

Press Release

23rd April 2008

Thinking Green – the Shropshire Hills Shuttles motor back into operation

Thinking of going to the Clun Green Man Festival this Bank Holiday? The Shropshire Hills Shuttles motor back into operation on Saturday 3rd May, so why not jump on a Shuttle bus to take you to the Festival?

The Secret Hill Shuttle departs at 10.35 from the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms, and also picks up from Harry Tuffins and the Railway Station before heading to Clun. Alternatively, if you are in Bishop's Castle, the Shuttle leaves from Church Street at 12noon.

The Shuttles provide a valuable transport network across the Shropshire Hills linking the market towns with the countryside and local attractions. What better way to explore the area – no driving, map reading and parking to worry about, just stunning scenery to stare out at and enjoy.

If Festivals aren't your thing, the Shuttles can drop you off on top of Long Mynd plateau or at the foot of the rugged Stiperstones ridge – wonderful walks along both of these distinctive hilltops.

Or if you are not feeling that active, why not take the Shuttles to a county pub for lunch – there are numerous along the routes. There are also a number of heritage sites to visit, from Snailbeach and the Bog, once thriving lead mining communities, to Bury Ditches, one of the best examples of an Iron Age hillfort in the country.

For much more information of the Shuttle routes and timetables please pick up your copy of the 2008 Shuttle leaflet from your local library or Visitor Information Centre, or visit www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

The Shropshire Hills Shuttles will be running every weekend and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of September.

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Editors Notes:

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2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Shropshire Hills 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 Cleve 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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