



DECEMBER 2021



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community

SUP NEWSLETTER

Project updates...

Welcome to latest project updates from the Southern Uplands Partnership team. It has been three months since our last newsletter and yet so much has been happening right across southern Scotland. Over the next few pages, you can read all about, among other things, the new eco-museum, a new coastal trail along the Solway Firth, the annual Wildlife Recorders' Gathering, plus the progress of Beaky, Edward, Emily and Skan (the translocated golden eagles).

Keeping in touch

www.sup.org.uk



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And finally...



Loch Ken, Galloway

South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project

WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK

We'd like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support we have received this year. We released eight golden eagles this summer to join the 2018 and 2019 cohort bringing the total of released juvenile birds to 12. The population overall in the South of Scotland is now the highest in centuries (population as a whole 26+ birds).

The four 2018- 2019 translocated eagles (Beaky, Edward, Emily and Skan) are doing well and showing signs of settling on territory.



Photo of B44 C24 at supplementary food



South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project

WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK

Moffat Eagle Festival

This September has seen a fantastically successful Golden Eagle Festival in Moffat – a first for the UK, and possibly in Europe! Our website gives full details. We had brilliant support from many raptor experts including several members of the Scottish Raptor Study Groups: Roy Dennis, Dave Anderson, Chris Rollie, Stuart Benn, Justin Grant, Keith Brockie. The majority of talks were filmed so we hope to have links to those talks on our website shortly. The support from the local community and uptake from businesses has been more than we could ask.

Golden Eagle Species Champion and Scottish Government Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, Lorna Slater MSP, supported the festival with a visit to the project and a weekend supporting the festival activities.



Image of Lorna Slater MSP on the new eagle bench carved by Sam Bowsher

Lorna has also taken up the opportunity to name one of the 2021 translocated eagles along with a local primary school, a project volunteer, Gordon Buchannan, Lolo Williams, Moffat Mountain rescue Group.

Do please keep an eye on our website, and our blogs there give up to date information. You can sign up for the project e-newsletter via our website link

www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk



Image of Logan with Lorna Slater at Environment fair



Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area

DONALD GREIG

The key development in the Talla-Hartfell project in the past couple of months has been the award of funding from Scottish ministers to develop a digital ecomuseum. An ecomuseum is derived from the French 'écomusée', describing a community-based approach to preserving and promoting the heritage and culture of a specific geographical territory and range of activity. The heritage can be material, such as artefacts or buildings, or more abstract, such as personal accounts and remembered stories.

Working with the communities of Moffat, Tweedsmuir, Ettrick and Yarrow, we have started the process of collecting material for inclusion. As the ecomuseum will be a community-based heritage repository in digital format, it can be constantly updated and added to by the community.

The software for the ecomuseum is being developed by local company Environ-IT Ltd in Tweedsmuir and the project is being run with the Tweedsmuir Community Company and Ettrick & Yarrow Development Company. We also hope to work with Moffat Museum and many residents and stakeholders across the area. The aim is to have populated with ecomuseum with a broad range of material by the end of February 2022.

We are very keen to hear from anyone who wishes to be involved with the creation of the museum or who has something to contribute to it. As the museum will be created digitally, we don't need to keep hold of anything. Objects can be photographed, stories can be recorded or written down, photographs can be scanned... If you have anything at all which you would like to form part of this museum - objects, tales of times past, photographs, memories - then please get in touch with project leader Donald Greig on 07866 4293488 or email ecomuseum@btinternet.com



WLA Steering Group Meeting: Lesley, Vicky and Donald



Ettrick © SlowBritain

Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area

DONALD GREIG

In other developments...

- the Talla-Hartfell webpage is now live on the SUP website; see <http://sup.org.uk/talla-hartfell-wild-land>
- Proposals for making a film about the area are being evaluated and we are actively seeking funding.
- A series of talks for 2022 is in development; if you have any suggestions for speakers and topics please let us know.
- The new Talla-Hartfell working group is meeting monthly, attended by representatives from the various communities. As part of our last meeting we visited the ambitious Kirkhope Steading conversion project being run by the Ettrick and Yarrow Development Company. Our last meeting was hosted by Moffat Wigwams. If you would be interested in attending one of these meetings, please let us know.



*WLA Steering Group meeting at Moffat Wigwams
Vicky Davidson, Lesley Mason, John Hume*

PLACE in the Biosphere Project

WWW.GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK/LIVING-IN-THE-BIOSPHERE/BIOSPHERE-IN-ACTION/PLACE

Case studies of the PLACE in the Biosphere Project

The PLACE in the Biosphere Project invited communities across the Borgue Peninsula, Wigtownshire Moors and Stinchar Valley to be curious about their cherished places. The project was hosted by SUP and as part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Great Place Scheme it encouraged people to share their knowledge of how the physical and human aspects of a location interact. It aimed to combine the experiences of people past and present to capture the essence of their place. In doing so, PLACE in the Biosphere strengthened a shared identity and enabled communities to take part in group activities where positive action demonstrated the high value they put on their place.

The many different themes identified by participating communities provided a means to communicate their identity to others and to make connections with neighbours who have similar experiences. PLACE in the Biosphere communities explored a wide range of heritage qualities in different media from a street exhibition of old photographs to place-name films and virtual reconstructions of castle ruins to pebble identification at a beach event.

These and other themes have been summarised in a booklet to provide inspiration for other communities who want to take a closer look at their place.

The booklet is available from Southern Uplands Partnership (email sheila@sup.org.uk for a hard copy to be sent to you) or can be seen on the PLACE in the Biosphere webpage at <http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/living-in-the-biosphere/biosphere-in-action/place/>

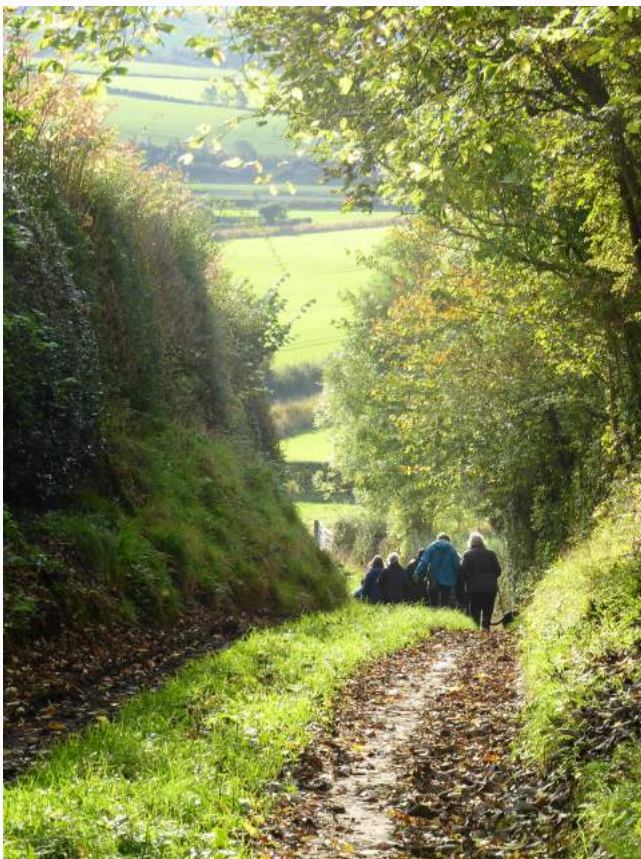


Connecting Threads

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TWEEDRIVERCULTURE](https://www.facebook.com/tweedriverculture)

October saw the final pilot event as part of the Connecting Threads development phase. Held in the village of Birgham, on the Scottish - English border, Telling Tales was a professional development workshop for cultural practitioners interested in creating new work around the theme of the river Tweed. Twenty-five people from the fields of literature, poetry, theatre, dance, visual art, heritage, conservation and textiles gathered together in the village hall and on the banks of the river to share ideas and stories.

The day was too short to give each tale the time it deserved but participants commented that they had come away with new ideas and new connections. Over the winter Connecting Threads is seeking National Lottery funding as part of the Destination Tweed initiative with Tweed Forum, but it is hoped that activity will resume in mid-2022.



Photos taken by Geoff Parkhouse of the Ancrum & District Heritage Society



South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre

WWW.SWSEIC.ORG.UK

The annual Wildlife Recorders' Gathering, hosted by South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC), was recently held using a blend of online presentations and guided wildlife walks.

The previous gathering, held just a few weeks before covid lockdown in March 2020 was in South Ayrshire. This time, it was the turn of North Ayrshire but covid safety prevented a full in-person conference. Instead, online presentations, allowed wildlife enthusiasts to join the event from across the SWSEIC area, or even from further afield. Subjects included 'Wildlife Watching sites in the Garnock Connections Area', 'The State of British Dragonflies', 'Use of Wildlife Data by Environmental Consultants', and 'A Review of Recent Wildlife Sightings in SW Scotland'. A recording of the event can be found on YouTube.



The opportunity to meet other wildlife recorders face-to-face was provided by three walks in North Ayrshire, covering fungi, birds and the use of smartphone apps for wildlife recording. All records from these outdoor events have now been added to iRecord, including Common Seals in Irvine Harbour and Grassland Puffball *Lycoperdon lividum* at Stevenston Dunes, the only site where we have records of this species in SW Scotland.

Thank-you to Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership for supporting the programme.



grassland puffball

Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates

PIP TABOR/SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

Pip's news...

- We have contracted Jen Clark to do further work on the black grouse project, including planning the next lek survey.
- SUP Services has been awarded funds to do further work on the energy efficiency supply chain in the Borders.
- SUP Services is also working to help run the current SoSE engagement tour across the south of Scotland.
- We have appointed someone to work on delivering the SW Scotland coastal trail project.
- We are employing Jamie Dent on behalf of the Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group as a Community Project Officer, to help local groups and charities develop projects and access funding.
- A very successful AGM zoom was held on the 17th November with a fine turn out of about 40 people. It was followed by some interesting talks by Morag Paterson on Communities and Forest plans, and Nic Coombey on PLACE by in the Biosphere.

Sheila's news...

- Generally, I do all things financial and keep everyone in order!
- The end of LEADER funding has seen a lot of work finalising the grant claims for South of Scotland Golden Eagle project and the end of the PLACE in the Biosphere project in September involved submitting the last grant claim to National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- The annual audit of both SUP and SUP Services was a massive chunk of work over the summer months but that resulted in a clean bill of health for both organisations.
- The recruitment process and supporting new employees is also part of my role, as is administering the grants process for Ewe Hill 16 Windfarm and Solwaybank Windfarm, supporting Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group, so there has been a lot of activity there, responding to enquiries. The next deadline for applications to Ewe Hill 16 and Solwaybank Windfarm Community Benefit Funds is 31st January 2022.



Team meetings continue to be via Zoom

Southern Uplands Partnership Team Updates

PIP TABOR/SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

Darren's news...

- We've been busy ramping up our social media presence and activities recently. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are all live and regularly being fed – the current theme is a Southern Uplands Partnership Advent Calendar.
- A good few hours have been spent on the recruitment of two exciting new posts – SWS Coastal Trail Development Officer and East Dumfriesshire Community Project officer (more info below) – doing the job specifications, application packs, interview questions, scoring sheets, interviews...
- Early days, but some initial scoping has been started looking at possible ideas for the area's next big landscape scale project.

Katy's news...

- I've been learning more about how funding works in the sector: through training courses, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway's 'Meet the Funder' events and some hands-on experience!
- Continuing to meet (sometimes virtually) people from many organisations both from South Scotland and national bodies and getting a better feel for the 'landscape'!
- Working at the new, improved social media, as well as reviewing the current website
- Taking my turn at the SUP stand at the fabulous Moffat Golden Eagle Festival with Pip Tabor!



SUP Advent Calendar



Katy & Pip on the SUP stand at the Moffat Eagle Festival

Two exciting new posts with SUP...

East Dumfriesshire Community Officer

Funded by Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) and administered by the Southern Uplands Partnership, we have just recruited a Community Officer to work with groups and charities across east Dumfriesshire. The role will be starting early 2022 and is there to help communities make their project ideas come to life.

A big thank you to interview panel members and welcome to the successful candidate, Jamie Dent.

Communities supported are:

- North Milk area
- Middlebie and Waterbeck
- 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



South West Scotland Coastal Trail Development Officer

Funded by the People's Project, and employed by the Southern Uplands Partnership, a Coastal Trail Development Officer has just been recruited to help realise the long-held desire for a long-distance trail.

The idea was first mooted a decade ago for a route connecting the Dumfries & Galloway Solway Firth coastal communities and linking the England Coast Path and the Ayrshire Coast Path.

A big thank you to interview panel members and the successful candidate will be announced very soon.



SOSE engagement tour

Southern Uplands Partnership is leading the organising and facilitation of the current South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) Engagement Tour.

SOSE have 14 events coming up in the new year between January and March and have just included an extra date at the Corner House Hotel in Annan on the 2nd February. Visit the link to book a place - <https://soseannan.eventbrite.co.uk>

ENGAGEMENT TOUR

JANUARY

- 1 **Mon 24** NEWTON STEWART
Creebridge House Hotel
- 2 **Wed 26** GALASHIELS
Kingsknowes Hotel
- 3 **Thu 27** PEEBLES
The Hydro
- 4 **Mon 31** VIRTUAL
Online Event

FEBRUARY

- 5 **Tue 1** LANGHOLM
Buccleuch Centre
- 6 **Tue 8** KELSO
Kelso Rugby Club
- 7 **Wed 9** DUNS
A Heart for Duns
- 8 **Thu 10** SELKIRK
Ettrick Riverside
- 9 **Tue 22** MOFFAT
Town Hall
- 10 **Wed 23** WHITHORN
South Macars Community Centre
- 11 **Mon 28** NEW GALLOWAY
Catstrand

MARCH

- 12 **Tue 1** CASTLE DOUGLAS
Community Centre
- 13 **Wed 2** GATEHOUSE OF FLEET
Mill on the Fleet

PHASE TWO
6:45PM - 8PM

EDINBURGH

GALASHIELS

DUNS

PEEBLES

KELSO

SELKIRK

MOFFAT

LANGHOLM

NEW GALLOWAY

NEWTON STEWART

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET

CASTLE DOUGLAS

WHITHORN

CARLISLE

SOUTH of SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENT

Funding and Training opportunities

Scottish Borders Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

The new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund is now open for applications across the south of Scotland. Grassroots community groups, social enterprises, and third sector organisations in Dumfries and Galloway and The Scottish Borders will be able to benefit. The Fund aims to support adult community-based initiatives to help address the impact of distress and mental ill health caused by social isolation and loneliness, as well as addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The fund has its own dedicated page on the Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway website - <https://www.tsdg.org.uk/cmhwf/>

From this page, guidance can be downloaded and applications made. The deadline for completed applications is the 12 January 2022 with decisions expected in February.



Investing in Communities Fund Round 2

This major community funding pot is expected to open March/April 2022 for applications with projects commencing after 1st April 2023 and running for up to three years to a value of £350,000.

The four areas for action are:

- Tackling Poverty & Inequality, including Child Poverty
- Developing and Sustaining Place Based Approaches
- Community-led Regeneration
- Ensuring a just transition to Net Zero

More information can be found at

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>

Funding and Training opportunities

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, and includes the following communities:

- North Milk area,
- 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 or obtained by emailing 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. 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 or obtained by emailing 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.



AND FINALLY...

What an autumn that has been!

From delightfully sunny autumnal days to heavy snow, via flooding and Storm Arwen. It has certainly been a challenging few months.

Beech trees in Tank Wood



Flooding at Castle Loch



Snowy Moffat Hills



And finally... we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year



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SUP Membership

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