



PRESS RELEASE

To be released after 18th February 2019

Bowland Hedgelaying Competition Keeps Traditional Craft Alive

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership are hosting the finale of the Lancashire & Westmorland Grand Prix Hedgelaying Competition, on Saturday 2nd March at Cockshotts Farm in Sabden.

The Grand Prix Competition, organised by the Lancashire & Westmorland Hedgelaying Association, is run as a series of seven competitions throughout the hedgelaying season, from the beginning of October to the end of March. Each competitor lays between 6 and 10 yards within a five hour period on each competition day. At each event the competitors acquire points for neatness, quality of cuts, the use of stakes, straightness of the hedge and adherence to the Lancashire and Westmorland style. At the end of the seven competitions the points are accumulated to crown an overall champion for each of the five classes: championship, open, starter, novice and junior.

Dave Padley who is a committee member of the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedgelaying Association says "The hedgelaying competitions help sustain the craft and are a great way to help bring new and young people into the tradition."

Join in and celebrate this traditional craft at Cockshotts Farm from 9am – 3pm, and see the hedgelaying competitors in action. Find out about hedgerows and their importance to wildlife, and have a go at hedgelaying and drystone walling. There will also be a guided walk through Sabden valley at 10.30am, a children's nature trail, and stalls in St. Nicholas Church Hall from the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, Dry Stone Walling Association, Hedgelaying Association and local business. Refreshments will be available in the church hall all day. Parking is not available on site, however there are car parks in the village which is a short walk away. Visitors are welcome to drop in at any time.

The landscape partnership's Traditional Boundaries project wishes to thank the Gill family for providing Cockshotts Farm as the venue and to the Lancashire & Westmorland Hedgelaying Association for organising the competition.

Ends

EDITORS NOTES

PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

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- The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is led by the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- The partnership aims to:
 - I. restore, enhance and conserve the heritage and landscape of Pendle Hill
 - II. Reconnect people with their past and their landscape
 - III. Bring the two sides of the hill together
 - IV. Create a sustainable future for the environment, heritage and for visitors' experience of Pendle Hill
- The scheme was awarded a National Lottery grant of £1.8million by the Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2018. These funds will be delivered from 2018-2022 and will be matched with a further £1m raised locally.
- The scheme is made up of a dozen projects which safeguard the area's wildlife and heritage and improve people's access to this popular countryside area. We will do this by providing opportunities for training and volunteering; by supporting research and devising creative and digital interpretation to inspire a new generation about our heritage; by restoring important landscape features, and by working with communities to re-tell the stories of radical Pendle people. The scheme will increase pride in this special place and raise aspirations amongst communities, and it will bring in new investment to support the environment and the economy.
- The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Lottery Fund and by the Forest of Bowland AONB. Partners include representatives of parish councils, the landowning and farming community, Pendle and Ribble Valley Borough Councils, Lancashire County Council, statutory bodies, tourism businesses and volunteers.
- Projects will be delivered by the AONB team, plus local delivery partners including In –Situ Arts, the Dry Stone Walling Association, Mid Pennine Arts and Ribble Rivers Trust.
- The Pendle Hill LP covers 120 square kilometres, stretching from Gisburn down to Whalley, and from Clitheroe across to Nelson and Padiham.
- The Hill is well known as a beauty spot and is heavily visited by residents of the local towns: it is a perfect place for walking and cycling. The area's heritage is dominated by the story of the Pendle Witches, but there are lots more stories to tell including the founding of the Quaker movement, non- conformists and radicals, Roman and Bronze Age settlers, medieval farming systems and early industrial developments. The network of dry stone walls and hedgerows give the area a distinctive feel, and the landscape is also important for its wild moorland, rare birds and woodlands.
- For further information contact the LP Scheme Manager cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk on 07891 537835 / 01200 420420 see the project website at www.pendlehillproject.com or visit our Facebook page 'Pendle Hill Project' for up to date news and views.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported.