

Press Release

24 June 2009

Wonderful day out at Wilderhope

Members of 'Friends of the Shropshire Hills' enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Wilderhope Manor last Sunday, exploring the beautiful Elizabethan Manor and its grounds, and tucking into a BBQ with Wenlock Edge as the stunning backdrop.

Catherine Landles, Community Officer for the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, enthused "It was great to meet so many of the members of this new Friends group and find out what topics and places they are interested in which will help me plan future events."

Friends of the Shropshire Hills was set up six months ago to give those who love the area an opportunity to find out more about the work of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and help care for this beautiful landscape. 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 just £5, family membership £8 or organisations/businesses £15.

We would like to thank Peter Carty from the National Trust for leading the guided walk at Wilderhope. The National Trust is one of 36 Partners who make up the AONB Partnership, working together to look after the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Please contact Catherine for more information or to join Friends of the Shropshire Hills, or visit 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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