



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

# SUP NEWSLETTER

## *Project updates...*

Well what a few months it has been for national recognition for SUP and its hosted projects.

The South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project won, not one, not two, not three, but FOUR prestigious awards – see page 2 for all the details.

Meanwhile at the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards in Edinburgh, some of the SUP team donned their fanciest black-tie outfits and joined the great and good from across Scotland's environmental sector. The Southern Uplands Partnership was shortlisted and won the Nature and Climate Action category. We were delighted to have our 20+ years of environmental projects recognised by the judging panel.

A massive thank you goes out to everyone that has worked so hard to deliver and support our wide range of projects over the years.



### *IN THIS EDITION...*



#### *SUP-led/hosted project updates:*

- *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project*
- *South West Scotland Coastal Way*
- *South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre*
- *Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area project*
- *Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group*

#### *What is the Southern Uplands Partnership?*

#### *Southern Uplands Partnership Team Updates: Pip, Sheila, Katy, Darren*

#### *Events:*

- *Connecting Threads Beer & Blether*

#### *Become a Patron*

#### *And finally...*



*Keeping in touch*



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



[southernuplandspartnership](https://www.facebook.com/southernuplandspartnership)



[southernupland1](https://twitter.com/southernupland1)



[southernuplandspartnership](https://www.instagram.com/southernuplandspartnership)



## *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project*

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EAGLESINSOUTHERNSKIES/](https://www.facebook.com/eaglesinsouthernskies/)

It has been a busy few months for the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project. A successful summer translocation has seen six more juvenile golden eagles released into the Southern Uplands taking numbers to the highest recorded in over 300 years. All the juveniles including 'Merrick' the female juvenile golden eagle named by SUP are doing well, exploring all across the south of Scotland and interacting with the growing population. The first of the SSGEP translocated golden eagles are beginning to settle territory – three new territories are now established alongside a new pair and nest!



SSGEP has had a very successful few months too, **winning four awards!** The project won the CIEEM award for Best Practice Stakeholder Engagement Award, the Tony Bradshaw Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Scottish Land Estates 'Helping it Happen' Award for Conservation. Finally, just as we go to press, it was named Scottish project of the year in the National Lottery awards. We are very proud to have been recognised in this way and would like to thank everyone who has supported the project so far.



Moffat Eagle Festival 2022 in September was a great success, attracting visitors to the town of Moffat and surrounding area, to celebrate and enjoy all things golden eagle. There will be a project blog out soon.



## *South West Scotland Coastal Way*

RICHARD CLARKE

It has been a productive summer and autumn with great progress being made with the project. It only seems like yesterday that I had my first day out on site, where I went to the Metal Bridge across the border into England, and looked towards Gretna, with the Scottish side of the Solway sprawling out in front, to get a feel of the task that lay ahead.



So, what has been achieved?

- A provisional route has been plotted from Gretna to Dalbeattie.
- Eight funding applications submitted.
- Funding award from Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group, which is funded by ScottishPower Renewables Ewe Hill Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.
- Successful partnership working with Dumfries and Galloway Council, with steps being repaired at Seafield as part of the surveys undertaken by this project.
- Contact made with community councils, social enterprise companies and local initiatives.
- Working in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council on a Sustrans concept and design plan for connecting villages from Gretna to Powfoot.
- Meeting with many landowners and organisations that are positive about the development of the Coastal Way, and of all the positive outcomes this will have.







## *South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC)*

WWW.SWSEIC.ORG.UK

**During the late summer and autumn, SWSEIC was busy with public events in conjunction with a range of partner organisations, with the specific aim of encouraging people to record biodiversity, but more generally helping people to appreciate and enjoy wildlife.** Events were held at Ardrossan Castle and Eglinton Country Park in North Ayrshire (with Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership), at Carsphairn Community Woodland (with Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership), and at Cairnsmore of Fleet (with Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and NatureScot).



Our Mammals at Home project (again with Galloway Glens), which involved the loan of trail cameras and bat detectors to local people, has now been completed. Highlights from the project will be presented at The Smiddy, Balmaclellan on 25 January 2023. Join, in-person or online, by booking here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/they-live-among-us-mammals-in-galloway-tickets-433536468247>



SWSEIC has recently published the 2020 bird report for Dumfries and Galloway. The 166 page book summarises tens of thousands of local bird records and is all pulled together by a team of local volunteer birdwatching enthusiasts. The colour artwork featured in the report is by popular local artist Lisa Hooper. Copies priced £10 (+£2 p&p) can be purchased direct from Peter Swan ([pandmswan@btinternet.com](mailto:pandmswan@btinternet.com)), and it is also available from a number of local retail outlets or in person from the SWSEIC office.

And finally, speaking of volunteers, our three regular volunteers at the SWSEIC office continue to help with bringing records into our local database, which is rapidly approaching the **milestone of 3 million records**. As ever their contributions are gratefully appreciated.



## *Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area*

DONALD GREIG

**Several ongoing initiatives have been progressed over the past few months:**

**Talks:** the second in the series of the Talla-Hartfell Conversations took place on 9 November at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, once again running as a hybrid event with people attending in person and online. Around 45 people attended in total. A presentation by Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, was followed by one from Morag Paterson of Communities for Diverse Forestry, after which there were Questions and Answers from the audience and a general conversation between speakers and audience. Various recordings from the evening have been made available, either on the Southern Uplands Partnership YouTube channel or emailed directly to those who attended, including the Zoom recording, the speakers' slides and a transcription of the online chat comments.



**Drone filming:** drone filming across the project area has been completed and we have around 97 minutes of footage. We are now in discussion with a local filmmaker about developing a short film about the area, using a mix of drone footage and interviews with local people.



**Ecomuseum:** work continues on the ecomuseum with more records being uploaded for the Tweedsmuir and Moffat sections of the museum, which can be found at [www.moffat.ecomuseum.online](http://www.moffat.ecomuseum.online) and [www.tweedsmuir.ecomuseum.online](http://www.tweedsmuir.ecomuseum.online)



## *Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Company*

[WWW.DECBG.ORG.UK](http://WWW.DECBG.ORG.UK) JAMIE@DECBG.ORG.UK

**Community Officer, Jamie Dent, has been engaging with communities and community groups throughout the Community Benefit area to develop projects and project ideas.** He is also engaging with other funders in the area, including the Langholm Funders Forum and the newly opened Crossdykes Windfarm Fund. The latest allocation of funds, approved in September, amounts to £120k from ScottishPower Renewables' Ewe Hill 16 Windfarm fund and £76k from Solwaybank Energy Ltd's Windfarm fund.



The Ewe Hill funds were allocated to nine applications, with amounts ranging from £5k to £40k. The largest grant was awarded to Upper Eskdale Development Group for a three-year project to improve its resilience and expand the range of activities and services available at its Hub in Eskdalemuir. Funds were allocated for improvements to Canonbie Playpark, to Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes for training and equipment, and Sports Driving was awarded funds to help the purchase of a replacement horsebox. Smaller grants were awarded to Creation Mills in Langholm for a textile scrap store, Canonbie Vintage Club for event equipment, and Kirkpatrick Fleming Community Council for a Christmas lights project.

The Solwaybank fund made awards ranging from £2k to £36k. A grant was awarded to Creation Mills for a two year project manager post to promote innovative textile skills workshops and funds were also awarded to Langholm Walks to renew their website promoting walking routes in Eskdale and Waterbeck Public Hall for toilet refurbishment. Match funding awards were also made to Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes and to Kirkpatrick Fleming Christmas Lights.

Both funds were oversubscribed with demand exceeding supply, a trend that is likely to continue as the current economic circumstances persist.

Two new smaller funding pots are now available under Solwaybank Windfarm. From 1st December 2022, applications can be made to the Solwaybank Small Grants Fund, for applications up to £1,000. Individuals can apply to the Solwaybank Education and Training Grants Fund for assistance towards the costs of higher / further education and training. These two schemes will be administered through the Community Councils in the eligible area.





## *What is the Southern Uplands Partnership?*

A RURAL DEVELOPMENT CHARITY, STARTED IN 1999 BY LOCAL PEOPLE KEEN TO KEEP THE COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE OF THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ALIVE AND HEALTHY

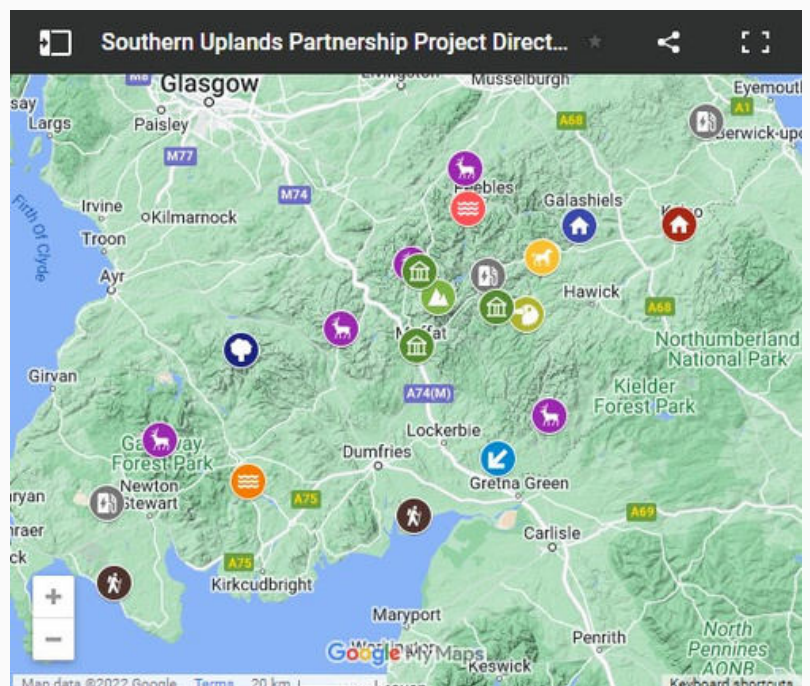
### What is SUP all about?

**Short video...** If you have ever asked this question then this short video gives a flavour of the range of SUP's activities. This compilation video was made by Carlos Hernan for the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards 2022, and features snippets and images kindly supplied by the Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area project, Connecting Threads: Tweed River Culture and South Of Scotland Golden Eagle Project.



Go to YouTube and search for the Southern Uplands Partnership page or visit [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk) and scroll down the homepage

**SUP Google Map...**We've also created a SUP Google map which features all the current live projects, each with a geographical tab and, when you click on it, a few more details – image, brief description and link for more info. Hope you like it - <https://tinyurl.com/bddcr4p4> We've also placed it on the home page ([www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)), so you can always access the most up to date version as new projects come along.





## *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR / SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

### **Pip's news...**

The Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilot work has been a major task in recent weeks as has the completion of the Community Renewal Funded Energy Efficiency work. Looking ahead, I've been feeding into an ambitious red squirrel conservation project which is being led by our partners in North of England. I've also been involved in the Rethink Carbon project which has been supported through the CivTech programme and is now almost market-ready. Finally, we have been talking to partners about reviving the Environmental Alliance for the South of Scotland (EASoS) and we hope to see some activity on this front next year.



*RLUP consultation in Lockerbie*

### **SUP Services Ltd**

SUP Services Ltd is currently commissioned by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) on engagement for the Regional Land Use Partnership pilot which hopefully some of you have engaged with. Eighteen "live" events took place across the region during October and November and there were also two online events. Further events are being organised for early in 2023 and the results of all this will help shape a Rural Land Use Framework which will be completed by the end of next year.

SUPS Ltd is also working with the Energy Efficiency Supply Chain in the Borders where we are facilitating the Construction Forum and working with Borders College to try to increase uptake of training courses aimed at getting us ready for the massive retrofit task we need to address to meet our carbon emission targets.

SUPS Ltd is generating funds for the parent charity, but we could really do with a Business Manager to help us take it to the next level.





## *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR / SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

### **Sheila's news...**

I've been busy with the annual audit of SUP and SUP Services Ltd's finances, which is now complete and the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 were approved and signed off at SUP's Annual General Meeting on 15th November. SUP's finances are in a good position, with a surplus in the last financial year of £16,826 and a healthy reserve, but sourcing ongoing funding remains a challenge.

As well as all the preparations for the AGM, I've been assisting DECBG and the Community Officer with a review and revamp of the Solwaybank Windfarm Community Benefit application form and guidance, and creating the forms and guidance for the two new grant funds mentioned above.

SUP has been asked to facilitate the transition of the Creative Arts Business Network (CABN) which supports the creative sector in the Scottish Borders. Over a 12 month period from September 2022, with funding and support secured from the Scottish Borders Place Partnership (Creative Scotland and Scottish Borders Council) and South of Scotland Enterprise, CABN will transition from Live Borders towards a new, independent, sector led model. Three part-time freelance professionals have been contracted to lead this exciting process of transition and development while also providing a continuity of support to the CABN network. SUP is acting as host organisation during this transition period and I've been busy preparing all the contracts and financial arrangements for this process.



*AGM at Dumfries Baptist Church Centre*



# *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR / SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

## **Katy's news...**

### **Greener Events Toolkit**

Southern Uplands Partnership Services Ltd has been commissioned to undertake work for Dumfries and Galloway Council's Events team: a 'Greener Events Toolkit'; a unique document proposed to help professional and voluntary events organisers consider how best they can incorporate carbon reduction programmes and other environmental considerations into their events projects. I'm excited to be working on this - watch this space!

### **Employability**

I've been continuing to get to know more about employability in Dumfries and Galloway, attending the November Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG) Employability Forum meeting and hearing about the incredible work going on across the Third Sector (more info on employability in D&G at: <https://www.tsdg.org.uk/employability/>)

### **Keeping Food Local**

On 16th November, I attended the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Rural Policy, on the theme of 'Keeping Food Local', featuring presentations from Professor David Marshall of University of Edinburgh's Business School, Denise Walton of Peelham Farm in Berwickshire, and Sarah MacLean of Bùth Bharraigh on the Isle of Barra. A recording of this, and the three slide-shows can be viewed at: <https://www.sruc.ac.uk/research/research-impact/rural-policy-centre/rural-policy-events/>

#### **CPG RURAL POLICY - November 2022** *Keeping Food Local*



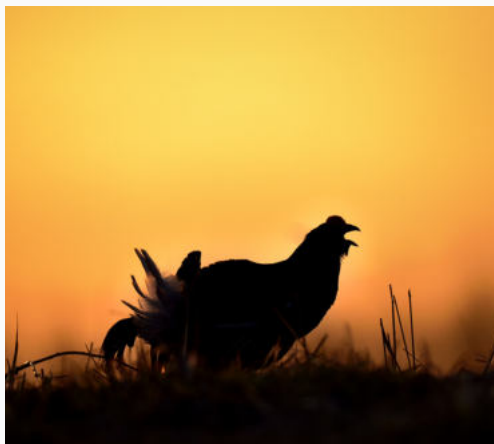


## *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR / SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

### **Darren's news...**

Black Grouse project: Much of my time has been spent working with Julia Gallagher of the RSPB on a funding application to the NatureScot Nature Recovery Fund. The initial funding will be used for developing a fully costed series of habitat works across five key black grouse/upland areas: Galloway Forest, Lowther Hills, Tweedsmuir Hills, Langholm Moor and Moorfoot Hills.



The development phase runs through to April 2023, followed by further delivery phase fundraising. This major upland landscape regeneration project spans over 20 stakeholders and landowners/managers, and will deliver practical, on the ground habitat restoration.

We are also starting to look at ways for inspiring local communities about the wonders of our upland species through activities like becoming a tree champion, community engagement, arts and cultural projects - hopefully something to get everyone excited. Watch this space for more details. If you live in or near any of the core work areas please do let us know if you'd like to be involved - [darren@sup.org.uk](mailto:darren@sup.org.uk)

### **Website**

[www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk) continues to be tweaked and developed. The website content is constantly being added to and updated. Why not take a look? Maybe start with the 'Current Projects' or 'News' pages to get a flavour of the range of projects SUP is involved in delivering.

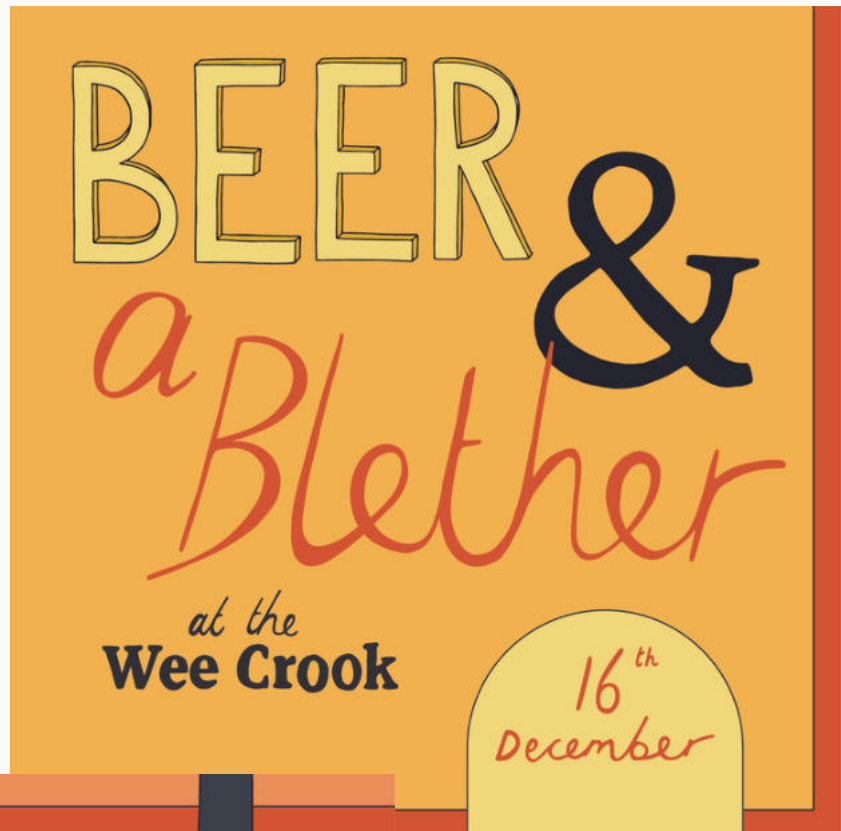




## EVENTS

# Connecting Threads Events

As part of Connecting Threads' winter programme for the Upper Tweed, come along for a Beer and a Blether at the Wee Crook in Tweedsmuir



Come along to enjoy a drink and share your stories of Tweedsmuir around the fire with storyteller Luke Winter.

**Friday 16th December**

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start  
9.30pm finish, bar open til 11.30pm

Light supper provided by the Tweedsmuir Community Company. Plus, arrive before 7.30pm to receive a complimentary drink!

**Open to all ages, everyone welcome.**

Email [enquiries@tweedsmuir.scot](mailto:enquiries@tweedsmuir.scot) to reserve a free place, or turn up on the night.





SUPPORT US

## *Become a Patron*

AND SUPPORT ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN THIS NEWSLETTER

southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

*Become a Southern Uplands Partnership*

**PATRON**

*annual subscription £500*

### WHY BECOME A PATRON?

- be part of a strategic rural charity with 20+ years experience.
- help communities make sustainable use of their natural and cultural heritage.
- join a partnership that includes exciting projects such as golden eagles and River Tweed culture; biological recording and equestrian tourism; an ecomuseum and walking trail development...

*further details: [contactus@sup.org.uk](mailto:contactus@sup.org.uk)*

### Our Current Patrons



### Our supporters



Registered in Scotland Company No. 200827 Charity No SC029475  
 Registered Office: Studio 2, Lindean Mill, Galashiels, TD1 3PE  
 01750 725154 [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)





## AND FINALLY...

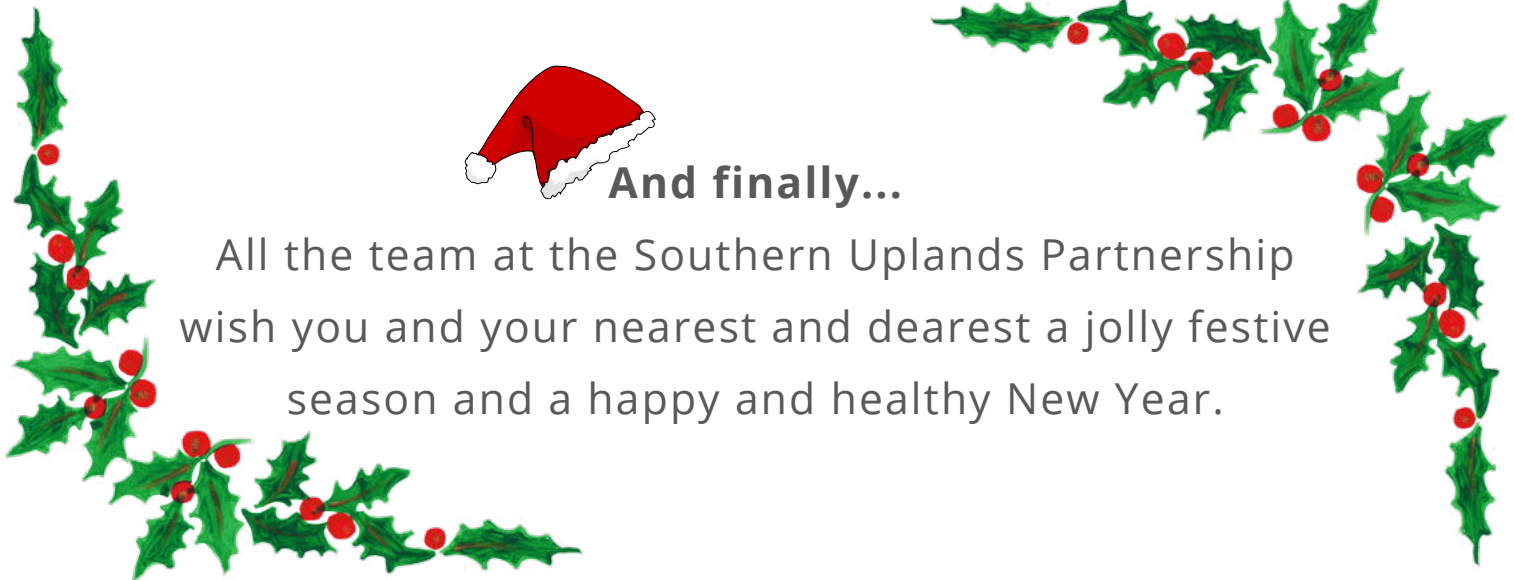
Our South West Scotland Coastal Way Project Officer came across this dead cormorant while out and about near Kelton. Not the prettiest of pictures but we thought it was interesting - it looks like its eyes were far bigger than its belly!

Richard had a chat with the gang at the SUP hosted South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre who asked around the birding community. A few people had seen this before, particularly with less experienced young birds. This photo is of a first-year juvenile so that would make sense.

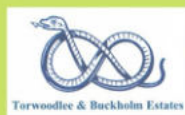


## And finally...

All the team at the Southern Uplands Partnership wish you and your nearest and dearest a jolly festive season and a happy and healthy New Year.



### Our Patrons



### Our Supporters



Registered in Scotland Company No. 200827 Charity No SC029475  
Registered Office: Studio 2, Lindean Mill, Galashiels, TD1 3PE

SUP Membership

SCAN ME

