

SUP Newsletter - October 2024



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community

Welcome to our October Newsletter!

Autumn is well underway as we head towards Samhain - the nights are drawing in! Don't forget to put your clocks back on Sunday (27th October) ...

At SUP we have been busy welcoming two new Development Managers to our Core Team. More about them in the next issue.

It was also our **25th Anniversary** on **19th October!**

In this issue:

- an update on our [25th Anniversary Celebrations](#)
- details of the [Scottish Borders Climate Action Network Workshop: Work That Reconnects](#)
- a look back at [SWSEIC's busy summer](#)
- upcoming [Connecting Threads event: Glimpses of Utopia](#)

25th Anniversary Celebrations

Saturday 19th October 2024 was our 25th anniversary! Hoorah!



Image by freepik

Keen readers with an eye for detail will have seen that we announced in our August newsletter that we were planning for our anniversary celebrations to take place on 8th November. As we will be 25 for a whole year, we have now made the decision to postpone celebrations until next spring, which will allow us more time to plan an event and the weather will be better for travelling.

Watch this space!

Scottish Borders Climate Action Network Workshop: Work That Reconnects

Our team at Scottish Borders Climate Action Network have arranged two practical Climate Anxiety workshops this weekend with Chris Booth, on **Saturday 26th October in Stow** and **Sunday 27th October in Hawick**. Within an atmosphere of safety and trust, the workshop offers a selection of group exercises to engage participants and encourage conversation about the climate emergency.



If you are free this weekend at short notice, the workshops are free to attend and spaces are still available on both dates but booking is required.

Stow tickets: [Work That Reconnects Tickets, Sat, Oct 26, 2024 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Hawick tickets: [Work That Reconnects Tickets, Sun, Oct 27, 2024 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Find out more about all of SBCAN's upcoming workshops - and more climate related events across the Borders through SBCAN's new event calendar.

[Events-SBCAN](#)

SBCAN is funded by the Scottish Government and has the aim of supporting community-led climate action across the Scottish Borders Region.

A look back at SWSEIC's busy summer...

...but where were the moths and butterflies?

With the main period for events and activities behind us, SWSEIC staff can look back on a very busy summer (or what approximated to a summer) in 2024.



Holly Blue Butterfly ©Iain Leach

Iain-H-Leach-Bird-Wildlife-Photography-Holly-Blue-Celastrina-argiolus.png

Our new wildlife recording group helped to survey nine sites over the summer period. In Dumfries and Galloway these included Port Logan, Castle Loch (Lochmaben), Dalskairth (nr Cargenbridge), Cairnsmore of Fleet, and Williamwood Farm (nr Brydekirk). In Ayrshire, Ayr Gorge, Dunure, Craigengillan and Hannahston Community Woodland were visited. SWSEIC staff and volunteers gathered more than 2,500 records, and included some notable finds: a new Great Crested Newt site, a moth species new to our region and several species recorded for the first time in the respective vice-county. Reports of the visits to each of our sites are available on the SWSEIC website [blog](#).

We have been moth trapping with many local communities, in particular along the Solway Coast for our Solway Moths project (part funded by the Robin Rigg Community Fund). Despite the poor summer weather and smaller than average catches in our light traps, these activities turned up some interesting finds and provided excellent engagement with local communities, introducing them to an often overlooked part of our biodiversity. We hope to do further events with communities elsewhere in the region in 2025.



Community moth trapping in Corsock ©Mike Bolam

(s)Corsock Moth Trapping_MBP_9437.jpg

A common thread from our wildlife recording volunteers this year has been "where are the butterflies?". Many of the common species that we usually encounter – such as Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admirals – have been in short supply, and Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count confirmed that the picture was repeated throughout the UK (<https://butterfly-conservation.org/news-and-blog/uk-butterfly-emergency-declared>). Thankfully some local species, such as Speckled Wood and Holly Blue, have continued to do well in south west Scotland and have been reported locally in record numbers.



Surveying invertebrates at Hannahston Community Woodland ©SWSEIC

EVENTS (from SUP and our partners)

Connecting Threads : Glimpses of Utopia

SUP's Connecting Threads project invites you to celebrate the culmination of Robbie Coleman and Jo Hodges' Middle Tweed artist residency with an outdoor, evening event 'Glimpses of Utopia' on **1st and 2nd of November** at Abbotsford House.

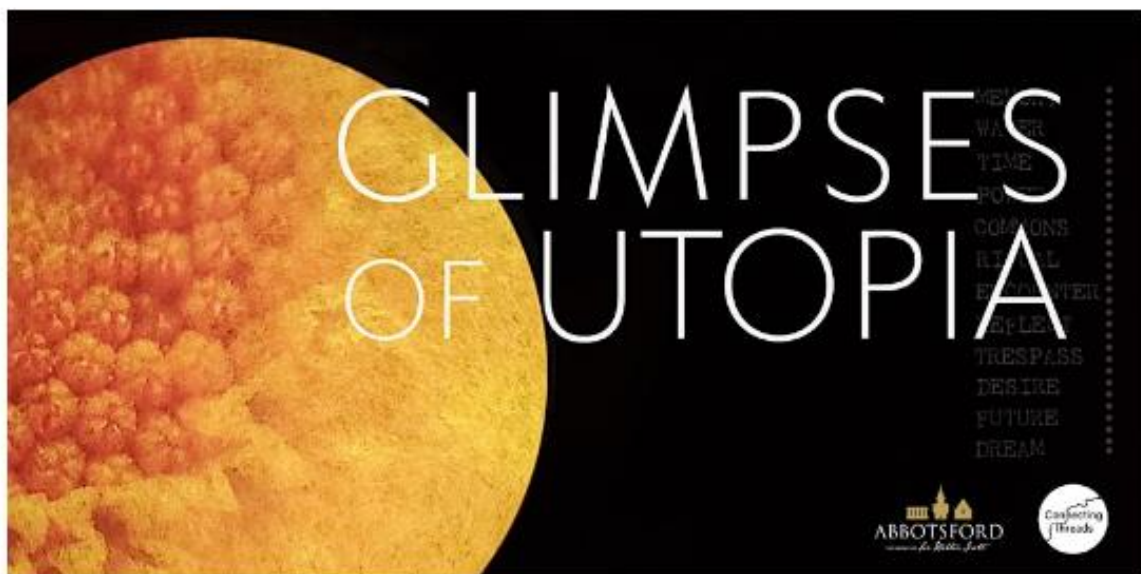


Photo credit: Robbie Coleman & Jo Hodges

This immersive installation and soundscape features ideas and images created by participants as they have untrodden the paths by the River Tweed in the company of the artists.

The event coincides with the turning of the seasons, as the Celtic festival of Samhain marks the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter.

Connecting Threads is the cultural strand of the landscape-scale project Destination Tweed.

Find out more and book:

[Coleman and Hodges: Glimpses of Utopia Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

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