



PRESS RELEASE

8th July 2019

Call out for Hedge-layers

If you know anything about farming or rural skills you may be surprised to know that the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership is looking for skilled hedge-layers at this time of year. However the partnership team, working with the Dry Stone Walling Association (they do hedges too!) are planning to start work on laying up to 5 kilometres of hedges from this September so they need some help.

The Pendle Hill traditional boundaries project is currently identifying the most important and needy walls and hedges in the area that need a bit of 'TLC'. They are selecting field boundaries based on their importance in the landscape, to wildlife and also to the farmer; plus they need to be repair-able. In the case of hedges this usually means the hedgerow shrubs need to be not too old, but tall enough and ready to lay.

Hedges around Pendle are usually made up of hawthorn and blackthorn, but holly, hazel and other species also appear. Laying the hedge, cutting part way into the stem and literally laying the bush on its side into the line of the hedge, encourages new shoots to sprout up vertically. This re-creates a strong and stock-proof barrier that is also a wonderful corridor for birds, insects and small mammals such as our increasingly rare hedgehog.

Hedge-laying is still a popular craft locally, and the project wants to hear from skilled contractors who are willing to take on a number of lengths over the next two and a half years. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please get in touch with the project at pendlehill@lancashire.gov.uk or call them on 01200 420420 for further details see xxxxxxxx

If you have always wanted to have a go at hedge-laying, the project will be running a free two day course for beginners in October, so keep an eye on their website and Facebook page.

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 National Lottery Heritage 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 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
- Visit 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 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



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