

APRIL 2024



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community


SUP NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

We are excited to have just seen our first sand martins busy feeding over the local river - Spring must have arrived! To celebrate that, here is all the latest news and events from The Southern Uplands Partnership.

Featuring:

- [South West Scotland Coastal Way project update](#)
- [Artist in residence opportunity](#)
- [Creative Arts Business Network funding](#)
- [South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre sightings](#)
- [Connecting Threads and Galashiels Walking Festival events](#)
- [Retrofit \(from EPC G to A\) site visit and discussion](#)
- [Tech sector event in the Borders](#)

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South West Scotland Coastal Way

The dash towards the end of the financial year meant there was lots going on to complete various path works along the eastern end of the Coastal Way. It was great to show the team from The Coastal Benefit Fund around our recent path works on the Sandyhills – Rockcliffe path. This fund is administered by Dumfries & Galloway Council and has made a big difference to access between Sandyhills to Rockcliffe, and Glencaple to Kingholm Quay. The improvement works at Dornock have also been completed, funded by FCC Communities Fund and supported by Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) which is funded by ScottishPower Renewables' Ewe Hill Windfarm.

Looking forward, we have also submitted a number of funding bids to enable us to complete works at Annan, Dumfries to Mabie Forest, Kirkconnell Flow to New Abbey and Borgue over the coming year – so watch this space.

To find out more about this exciting project contact the Project Officer at katrina@sup.org.uk.



Connecting Threads: Tweed River Culture

Are you our next artist in residence?

Lower Tweed: [Berwick Bridge 400 residency](#)

For eight weeks between July-September, Jo is on the lookout for an artist to respond to the historically and culturally significant 400th anniversary of the opening of Berwick's Jacobean Bridge over the River Tweed. This work is in conjunction with the Berwick Bridge 400 group and Berwick Archives.

Deadline: Monday, 15th April, midnight

See [our residency pack](#) for more information.



<https://www.facebook.com/TweedRiverCulture/>

Creative Arts Business Network (CABN)

The Scottish Borders CABN have recently had the great news that they have been awarded £97,703 funding from Creative Scotland Open Fund. Stay tuned for details of their exciting 12-month programme of events, offering small grants and a pilot mentoring scheme coming soon. The Southern Uplands Partnership continues to host CABN as it transitions to an independent organisation later this year.



South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre

The monthly newsletter from SWSEIC is well worth signing up to. It's full of info on recent wildlife sightings, which at this time of year has them coming in thick and fast, plus details of loads of outdoor events across the area.



Sign up to the SWSEIC newsletter here -

<https://mailchi.mp/78eba958dee8/join-the-swseic-mailing-list>

Bog Beacon © Ivan Lang

Get involved...

Town to River, River to Town - Connecting Threads and Galashiels Walking Festival -

Town to River, River to Town is a new partnership between Connecting Threads and Galashiels Walking Festival that embeds contemporary art into organised group walks through a programme of participatory events.

The Matt Seattle Band Gig

Friday 26th April, 6pm - 10pm

An evening gig at Café Recharge with renowned Borders piper Matt Seattle and accompanying band. During lockdown, Matt composed The Gala Water Suite, consisting of 14 original pieces inspired by locations mentioned in the earliest versions of the Braw, Braw Lads song. This is the first performance of the work in the Borders – appropriately in Galashiels.

Tickets are £15 and include dinner. Book via [Eventbrite](#).

Town to River: Galafoot Walk

Saturday 27th April, 1pm - 4pm

Beginning at Little Art Hub in Galashiels town centre, join us for a joyful, leisurely wander along the Black Path down to the confluence with the Tweed at Galafoot. The route will be bedecked by new artworks and soundscapes produced by artists Georgie Fay and Balandino Di Donato in collaboration with local primary schools and community groups.

Free! Book via [Eventbrite](#).

Town to River: Gala Walk and Map-making

Sunday 28th April, 10am - 4.30pm

Artist Inge Panneels leads a group walk and glass map-making workshop. The group will walk from Hike & Bike Hub in Galashiels to the Tweed via Poets Corner and Galafoot, collecting ideas, notes, images and objects. At Little Art Hub, Panneels will teach participants how to make their own glass maps using etching and engraving. The workshop is informed by historical map facsimiles of the Scottish Borders from the National Library of Scotland.

Free! Book via [Eventbrite](#).



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Get involved...

Scottish Borders Construction Forum

- Pre 1919 Retrofit (from EPC G to A) Site Visit and Discussion -

Scottish Borders Construction Forum are holding an event for those that work in the built environment.



Smailholm Pre 1919 Retrofit (from EPC G to A) Site Visit and Discussion

Smailholm Village Hall

Wednesday 24th April 6pm-8pm

As part of the SBCF Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events we are pleased to invite you to a site visit of a pre-1919 stone built property that has been retrofitted to a high standard in Smailholm.

The role of retrofit is crucial in moving towards net zero and this event will be of interest to designers, builders, owners, council inspectors, planners and others in the supply chain who are interested to hear about what actions they can take to get up to speed on the design, technologies, materials, and construction methods required to retrofit existing properties.

Architect Sally Ruel will be joined by Jane Miller and Yvan Biot who commissioned the retrofit, to discuss the overall concept and aspirations of the renovations and upgrades (site, low energy and carbon intent, renewables selection, conservation area considerations and constraints) and how the Energy Efficiency rating from G to A was achieved.

If you work in the built environment, please join us for a site visit followed by presentations and discussions on this exciting renovation and retrofit.

Agenda:

- 6pm Meet at Smailholm Village Hall
- 6.15pm Site Visit
- 7pm Presentation and Discussion
- 8pm Close

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

To book your FREE ticket please go to: [Scottish Borders Construction Forum are holding an event for those that work in the built environment](#)

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Get involved...

UNPLUGGED MEET UP - Tech Scaler



Wednesday 24 Apr, 12:00 - 2:00 - Hometown Hub, Stow

In partnership with Hometown Hub, this event is for anyone looking to learn more about what Techscaler is and what it has to offer the tech sector in the Borders. This event aims to bring together entrepreneurs, techies, creatives, students, investors, and other regional stakeholders to network and share ideas. It is open to individuals from all stages of the startup journey, from early-stage startups to established companies, as well as employees and other business professionals looking to engage with more startup activity and looking to learn more about the type of Techscaler support available across the Borders. Join us for a coffee, some food, and networking!

FREE, IN-Person - [FULL DETAILS HERE](#)

If you would like to support the work that Southern Uplands Partnership does, you can donate at the button below:



Has someone forwarded this to you? Would you like to join us? It's free! Use the QR code below or go to:
[SUP mailing list sign-up form \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp/supmailinglist/sign-up-form)

