



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

# SUP NEWSLETTER

## *Project updates...*

Welcome to the latest, bumper, edition of the SUP newsletter. As summer passes for another year and the early signs of autumn begin to show, there seems to be an awful lot going on across the south of Scotland. From eagle festivals to experimental drawing workshops via a possible new coastal trail and exploring the communities of the Wild Land Area, there is much to read about in our newsletter.

### **IN THIS EDITION...**

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Source of the River Tweed between Moffat and Tweedsmuir



## *Connecting Threads*

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TWEEDRIVERCULTURE/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TWEEDRIVERCULTURE/)

### **New appointment...**

We are delighted to announce that Connecting Threads, in partnership with CABN, recently appointed Kayleigh Adam as the project's new creative intern. Over the coming weeks Kayleigh will be assisting the Connecting Threads team with the publicity and documentation of pilot events, sharing all the work that has taken place over the last year. Kayleigh is a recent graduate of Design for Textiles (Interiors, Art and Fashion) at Heriot Watt University in Galashiels. Since graduating she has established a textile and illustration business, selling her own products and designs online and at local markets and events. During her internship Kayleigh is looking forward to developing her graphic design skills and learning more about different aspects of the arts and culture sector in the Scottish Borders. Originally from Darlington in the north-east of England but now living in Galashiels full-time, Kayleigh feels the opportunity will be a great stepping stone for her future career. Welcome Kayleigh, it's great to have you onboard!



**Welcome Kayleigh, it's  
great to have you onboard!**

### **Workshops:**

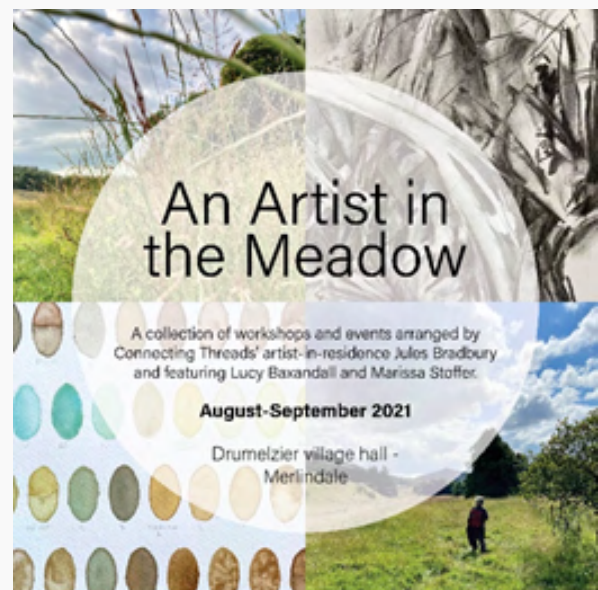
We are excited to present a collection of workshops and events arranged by Connecting Threads' artist-in-residence Jules Bradbury. From experimental drawing with charcoal to wandering words, each activity offers ways to look closely and engage creatively with our immediate environment. In her role as 'artist as pollinator', Jules will also introduce workshops featuring paper and book artist Lucy Baxandall and artist Marissa Stoffer.

The full programme of activity can be found here:  
<http://sup.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/An-Artist-in-the-Meadow-Events-Programme.pdf>

Booking for the events is essential.

Please visit our Eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/connecting-threads-33003954731>





## *Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area*

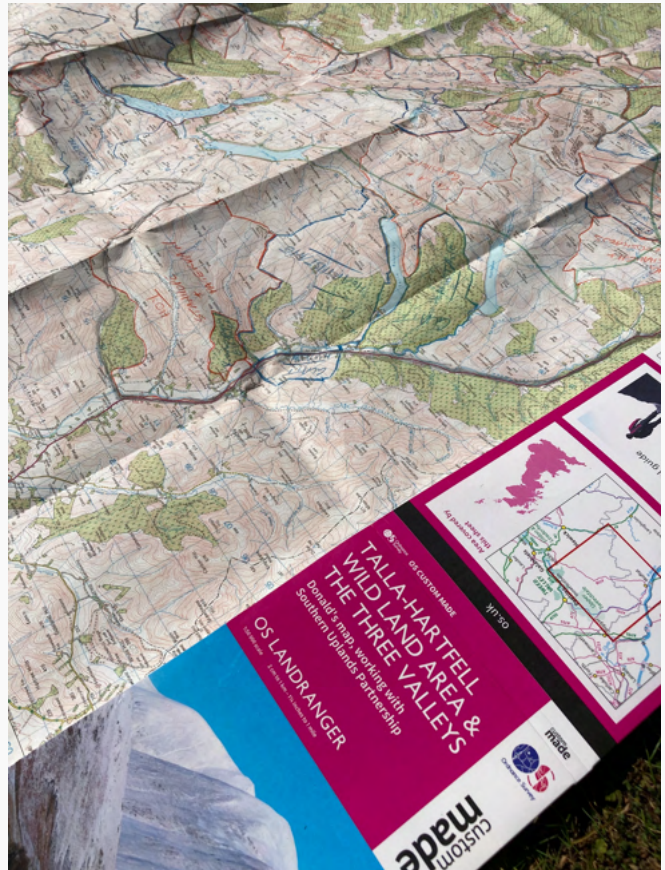
DONALD GREIG

**Over the past few months, further one-to-one conversations have been held with stakeholders in all parts of the Wild Land Area project, covering the communities of Moffat, Tweedsmuir, the Upper Yarrow and Ettrick and the connecting valleys. In total over 100 stakeholders are now part of this conversation.**

The aim is to establish, in the first instance, a working group to consider the current status of the area, to identify potential avenues of exploration for future initiatives, and to help facilitate communication with their respective communities and peers.

An approach has also been made to Andrew Sheridan, Scottish Forestry's Conservator for the South of Scotland, who has kindly agreed to give a presentation to interested parties on the role and purpose of Scottish Forestry's planning framework and approved process for grant application; and the consultation process. The timing of this event is tbc, but I am in the process of gauging likely interest with a view to it taking place at some point before the end of this year.

Early discussions are also taking place with relevant third parties about the possibility of making a film about the WLA, and a leaflet is being prepared with information about the WLA for distribution at the Golden Eagle Festival being held in Moffat in September.



Meeting Lesley and Andrew from Tweedsmuir

## *PLACE in the Biosphere Project final film*

[WWW.GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK/LIVING-IN-THE-BIOSPHERE/BIOSPHERE-IN-ACTION/PLACE](http://WWW.GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK/LIVING-IN-THE-BIOSPHERE/BIOSPHERE-IN-ACTION/PLACE)

**Over the three years that the PLACE in the Biosphere project has been underway a wide range of topics have been explored by communities across the Borgue Peninsula, Wigtownshire Moors and Stinchar Valley.**

Analysing field-names, reviewing historical interpretation, revealing complex geology, creating virtual reconstructions of castles and capturing the character of a river through poetry, all these activities and more enabled communities to share places they valued.

The concept of place has many interpretations but can be summarised as a space that has meaning. Place is more than a particular location or a venue for an event. It combines the physical setting with emotions that are attached to an area based on individual or collective experiences.

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Great Place Scheme the PLACE in the Biosphere project invited communities to share how the physical and human aspects of a location interrelate and interact.



**Watch 'People and Place in the Biosphere' at  
<https://youtu.be/pQEbl7IKsOU>**

It helped capture the essence of identity where place combined the experience of people in the past and present. In doing so, PLACE in the Biosphere strengthened a shared identity and enabled communities to take part in group activities where positive action demonstrated why they care about where they live.

It is hoped the projects undertaken will inspire other communities to take a closer look at where they live and share what they reveal with others. 'People and Place in the Biosphere' is a short film has been made using the themes explored by the PLACE in the Biosphere project. Featuring a cast of volunteers in different locations the film is also means for communicating the ideas behind the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere designation. Watch 'People and Place in the Biosphere' at <https://youtu.be/pQEbl7IKsOU>

Take a closer look at what the PLACE in the Biosphere project has achieved by looking at the webpage at <http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/living-in-the-biosphere/biosphere-in-action/place/> or read the blog on <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/view/biosphereplace>



# *Loch Ken the world's first 'Future-Ready' Community*

BY BARNEY FRYER, LOCH KEN TRUST OFFICER

**Loch Ken Trust, the community organisation supporting Loch Ken in South-West Scotland, is working to align their activity with all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in what is considered to be a 'world-first' approach of ambition and intent.**

The Loch Ken Trust was established in 2020 to "promote the natural, cultural and recreational assets of the Loch Ken area for the benefit of the public and to support sustainable local communities." The Trust has broad aims and ambitions, varying from supporting the 'on-the-ground' visitor experience through to ensuring the management practices in place acknowledge the global climate emergency and principles of sustainable development.

Over the last year, work has been underway to draft 'the Loch Ken Plan' which aims to bring all of these aspirations together and provide a ten-year roadmap to guide activity and work of the Trust towards 2030. In what is considered to be a 'first' for this type of approach, the plan seeks to align with all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These internationally agreed goals provide a framework for what is considered a genuinely 'sustainable' community.

With the Global Climate Change Conference due to get underway in Glasgow in only a couple of months, this is a pioneering example of a community-led organisation putting the UN Sustainable Development Goals into Practice.

This week sees the Loch Ken Plan being published for public consultation, seeking comments and input from all interested parties. The draft plan has been published here: [www.lochken.org.uk/lochkenplan](http://www.lochken.org.uk/lochkenplan), with comments welcomed through the online feedback form by Monday 13th September.

The work is being led by Barney Fryer, Loch Ken Trust Officer. Launching the public consultation on the Loch Ken Plan, Barney said: "The next few years are going to bring many challenges to our communities, whether it is environmental challenges like tackling climate change, or the challenges to our economy in rebuilding from Covid. The Loch Ken Plan is our attempt to guide the work of Loch Ken Trust in supporting our communities to thrive, whatever the future throws at us.

We really want to hear from as many people as possible, so please get in touch and tell us what you think. Together, we can make Loch Ken the world's first truly 'Future Ready Community'."

Alan Smith, Chairman of Loch Ken Trust, added: "The Trust has just had it's first birthday and to get to the public consultation stage on our 10 year plan already is a remarkable achievement against the difficult background we have all been experiencing. With COP26 coming to Glasgow very soon this seems a very opportune moment to be asking the Loch Ken communities for their views on both sustainability and adaptation so that we can be genuinely future ready."

The Loch Ken Trust are already working with Adaptation Scotland to identify adaptation actions that can be taken to make a more resilient community in the face of climate change. This 'Climate Ready Ken' project runs to March 2022, and will provide a toolkit of adaptation actions to be taken.

For more details about the 'Climate Ready Ken' project or the broader 'Loch Ken Plan', please visit the Trust website or follow on social media.





## *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project*

[WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK](http://WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK)

### **Pioneering conservation charity releases record number of golden eagles in the south of Scotland ahead of UK's first golden eagle festival**

As part of a series of ground-breaking translocations addressing low numbers of golden eagles in the south of Scotland, the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project has recently successfully transported eight golden eagle chicks from the Scottish Highlands to a secret location in the southern uplands of Scotland. This brings the total number of golden eagles successfully translocated by the charity Project to the area to 12 – already almost doubling the local population of golden eagles. The eight newly fledged eagle chicks have been named by a range of individuals and organisations, including BBC Autumnwatch and Springwatch presenter Iolo Williams, renowned wildlife film maker Gordon Buchanan, Moffat Mountain Rescue, Southern Uplands Moorland Group, Golden Eagle Champion Lorna Slater MSP, local school children, Daniel Lacey (a volunteer who built aviaries for the chicks) and the project team. Blackadder screenwriter Richard Curtis and actor Rowan Atkinson have also given permission to officially name one of the birds 'Speckled Jim' – the project team nicknamed him after General Melchett's favourite carrier pigeon, as he has a very unusual speckled plumage. The other birds' names include Iona, Sinclair, Ellenabeich 'Ellena', Heather and Emma (named after the women's equality and rights champion Emma Ritch).

News of the birds' translocation comes as the charity Project prepares to celebrate the new arrivals at the UK's first Golden Eagle Festival in Moffat, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The festival takes place between 19 and 26 of September 2021 and has been organised to help secure vital support for the charity's continued conservation efforts and celebrate the vibrant town of Moffat becoming

Scotland's (indeed the UK's) first Eagle Town. With a keynote speech by Gordon Buchanan, a family fun day, a Big Tree Climb, and live music sessions, the festival will also showcase ways in which people can help golden eagles to flourish in southern skies once again.

Speaking about the arrival of the project's eight new golden eagles Cat Barlow, Project Manager for the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project said: "Covid-19 affected so many of our plans last year, so it is absolutely amazing now to see these eight youngsters settling into the south and soaring majestically above the Moffat Hills. We are truly thrilled to host our first Eagle Festival to celebrate the new arrivals and thank all our supporters for the vital contributions they make to helping us increase the golden eagle population in the south of Scotland.

"Our success is very much thanks to the incredible support we've had from our partners, raptor experts, vets, funders, community groups, high profile ambassadors and estate owners and managers."



## *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project - cont'd*

[WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK](http://WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK)

WildLand Limited donated one of the project's newest arrivals from their landholding within the Cairngorms Connect partnership area. Speaking about their involvement Thomas MacDonell, Director of Conservation and Forestry at WildLand Ltd said: "As part of Cairngorms Connect, we are firmly committed to enhancing habitats, species and ecological processes. Indeed, golden eagle numbers are steadily increasing at WildLand Cairngorms under our careful land management. We were absolutely delighted that we could donate one of our golden eagle chicks to help the important work of the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project in reinforcing the population in the south of Scotland."

"The project took great care in selecting the chick for translocation and making sure she was fit for her journey south. We, along with many others, will follow her onward journey with great interest. We hope she settles quickly into her new home."

Francesca Osowska, NatureScot's Chief Executive and a passionate supporter of the Project, added: "The key aim of this exciting project is to increase the number of breeding pairs in the south of Scotland, a vital part of our work to reverse biodiversity loss and combat the climate emergency. With wildlife

declining across the globe, it is fantastic to hear that the project has translocated so many eagle chicks this year. Golden eagles are an exciting part of Scotland's wildlife, and we're passionate about returning them to places where they used to thrive. This is brilliant partnership working, and a great support for the local green economy. Already, we are seeing great success"

Led by the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project, Scottish Raptor Study Group workers in the Scottish Highlands carefully collected chicks earlier this year under license from NatureScot, before taking them to the release site in a confidential location in the Moffat Hills. The birds were then cared for in specially-designed release aviaries and supplementary fed to help them adjust to their new habitat before their release. Experts at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies also provided considerable support throughout the process to monitor the health and wellbeing of the birds.



## *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project - cont'd*

[WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK](http://WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK)

Caroline Clark, Director for Scotland, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "This translocation of eight eagle chicks is fantastic news for the biodiversity of the South of Scotland, and for the country as a whole. It is great to see the partnership working which has created this success, and the way the communities across the South of Scotland have embraced and supported the new arrivals."

"Through our conversations with National Lottery players, we know that nature is incredibly important to them, and the £1.3m funding given to the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project means they can play their part in protecting Scotland's outstanding wildlife and landscapes."

The birds' names were chosen shortly before their release. Iolo Williams, host of BBC's Spring Watch and Autumn Watch chose the name "Iona" for one of the eagles. He said: "Thank you for the honour of being asked to name one of the eagles released in the south of Scotland this year. I wish Iona all the best and hope she's given time to settle and breed in the south of Scotland before too long."

Project partners RSPB Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot and the Southern Uplands Partnership, worked on the project together for more than 11 years before releasing the first eagle chicks in 2018. Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, project partners and the Scottish Government, the initiative is a key project under 'Scotland's Biodiversity. A Route Map to 2020', supporting the Government's '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity'.

For the latest project and festival news, or to donate to the charity initiative, visit:  
[www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk](http://www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk)



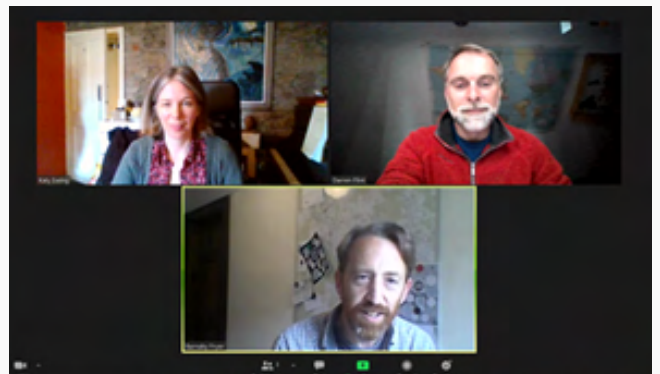


## *Southern Uplands Partnership Team Updates*

**SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT**

**SUP's two new project officers**, Darren Flint and Katy Ewing, started earlier this summer. They have been busy on a whirlwind tour of the area to meet many of the key community and environmental groups. From the offices of the Galloway Glens team to zoom calls with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Unesco Biosphere via hay barns with the RSPB and a scone with Dumfries & Galloway Council's Countryside Development Officer the new team have been rapidly getting up to speed. Some of the early areas they are working on are...

- a new South West Scotland Coastal Trail which will provide the missing link between the England Coast Path and the Ayrshire Coast Path, linking communities from Gretna to Portpatrick.
- Exploring possible new large scale landscape projects to aid rural, economic and environmental regeneration
- Boosting SUP social media presence
- Planning activities for various public events, including our stand at the Eagle Festival in Moffat



### **"Sheila sharing her wisdom..."**

A lovely picture of Sheila Adams (Finance and Office Manager) with her counterpart at Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Unesco Biosphere, Jude Crooks. You might not be aware but the Biosphere project was originally hosted by the Southern Uplands Partnership, but since securing funding from South of Scotland Enterprise is now fully independent and employing its own staff. Sheila has been mentoring Jude since she started in February and they had their 'final handover' this week. We look forward to working in partnership together on lots of exciting projects in the future.



## *Come and work with SUP...*

### **East Dumfriesshire Community Officer**

Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) are looking for a Community Officer. They need to be interested in the idea of developing a more sustainable future for the communities of East Dumfriesshire covering the smaller communities in the "Ewe Hill 16 eligible area" They will have a degree (or relevant employment experience) and be interested in people, the environment and rural life of this area. Be a good communicator (both written and verbal) and experience of putting together project proposals, completing grant applications and seeing projects through to successful completion. A valid driving licence and access to a vehicle is required.

The postholder will be responsible for working with DECBG, local communities and interest groups to deliver local projects. Many ideas have been framed in the East Dumfriesshire Regional Community Plan but others will arise. Funding for some of these may come from the windfarm funds but other sources may be needed.

#### **Applications to be received by midday on**

**Monday, 27th September 2021**, with interviews taking place in Lockerbie on the 6th October. For more information about the role, including a Job Description, Job Specification and application form please visit [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)



### **South West Scotland Coastal Trail Development Officer**

Going live soon...The Southern Uplands Partnership are looking for a South West Scotland Coastal Trail Development Officer. They will be interested in the idea of developing a more sustainable future for the coastal communities of Dumfries and Galloway. They will have a degree or relevant employment experience and be interested in people, the environment and rural life of this area. You will be a good communicator (both written and verbal) and experience of access development, putting together project proposals, completing grant applications, and positive community / stakeholder engagement. A valid driving licence and access to a vehicle is required. The postholder will be responsible for taking the concept of a north Solway coastal path and developing this into a deliverable, supported and funded project.

**Keep an eye on the SUP facebook page and [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk) for more info**



## *Funding and Training opportunities*

### **Scotland Loves Local £10 million fund**

Calling all towns in south Scotland...

The Scottish Government has just launched the Scotland Loves Local £10 million fund, which will be of interest to groups delivering projects that help transform their towns and neighbourhoods. The Scotland Loves Local Fund aims to encourage people to think local first, and support businesses and enterprises in their community. The fund will provide match funding of between £5,000 and £25,000 for projects run by groups like town centre partnerships, chambers of commerce or community and charity trusts. For more information visit [www.scotlandstowns.org](http://www.scotlandstowns.org)



### **THE EWE HILL 16 FUND**

The Ewe Hill 16 Fund will receive an annual contribution from ScottishPower Renewables of at least £184,000 (index linked over the operational life) to be distributed to worthwhile projects and initiatives which benefit the people living and working in the area of East Dumfriesshire, which is shown on the attached map and includes the following communities:

North Milk area, including

- Hutton and Boreland
- Corrie
- Tundergarth
- Middlebie and Waterbeck
- Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk
- Canonbie and District
- Springfield and Gretna Green
- Gretna and Rigg
- Kirkpatrick Fleming and District
- Eastriggs, Dornock and Creca
- Kirtle and Eaglesfield
- Brydekirk and District
- Hoddum and Ecclefechan
- Lockerbie and District
- Eskdalemuir



The Ewe Hill 16 Fund will be awarded to projects through an Open Grant Application process. Application Forms can be downloaded at [www.decbg.org.uk/the-ewe-hill-16-fund](http://www.decbg.org.uk/the-ewe-hill-16-fund) or obtained by emailing [decbgscio@gmail.com](mailto:decbgscio@gmail.com) or telephoning 01750 725154 / 07741 076997.

The Grants process is administered and initial assessments of applications made by The Southern Uplands Partnership. For advice or guidance prior to submitting an application, contact Pip Tabor on 01750 725154 or Sheila Adams on 07741 076997, email [decbgscio@gmail.com](mailto:decbgscio@gmail.com). The SCIO Trustees make the decisions on all applications to the Ewe Hill 16 Fund.

#### **Deadlines for applications to the Ewe Hill 16 Fund are:**

- 31st January (for applications to be decided at the March Board meeting. Projects should not start before 1st April.)
- 31st July (for applications to be decided at the September meeting. Projects should not start before 1st October.)



## *Funding and Training opportunities*

### THE SOLWAYBANK WINDFARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Solwaybank Windfarm Community Benefit Fund will receive an annual contribution from Solwaybank Energy Ltd of at least £60,000 (index linked over the operational life) to contribute to community activities in the following areas:

- Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk
- Canonbie and District
- Kirkpatrick Fleming and District
- Kirtle and Eaglesfield
- Middlebie and Waterbeck



The Solwaybank Windfarm Community Benefit Fund will be awarded to projects through an Open Grant Application process.

Application Forms are available to download from the DECBG website [www.decbg.org.uk](http://www.decbg.org.uk) or obtained by emailing [decbgscio@gmail.com](mailto:decbgscio@gmail.com) or telephoning 01750 725154 or phoning or texting 07741 076997.

The Grants process is administered and initial assessments of applications made by The Southern Uplands Partnership. The Solwaybank Windfarm Advisory Management Panel of DECBG will make the decisions on all applications to Solwaybank Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

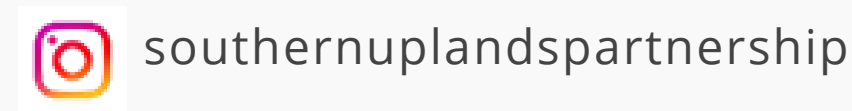
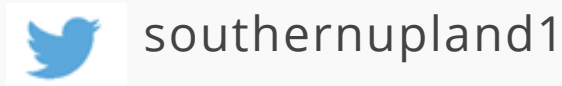
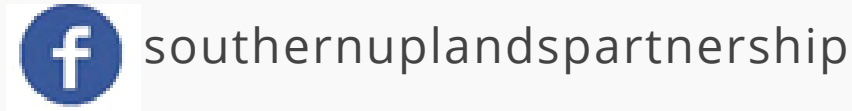
## *Out and About*

We spotted this new crisp packet recycling scheme outside the Moffat Toffee Shop. We haven't seen this before - have you seen anymore across the area? The scheme also raises funds for Moffat Academy



## *Keeping in touch*

[www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)



## *And finally...*

Graffiti spotted at Fruid reservoir, near Tweedsmuir



### Funders and Patrons:



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SUP Membership

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