

Press Release

19 October 2007

Shropshire Hills Christmas Wood Fair

Want a fun family day out, looking for Christmas presents which make a difference, or want to understand why using wood helps tackle climate change ... then come along to the Shropshire Hills Christmas Wood Fair on Saturday 17th November.

The Wood Fair is being held at the Green Wood Centre, Station Road, Coalbrookdale. The event is free and runs from 10.30 – 4.30pm. There will be lots of activities going on throughout the day including craft demonstrations to show charcoal processing, chair making, creative willow and more. Story telling and family craft activities will keep the children busy and you can start your Christmas shopping by browsing the various stalls selling beautiful local gifts.

A series of seminars will run through the day to highlight why using wood is good in terms of helping to tackle climate change. Ewan Bent, from Midlands Wood Fuel, kicks off the seminars at 11am with a talk on 'Wood energy – Fuel for the future'. This is followed by a talk from Mark Broadmeadow, from the Forestry Commission, on 'Climate Change: the benefits of substituting wood products for high energy products'. At 12 noon Andy Grundy, from Heartwoods, will lead a tour of the Green Wood Centre site and woodlands, looking at sustainable construction, wood energy and solar heating systems.

In the afternoon, Gerwyn Lewis from the Green Wood Centre will talk about sustainable building with wood, followed by Jim Waterson, from Harper Adams, who will talk about the impact of climate change on Woodland Management. To close the seminars there will be another chance to tour the site with Andy Grundy.

The event is being supported by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and the Green Wood Centre with the aim to promote products from sensitively managed, local woodlands. Working together, these organisations along with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, the Small Woods Association and Heartwoods are developing a woodlands project to ensure sustainable management of our local woodlands.

Parking for the event is at Dale End car park (pay and display), with disabled parking only on site at the Green Wood Centre. For more information on the Wood Fair please contact the Green Wood Centre on 01952 432769.

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For further information contact Mike Kelly, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ Tel: 01588 674091. E mail SHAONBO@shropshire-cc.gov.uk
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The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 41 AONBs in England & Wales. This designation is recognition of the national value of the area's landscape, and brings duties on local authorities to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

The management of the AONB is guided by a statutory Management Plan produced by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership which comprises 5 local authorities, 31 other organisations and independent community members. The AONB staff team are funded by the Countryside Agency and the local authorities, and work with others to implement the AONB Management Plan. Shropshire County Council manages the AONB Office.
