



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

# SUP NEWSLETTER

## *Project updates...*

Welcome to the latest Southern Uplands Partnership projects updates!

As we move out of Spring and into Summer, we hope better weather allows you to get out and about to experience some of the amazing things there are to do in South Scotland! Please enjoy the latest SUP news below, including among other things: progress on the South West Scotland coastal trail, Eagle Champion badges for scouts, an exciting multifaceted Black Grouse recovery project and an introduction to our newly updated website!

[www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)



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## *IN THIS EDITION...*

### *SUP led/hosted project updates:*

- *South West Scotland Coastal Trail*
- *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project*
- *Loch Ken Alive/ Loch Ken Trust*
- *South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC)*
- *DECBG Community Officer*
- *Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area*
- *Connecting Threads*

*Southern Uplands Partnership Team Updates: Pip, Sheila, Katy, Darren*  
*Introduction to the updated SUP website*

### *Events:*

- *Public launch of the Loch Ken Plan*
- *Moffat Golden Eagle Festival and environment market*

*Funding and Training opportunities:*  
*And finally...*

## *South West Scotland Coastal Trail*

RICHARD CLARKE

During the short period that the project has been operating, key achievements have been made in establishing a route, and on getting the project visible to the wider communities and stakeholders that will be key in the delivery of this project.

- Surveys conducted on core path from Gretna to Dumfries.
- Scoping work carried out on the options of connecting the missing links.
- Trail reports and costing completed for all sections from Gretna to Powfoot.
- Meeting with stakeholders and local landowners.
- Applications for funding submitted for improvements to current core paths, and also future events.
- Appointments to visit local Community Councils and agencies to promote the project, and get feedback on the proposals.



There has also been promotion of the project in the local press, social media and presenting the vision of the South West Scotland Coastal Way to over 180 delegates at the SSDA conference in March. Discussions have also been developing with various stakeholders and local landowners of the possibilities of utilising their areas of operation to formally recognise an access right across their lands, which has been met with only positive responses.

The plan going forward is to continue with on the ground surveys to establish a route that will be feasible to develop, with the buy-in from the retrospective land owners, local communities and to work closely with the various stakeholders and funders that will be key in helping this vision become reality.

## *South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project*

[WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK](http://WWW.GOLDENEAGLESSOUTHOFSCOTLAND.CO.UK)

Working in partnership with Scouts Scotland, the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project launched the Eagle Champions badge for Cubs in 2018.

Since then, we have seen almost 200 Cubs achieve their badge, completing 3 golden eagle games and activities such as building their own eagle eyries and learning about the different birds of prey in their area.



Congratulations to Langholm, Melrose and West Linton who have all achieved their badge in May. They join Innerleithen, Lauder and Moffat as well as Cubs from across Scotland who completed a special online Eagle Champions during lockdowns.

If you are involved with a Cubs group and interested in taking part, please contact [philip@sup.org.uk](mailto:philip@sup.org.uk).



## *Loch Ken Alive/ Loch Ken Trust*

BARNABY FRYER

Barnaby Fryer – Loch Ken Trust officer,  
Introduction to the Loch Ken Plan:

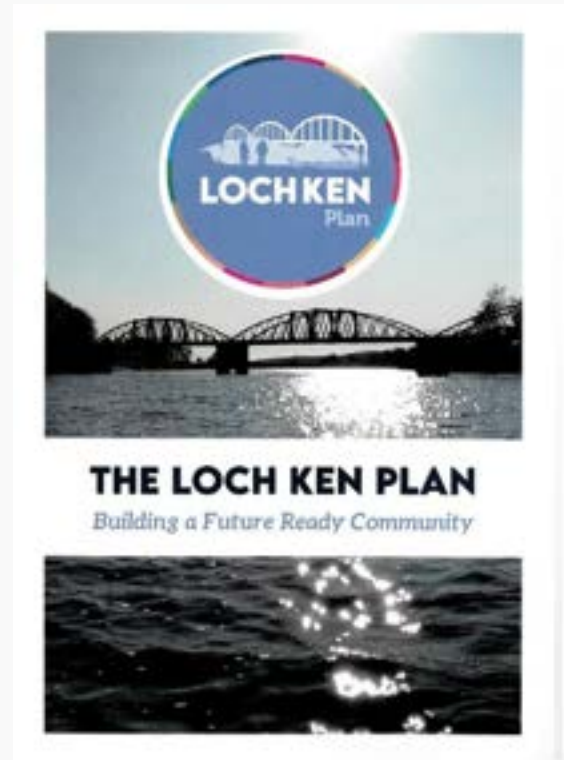
Finally, after almost 2 years in the making,  
the Loch Ken Plan is finished!

The Loch Ken Plan aims to set out the  
priorities, objectives and actions for the  
Trust, over the coming decade. The Plan is  
not just about the management of  
activities on the water of Loch Ken itself,  
important though that is to our work. It is  
also about guiding the Trust to deliver on  
its purpose to ‘...support sustainable local  
communities.’ This includes all the  
communities that enjoy Loch Ken, from  
the people who live and work here, to  
those who are just visiting.

A digital version of the Plan is available at:  
<https://lochken.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Loch-Ken-Plan-Digital-version-2022-May.pdf>

We hope you enjoy reading it and are  
inspired to get involved with our work.  
Writing the Plan is the easy bit. The real  
work is in actually delivering the Plan and  
that will need all of us working together!

(see Events section below for info on the  
public launch of the Loch Ken Plan!)



## *South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC)*

### **Glengarnock Castle Bioblitz**

SWSEIC, along with Gill Smart of Scottish Wildlife Trust, led a bioblitz at Glengarnock Castle, near Kilburnie, on Sunday 22 May, as part of the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership. The event was timed to coincide with archaeological excavations at the castle. Around 130 species were recorded. Highlights included Whorled Caraway *Carum verticillatum*, a scarce plant in Ayrshire. A summary of the results from the day can be viewed [here](#).



**Kirkcudbright Bay family bioblitz** - This 'nature hunt for everyone' took place on Saturday 4 June, as part of the Kirkcudbright Bay Wildlife Weekend. In partnership with our friends at Solway Firth Partnership, SWSEIC ran family-friendly wildlife activities at Nun Mill Bay (The Dhoon), timed to celebrate the international World Oceans Day and supported by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership. There were guided walks, shell displays, and children's activities with the Freelance Ranger.



## *DECBG Community Officer: Developing Local Projects*

JAMIE DENT



The Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group, with support from Southern Uplands Partnership, has been distributing funds to surrounding communities from the ScottishPower Renewables Ewe Hill 16 windfarm since 2017. In January 2022 Jamie Dent was appointed to the post of Community Officer with the task of supporting local groups in the development of projects and in accessing funding both from Ewe Hill and from other funders. The post was created following a lengthy community consultation which identified a shortfall in capacity and specialist knowledge.

Since he came into post Jamie has been working to engage with local groups and is currently supporting more than 14 projects at varying stages of development across the 16 communities in Eskdale and Annandale covered by the fund. "My main aims at this stage are to engage with as many groups and communities as possible, to increase the amount of external match funding and to increase the scope and scale of local projects".

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## *DECBG Community Officer: Developing Local Projects cont.*

JAMIE DENT

The projects under development at the moment address a broad range of issues from village hall improvements to projects tackling skills, employment and isolation issues. "I am hoping to encourage groups by taking inspiration and examples of best practice from elsewhere and adapting them to the region to make best use of the opportunity presented by injection of windfarm funds directly to community groups. Communities are in a position to make lasting changes and improvements as a result of this unprecedented influx of funds to rural areas. I hope to enable local people to make the most of these resources."

Jamie grew up in Nithsdale and has a background in urban planning, sustainable development and rural affordable housing.

*The next deadline for applications to both Ewe Hill 16 Community Benefit Fund and Solwaybank Windfarm Community Benefit Fund is **31st July 2022**. Further information available from [www.decbg.org.uk](http://www.decbg.org.uk) or by contacting Jamie at [jamie@decbg.org.uk](mailto:jamie@decbg.org.uk)*



## *Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area*

DONALD GREIG

**The Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area** project has just been awarded further funding from Rewilding Britain to continue exploring ways in which the Moffat-Tweedsmuir-Ettrick area can benefit from a nature-based economy. Over the last 18 months a number of potential projects have been identified, and over the next 12-15 months several of these will be taken forward, including:

- The development of a Charter to which anyone can sign up to show their support for the Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area and surrounding valleys.
- A series of talks focusing on topics relevant to the project area and to the broader Southern Uplands in general.
- Ongoing discussions with local landowners, businesses, community groups, residents and stakeholders.
- Further development of the digital Talla-Hartfell Ecomuseum, the first phase of which was completed earlier this year and can be viewed at [tallahartfell.ecomuseum.online](http://tallahartfell.ecomuseum.online)
- Scoping a circular walking trail around the Wild Land Area and surrounding valleys.
- Development of a mapping project to map habitats, landowner boundaries and tree planting across the area.
- Capturing drone footage at various points across the area.

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*Keith Duncan from Moffat Museum talking to the audience at the launch of the Moffat Ecomuseum, part of the Talla-Hartfell Ecomuseum project.*



## *Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area cont.*

DONALD GREIG

The Talla-Hartfell local steering group, made up of representatives from the communities of Moffat, Tweedsmuir, Ettrick and the connecting valleys, meets every 1-2 months, sometimes in person at different points across the area, sometimes by Zoom. If anyone would be interested in attending these meetings, or if anyone would like more information about the project in general, please contact Project Officer Donald Greig in the first instance on [dgatwork@btinternet.com](mailto:dgatwork@btinternet.com)

## *Connecting Threads*

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TWEEDRIVERCULTURE/](https://www.facebook.com/tweedriverculture/)

Rachel and Emily are working away behind the scenes at the moment, and are currently putting together a short, illustrated essay documenting their recent research trip to Slovakia – so be sure to keep a look out for that!



## *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR / SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

### **Pip's news...**

It has been nice to be back working at Lindean Mill (although mostly on my own so far!). There has been an awful lot going on as you will see below. There are also a lot of "irons in the fire" which may result in new projects and contracts coming forward soon.

We are waiting to hear whether Connecting Threads has been awarded lottery funding as part of the Destination Tweed project. If it has (and after a brief celebration) we will be back at work securing the necessary match-funds which are needed to allow us to take on the full CT Team. If we manage that – I won't be quite so alone in the office!

### **Sheila's news...**

The last quarter has seen the end of the 2021/22 financial year; processing of Ewe Hill 16 and Solwaybank grant applications for Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group; Board meetings for both Southern Uplands Partnership and Southern Uplands Partnership Services Ltd; and the review of some HR policies and writing of new ones. Preparation is now underway for the annual financial audit...

***STOP PRESS !!! Confirmation has just been received that Southern Uplands Partnership has been accredited as a Living Wage Employer - more on this next time...***

### **Katy's news...**

#### **Call out for hybrid/blended meeting venues:**

We've been looking into hybrid/blended meeting venues across South Scotland – as well as being more inclusive in allowing clinically vulnerable people to safely join meetings during the pandemic, having a network of these facilities across South Scotland would allow people the choice of not travelling the (sometimes large) distances within our beautiful geography. As well as saving time, this would be of huge benefit in terms of reducing Carbon/ achieving Net Zero. If you run or have experience of any great venues in South Scotland that have hybrid/blended meeting capability or technical expertise, please get in touch at: [katy@sup.org.uk](mailto:katy@sup.org.uk)!

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## *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR/SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

### **Katy's news cont...**

#### **South Scotland Climate Action Hubs:**

In mid-May, Pip and I attended the first meeting set up by the Scottish Government's Climate Change Division to establish a Community Climate Action Hub in Dumfries and Galloway. These are intended as a way to support communities to make the transition to low carbon and climate resilient living by providing a vehicle for communities to come together and engage in collective climate action. A Scottish Borders Climate Action Hub is already in the pipeline and a SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) Climate Action Network Coordinator for the Borders was appointed to start on the 6th of June (Gordie Campbell - an old friend of Southern Uplands Partnership!) A further Dumfries and Galloway meeting is planned – if you would like to be involved in either, send me an email at [katy@sup.org.uk](mailto:katy@sup.org.uk)



#### **Connecting Environmental degree programmes with Organisations on the ground:**

We've also been further exploring ways to better connect our excellent South Scotland academic institutions' environmental science, environmental humanities and sustainable tourism degrees with the many well-established South Scotland environmental organisations in order to establish better links for research and collaboration and ultimately better routes to green jobs in South Scotland – again, watch this space!

## *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR / SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

### **Darren's news...**

**Website revamp:** The refresh of the old [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk) website continued apace over the last few months and, after a lot of work, is now live - more details over the coming pages....

**Projects:** I've been working up a number of project plans for a broad range of activities spanning environment, communities, species protection and tourism. Some of these are SUP generated and led pieces of work, while others are part of a wider partnership.

**Black Grouse:** the recent work by Jen Clark, developing a Black Grouse recovery project called 'Undoing the Silence of the Uplands', worked with a long list of landowners and stakeholders to look at the species data and identify possible ways forward to aid the species' recovery. We are now taking this a stage further to work this up in to a multifaceted landscape project that is ready for pitching for funding. The project could include everything from volunteer opportunities and tree nurseries, to trees in classrooms and a soundscape arts project based on the distinctive black grouse call. This will be a partnership with Borders Forest Trust, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, John Muir Trust, RSPB Scotland, and Tweed Forum.



**Tourism awareness and training:** We have been working up a plan to potentially deliver a tourism training package to businesses and individuals with a tourism interest across southern Scotland. This presently has three strands, talks about the tourism product in South Scotland, a series of "fam trips" enabling those in visitor facing roles to act as ambassadors and promote the area, and a series of local tour guide training sessions across Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

# *Southern Uplands Partnership Core Team Updates*

PIP TABOR/SHEILA ADAMS / KATY EWING / DARREN FLINT

## **Darren's news cont...**

**Other bits and bobs...** I've also been working with a couple of communities that are interested in creating Community Project Officer roles for their area to help groups with funding bids and unlock funding for larger scale projects. I've also been working on recruiting some freelance community consultants (see recruitment section below), and a big tendering pitch, but I can't really say any more about that one until we know if we have been successful (or not!).

If you'd like to know anymore about the above contact Darren at: [darren@sup.org.uk](mailto:darren@sup.org.uk)

## *Introduction to the updated SUP website*

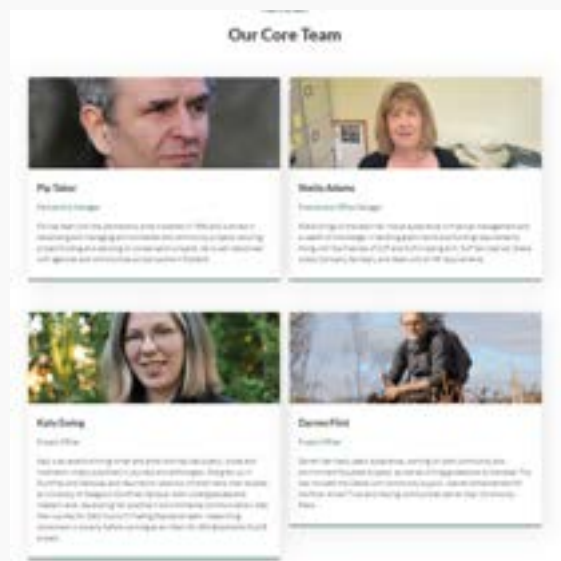
[WWW.SUP.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SUP.ORG.UK)

Since the beginning of 2022 we have been beavering away behind the scenes to give our website a bit of a polish and bring it up to date. We were finding the old site didn't quite allow us to shout loud about all the projects we are delivering and do them justice. The new website has all the pages you would expect to see and hopefully plenty of things you didn't know about us.

Here's a taster...

See the '[About Us](#)' page to find out more about the small core team and the management board, you can also find information about our vision, goals and strategy.

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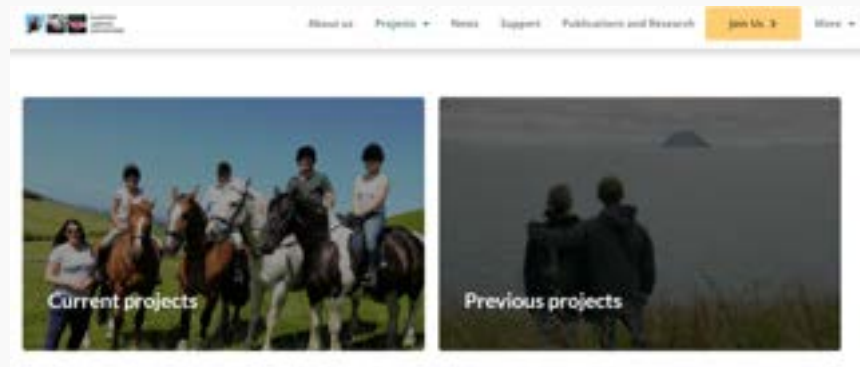


## *Introduction to the updated SUP website cont.*

[WWW.SUP.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SUP.ORG.UK)

### **Updated website cont.**

The '[Projects](#)' page not only has all the up-to-date information about our 15 live projects, but all the historical projects delivered over the last 23 years – did you know SUP had been going that long?



In '[Publications & Research](#)' you can delve through our most recent papers, an archive of some 60 documents, our core business documents and past newsletters.



There are also pages for '[Supporting Us](#)', '[Events](#)', '[Recruitment](#)' and '[SUP Services Ltd](#)'. The latter is the trading arm of the charity and enables us to use our skills and contacts to undertake short-term pieces of work for other bodies operating in the fields of rural regeneration, environment and communities. Any income generated from this undertaking is invested back in to our core charitable work.

Hope you enjoy having a browse around!

## *Public launch of the Loch Ken Plan 23rd June*

**23rd June 2022, 12noon, Crossmichael Memorial Hall, DG7 3AZ**

A chance to hear about the ambitious aims of the Loch Ken Plan, seeking to achieve all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and guiding a decade of action towards being the first Future Ready Community'.

Event Open to all – just stop by. Any queries, contact [Barnaby.fryer@lochkentrust.org.uk](mailto:Barnaby.fryer@lochkentrust.org.uk)

**A chance to hear about the ambitious aims of the Loch Ken Plan, seeking to achieve all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and guiding a decade of action towards being the first 'Future Ready Community'.**

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**LOCHKEN Plan** **LOCHKEN Trust**

Loch Ken Trust is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) No. SC050211

### SCHEDULE

12noon: Light lunch and networking, copies of Loch Ken Plan distributed

12.30pm: Mungo Bryson, chair of Loch Ken Trust, welcome and sets the scene

12:40pm: Barnaby Fryer, Loch Ken Trust Officer, gives a snapshot of work now underway on the Loch Ken Plan to turn the plans into reality

1.15pm: Questions welcomed + discussion

1.45pm: Event ends

**PLANET** **PEOPLE** **PROSPERITY**

## *Moffat Golden Eagle Festival 16-18 Sep 2022*

After the success of the 2021 event, we are thrilled that from the 16th -18th September 2022, Moffat will again be host to the Golden Eagle Festival and environment market – come and see us there!

More info at:

Moffat Eagle Festival Returns ([goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk](http://goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk))



**Watch highlights from the Moffat 2021 Golden Eagle Festival**



(click on image to see video!)



## *Funding and Training opportunities*

### **Investing in Communities Fund Round 2**

This major community funding pot opened for applications at 2pm on Tuesday 31 May 2022 for applications with projects commencing after 1st April 2023 and running for up to three years to a value of £350,000. **The deadline to submit your application is 2pm on Tuesday 28 June 2022.**

The four areas for action are:

- Tackling Poverty & Inequality, including Child Poverty
- Developing and Sustaining Place Based Approaches
- Community-led Regeneration
- Ensuring a just transition to Net Zero

More information can be found at

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>



## *Be part of our work!*

Along with our core projects, the Southern Uplands Partnership also regularly undertakes short term pieces of community / environmental / rural regeneration work. This might be ad hoc research, community consultations, environmental feasibility studies, running stakeholder engagement events etc and to enable us to deliver these we require a bank of experienced and knowledgeable freelance community consultants to call on from time to time.

There is no closing date for applying to these roles. For an informal chat, please email [piptabor@sup.org.uk](mailto:piptabor@sup.org.uk) to arrange a convenient time to discuss. For more information visit [www.sup.org.uk/recruitment](http://www.sup.org.uk/recruitment)



## *Become a Patron*

AND SUPPORT ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN THIS NEWSLETTER



### WHY BECOME A PATRON?

- be part of a strategic rural charity with 20+ years experience.
- help communities make sustainable use of their natural and cultural heritage.
- join a partnership that includes exciting projects such as golden eagles and River Tweed culture; biological recording and equestrian tourism; an ecomuseum and walking trail development...

*further details: [contactus@sup.org.uk](mailto:contactus@sup.org.uk)*

### Our Current Patrons



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01750 725154 [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk)

AND FINALLY...

## And finally...

A great photo of Southern Uplands Partnership team members (Pip Tabor & Julie Nock) along with partner architect Randal Boydell (Country Architecture), supporting the Borders Construction Forum meeting which took place at Borders College STEM Hub in Hawick in May.

A blended meeting - hence the screen, and a useful discussion was had on reaching net zero in relation to retrofit of housing!



Join us, it's free! Use the QR code below or go to:  
SUP mailing list sign-up form ([mailchi.mp](https://mailchi.mp))

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SUP Membership

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