

Press Release

1st June 2010

Explore Titterstone Clee with 'Friends of the Shropshire Hills'



Members of 'Friends of the Shropshire Hills' are being invited to explore the rich industrial heritage of Titterstone Clee with local expert Alf Jenkins, who was born on Titterstone, and Glynn Barratt, local archaeologist who has studied the Clee Hills in great detail.

Cath Landles, Community Officer for the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, explained "This is the annual Friends event which will be held on Sunday 27 June. Titterstone Clee is a key landscape feature in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is the only hill in England recorded on the Mappa Mundi, the 13th-century map of the world, and evidence suggests it has been a significant landmark through the ages. Today, the old quarry buildings and workings highlight its most recent use."

Cath continued "This is going to be a fascinating tour with local experts Alf and Glynn, who along with stories of life on Titterstone Clee, will be pointing out little known details such as one of the earliest Hydro-power systems was developed on Titterstone Clee (1885) and some of the earliest forms of concrete were used for the quarry buildings."

The afternoon will include a walk on Catherton Common, which is the Shropshire Wildlife Trust's newest and largest nature reserve. Reserves Manager, Carl Pickup, will lead the walk and we will be finding out what plans are afoot and how a grant from the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund has helped.

Cath added "Friends of the Shropshire Hills was set up just over a year ago to give those with a love of the Shropshire Hills an opportunity to find out more about the work of the AONB Partnership and help care for this beautiful area. All the money raised through the membership goes into the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund which supports a wide range of projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the Shropshire Hills."

Members receive newsletters and updates on local events and activities. They also receive a free pass into the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre exhibition and are invited along to the annual Friends get together. Annual individual membership is £5, or family membership £8.

We hope all 'Friends' members will be able to join us on Sunday 27th June. The bus will depart from the AONB office in Craven Arms at 10.30am - the event will be finished by 4pm. This event is free and exclusively for members. To book your place, or to join Friends of the Shropshire Hills please call Cath Landles on 01588 674084. Booking for the event by Thursday 10th June.

Visit the website for more information on Friends of the Shropshire Hills
www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/friends

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Editors Notes:

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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 two 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 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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