

## Press Release

13th August 2008



### Trains and Tranquillity – guided walk

Join us on Saturday 23rd August at 9.15am, Craven Arms train station, for a guided walk with a difference – we will be taking the Heart of Wales train to Bucknell, then walking five miles through the beautiful Teme valley to Knighton, and returning to Craven Arms by train.

The walk is being led by Les Lumsdon, Professor of Tourism and Transport at the University of Central Lancashire, and Stephanie Hayes, from the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership. Stephanie explained “We want to highlight that public transport is a great way to explore and enjoy the countryside. With the increase in fuel costs and busy roads, local bus services and trains are an attractive option to get out and about.”

Stephanie continued “This walk forms part of the Ludlow Green Festival programme, and is also one of a series of events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We will be talking about why the area was designated 50 years ago and highlighting some of the projects that the AONB Partnership has been involved in this picturesque corner of the county.”

Booking for this walk is essential. The walk is free, but you will have to buy your own rail ticket (approx£3). Please ensure you wear suitable footwear and bring waterproofs. For more information and to book please contact the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership on 01588 674080.

If you can not make the guided walk, details of this walk from Bucknell using the Heart of Wales train is featured in the Shropshire Hills Events Booklet, which is available from libraries, visitor information centres and other local outlets.

**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 Natural England 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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