



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community

SUP NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Ramson woodland Image Credit Mark Pollitt

Hello and welcome to our Spring newsletter!

We hope you are enjoying some of the wonderful weather we've been having, enhancing all the wonderful sights, sounds and smells of spring in the Southern Uplands. We are particularly enjoying the aromas of bluebells and wild garlic (ramsons) in local woods, accompanied by the sound of returning cuckoos.

A little like nature, we are also emerging into full leaf and flower- with our teams busily planning upcoming events and activities for this spring and summer.

We have highlighted just a few opportunities here but please do check out our individual programme calendars for more, including the many partner-led events and activities we support. If you are in Dumfries & Galloway or Ayrshire, keep any eye on <https://swseic.org.uk/news-events/calendar/> and if you are in the Scottish Borders keep an eye on <https://www.sbcan.co.uk/events> and <https://www.tweedriverculture.org/whats-on>

www.sup.org.uk



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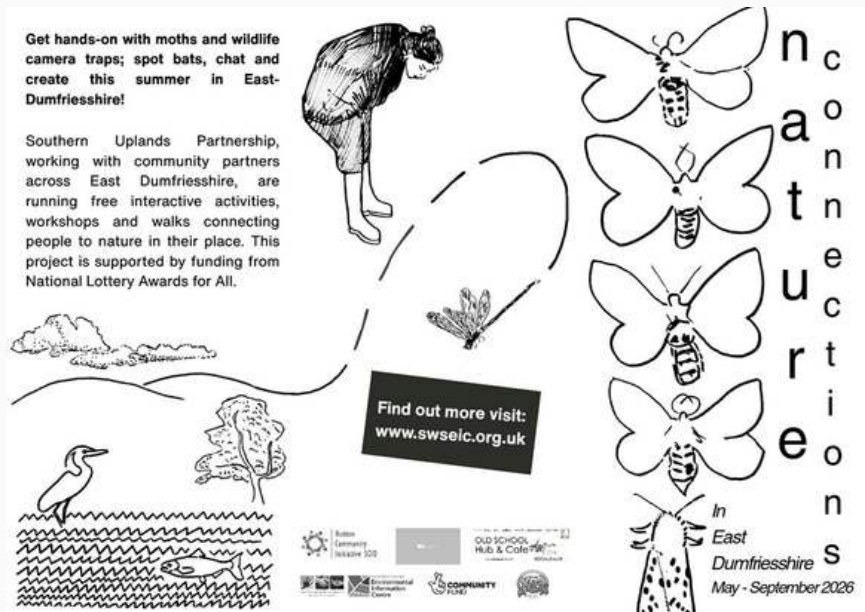
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- [*Nature Connections in East Dumfriesshire*](#)
- [*Scottish Borders Climate Action Network Youth Seed Fund now open!*](#)
- [*Incubating CABN - could you be a founding Trustee?*](#)
- [*Job Opportunities at The Wildlife Information Centre*](#)
- [*Interested in bats? Learn how to identify them with the Bat Conservation Trust*](#)

Nature Connections in East Dumfriesshire



Working with community partners across East Dumfriesshire, we are delighted to be running free interactive activities, workshops and walks connecting people to nature in their place. This project is supported by funding from National Lottery Awards for All.

Between May-September 2026, there will be activity at Eskdalemuir Community Hub, Boreland Village Hall, Xcel Youth Outdoor Space, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, Eaglesfield Village Hall and Brydekirk Village Hall.

All sessions are free. Information on accessibility, age range and booking can be found via SWSEIC's website- [Nature Connections – East Dumfriesshire - SWSEIC](https://www.swseic.org.uk)

Eskdalemuir Community Hub

Nature Friendly Gardens
Friday 15 May
Nature Friendly Gardening Talk 2-3pm, all gardeners.
Bug Hotel Building with Lisa 2-4pm, all ages.

Introduction to Wildlife Recording
Sunday 7 June, 10-1pm, Ages 16+
An indoor talk followed by a practical outdoor session highlighting the value of recording wildlife and showing you the basics.

Moth Day!
Friday 4 September, 10-2pm, All ages
Get hands on with a garden moth release, learn about different moth species and moth crafts
Collect a camera trap to take to your own garden, to see what wildlife you can find!

What do we have here?
Thursday 24 September, 6-8pm, All ages.
Tea/Coffee and biscuits provided.
A social evening to share your own wildlife experiences, watch local camera trap footage and hear about what rare and super-star species have been found in the local area, a chance to add your sightings and nature stories to our 'people's field guide'.

Boreland Village Hall, Eskdale

Intro to Wildlife Recording, 7th June, 2-5 pm, Ages 16+. Including camera trap volunteer training and collection

Nature Art: Paper Making, 13 June, 2-4 pm, Ages 16+

Nature Walk, 21 June, 10-1 pm, Ages 16+. Please book in advance: www.swseic.org.uk, 15 max.

Bat Walk, Talk and Crafts, 3 September, 7.00-8.30 pm, All ages, children accompanied by an adult. Please book in advance: www.swseic.org.uk, 15 max.

What do we have here? Local wildlife highlights talk + community sharing event, 13 September, 2-5 pm, All ages

Xcel Youth Project - Langholm
P3 and below should be accompanied by an adult
Nature Walk, 7th July, 1-4pm, All ages
Outdoors Day - Moths! 6th August 1-4pm, All ages

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

Minibus transport to the reserve will be available.
Dragonfly Walk and Talk, 4 July, Lower Reserve, 10-12pm, All ages
Bioblitz, 1 August, Starting from the Langholm Initiative Kiosk/ Kilgreen carpark. Drop in 10-4pm, All ages

Eaglesfield Village Hall

Moth Day, 13 June, 10-1pm, All ages
Bat Walk, Talk and Crafts, 12 June, 8.30-9.30pm, All ages, children accompanied by an adult. Please book in advance: www.swseic.org.uk, 20 max.

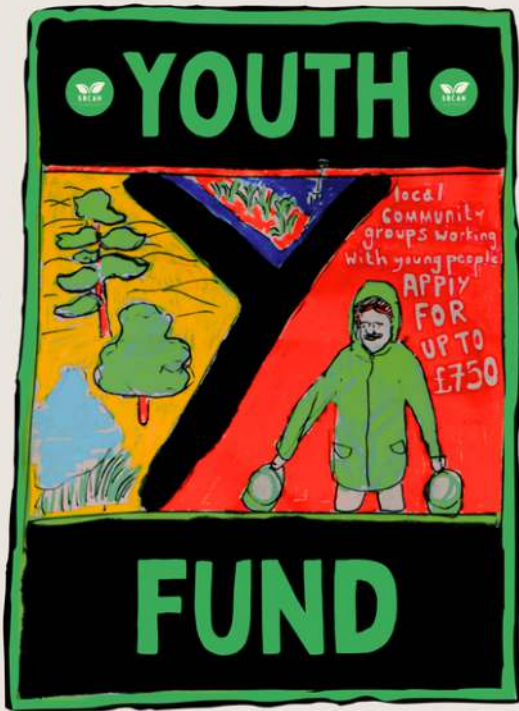
Brydekirk Village Hall

What we have here? Talk and Nature Walk, 17 May, 10-12pm, 16+. Please book in advance: www.swseic.org.uk, 20 max.
Moth Release & Willow Weaving at Brydekirk Village Fete, 12 September, 12-4pm, All ages

*Some of our outdoor sessions may be less accessible due to uneven ground, please contact us to talk about any access requirements.

All sessions are completely free!

Scottish Borders Climate Action Network Youth Seed Fund now open!



Applications open on May 11th and close on June 7th.
Head to www.sbcan.co.uk/funding to find out more.



Building on the incredible success of this programme in previous years, this year's seed fund for Borders community-led climate action retains a youth focus. Groups, clubs, schools and organisations working with young people in the Borders can apply for up to £750. This fund will support projects or activities that include:

- Community Action
- Developing Sustainable practices
- Encouraging Climate Resilience and Adaptations
- Learning new skills and discovering nature

We will be particularly keen to support projects which show:

- Youth-led projects where young people are involved in taking ownership and deciding what they want;
- Collaborative working between groups;
- Inter-generational working;
- Organisations that promote inclusive activity with under-represented groups

Applications close on June 7th. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by June 19th.

For more information and to apply: go here <https://www.sbcan.co.uk/funding>

This fund is made possible by the Scottish Government.

Incubating CABN - could you be a founding Trustee?

Longstanding supporters will know that we have played a central role in helping other charities establish over our 25 year history, including the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project (now Restoring Upland Nature) and currently we are supporting CABN Creative Arts Business Network to independence.

Trustees will play a key role in helping CABN move confidently toward independence as an anchor arts organisation in the Scottish Borders. This is an exciting time to get involved in shaping CABN's future. We expect the time commitment to be not more than 1/2 day per month. If you are interested in finding out more then please get in touch directly with CABN Project Lead Sharon May at sharon@cabn.info

Job Opportunities at The Wildlife Information Centre

Our friends at The Wildlife information Centre are recruiting for two new posts: an IT & GIS officer and a part-time Biological Records Ecologist. For more information and to apply, please go to their website here:

<https://wildlifeinformation.co.uk/about-us/working-with-us/vacancies/>

Interested in bats? Learn how to identify them with the Bat Conservation Trust

This looks a great event for anyone in or near D&G. For further information and to book, go to <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bctevents/2201497>



USING YOUR EARS
BAT MONITORING WORKSHOP

Scan me!


THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2026
THREAVE GARDEN,
CASTLE DOUGLAS,
DUMFRIES DG7 1RX

All welcome!
No experience necessary!

Learn to identify bat species using a bat detector.
Start indoors with a presentation, then go outside at dusk to practice your skills.

7.45pm - 11.30pm
£16 (concessions £6)

Bat Conservation Trust
www.bats.org.uk
Reg Charity No 1012361
Photo credit: © Daniel Harrington & John Altringham / bats.org.uk

If you would like to support the work that Southern Uplands Partnership does, you can donate at the button below:



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