



PRESS RELEASE and PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

25th September 2018

MEET YOU AT THE TOP!

The Pendle Hill landscape partnership are inviting friends and supporters to 'Meet You at the Top' for a celebration on Saturday 6th October. The event is being held to officially launch the new £2m Lottery supported scheme which is aimed at improving the landscape and heritage of Pendle Hill.

The scheme wants to bring together communities from both sides of the hill, so the event consists of treasure trails which start at both Downham on the Ribble Valley side, and from Barley on the Pendle side: to literally meet at the top of Pendle Hill. There will be plenty of marshalls posted along the route to help walkers along their way, and fun and games are planned on the summit if the weather is good!

Joining in the event will be Councillors James Starkie and Stuart Carefoot, the Mayors of Pendle and Ribble Valley, who aim to be at the top by 12 o'clock midday to meet the first walkers.

The landscape partnership has already carried out extensive footpath repairs on the hill itself, installed a stone seating area at the summit and now peat restoration works are also underway. All these works will be explained to visitors on Saturday, and staff will be available to answer any questions. The partnership has also been busy this summer with an archaeological excavation and artist in residence at Malkin Tower farm cottages near Blacko, and with a series of family and volunteering activities around the area. A new website has been set up with further information about the scheme at www.pendlehillproject.com and people are also being invited to visit and upload photos of themselves reaching the trig point.

Everyone is welcome to join in with 'Meet You at the Top'. Walk start points will be located for 30 minutes at the village car parks at 10am in Downham, and at 10.30am in Barley. Just turn up with food, drinks, strong shoes and waterproofs and collect your free 'ticket to the trig' at either of the start points. Completed tickets will receive a reward. Walkers will be guided to the top, but are then free to return unaccompanied.

ENDS

EDITORS NOTES

- 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.