



## PRESS RELEASE

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Give Pendle Hill a helping hand!

Try something new in 2019! The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership has lots of opportunities for you to get out into the landscape and volunteer on and around this amazing hill. The Pendle Hill volunteers get involved in practical, conservation based tasks in a wide variety of places in the PHLP area. The team also offer opportunities for volunteers to help deliver sessions for families and outreach groups.

In 2018, the volunteers have been involved with lots of different activities – tree planting, path maintenance, cutting and baling grass and rushes, hawthorn and scrub removal – all with aims to bring sites into better condition for wildlife or to repair popular paths for walkers. The Pendle Hill Volunteers meet at least twice a month, on the first Sunday and third Wednesday of the month, and are always looking to invite new volunteers to come along! The volunteers meet across the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area, which covers the hill itself and villages such as Gisburn, Downham, Blacko, Roughlee, Simonstone and Read.

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership also offers opportunities for volunteers to help with Family Friendly Nature Events (for 5-12 year olds during school holidays) and Little Saplings (woodland play and outdoor learning for Under 5s). If volunteers can't commit to regular volunteering days, there are opportunities to adopt a walking route and manage and maintain it for other walkers.

There are lots of benefits to volunteering out in your local landscape. As well as giving back and helping us look after our environment for future generations, volunteering also provides benefits to our own mental and physical well-being. Regular volunteer Jude Blades says that 'volunteering on a project which is outdoors is the perfect stress buster'.

On first joining the PHLP volunteers, committed volunteer Ian Blades 'was a little worried about joining an established group but was immediately made to feel very welcome, all of the volunteers and the PHLP team have made sure that every volunteer day is rewarding and fun'.

If you are interested in learning more about the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership volunteering opportunities please email [volunteer@pendle-hill-lp.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@pendle-hill-lp.co.uk) or call 01200 420420. More information can be found on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership website.

## 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](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk) on 07891 537835 / 01200 420420
- Visit the project website at [www.pendlehillproject.com](http://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](http://www.hlf.org.uk) Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported