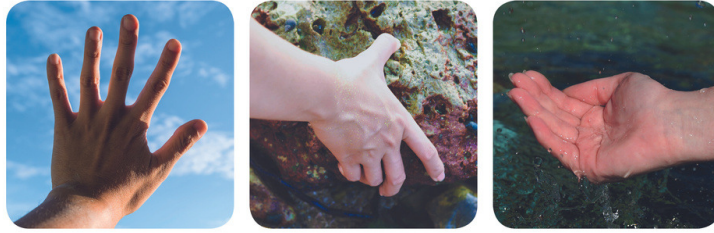


NOVEMBER 2025



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community

SUP NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025



Wild beehive in a Galloway wood. Image credit: Cara Gillespie

Hello and welcome to our November newsletter!

We hope you're enjoying the autumn colours, sights and sounds and finding ways to connect with our wonderful local nature and landscapes as the days shorten. It's amazing what's thriving, including bees, as this recent wild hive found recently by our CEO shows!

It's been a busy time across all our projects and we have a bumper edition for you this month, as we get ready to launch the EASoS Vision for forests and woodlands at our AGM on 26th November – please do join us!

Read on for all our news, including other upcoming events from The Southern Uplands Partnership and our partners, working together for a “Living Land, Living Community”.

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Notice of SUP AGM and launch of a new vision for forests and woodlands from the Environmental Alliance of the South of Scotland



Join The Southern Uplands Partnership and members of the Environmental Alliance of the South of Scotland at the Buccleuch Centre in Langholm on 26th November, for the launch of an important and timely new paper, setting out our vision and recommendations for Forests and Woodlands in the South of Scotland.

2026 will bring Scottish Parliament elections, as well as the development of new Forest and Woodland Strategies by both Scottish Borders Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council, so the time is ripe to begin to explore how policymakers, foresters, communities, and NGO's can better work together to increase environmental and community benefits from our forests and woodlands. Jaboury Ghazoul, Professor of Ecosystem Management at ETH Zurich in Switzerland, will outline his global and local experience of pioneering approaches to collaborative land-use planning, in complex multi-stakeholder contexts.

The afternoon will include The Southern Uplands Partnership's Annual General Meeting, networking and refreshments. All welcome!

For more information and to book, please go to Eventbrite [here](#) or email us at contactus@sup.org.uk.

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

Winter Tree I.D. 29th November

**WINTER
TREE
I.D.**

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Join us on 29 November for a fun, free, and informative day at **Mauldsheugh Community Woodland, in Selkirk**, to learn all about identifying trees in the winter!

Our botanical expert will guide you through the woodland, pointing out key features to look for when trees are bare. You'll be amazed at how much you can learn just by looking at the bark, buds, and overall shape of a tree. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your connection with nature!

book your **FREE** spot:
<https://wintertreeidworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Go Wild Scotland Southern Scotland Partnership The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) SBCAN

Keeping with the tree theme, on 29th November from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, join the SBCAN team for a fun and informative day at **Mauldsheugh Community Woodland** in Selkirk, to learn all about identifying trees in the winter! Our expert botanist will guide you through the woodland, pointing out key features to look for when trees are bare. You'll be amazed at how much you can learn just by looking at the bark, buds, and overall shape of a tree. This hands-on experience will give you the skills to identify trees even when they don't have leaves. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your connection with nature.

We are delighted to be partnering with The Wildlife Information Centre and Go Wild Scotland to bring you this exciting **FREE** session! It is also Mauldsheugh Woodland's community open day, so there will be plenty of other things to see and do.

Please book via Eventbrite [here](https://wintertreeidworkshop.eventbrite.com).

Ayrshire Nature Connections



Thanks to funding from Carrick Futures, the South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) team has been delivering community nature connection events in the Carrick area in South Ayrshire. The aim is to engage members of the public in places where we receive relatively few wildlife records currently, inspiring people to submit their sightings and raise awareness of overlooked and underappreciated species.

An incredible 180 people, including many children, attended sessions across Pinwherry, Colmonell, Girvan, Barr, Barrhill and Ballantrae, where we delivered four community moth trapping events, two fungi walks, a bat walk, a green health workshop (with GSAB) and a talk in Pinwherry about the results from the project, with a particular focus on those who had volunteered their time in attending the project events.

The impact of the project has been immediate. Loch Lig near Barrhill only had 2 species records prior to our visit. With the help of the community, we have now collected records for an incredible 320 species!

Not only have we formed new partnerships and strengthened existing ones, we are delighted that several local residents have expressed a desire to continue learning more about their local natural heritage. Some have already become wildlife recorders and submitted their first records.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all the partner organisations and local residents who helped us plan and promote these events. The success of the project would not have been possible without the support of the various community councils, local development trusts, private landowners and NGOs and of course Carrick Futures. We look forward to continuing to work with these partners going forward.

You can read a full report of the project on the SWSEIC website [here](#).

Tweed River Festival is a great success!



*Image: Making paper out of Himalayan Balsam with artist Lucy Baxandall.
Image credit: Ian Georgeson*

Our Connecting Threads team hosted the first ever Tweed River Festival from 31st October to 2nd November in Peebles. Several hundred people gathered over the hugely successful three-day event, taking part in creative workshops, sharing experiences and learning, exploring the river's ecology, visiting community and nature restoration projects and enjoying concerts, film screenings and artist sharings, all in celebration of the river.

Tiki Muir, River Culture Curator, said: "We are so delighted with the success of our first ever Tweed River Festival which brought together local river-loving communities with folks who travelled from far and wide to learn about and be inspired by this wonderful river. There was a beautiful energy throughout the weekend – an intergenerational celebration both of the importance of creativity and culture in all its forms and of the River Tweed"

The festival will be an annual event, travelling down river over the next two years.

As part of the weekend, our SBCAN team co-facilitated the third Springboard Local Assembly in the Borders. Organised with Culture for Climate Scotland as part of their national programme of local assemblies, this year's theme was 'Upstream, Downstream' focusing on the role of rivers as climate indicators and climate regulators. Read more about the event here: [Springboard! — SBCAN](#)

Review of Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group and latest awards



Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) distributes Community Benefit Funds from Ewe Hill and Solwaybank Windfarms (operated by ScottishPower Renewables and RES respectively) to projects in communities across Eskdale and south east Annandale. Decisions are made by a Board and Panel of local volunteers and SUP provides third-party support with grant-making, as well as capacity building and community development support to local groups.

A **Review of DECBG** was recently undertaken, which highlights the incredible impact so far. £1.4 million has been awarded to 131 community projects from Ewe Hill 16 alone, enabling a wide range of local activity. See [here](#) to read the Review report in full. Case studies highlighting some of the projects can also be found on the DECBG website [here](#). Enormous thanks to ScottishPower Renewables, RES and the local people of East Dumfriesshire for enabling this success.

We're also pleased to announce the **latest funding awards**, with Ewe Hill 16 awarding £146,483 to 14 projects and Solwaybank awarding £61,787 to 8 local projects. Awards included grants of £16,500 from each fund to Annandale Community Transport Services to contribute to the cost of a new wheelchair accessible minibus to enhance vital local transport provision. Other projects supported included a modern apprenticeship at Langholm's Buccleuch Centre, a grant to Lockerbie Little Theatre for interior refurbishments, a contribution towards a new van for the D&G Handyvan service, support for local sports clubs to buy new groundcare equipment and club house improvements, a childrens' play and outdoor learning space at Eaglesfield Primary School, and a new cooker for Canonbie Over 60s Club.

The **Ewe Hill 16 Fund is now open again for applications**, with a deadline of 31st January 2026. Guidance and further information can be found on the DECBG website [here](#).

Borders Act for Change: Seed Funding and Q&A sessions - 11 November and 4 December



We are delighted to announce that Borders Act for Change will return in February 2026! Will you join us, and thousands of others, and take action on the climate this February?

We are encouraging schools, groups and organisations to take action on the climate in the month of February to make a positive impact in the Scottish Borders and beyond! Last time, 65 organisations and over 3,500 people took part in Borders Act for Change. This year, we have increased the funding available to a maximum of £500 per group (first come, first served).

You might challenge yourselves to a litter pick, a morning of tree planting, undertaking a biodiversity survey, volunteering in a green space, or organising a film screening of an environmental film.

Applications are now open and are reviewed on a weekly basis. To find out more and apply visit the Scottish Borders Climate Action Network website: [BordersActforChange — SBCAN](https://www.bordersactforchange.org.uk)

If you have any questions about your application, Q+A sessions with a member of the SBCAN team will take place on 11 November and 4 December at 7.00 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. Please contact us to request a meeting link by emailing sbcan@sup.org.uk

Congratulations Malcolm Haddow: our Environment Champion!



We are delighted that SWSEIC's Malcolm Haddow was recently nominated for the award of Environment Champion at Dumfries & Galloway Life magazine's 2025 awards. As the nomination said "Malcolm lives and breathes nature" and has a talent for sharing his impressive knowledge and enthusiasm with local people and community groups in approachable and accessible ways. We didn't envy the judges' job, as our friends at D&G Woodlands were also nominated, as was Maggie Munro, a tireless volunteer with The People's Project. Maggie was the well-deserved winner on the night and enormous congratulations to her. It was lovely for Malcolm to be recognised in this way - thank you to his mystery nominee!

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/southernuplands).

