



**SCOTS HOUSE PRICES UP 12% IN RECORD RISE** according to a recent article on The Scotsman website. And prices are expected to rise by 18% over the course of the year, compared with a UK forecast increase of 16%, says the Bank of Scotland arm of the HBOS group.



Lyndy Renwick

For those who own their homes this is no doubt excellent and exciting news. But for many who are looking to get on the property ladder in the rural south of Scotland prospects are not so bright. How sustainable are our small communities if young people are unable to find a home? And what sort of community will it be for those young families who do remain?

In this newsletter we report on some issues and initiatives relating to rural housing.

It is by no means all doom and gloom, however. People in rural communities are working to influence the situation. In November 2003 a group of long term residents within the Glenkens area formed a group to look at the problem in their locality, seeing affordable housing as a precursor to recreating an inclusive and positive community within the Glenkens. This group is interested in developing:

- Rural Home Ownership Grants
- A community self-build programme which would combine Rural Home Ownership Grants and developing building skills for young people
- An investigation of the effects of the Smallholding Policy and the Affordable Housing Plan for National Forest Land
- Highlighting the need for affordable housing in villages which would in turn attract more social housing initiatives to retain young people.

The Glenkens Housing Group is chaired by Lyndy Renwick who says "We started the group last October after talking about how the lack of affordable rural houses was becoming a major issue. We decided if no one else was doing anything we would do it ourselves. People need to stand up and be counted to make change happen. The group is open to anybody who shares the same objectives."

Lyndy can be contacted by phone on 01644 420242 for more information. If you are involved with an organisation that is making things happen, and would like to share your experience through the SUP newsletter, please let us know.



## SUCCESSFUL AGM AND MEMBERS DAY IN MOFFAT



Sarah Boyack MSP speaks at the 2004 AGM.

Following a fascinating visit as guests of Mr Brian Ryder at his new Hammlands development on the outskirts of Moffat, members returned to Moffat Town Hall for the AGM, buffet supper and evening open meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Sarah Boyack MSP, who reported on the work of the Scottish Parliament Environment & Rural Affairs Committee, of

which she is Convenor. Retiring SUP Convenor Barbara Kelly then spoke on the past and future of the Partnership. In response to this, and lively discussion arising from questions from the floor, Ms Boyack made the following recommendations to the Partnership

- Be proactive about involving local and list MSPs.

- Participate in the development of the Rural Development Plan to maximise opportunities for the Southern Uplands.
- Target key issues of local concern and pursue these relentlessly.
- See changes in demographics as challenges and opportunities - quality of life citizenship issues.

The meeting closed with a presentation by the Directors of the SUP to Barbara Kelly to mark her role in the start up of the Partnership and her time as Convenor.



Bracken rolling and helicopter spraying. Two of a number of practical demonstrations at the bracken control demonstration hosted by The International Bracken Group in association with SUP and other in the College Valley, Northumberland in July.

# DIRECTORS COMMENT VICKY DAVIDSON

At last it seems that the housing crisis besetting rural Scotland is finally struggling to the top of the political agenda. It's an issue that can no longer be ignored as rural house prices disappear into the stratosphere fuelled by under provision and over demand. The small farm cottage near Ettrick Valley where I spent my early years recently went on the market at offers over £175,000 and sold within weeks!

Recent rural housing needs surveys have pointed up the range and depth of our housing problems – the deteriorating condition of much privately rented accommodation, the 'hidden households' where adults continue to live with their parents for lack of any other available house, the decreasing number of cottages to rent, and the 'affordability gap' faced by local families trying to buy within their own community. There are simply not enough houses to either buy or rent at affordable prices for young people wishing to set up home within our rural communities.

What can be done? The Scottish Executive has recently consulted on a new policy statement, 'Planning for Rural Development' which many will see as a step in the right direction. Meanwhile Communities Scotland, the government body charged with looking after housing matters, has several grant schemes intended to help increase the rural housing stock – most notably the 'Rural Home Ownership Grant'(RHOG) and the 'Rural Empty Properties Grant'.

The RHOG is intended to help people living in rural areas to become first time homeowners and is meant to bridge the gap between the maximum level of mortgage the applicant can raise and

the cost of a modest starter home. (If the house is sold within ten years the grant is clawed back.) It's a great idea and if a number of would-be home-owners work together they can further reduce the cost of building the houses.

Yet again, however, the South of Scotland can only look with envy at the level of support already in place in the Highlands. There the grants are administered by the local housing associations and take-up is running at several hundred per year. In contrast only 2-3 are allocated each year in the Borders. If we really want to encourage young families to live in our rural communities here in the Southern Uplands then we have to do our best to make sure there are houses available and start upping the level of practical support on offer.



**Vicky Davidson**

*SUP Director and Cllr with Scottish Borders Council*

Further information on RHOGs or on any issue relating to rural housing is available from Derek Logie at the Rural Housing Service [0131-477-4506](tel:0131-477-4506) or [derek@ruralhousingscotland.org](mailto:derek@ruralhousingscotland.org)

(The 'Rural Empty Properties Grant' is designed to encourage private landlords to bring their empty properties back into good condition and provide long-term rented accommodation for the benefit of the local community.)

## NEW DIRECTORS

Sir Michael Strang Steel has joined the Board of Directors of the Southern Uplands Partnership. Sir Michael, a farmer, landowner and keen forester has served as Forestry Commissioner for 11 years and is currently a member of the Deer Commission for Scotland. He is Chairman of Scottish Forestry Trust and Royal Scottish Forestry Society Trust Co. Cashel and also Trustee of Borders Foundation for Rural Sustainability.

The recent AGM also saw Robert Hall re-elected as an Individual Director and Wilma Finlay and Veronica (Vicky) Davidson elected formally as Group Directors. Mr Hall runs a hill sheep and beef farm in Dumfriesshire and markets Falklands wool. He is also a Trustee of the Glencairn Community Trust and has strong interests in sustainable agriculture, natural history and field sports. Mrs Finlay has lived in Galloway for 12 years and has helped her husband David to diversify the family farm into dairy processing and tourism. Their business, Cream o' Galloway, is now 10 years old and employs 16 full time permanent staff and 30 seasonal staff. Mrs Finlay is also involved in the Gatehouse Development Initiative. Councillor Davidson grew up in the Ettrick Valley and retains a close ties to the family farm. Following a career as an event organiser and radio producer she returned to the Borders where she is currently a councillor with Scottish Borders Council where she pushes for a greater input to and awareness of the needs and potential of the rural areas.

Since the AGM, Judith Nicol, MBE has been co-opted on to the Board of Directors. Ms Nicol has spent her career working with and promoting the interests of rural industries and communities and the environments on which they depend. She has worked in the Scottish Office Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, NFU Scotland, Scottish Office and from 1994 – 2003 as Clerk to the River Tweed Commissioners & Director of the Tweed Foundation, the first appointment of a full time river fisheries manager in Scotland.

## STATISTICS SHOW GROWING AFFORDABILITY GAP

To get a handle on the changes in wages and house prices we consulted Bill Mitchell at SOSEP who provided the following information for the Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders local authority areas.

Between April 2001 and April 2003 average gross weekly earnings of full time employees, as recorded by the New Earnings Survey, rose by 3.2% from around £359 to £371 (this compares to a rise in Scotland as a whole of 8% over the same period). House prices during this period rose by 28%, from an average of £76,230 to £97,526 – almost nine times wage rate rises.

Earnings figures have not been released for April 2004 yet, but a rise of around 3% on the April 2003 figure can be assumed (which is probably at the top end of expectations). House prices in the year to April 2004 rose by around 28% (£97,526 to £125,252), probably about ten times the rate of increase in average earnings.

As Bill explains, "Put another way, in 2001 average house prices were about 4.1 times average full time earnings. In 2004 average house prices will probably be around 6.3 times average earnings".

South Lanarkshire Council report that their local authority has also seen the percentage increase in house prices well outstrip percentage increases in pay. Some rural house areas have seen the greatest growth. For the region as a whole (excluding new build) house prices increased by 21.2% for the period 2000-2002. There was considerable variation within rural areas ranging from Carluke East (8.3%) to Biggar-Carmichael (44.6%). Average new build house prices in South Lanarkshire increased from £92,594 in 2000 to £131,336 in 2003.

# Initiative follows Highland lead

**Dumfries & Galloway is home to the only Shelter Housing Action with Rural Communities (SHARC) Project Officer in Scotland. Wendy Jesson reports on the Dumfries & Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust, which she believes will be a model for similar trusts in the south of Scotland.**

"Dumfries & Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust is one of the many solutions to the problem of affordable rural housing which the SHARC project is currently developing.

This community led Trust, which takes its inspiration from the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, is an agency for promoting housing investment and the provision of affordable housing in small villages and settlements. The Trust will purchase sites for development by and with housing associations, sell plots to private owners accessing grants for affordable housing and also make land available for other community needs including care facilities and community centres.

The Trust will also buy properties for letting directly or through a housing association, purchase properties for use by essential key workers and also retain specially adapted housing for community use – where it may otherwise have been sold on privately.

Benefits of the Trust, both to communities and agencies would include partnership working (the working group includes community councils, community initiatives, Dumfries & Galloway Council Housing Services, Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership, Communities Scotland, Loreburn Housing Association, the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association, the Nithsdale Council for Voluntary Services and Dumfries & Galloway Elderly Forum) with communities on small projects which might otherwise not have been viable, the ability to act swiftly to secure land and property, an increase in the opportunities to further develop close working and shared objectives between villages and agencies and also a flexibility in responding to the needs of local employers.

The main purpose of the Trust is to take direct and practical steps of intervention on behalf of disadvantaged smaller communities within Dumfries & Galloway which will help them realise good, long term

solutions to their local, housing-related problems.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, upon which the DGSCHT is modelled, was established in 1998. It has a thriving land banking and development programme and currently holds assets in the region of £2 million. The Trust currently employs three full time staff who together cover the whole of the Highlands & Islands region.

As Development Officer I have been working with the DGSCHT Steering Group for the last six months. By the end of the summer we will have a fully functional agency which will help to address the acute problems of Rural Housing which affect many small communities throughout Dumfries & Galloway. When people do not have a reasonable hope of securing a good home in their preferred community they may well leave, and the community's social and economic well being will be seriously affected.

The Trust is due to be legally formed and funding from a variety of sources will begin to be sourced from that date. Membership of the board of the Trust is open to all community councils and initiatives within Dumfries & Galloway and individual membership of the Trust is open to all residents within the area. Bi-Annual newsletters will be distributed to keep members up to date on the Trust's progress and a formal launch will be held later this year. Meetings are held every six weeks in Castle Douglas as this is viewed as one of the central meeting points within the region.

Sheltered Housing Action with Rural Communities (SHARC) offers a range of support to rural communities and to individuals interested in training as volunteer community activists. Advice is also available to landowners and developers interested in providing affordable housing in Dumfries and Galloway, or elsewhere across the south of Scotland.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Trust, please contact me, Wendy Jesson, on tel. 01776 704881, mobile 0779 028 0182 or by post at P.O. Box 7871, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, DG9 7HY."

The Rural Housing Conference, planned for the 29th October in Castle Douglas is open to agencies, community groups and interested members of the public. Contact details as above.



Wendy Jesson



## Are you a Borders food producer or retailer?

NHS Borders has an ongoing commitment to improve the health and quality of life of people living in the Scottish Borders. One of our top concerns is the difficulty that exists for both consumers and retailers trying to purchase locally grown fruit and vegetables. This was highlighted in the report 'Barriers to the Consumption of Fruit & Vegetables in the Borders' based on research carried out for the NHS Borders in 2002.

Local research shows retailers are increasingly demanding local food sourcing information while farmers are increasingly looking to identify local sale opportunities. As a step towards addressing the issue, NHS Borders Health Promotion is developing a register of local producers. Local farmers will be given the opportunity to be placed on the register by completing a questionnaire about the foods they produce. A similar opportunity will be given to food retailers.

Once the information is received it will be entered onto a database and initially used to make up a paper directory for

local community groups and projects. In order to encourage local partnership working, a copy of the directory will be sent to participating farmers and retailers. The more information we have, the more opportunities we can create for farmers to sell their produce to local people and businesses.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please ring NHS Borders Health Promotion on 01835 824485 or write to Health Promotion Department, Tweed Horizons, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SG requesting the questionnaire. Should you be interested in further information about this or other access and availability projects please contact Anila Khan on the above telephone number.





## SEWAGE SYSTEM BLOCKS RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN D&G

The Scottish Executive is about to launch a twelve week consultation on Scottish Water's third investment programme, which will cover the period 2006-2014. The current programme known as Quality and Standards II has been directed towards improving the quality of beaches, rivers and drinking water mainly to ensure compliance with European Union Directives. Very little of the budget has been directed towards creating capacity at sewage treatment works.

This situation has had implications for house building, the provision of affordable housing and economic regeneration initiatives as development in many of the region's towns and villages is proving difficult and in some cases impossible due to a lack of capacity in the sewage system.

As the investment programme is currently financed by the Scottish Executive and the contents of the programme is decided by Ministers it is important that all customers and users of Scottish Water's services respond directly to the Scottish Executive on the consultation. Responses need to highlight the impact the lack of investment is having on the economy of Dumfries and Galloway and request the rural areas receive the same priority when it comes to funding as urban areas.

Once the consultation has been launched, Dumfries and Galloway Council will write to all Community Council's, house builders, planning agents, businesses and other interested parties outlining the current situation and urging them to write or e-mail the Scottish Executive and their local MSP.

To receive a copy of the consultation document or for further information on the consultation people should contact the Water Services Division of the Scottish Executive by telephoning 0131 244 0238 or emailing [q&s3@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:q&s3@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) For further information contact Shona Bryden, Planning and Environment, Dumfries & Galloway Council. Tel. 01387 260170

*"Of the total land which is allocated and approved in local plans across Scotland, only 14% of it is actually able to be serviced by Scottish Water"*  
Graham U-Ren, of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Scotland.

## RAISING THE STANDARD IN PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING

Jonathan R Hall, Head of Rural Policy, Scottish Rural Property & Business Association.

For many years, the Scottish Landowners' Federation (SLF) championed the role of the private rented sector in meeting affordable housing needs in rural areas. With the passing of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, the profile of this sector rose sharply as all local authorities set about their obligation to produce Local Housing Strategies (LHS), including Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils. The task of the SLF continues with renewed vigour as the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA).

In parallel with legislation, the Scottish Executive and its housing agency Communities Scotland have developed national core standards and support for accreditation schemes, aimed at allowing private sector landlords to voluntarily opt to work with a quality framework.

Communities Scotland invited all local authorities to express an interest in developing up to 4 two-year pilot landlord accreditation schemes across Scotland. The areas selected would reflect different market conditions and housing issues, and emphasise a partnership approach. Dumfries and Galloway Council and the SRPBA, having already been in close contact in the development of that particular LHS, consequently submitted a joint bid. The successful application was announced by Ministers in Edinburgh on 27 May 2004.

For many parts of Scotland, the rural private rented sector is often the largest provider of rented housing and often does so more 'economically, efficiently and effectively' (the objectives of LHS) than other providers. The SRPBA's membership accounts for some 9% of all private rented accommodation across the country as a whole – a figure that would rise sharply on a 'rural Scotland' basis.

The SRPBA acknowledges that, standards of housing provision in the private rented sector can vary significantly – with some properties falling below the tolerable standard. An SRPBA priority is to ensure that not only do its members play a key role in meeting rural housing needs, but they do so to an assured standard.

The SRPBA's engagement with Dumfries and Galloway Council will further highlight the crucial role played by the private sector in providing good quality affordable housing.

The pilot scheme should encourage even greater partnership working. Tenants will enjoy a better standard of accommodation built on current legislation, good practice and common sense.

Jamie Carruthers is member of the SRPBA in Dumfries & Galloway and will be helping to manage the pilot scheme there. Of the pilot, to be called Quality Rent South West, Mr Carruthers said "This exciting project has the potential to deliver many additional benefits to tenants, the Council and to landlords through improved access to information, a better understanding of the housing market in the private rented sector and the use of technology to co-ordinate the provision of affordable rented housing, especially in rural areas."

Proposals for mandatory registration of private sector landlords are currently under consideration by the Scottish Parliament – a measure to solve a problem that does not apply to the vast majority of rural housing providers. The SRPBA views proposed landlord registration as potentially diverting funds which could be used for property improvements, or acting as a disincentive to let at all.

On the other hand, voluntary accreditation will allow the private sector to deliver affordable housing to agreed standards, offering tenants an assured level of quality.

The SRPBA considers that voluntary standards will go further than mandatory registration by providing a statement of good practice for letting property. Guidance will show how standards can be built into local housing initiatives that recognise landlords who accept best practice.

The door should open for both landlord and tenant, resulting in affordable housing of an assured quality.



Jamie Carruthers, who is helping to run the D&G pilot.

# “The irony is that today we can't get any assistance to develop affordable housing.”

Andrew Bradford owner and manager of Kincardine Estate and leader on Housing Policy within the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA).

Kincardine Estate, by Deeside standards, a relatively small estate of some 3,000 acres has all the land uses expected of us - farming, forestry, shooting and fishing. However our biggest enterprise is the provision of rented housing. Including tenant farmhouses (6) and tied houses (2) we provide housing for 70 households.

The majority of these houses are rented at affordable rents (i.e. below open market rents) to try and meet local needs. Being only 25 miles from Aberdeen it would be easy to let our houses for higher rents to commuters but that wouldn't help those who don't.

About 50 of the houses are traditional granite houses and cottages. These are the properties I inherited in 1979. They were all in poor condition and the average rent of £106 a year hardly covered the insurance. There was no income or capital with which to carry out improvements. Having sold some houses to get some capital we started work. Since then most of the houses have been improved. The process is ongoing, for, as expectations and standards rise, then the list of work to do grows.

In 1994 we began to increase our housing stock. We converted a farmhouse and steading - both derelict - into 5 units, 3 of which are rented at genuinely affordable rents. We then built 3 new houses. We were able to make use of Scottish Homes GRO grants for market rent. They argued, from their market research, that rents could be higher while we, from our local knowledge and experience, argued that local rents were lower. We prevailed.

In 1999 we constructed a 14-house development of affordable housing. By now GRO grants were unavailable but we managed to get a Research Grant from Scottish Homes, for this was for the development of housing evolved from one of their projects. We achieved affordable housing at a rate of 48 houses per £1M of public money - at a time when Housing Associations (HA) in our region could manage only 26.

I like to think we are doing a good job by providing quality rented housing, at affordable rents and with a high quality of management. With our new houses we are providing barrier-free housing and have even met Local Authority requests to house disabled folk when they can't. We also take nominations from the housing list. All of this we do with a low level of

public assistance.

The irony is that today we can't get any assistance to develop affordable housing. Annual Government expenditure on rented housing runs at £187M but 99% of this is directed at HAs. The HAs, for perfectly understandable reasons, focus their activities on the cities and larger towns and settlements. In rural Scottish communities below 1,000 people it is the Private Rented Sector (PRS) that is the dominant provider of rented housing. The PRS is 11 times as large as the HA movement and yet receives virtually no help.

Furthermore the taxation system is such that the long-term provision of affordable housing by the PRS is under threat. How are we to meet Inheritance or Capital Gains Tax demands of around 40% of the value of the properties while trying to deliver affordable rents? We can't and properties will, most likely, have to be sold to meet those demands.

Scottish Housing strategy is in a mess when major providers of affordable rented accommodation are excluded from assistance and threatened with destructive taxes.

It could easily be so different. In return for grant aid, at a level that's somewhat less than that handed to HAs, we could develop affordable rented housing while meeting conditions of rent, nomination and quality.

I know of many farmers and landowners across Scotland who would be prepared to put their land and money behind such a scheme.

What a tragedy for the rural homeless - that the Executive continues to ignore this opportunity to deliver value for taxpayers' money and house more of those desperately seeking housing where they belong, in their rural communities.



Photographs: Andrew Bradford

# Project News

## SUP SEMINARS AND VISITS

**22 September**

### Visit to The Kielder Biomass District Heating Scheme

SUP in association with Reforesting Scotland

A visit to Kielder, the UK's most remote village, which has the country's first wood fuelled district heating scheme. Numbers are strictly limited for this visit and priority will be given to Community Councils. Transport available from Castle Douglas.



**13 November**

### Community Gain from Wind Farm and other major development

SUP in association with Scottish Borders Rural Partnership and Scottish Borders Community Council Network  
Earlston High School, 10.00am – 4.00pm



**17 November**

### TRAIL RIDING – TOURISM BUSINESS SEMINAR

Practical and up-to-date information for providers of trail riding holidays or route accommodation and those considering offering these services.

Chaired by Ian Stark OBE, Co-hosted by Barony College

At Barony College, Parkgate, Dumfriesshire.

10.00am – 4.00pm



Full details of these events can be found on our website [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk) closer to the time, or call us now to note your interest.

## COMMUNITIES ON THE EDGE

At the time of writing the shortlist of applicants for the post of Project Officer for this exciting new initiative has been drawn up and the new member of the SUP team should be in place by early autumn. The Communities on the Edge project audits under used resources on estates and works to match them with new business ideas from within the surrounding communities. The project particularly aims to tap into entrepreneurial women. Buccleuch, Roxburghe and Douglas & Angus estates are committed to the project in year one and additional estates may join the scheme in year two.

Recent funding from the Carnegie Trust has allowed the Partnership to build a greater training element into the programme and the new Project Officer will work with participants to draw up a tailored scheme to suit their requirements.

Project partners are: Scottish Enterprise Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Enterprise Borders, Scottish Enterprise South Lanarkshire, Leader + Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire, Buccleuch Estates Ltd., Douglas & Angus Estates, Roxburghe Estates and The Carnegie Trust.

## PARTNERSHIPS IN PROGRESS

We are currently progressing with the following partnership projects: -

### South of Scotland Countryside Trails

Partners Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council, British Horse Society, Tweeddale Communities, SNH, Forest Enterprise, Paths for All Partnership, Solway Heritage and Tweed Forum

### Heather Moorland

Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council, South Lanarkshire Council, RSPB, Borders Forest Trust, Forest Enterprise, GCT, SNH, SGA, Buccleuch Estates, The Heather Trust, National Trust for Scotland.

### Black Grouse

Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council, RSPB, SNH, Forest Enterprise, GCT, DGC, National Trust for Scotland.

### Southern Upland Way 2004/5

Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, SUW.com, SNH, Scottish Enterprise Dumfries & Galloway, Dumfries & Galloway Tourist Board, Scottish Borders Tourist Board

### Red Squirrels in South Scotland SNH

**Southern Uplands Booklet and Website**  
SNH, South Lanarkshire Council, Forward Scotland

## Forward Scotland announce new funding round

Forward Scotland have announced the launch of a new round of the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme (CERS). The Scottish Executive's Development Directorate has allocated £4.1 million from the proceeds of the Aggregate Levy to the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme (CERS) grant fund to assist projects in areas of Scotland which have been affected by aggregate extraction. The maximum grant will be £100,000 per applicant spread over three years, with the maximum amount drawn down in one year of £50,000.

The scheme has a broad remit including mitigating the effects of transport from quarries on the local communities, increase access to the local environment and improve local habitats and amenities.

For further information on CERS visit <http://www.forward-scotland.org.uk> or contact Lorna Wallace or Pat Munro on 0141 222 5650.

## EQUESTRIAN TOURISM MARKET RESEARCH

The market research looking into the potential for trial riding enterprises in the south of Scotland has now been published and can be found at [www.visitscottishborders.com](http://www.visitscottishborders.com) or can be reached from a link on the Southern Uplands Partnership website at

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

## SEPTEMBER IS SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH IN THE SOUTHERN UPLANDS

Through contact with local authority archaeologists in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, the SUP has been learning about how archaeological services are delivered by national and local government and thinking about how to raise the profile of this resource. As a first step it was suggested that more could be made of 'Scottish Archaeology Month'.



Drumtroddan Standing Stones, near Monreith.  
Photograph: Jane Brann

Scottish Archaeology Month (SAM) is a celebration of Scotland's rich and diverse archaeological heritage. Co-ordinated by the Council for Scottish Archaeology, it aims to make archaeology more accessible to the public,

encouraging awareness, understanding and appreciation of Scotland's historic environment. SAM takes place as part of the wider European Heritage Days event, which sees similar events co-ordinated in 48 European countries every September.

A diverse series of events has been organised in southern Scotland. In Dumfries and Galloway local experts will lead guided walks around the medieval towns of Annan, Wigtown, Whithorn and Kirkcudbright. On the edge of

Dumfries, the history and significance of Lincluden Collegiate Church will be explained. For the more energetic, there will be walks into the hills looking at the archaeology of Kilhern Moor, St Conal's Church Kirkconnel, the 'Faulty Towers' around Moffat, and the Roman remains on Burnswark hill. Stranraer Museum is organising a handling session of prehistoric objects, whilst another opportunity for 'hands on' will be 'Roman Around Annan Museum'. The recently launched Eskdale Prehistoric Trails will also feature.

Dr Richard Oram will give the annual Whithorn Lecture (11th September) on 'A Monastery and its Landscape', and a pilgrimage walk going from the Priory ruins to the Isle Whithorn on the following day will give a chance to explore the landscape.

Events have also been organised in the Scottish Borders and in South Lanarkshire. By the Trimontium Trust, the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society and others.

Details of all these and more events in southern Scotland in September will be available via a booklet, available through local museums, libraries and TICs from early August and via the event web site: [www.scottisharchaeology.org.uk](http://www.scottisharchaeology.org.uk). Queries about the individual events should be directed to the organisers, but if you have any other questions about SAM or would like to be sent an events guide, contact the Council for Scottish Archaeology on 0131 247 4119. Look out for local advertising posters!

## ANCIENT WOOD PASTURE AND VETERAN TREE TRAINING DAYS

SNH has recently offered a training day covering an introduction to this habitat and its associated veteran trees. The day will provide an understanding of the potential sites identified in the SNH inventory, habitat management and grants available for maintenance and expansion, as well as a site visit. This first day has been fully booked, but further days may be arranged if there is sufficient interest. If you would like to take part in a training day please contact Mike Smith at SNH [mike.smith@snh.gov.uk](mailto:mike.smith@snh.gov.uk) or tel. 0131 446 2426.

## Scottish Food Fortnight goes live @ [www.scottishfoodfortnight.co.uk](http://www.scottishfoodfortnight.co.uk)

Scottish Food Fortnight, which runs from 18 September to 3 October, is a national campaign funded by the Scottish Countryside Alliance Educational Trust. There are events up and down the country all promoting Scottish food and drink. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the quality and diversity of Scottish food, promote local food to local people thereby reducing food miles, and encourage more people to enjoy preparing and eating Scottish food.

Tony Andrews, Chief Executive of the Scottish Countryside Alliance said: "I hope that many people visit this website and find out what's going on in their area and are able to support their local events, but most of all I hope that they are energised by the website. Whoever you are and whatever you do, if you want to support Scottish retailers and producers - get involved."



Claire MacDonald, award winning cook and food writer is the Patron of Scottish Food Fortnight.

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

A Scottish Business in the Community initiative, the Senior Executive Programme, utilises the skills and experience of retired or semi-retired managers and professional people to advise and assist community groups, charities and voluntary organisations. In certain circumstances help can also be given to small enterprises. A range of expertise is offered including management, finance, IT, marketing and human resources. Help is given on a part time, voluntary basis with out-of-pocket expenses normally being covered by the client organisation. The average commitment looked for from a volunteer is around two hours per week.

The Programme operates throughout Scotland with area co-ordinators appointed by Scottish Business in the Community managing the recruitment of volunteers and matching their skills with requests received from client organisations. In Southern Scotland Senior Executive Programme groups are active in the Borders (co-ordinator Ian Skinner - 01835 822823), Dumfries & Galloway (co-ordinator Brian Pattinson - 01776 702167) and in Lanarkshire (co-ordinator Bob Paterson - 01236 702140). Organisations needing help or individuals interested in participating as volunteers should contact their local co-ordinator in the first place. The Programme

is currently looking for further volunteers particularly in the Dumfries and Jedburgh areas but would be happy to hear from anyone - just pick up the phone!



# Membership

The Southern Uplands Partnership is a membership organisation and depends on subscriptions for a significant part of its core funding. Members elect the Directors, receive regular newsletters and play a major role in determining priorities. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one. If you sign and return the Gift Aid declaration it allows us to get extra support from the Inland Revenue.

To apply for membership either use the form below or visit [www.sup.org.uk](http://www.sup.org.uk) and complete the form on-line.

**Membership Category** please tick box: Individual member  Group member   
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- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> conservation/environment | <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology           | <input type="checkbox"/> forestry/woodlands | <input type="checkbox"/> equestrian      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> buildings                | <input type="checkbox"/> sustainability        | <input type="checkbox"/> communities        | <input type="checkbox"/> local foods     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture/land use     | <input type="checkbox"/> water/fish            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics          | <input type="checkbox"/> housing         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> land reform              | <input type="checkbox"/> renewable power       | <input type="checkbox"/> access             | <input type="checkbox"/> tourism         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employment               | <input type="checkbox"/> local arts and crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> ornithology        | <input type="checkbox"/> rural transport |

## The Southern Uplands Partnership

The Southern Uplands Partnership was established as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status in 1999, with the aim of promoting sustainable land-use in the Southern Uplands of Scotland and thereby keeping people living and working here.

Company No 200827 Charity SC029475

**The Southern Uplands Partnership**  
Studio 2, Lindean Mill, Galashiels TD1 3PE Tel: 01750 725154 e-mail: [piptabor@sup.org.uk](mailto:piptabor@sup.org.uk)

