



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

# SUP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to our December newsletter. Time to get festive!

It's been another busy month for the Southern Uplands Partnership and in this issue, we announce:

- [AGM Reminder](#)
- [Update on the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project](#)
- [Climate stories](#)
- [South West Coastal Way steps further forward](#)
- [Launch of SBCAN's 'Borders Act for Change'](#)
- [Save the date for 'Gather' - a CABN end of year get together!](#)
- [Free learning exchange in Thornhill](#)

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held online on Thursday, 5th December 2024, at 1.00 pm.

All welcome! Please RSVP [here](#) ....

The papers can be found on our website [here](#).

## South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project flies the nest

The Southern Uplands Partnership has been pleased to host the pioneering South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project (SSGEP) since 2018. At the end of December, it will fly the nest, as it becomes RUN (Restoring Upland Nature SCIO) and begins the next phase of its exciting journey. As well as continuing SSGEP's important work locally, RUN will extend its reach into England and Wales.

Six years ago, there were fewer than 10 golden eagles in the south of Scotland. Today, there are nearly 50, the highest number the region has seen for over 300 years. A unique and innovative partnership project, SSGEP achieved this through a series of groundbreaking translocations. It has also brought important economic, social and cultural benefits for the region. For example, the UK's first Golden Eagle Festival has become a distinguishable annual fixture in Moffat, Scotland's first official Golden Eagle Town, and the country's first mainland golden eagle information point is now located at the Waterwheel Tearoom in Selkirk.

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## South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project flies the nest cont.

With extensive media coverage across the UK, and global recognition from leading figures in wildlife conservation around the world, the Project has put the south of Scotland at the forefront of wildlife conservation and nature-based tourism. The Project's many successes have been recognised through numerous awards and accolades, including the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Tony Bradshaw Award for Outstanding Best Practice and the National Lottery's Scottish Project of The Year Award.

All of these achievements have been enabled with the support of:

- Partners, including NatureScot, Scottish Land and Estates (SLE), RSPB Scotland, Scottish Forestry, The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, and of course the Southern Uplands Partnership;
- Funders, including The National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland, The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and LEADER;
- Individual supporters - from conservationists, ecologists, bird of prey workers and vets to landowners, gamekeepers and the wider community, including children, visitors and business operators.

Thousands of people have supported the project in various ways. We thank them all for their generous and committed support.

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## South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project flies the nest cont.

Unfortunately, the project's current funding comes to an end in December and we have had to take the difficult decision to give the project staff notice of redundancy. We would like to thank them for the incredible work they have done on the project and wish them the best of luck for the future. From ecologists and educational professionals, to community and stakeholder engagement specialists, they really are an exemplar team and we are confident they will go on to achieve more amazing things.

Some project staff and stakeholders plan to continue as volunteers with RUN, and we are together working on a transition plan over the winter, to give them the best start possible. We encourage all our supporters to donate to the continued work of the project via: [www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk](http://www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk).

We wish RUN every success and look forward to seeing Golden Eagles continue to fly over the south of Scotland and more parts of the UK in the future.



## Climate Stories

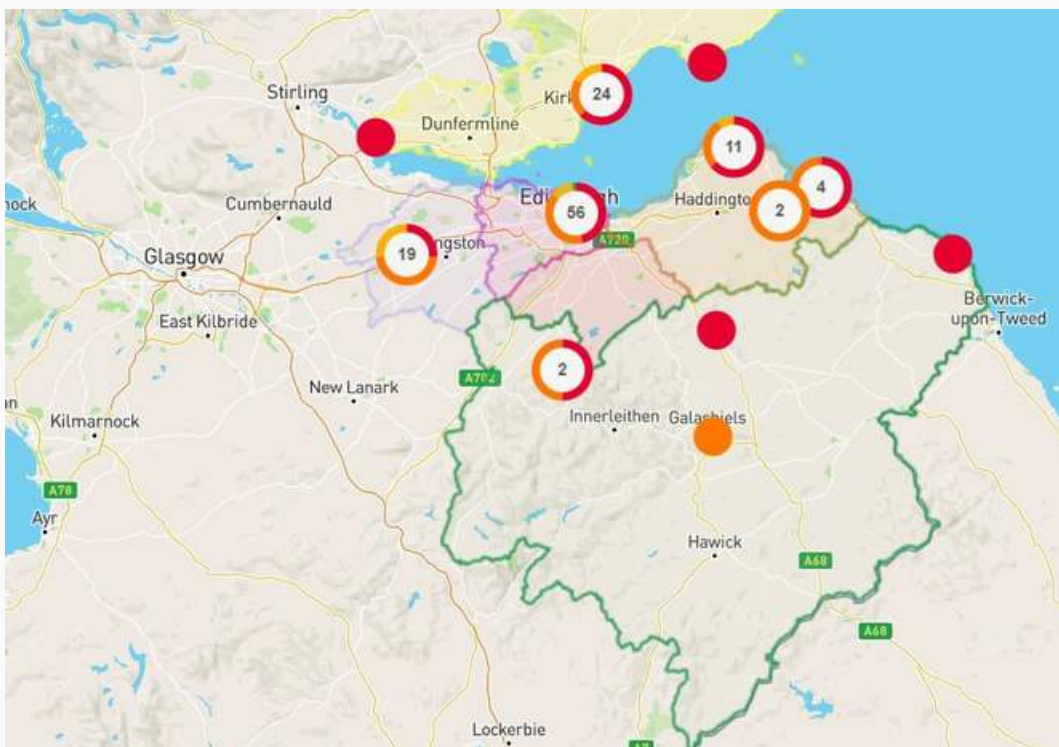
The climate is changing across South East Scotland. What changes have you noticed? How are they affecting where you live?

The Southern Uplands Partnership through our Scottish Borders Climate Action Network are working with SNIFFER to collect people's climate change and extreme weather stories across the Borders.

If you have a story to share - you can add it to the online map here:

[Climate Ready South East Scotland | Commonplace](#)

Local organisations Sustainable Selkirk, Sea the Change, Burnfoot Community Futures and Outside the Box will also be collecting stories through local events - so look out for climate story cards and chances to participate in your community.



## South West Scotland Coastal Way steps further forward

Our South West Scotland Coastal Way Project has progressed capital improvements along coastal core paths in New Abbey, Dumfries and Annan. These works have included drainage improvements, replacing stiles with more accessible gates, boardwalk replacement and creating a crossing point over a tidal channel. The works are part of a route mapping exercise connected to our longer term ambition to create a long distance coastal walking route between Gretna and Stranraer. The project has seen SUP work closely in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and has been made possible thanks to funding from the Council's Coastal Benefit Fund, The People's Project Dumfries and South of Scotland Enterprise.



*Boardwalk in woods at Airds Point (New Abbey)*



*crossing point over tidal channel towards Airds Point (New Abbey)*

# Scottish Borders Climate Action Network

## 📣 Borders Act For Change 📣

As we near the end of 2024, SBCAN is delighted to launch 'Borders Act for Change'.

We invite you and your Community Group to commit to taking a positive action in February within your community.

We are thrilled to announce some funding will be available to support these activities. Funding is available on a first come first served basis and applications will be reviewed weekly so don't delay!

Applications are open, so start thinking now.

Let's make February 2025 a month of collective action in the Borders!

Please see the link to the website and our form for more information.

<https://www.sbcan.co.uk/bordersactforchange>



**TAKE ACTION**

**TAKE POSITIVE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN FEBRUARY 2025**

JOIN SCHOOLS, ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ACROSS THE SCOTTISH BORDERS IN TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT, ENHANCE OR CONNECT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW- FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!**

START THINKING ABOUT IDEAS NOW!!

FIND THE APPLICATION FORM HERE:  
[WWW.SBCAN.CO.UK](http://WWW.SBCAN.CO.UK)

**BORDERS ACT FOR CHANGE**




## EVENTS (from SUP and our partners)

### **CABN end of year get together!**

CABN (Creative Arts Business Network) are putting on an end of year event in Galashiels for freelance creative practitioners and artists in the Borders.

 Date: 20th December 2024

 Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

 Location: Galashiels (Exact venue to be shared in early December)

This promises to be a relaxed, social opportunity for freelance artists and creatives working in the Borders to get together.

The event will be free but ticketed.

Find out more about CABN - and look out for more details of this upcoming event on their website:

[News & Events - Creative Arts Business Network](#)





## EVENTS (from SUP and our partners)

### **Free learning exchange in Thornhill - Community Ownership in Villages**

Scottish Rural Action is partnering with Community Land Scotland to host a one-day learning exchange in Thornhill, Dumfries and Galloway, on Thursday 30th January, 11.00 am to 3.30 pm.

Visit the [Old School Thornhill](#), to hear about their history and journey to buying and transforming their 'Old School' into an innovative, design-led, community asset. During a delicious lunch, there will be the opportunity to meet the Trustees and other attendees from across Scotland. Whether you are embarking on your journey of community ownership, or you are years into managing a community-owned asset such as a shop, a woodland, a village hall, an enterprise or even a phone-box museum, please join them, to learn from others and to share your own experiences.

Community Land Scotland will be on hand to provide "top tips" in navigating the funding and legislative landscape of community ownership, and there will be time for focused discussions and networking with other communities.

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## EVENTS (from SUP and our partners)

### **Free learning exchange in Thornhill - Community Ownership in Villages contd.**

The learning exchange is free and open to anyone involved in a village organisation such as a Community Council, a Community Association, a Development Trust or similar.

To sign up please visit here: [Community Ownership in Villages – Thornhill gathering – Community Land Scotland](#)

If you have any questions about the learning exchange or need help making arrangements to come, please contact Artemis [artemis@sra.scot](mailto:artemis@sra.scot) or phone her on 0773 059 6842.



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



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[SUP mailing list sign-up form \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp/sup-mailing-list-sign-up-form)

