

JANUARY 2025



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community

SUP NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025



image by frimufilms on Freepik

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of 2025. We hope you are escaping the storms and enjoying the snowdrops!

Read on for lots of upcoming events and news from the Southern Uplands Partnership and our partners.

- [*Sam Laughlin - Gathering Light Exhibition*](#)
- [*Shieldbugs in South West Scotland*](#)
- [*Borders Act for Change*](#)
- [*Save the date for SWSEIC 2025 Conference*](#)
- [*South West Coastal Way milestone*](#)
- [*Opportunity to join the South Scotland Regional Economic Partnership*](#)
- [*Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund open for applications*](#)

www.sup.org.uk

 [southernuplandspartnership](#)

 [southernupland1](#)

 [southernuplandspartnership](#)

Sam Laughlin: Gathering Light Exhibition

2 February – 4 May 2025, Dawyck Botanic Garden



As more daylight slowly returns, it feels apt to welcome a new exhibition opening this weekend. Facilitated by our Connecting Threads team, *Gathering Light* showcases a selection of the experimental photographic works produced by Artist and Photographer Sam Laughlin in response to 'the Wild Heart', a landscape of diverse upland habitats undergoing a programme of ecological restoration thanks to Borders Forest Trust. More information can be found here:

<https://www.tweedriverculture.org/events/gathering-light>

Shieldbugs in South West Scotland



This new publication is now available to purchase from our team at the South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre. The booklet covers all the shieldbug species recorded in Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway, how to identify them, information about their ecology and maps to show where they have been sighted. The booklet complements our Grasshopper and Dragonfly booklets, each of which can be purchased for £3 each, £5 for two or £7 for all three (plus costs for packaging and posting). If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact info@swseic.org.uk.



Borders Act for Change



February marks Scottish Borders Climate Action Network's (SBCAN) Borders Act for Change month, and we're thrilled to have over 40 actions already pledged by schools, community groups and volunteer organisations across the Scottish Borders. 2500+ individuals are getting involved and the number is still growing!

From tree-planting to educational activity sessions to community litter picking days and environmental film screenings, these commitments showcase the incredible creativity and determination within the community.

Check out SBCAN's [events calendar](#) for inspiration or to join in, and contact sbacan@sup.org.uk if you want to organise an action for a group near you.

South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre 2025 Conferences - Save the dates

In 2025 South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) will be holding two half day gatherings, one at Troon and one at Dumfries. The dates and venues to put in your diary are:

- Saturday 15th March, in Dumfries at the Bridge.
- Saturday 5th April, in Troon at Walker Hall.

Each conference will have a morning with several talks on wildlife and wildlife recording, followed with an optional outdoor excursion with an expert guide in the afternoon. More details to follow or mail info@swseic.org.uk to note interest.

South West Scotland Coastal Way milestone!



Work to improve access to part of the coastal core path at Borgue has recently been completed, including gate & boardwalk replacements, bridge creation and extensive vegetation removal. This milestone marks the end of our infrastructure work for the 2024/2025 financial year, which has included core path improvement works at Annan, Dumfries and New Abbey. A big thank you to our partners Dumfries & Galloway Council and funders South of Scotland Enterprise and the People's Project. We hope you enjoy the improvements!

Opportunity to join the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership - deadline 10th February

People from across the South of Scotland are being encouraged to apply to become a member of the Regional Economic Partnership (REP), the forum that sets the direction of the regional economy across Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders.

The REP is looking to appoint a total of eight external members, representing the following sectors:

- Four representatives from business and enterprise (private sector)
- Two social enterprise representatives
- Two community representatives

Applications to become a member of the REP are open until 0900 on Monday 10th February 2025. More information and the full recruitment pack can be found here:

<https://www.southofscotlandrep.com/news/recruitment>

Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund Open for applications - deadline 3rd March

The Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund from Inspiring Scotland aims to help communities develop their ideas for ecosystem restoration into a pipeline of deliverable projects.

- Community groups can apply for up to £13,500
- Place-based community groups with an income of under £200,000 can apply
- Projects should focus on the development and feasibility stages of undertaking ecosystem restoration, rather than physical delivery.
- Successful applicants will receive up to £1,500 in professional fundraising support in addition to their grant.
- Projects must be delivered between 1 June 2025 – 31 March 2026.

Deadline for applications is 12pm (midday) Monday 3 March 2025.

Find out more at - <https://inspiringscotland.org.uk/fund/apply-to-the-neighbourhood-ecosystem-fund/>

If you would like to explore how we can help with your community project, please just get in touch!

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)

