

SUP Newsletter - August 2024



southern uplands partnership *living land, living community*

Welcome to our August newsletter. We hope you are having a wonderful summer, whatever the weather.

It's been a busy but productive time of recruitment and fundraising at SUP HQ. We are delighted to share loads of positive related updates with you this month.

In this issue, we announce:

- the appointment of our two new [Development Managers](#)
- early plans for our [25th Anniversary celebration](#) on 8th November
- exciting funding news and plans for the [South West Scotland Coastal Way](#)
- details of the [Moffat Eagle Festival 6th - 8th September](#)
- the [Just Transition Commission's](#) upcoming visit to Dumfries 22nd-23rd August.
- [Merindale Nature Festival](#), 24th August

SUP Development Manager appointments

Following a restructure earlier this year, we have now recruited two fantastic folks to these new roles.

Aidan Nicol will be taking up the Borders-based post and lives in Innerleithen. Some of you will know Aidan from her previous role of Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager at the CatStrand in D&G and currently as Co-Director/Producer with Manipulate Arts (Puppet Animation Scotland). She is also voluntary Treasurer of Borders Womens' Aid and keen to get stuck in to supporting our place-based and environmentally focussed work.



Tim Cowen will be taking up the D&G based post and lives in Wigtown. He has been Chief Executive of the Woodlands Community Development Trust in Glasgow for the last 13 years (commuting from D&G for the last 3+). Some colleagues will know him in his voluntary role as Co-ordinator of the Galloway branch of Scottish Badgers, whilst others may know him as an author and performer of environmentally themed written word including at D&G Arts Festival and Wigtown Book Festival.



They will both be starting in October. Exciting times, as we work towards the next evolutionary phase in SUP's long life.

We are 25 this year!

It's The Southern Uplands Partnership's 25th Anniversary this year, and we are looking forward to celebrating with members, supporters, old friends and new, on Friday 8th November.

We are planning an informal celebration, reflecting on what has (and hasn't) changed for the South of Scotland over the last 25 years, as well the work we still need to do together to realise our ambitions for a "living land, living community".

This will be a day-time event, incorporating our AGM. Watch this space for further details, but meantime please save the date!



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South West Scotland Coastal Way

With huge thanks to the People's Project, Mark Jardine, Dumfries & Galloway Council's Coastal Benefit Fund and South of Scotland Enterprise, we are delighted to announce we are several steps closer to developing a long-distance coastal walking route spanning the Dumfries & Galloway Coast (Gretna – Stranraer). The funding will enable continuation of the project until June 2025.

Our aim is to try and make the route as accessible as possible, and funding will allow for boardwalk replacement, vegetation control and changes/replacements of gates to coastal core paths and Rights of Way along the route at Annan, Dumfries – Cargenbridge, New Abbey and Borgue.

A potential route has been surveyed between Gretna and Isle of Whithorn so far, with a few gaps identified. These sections will see some further careful thinking and planning, in consultation with communities, landowners and our partners at D&G Council. We are also looking forward to continuing surveying westwards, where capacity allows.

Community support from passionate people are making all the difference to this project. If you would like to support it, or just to find out more, please do get in touch with Project Officer Katrina Dick Katrina@sup.org.uk



the Machars coastline between Garlieston and Isle of Whithorn



[South West Scotland Coastal Way](#) | [Southern Uplands Partnership \(sup.org.uk\)](#)

EVENTS (from SUP and our partners)

The Moffat Eagle Festival 6th-8th September

The Festival from our very own [South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project](#) is back and promising to be even bigger and better this year.

Details of the full programme can be found [here](#).

A talk with wildlife cameraman and Strictly Come Dancing winner Hamza Yassin, is unfortunately now sold out but there are still tickets available for many other exciting talks and events. There are also plenty of stalls to browse and things to see and do. We'll see you there! Do drop along to say hello at the SUP / South West Scotland Environment Information Centre stall.



6-8 SEPTEMBER

EVENING TALKS

[Jim Crumley / Lee Schofield – Friday 6th](#)

Venue: Moffat Town Hall, High Street, Moffat DG10 9HF

Time: Doors - 18:30 / Talk 1 Lee Schofield 19:00 / Jim Crumley 20:00

[Hamza Yassin / Peter Cairns – Saturday 7th – SOLD OUT](#)

Venue: Upper Annandale Parish Church, 1 Church Place, Moffat DG10 9ES

Time: Doors - 18:00 / Talk 1 Peter Cairns – Scotland: The Big Picture 19:00 / Interval / Talk 2 Hamza Yassin 20:15

GUIDED WALKS / FOOD & DRINK / ENVIRO-DAY / SPORTS /

FARMERS MARKET / WILDLIFE TOURS / LIVE MUSIC

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY BLOOD BIKES MOTORCYCLE RIDE
OUT and much more for.....**

A Just transition for Dumfries and Galloway

The [Just Transition Commission](#) is an independent group that advises the Scottish Government on how to cut carbon emissions in a fair way. It includes experts and leaders from trade unions, voluntary organisations, environmental groups, business and industry

The Commission is visiting Dumfries on the 22nd and 23rd of August and they invite you to their final roundtable on 23rd August (12:00 – 14:15) at the Crichton (Duncan – Easterbrook Hall).

The Commission's visit to the region will seek to cover a range of core just transition topics, including housing, agriculture and forestry. The purpose of this roundtable is to bring together stakeholders in the region to discuss the opportunities, challenges and the key considerations for achieving a fair transition to net zero in Dumfries and Galloway. Following the roundtable, the Commission will publish a briefing sharing findings and advice

Please RSVP to this invitation at justtransitioncommission@gov.scot – lunch will be provided so please share any dietary requirements.



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Merlindale Nature Festival 24th August

SUP patron David Lintott and the Merlindale team are organising an amazing programme of events at Merlindale Meadow near Drumelzier on Saturday 24th August. Come along for an exciting range of talks and walks, including with our very own [Connecting Threads](#), and mowing the meadow with horse and scythe.

<https://www.merlindalenature.com/2024-merlindale-nature-festival>



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