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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Success for New to Walking Festival

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership New to Walking Festival - Together for Our Landmark – took place between Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th September.

The 'New to Walking' Festival was a one-off festival organised last month over 9 days and included 16 free events. The festival provided a fantastic opportunity for people to join knowledgeable guides and to learn more about the area's fascinating natural and cultural heritage as well as building confidence to venture out on self-guided walks in the future.

One of the aims of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, has been to look at spreading some of that visitor pressure from the same 'honeypot' sites on and around Pendle Hill, and encouraging people to seek out all the opportunities that the area has to offer.

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Officer said: *'We wanted to build on the connections to the outdoors and regular walks from home that people had enjoyed during Covid lockdowns. The guided walks were an opportunity for people to continue with the regular walks they had enjoyed and to develop their confidence to explore new walks, as well as learning more about the natural and cultural heritage of the Pendle Hill area.'*

The 9-day festival offered a whole variety of walks from archaeology to herbal medicine, mindfulness to traditional boundaries and family-friendly walks. The guided walks started from locations all around the foot of Pendle Hill including Nelson, Barrowford, Sabden, Roughlee and Downham and were all under 6 miles.

Hetty said: *'We were delighted by the number of people who came along and enjoyed the walks, some of which had only been enjoying regular walks for a short amount of time. The feedback we received from participants was very encouraging and many reported that they had enjoyed the variety as well as gaining ideas of where to venture out in the future, along more peaceful paths at the foot of the hill. It also provided an opportunity for people to walk and talk and make new friends and connections.'*

Here are just a few things that people had to say about the events:

'Just a quick thank you for arranging these walks, the ones I attended were all interesting in their own way and always with beautiful photogenic scenery. The guides and helpers all did a brilliant job leading us and giving historical insights.'

'Thank you so much for today. I can honestly say it was a life changing experience. It tied together so many thoughts I've had about using the outdoors as a healing place.'

Cathy Hopley, programme manager for the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme said: *'We would like to say a big thank you to all the walk leaders and volunteers who provided expert*

knowledge and guidance at the events, it is much appreciated and helped to make the festival very memorable and enjoyable to all who took part.'

You can view a selection of images from the different events here:

<https://www.forestofbowland.com/new-walking-festival-photos>

For details of future events, please follow our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pendlehillproject>

Family Walk at the Milking Parlour, Sabden – Image Credit: Mark Harder



Mind, Body, Connection Walk – Image Credit: Mark Harder



Canals, Locks and Reservoirs Walk, Barrowford – Image Credit: Forest of Bowland



NOTES FOR EDITORS

For more information please email nichola.gill@lancashire.gov.uk or hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

- 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 National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead and resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund



TOGETHER FOR OUR LANDMARK

