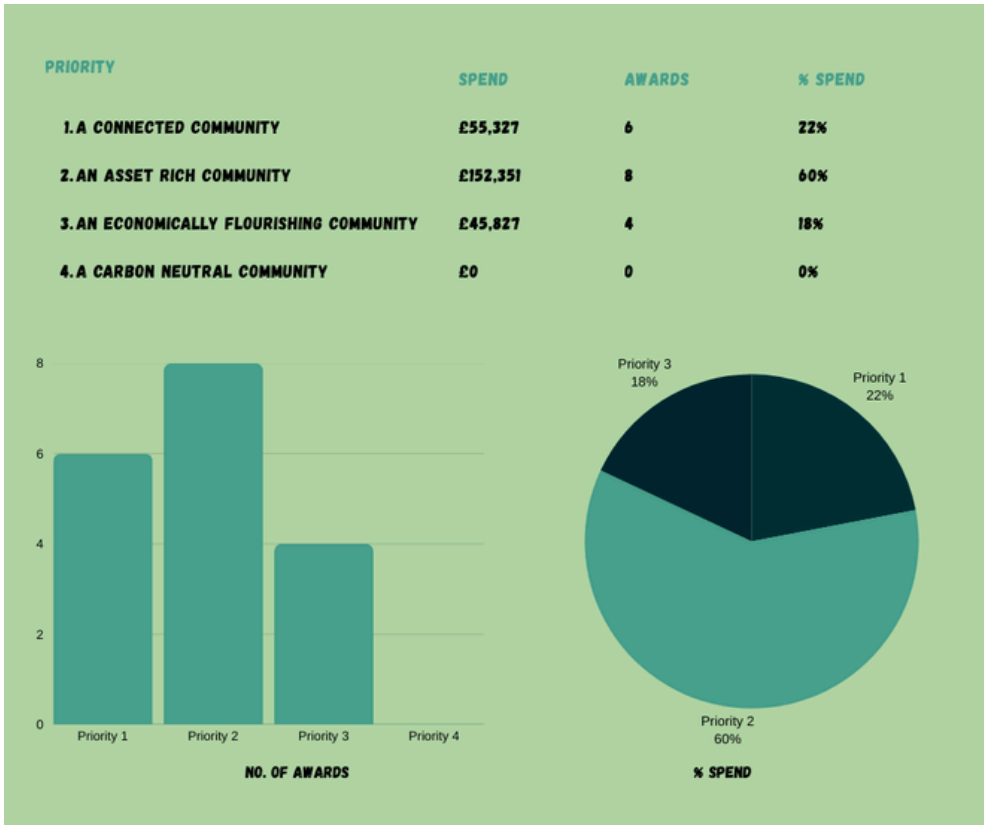
GDT now administers community benefit funds of c.£300,000 from two local wind farms via three separate arrangements:

- Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund
- Windy Rig Wind Farm via CREFL
- Dalry Community Council and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells generously allow us to administer their allocation from Windy Rig Wind Farm

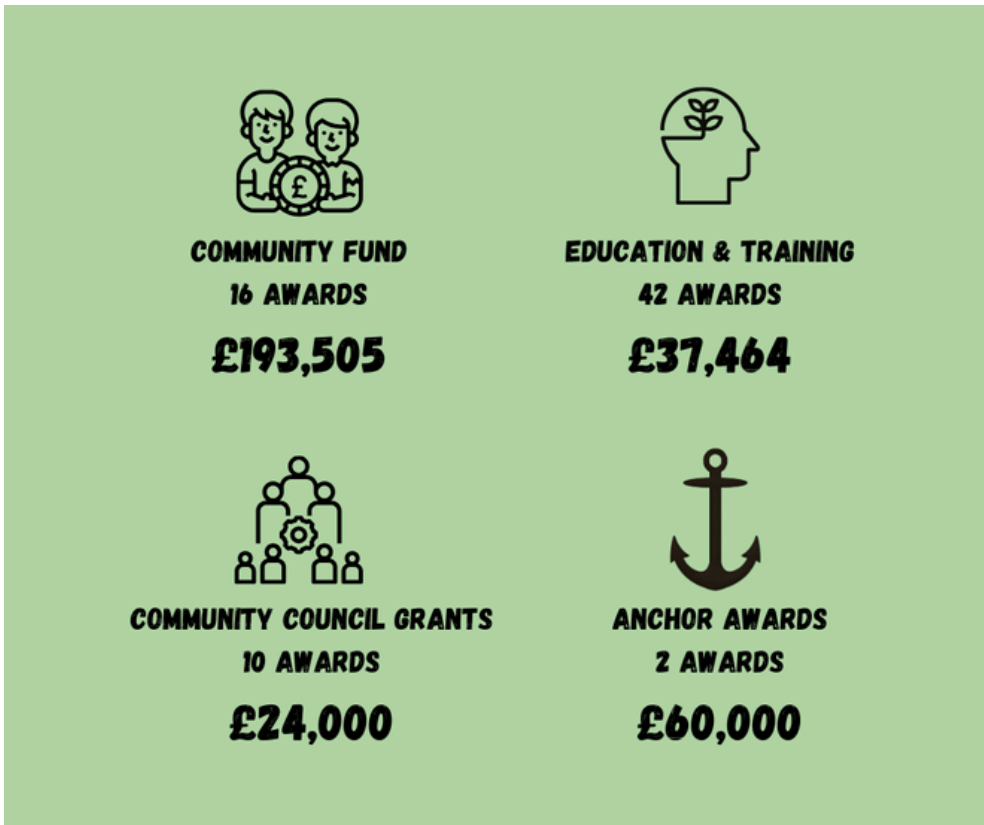
In order to distribute these funds in a way that secures maximum impact, GDT continues to work in partnership with Foundation Scotland, a grant making charity with expertise in community benefit. The majority of our funding sources are allocated directly to them to be spent in line with GDT's instructions.

The fund sources and spending themes are illustrated in the tables below:

Awards Made in 2024–25 by Fund Priority



Distribution of Funds by Fund Type



Fund Priorities*

Fund Priority 1: A Connected Community

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Project: Glenkens Youth Club

Purpose of Award: To support the staffing and delivery costs associated with the Glenkens Youth Group in order to maintain young people's access to a free social group in the area.

Amount Awarded: £21,072



The Glenkens Youth Group emerged from the Glenkens Community Action Plan, which identified that young people wanted an 'undirected space' for socialising. In a rural area where geography can limit social opportunities, this need was particularly acute for teenagers attending three different high schools across the region.

GCAT established the Youth Group to provide a relaxed environment where young people aged P7-S3 could simply spend time together with no cost attached. Unlike other youth activities in the area focused on sports or arts, this group intentionally allows participants to choose their own activities – whether baking, board games, basketball, indoor archery, or simply socialising and reading quietly.

Meeting weekly on Monday evenings at Balmaclellan Village Hall, the group regularly attracts around 14 young people from across the Glenkens area. The project is delivered by two dedicated staff members – a main youth worker and assistant – who offer supervision while allowing the young people to lead the sessions.

The Youth Group creates vital social connections, allowing friendships to continue across different schools, and provides positive intergenerational relationships with supportive adults outside the family and school environment.

"It's the best part of Mondays."

"I feel happier now that I have made friends in Scotland."

"It's fun, good opportunity to socialise and chat, hanging out, messing about, running around, meeting friends that I haven't seen all week, cooking, clay modelling."

* Examples of projects are from across a number of financial years.

Fund Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

Moniaive Playcare

Project: Core Costs

Purpose of Award: To support the core operating costs of Moniaive Playcare in the 2025/26 year in order to support service delivery for young families in the area.

Amount Awarded: £7,419



Moniaive Playcare has been serving families in the Glencairn area for more than 40 years, providing the only early years childcare facility in the village.

As the sole childcare provider in Moniaive, with the nearest alternative 8 miles away, the nursery serves approximately 11 children through a nature-inspired curriculum. Operating from premises with both indoor and outdoor spaces, the Care Inspectorate-rated 'Very Good' service employs five local people and maintains strong links with Moniaive Primary School and the wider community. GDT has supported the service previously with a renovation and expansion project.

The funding supports the organisation's commitment to maintaining quality provision while paying staff at the Real Living Wage rate of £12.60 per hour, ensuring fair employment practices that help retain experienced practitioners in the rural community.

The impact extends far beyond the 11 families currently using the service. Parent testimonials reveal that quality childcare availability was a decisive factor for families relocating to the area, demonstrating the nursery's role in attracting and retaining young families essential for community vitality. By maintaining local provision, the service supports working parents with young families.

The nursery's continued operation supports school enrolment numbers and strengthens the interconnected network of rural services that make Moniaive an attractive place to live and work. Working closely with the Moniaive Initiative, the organisation is building long-term sustainability through constitutional changes to allow community representatives as trustees, providing greater expertise and continuity beyond the current parent-only committee structure.

**"The availability of quality childcare was a decisive factor
in our decision to move to the area."**

Fund Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

Edinburgh Science Foundation

Project: Generation Science: Glenkens & District

Purpose of Award: To contribute towards the costs of delivering the Generation Science event and workshops in primary schools in the Glenkens & District fund area of benefit, to enhance pupil's education and foster interest in STEM subjects among children ages 5 – 11 yrs.

Amount Awarded: £8,515



Generation Science exists to raise interest, engagement and attainment in STEM topics by delivering hands-on learning experiences in primary schools across Scotland. The project aims to close the skills gap that exists for roles in STEM industries by creating a life-long interest in STEM topics. Research shows that the greater a young person's science capital – the sum of all their science-related knowledge, attitudes and experiences a person builds throughout their lives – the more likely they are to continue with post-16 studies in STEM. The Foundation designs and measures its Generation Science experiences to ensure they add to the science capital of both pupils and teachers, with a focus on maximising impact.

With the funding the Foundation delivered 13 Generation Science workshops and shows to all six primary schools in the Fund area, benefiting 311 pupils and 26 teachers/teaching assistants. The shows delivered were:

Electric Explorers: A workshop which enables the pupils to generate green electricity from their own movement, then race mini-robotic creatures powered by their energy. This exciting interactive workshop gives pupils the chance to discover the wonders of electricity first-hand. They'll learn how circuits and components work by using their own movement to generate green electricity and see how that energy is stored.

Our Changing Climate: Discover the changing climates of our planet and find out the role humans can play in protecting them. Characters Sunbeam and Raindrop explore our planet's changing climates, with lots of interactive experiments and activities to discover what the future could hold – and how humans can help!

“Generation Science is an annual programme that relies on funding from various sources, including public bodies, trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donations. Each year, we actively seek new funding to continue and expand our reach. The number of schools we serve and their locations vary depending on the level of funding secured, making the program highly scalable. With additional funding, we can extend our reach to more pupils in the area.”

Fund Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

Galloway Fisheries Trust

Project: River Urr Climate Resilience Project

Purpose of Award: To contribute towards the costs over three years associated with a climate resilience project involving tree planting around streams in the upper Urr area, providing increased shelter which will protect waterways and fish from rising temperatures.

Amount Awarded: £45,000



Climate change poses severe threats to Scotland's watercourses. Marine Scotland's River Temperature Monitoring Network has identified the upper Urr as being at severe risk from increasing water temperatures that could prove lethal to native fish.

With predicted temperature increases of 2–4°C by the 2050s, and knowing that temperatures between 26–28°C prove lethal to salmon within 24 hours, urgent action was needed. Shaded waters can be 2–3°C cooler than unshaded areas, making riparian tree planting a crucial climate adaptation strategy so the Galloway Fisheries Trust developed its Upper Urr project.

Over three years, the project delivered remarkable results through community collaboration. More than 3,500 native deciduous trees were planted providing shade over 3km of watercourse. Over 30 local volunteers participated, ranging from retirees to children, students seeking conservation experience, and working professionals using volunteer time off.

The project strategically planted native species including willow, rowan, hazel and hawthorn in groups to maximise shading benefits. Naturally seeded conifers were replaced with climate-appropriate broadleaf species, while woody debris was installed to improve instream habitats and natural river processes.

Beyond immediate temperature reduction, the project created wildlife corridors, enhanced biodiversity, and improved flood resilience. The community engagement proved equally valuable, with volunteers describing the events as an important part of their winter social calendar and families bringing children during school holidays.

"This funding has been crucial to GFT's work in enhancing the climate resilience of the upper Urr Water. Over 3,500 trees have been planted by a wonderful team of over 30 local people, safeguarding these important and biodiverse habitats for future generations."

The Education and Training Fund



The Glenkens & District Education and Training Fund was introduced in 2022 and aims to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods. A range of costs can be supported, including course fees where these cannot be paid for from other sources such as student loans or existing employers, and support costs like travel, subsistence, accommodation and childcare. Forty two awards were made between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025, totalling £37,464. Sixty percent of the awards supported young people up to the age of 25 and forty percent of the beneficiaries were aged 26+ which was in line with the ages supported in 2023–24.

“I would not have been able to go ahead with my course as it would have been extremely difficult to find free childcare. As I don't have support from family or friends, paid childcare was my only option. The grant supported me in paying for two months worth of childcare including lunches for my child. This enabled me to have breathing space to figure out a plan going forward.”

“I would not otherwise have gone ahead with this course due to the cost.”

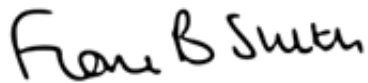
“Completing this course is essential for me, as it will directly contribute to securing a well-deserved pay rise. Beyond the financial benefits, it will also be a significant step forward in advancing my career, equipping me with valuable knowledge and skills that will open up greater opportunities for professional growth. Without the support of the grant, I would not have been able to pursue this qualification, which is essential for my professional development.”

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona B Smith". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Fiona" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Print name: Fiona Smith

Designation: Trustee

Date: 07th January 2026

Annual Accounts

Policy on Reserves

As the Trust does not employ staff or own assets, the Trust's policy is not to hold any significant level of reserve.

At the year-end there was £6,352.40 in unrestricted funds.

Income and expenditure for the period ended 31 August 2025

INCOME	
Carsphairn Renewable Energy Ltd re Windy Rig (1)	£40,972.27
EXPENDITURE	
Foundation Scotland – Glenkens & District Fund (2)	£37,247.51
Venue hire and catering	£564.00
Printing and publicity	£86.49
SURPLUS	
	£3,074.27
MOVEMENTS IN BANK ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance	£3,278.13
Income for period	£40,972.27
Expenditure	£37,898.00
Closing balance	£6,352.40

Notes to the accounts

(1) This income includes two annual payments from Carsphairn Renewable Energy Ltd re Windy Rig. Two amounts were received in this reporting year due to the second payment being made earlier in the calendar year. The annual payment going forward will be c£20,000 and will increase in line with CPI.

(2) In accordance with the administration arrangements between GDT and Foundation Scotland, the £37,247.51 of expenditure was paid to Foundation Scotland as a donation and is held by them in a restricted fund with decisions on the utilisation made by GDT.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Glenkens & District Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on page 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Stephen Thorpe Davie
66 Main Street
Dalry
DG7 3UW

Date: 07 January 2026

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Foundation Scotland
for assisting with the design and
layout for this report.

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Registered Scottish Charity No.
SCO42489