

## Press Release

11 October 2010

### Once upon a Hill – the Miners Story



As work continues at Blakemoorgate, on the Stiperstones, to restore two squatters' cottages, Friends of the Shropshire Hills are being invited to a special event on Saturday 30th October, 11am – 3pm, to see and hear how the restoration work is going.

Cath Landles, Community Officer for the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, explains "This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the history of the cottages and what the future holds for them once restored. Joining us will be Simon Cooter, Stiperstones National Nature Reserve Manager, to explain more about the project, who is involved, why the cottages are being restored and what they will be used for. Philip Belchere, Conservation Architect, will talk about the history of the settlement, the architectural importance of the cottages and how they are being restored using traditional building skills."

Cath continued "The Stiperstones ridge and all the mining history associated with this area is a key landscape feature of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We hope members of Friends of the Shropshire Hills will enjoy this day out and we look forward to welcoming new members as well. Annual individual membership is only £5, or family membership £8 and all contributions go entirely into the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund, which supports projects, like this one, in the Shropshire Hills."

We will be meeting at Snailbeach car park at 11am and the walk to Blakemoorgate takes about 45 minutes. It is uphill and requires a reasonable level of fitness. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing are essential and please bring a picnic to enjoy at the top.

This event is free and exclusively for Friends of the Shropshire Hills members. Places are limited and **BOOKING is ESSENTIAL**. For more information and to book, or to join Friends of the Shropshire Hills contact Cath Landles on (01588) 674084 or email [cath.landles@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:cath.landles@shropshire.gov.uk).

**ENDS**

#### **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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