

New funding for the Clun Catchment



This spring we will welcome Alison Jones to the team. Alison is leading on the new four year River Clun Recovery Project which starts in April. £360,000 has been secured from the WREN Biodiversity Action Fund, Woodland Trust and Severn Rivers Trust to improve freshwater, riparian and small woodland habitats throughout the Clun catchment. Working with landowners in the catchment, the project will fund practical work to help return the River Clun Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to favourable condition. The project will also improve, repair or create areas of existing good river habitat (Recovery Sites) to provide

an in-catchment refuge for critically endangered freshwater pearl mussels. Click below for more information www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/current-projects/ivers

£25,000 distributed to local conservation projects this spring

Through our new Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund we have supported 14 local projects helping to conserve and raise awareness of the AONB. This Fund replaces the Sustainable Development Fund. Among the successful applicants was the John Osborne Arvon Centre, which is restoring meadows, orchards and river habitat at The Hurst, near Clun. The Leigh Hall Estate received a grant to clear encroaching gorse from local landmark, Bromlow Callow, and to restore the hill's acid grassland hopefully to achieve Wildlife Site status. Friends of Pontesford Hill also received a grant for their campaign to buy and conserve Pontesford Hill, and the South Shropshire Youth Forum was successful in their bid to develop a Young Rangers Project in Church Stretton and continue their programme at Clee Hill. For details of all the projects supported this year please visit our [Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund](#) page.



Better Outcomes on Upland Commons

During 2014, the AONB Partnership led a case study of the Long Mynd Common as part of a national project. This aimed to see how collaboration between people and organisations can deliver multiple benefits from upland commons – including productive agriculture, wildlife, landscape, and other 'ecosystem services' such as water management and soil protection. Phil Holden, the AONB Partnership Manager, recently attended a meeting in the Lake District to update HRH The Prince of Wales of the findings of the project, which had been developed by the Foundation for Common land at his suggestion. We are now in discussions with the Foundation about a possible follow-up project which would seek to support upland commons more widely in the Shropshire Hills AONB, as well as elsewhere in the country. The full report of the Better Outcomes project is available at www.foundationforcommonland.org.uk/pilot-phase



Leading the way...

Our volunteer walks leaders are leading the way once again this year. We begin on the Home Front at Stanton Lacy with Keith Pybus (19 April). This is a walk which links in with the World War I Red Cross Centenary weekend at Stokesay Court. Our next walk (16 May) explores Brown Clee and its medieval villages and on 20 June join us for a walk along Wenlock Edge in search of some splendid lime trees and secret Holloways. For more information on guided walks in the AONB, or leading one yourself, please [contact us](#).

The buses are back and travelling Roadshows start this weekend



The [Shuttles](#) start on Saturday 2 May, and run every weekend and bank holiday Mondays until October. The Long Mynd and Stiperstones Shuttle (minibus) is a must for walkers and sightseers. It links Church Stretton to Bridges, The Bog, Stiperstones, Minsterley and Pontesbury. The service starts at 9.50 am from Carding Mill Valley and runs throughout the day. The Castle Connect Shuttle, a spacious 33-seater bus, is a passport to explore the border. It connects Ludlow to Leintwardine, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, Knighton, Clun and Bishop's

Castle. The Roadshows are a great way to find out more about the service, meet the driver, pick up copies of the 2015 timetable and get help with planning your weekends out in the Shropshire Hills. Click below for more information:

- [Castle Connect Shuttle Bus Roadshow, Saturday 18 April](#)
- [Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle Roadshow, Saturday 25 April](#)

Shropshire Hills Sustainable Business Scheme

The Great Shropshire Hills Swapshop at Acton Scott Historic Working Farm on the 25th March was a great swapshopping success! Over 60 businesses and attractions, many of them business scheme members, came to promote, network, exchange print and have a pre-season tour of the farm. The scheme which has been running for several years, promotes buying locally, working together and reducing environmental impacts for all kinds of business. Many of our 80+ members are tourism business interested in promoting sustainable tourism. We also have local food producers, retailers, workshop and skills providers and craft businesses. Everyone in the scheme can use our Buy Local logo and display their pledge to future sustainability for the benefit of their business and the AONB. We are active online and on Twitter as well as through events and activities like the Swap Shop throughout the year – for more info visit www.shropshirehills-buylocal.co.uk or tweet us [@ShropSustainBiz](https://twitter.com/ShropSustainBiz)



Listen out for a Buzz in the Borders this spring

Follow this link to read the latest news from the **Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme** –

www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/2015/03/spring-2015-newsletter

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Shropshire Hills Art Week, 30 May – 7 June

Follow these funky orange signs in the Shropshire Hills between 30 May to 7 June and discover a wealth of talent. Local artists are opening up their studios and showcasing paintings, jewellery, photography, ceramics, weaving, furniture and much more. Look out for the brochure, which includes the Arts Trail map or visit the [Shropshire Hills Art Week website](#) for details on the artists and exhibitions.

