

## Press Release

30th April 2008



### Sounds of the Shropshire Hills

With the month of May upon us, this is the time to be up with the lark and enjoying the dawn chorus in the Shropshire Hills.

There are guided walks through out May looking for and listening to the song birds. Set your alarm for 5am each Saturday and join early bird John Tucker for a 5.30am walk to enjoy the sounds of spring and improve you bird song identification?

If that's a bit early for you, join a National Trust warden on Thursday 22nd at 10am to look and listen out for spring migrants on the Mynd, or take a 'Walk on the Wild Side' with Shropshire Wildlife Trust Officer, John Hughes, on Sunday 25th at 10am at Earls Hill Nature Reserve, near Pontesbury.

Details of all these walks and much, much more can be found in the 2008 Shropshire Hills Events, Activities and News booklet, so pick up your copy from the libraries, Visitor Information Centre's and other local outlets today.

Stephanie Hayes, from the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, explained "This booklet is aimed at local people and visitor's to the area and includes a variety of events and holiday activities to suit all ages and abilities, along with suggested days out and news from the Shropshire Hills."

Stephanie continued "It's 50 years since the Shropshire Hills was officially designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and we have been able to combine resources with the National Trust, the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre and South Shropshire District Council to produce this booklet as part of the 50th celebrations."

The AONB Partnership is holding a series of walks and talks through out 2008 to explore the special qualities of the AONB and a photographic competition has been launched to encourage people to send in their favourite pictures of the Shropshire Hills – full details, along with event listings, can be found on our website [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

**ENDS**

#### Editors Notes:

2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 40 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. Covering 23% of the county, the Shropshire Hills AONB extends from the Wrekin to the Clun Forest and from the Stiperstones to the Clee Hills. It is a diverse and tranquil area, with rugged hills, rolling pastoral fields, woods and meadows, picturesque villages and historic buildings, hillforts and ancient monuments.

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 acts as host authority for the AONB Partnership. The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership plays three main roles:

- To develop policy and strategy for the area especially through the AONB Management Plan, and influence the policies and strategies of others
  - To take and co-ordinate action to conserve and enhance natural beauty, promote enjoyment and understanding, and further sustainable development
  - To support the involvement of the community in the management of the AONB.
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