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**PRESS RELEASE**

Embargo date: 12th August 2019

**Pendle Hill Fund Open for Business!**

Are you involved in a community group which is interested in the landscape and heritage of the Pendle Hill area? If so you need to know that the Pendle Hill Fund is about to open to new applications and it offers grants of up to £10,000.

The Fund welcomes applications from community groups, volunteer groups, CICs and businesses who are planning projects within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area and are focused around heritage, community engagement and landscape.

The Pendle Hill Fund, which is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and managed by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, will open for applications on 18th August and close on 30th September. Application forms are available on request, but more information and grant guidelines can be found on <https://pendlehillproject.com/project/pendle-hill-fund>.

The Pendle Hill Fund Grants Panel will look for projects which aim to improve local heritage and landscape features; increase understanding of distinctive people and places; provide volunteering opportunities linked to local landscape; enable more people to explore and enjoy the Pendle Hill area or improve the visitor and walking experience of the area.

Projects supported in Year 1 included arts sessions taking inspiration from the landscape and bringing together people of all different backgrounds; a village habitat project engaging with a local school and volunteers and a project focused on introducing local people to Pendle Hill heritage through singing workshops.

Roughlee Parish Council was one of the groups who received support in Year 1 for their Habitat Project. This involved planting wildflowers around the village to attract pollinators and engaging with the local primary school and local residents to encourage more people to identify and record wildlife around the parish. Mary Reed, Parish Council Clerk said: 'The feedback we have received has been very positive and different groups of people have started to get together and explore the environment. The Habitat project is ongoing but we have made a great start this year thanks to the Pendle Hill Fund.'

For more information or to ask for an application pack, please contact the PHLP Community Engagement Officer on pendlehill.lp@lancashire.gov.uk or call 01200 420 420.

**EDITORS NOTES** (to insert at end)

* The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is led by the Forest of Bowland AONB.
* The partnership aims to:

I. restore, enhance and conserve the heritage and landscape of Pendle Hill

II. reconnect people with their past and their landscape

III. bring the two sides of the hill together

IV. create a sustainable future for the environment, heritage and for visitors' experience of Pendle Hill

* The scheme was awarded a National Lottery grant of £1.8million by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in January 2018. These funds will be delivered from 2018-2022 and will be matched with a further £1m raised locally.
* The scheme is made up of a dozen projects which safeguard the area's wildlife and heritage and improve people's access to this popular countryside area. We will do this by providing opportunities for training and volunteering; by supporting research and devising creative and digital interpretation to inspire a new generation about our heritage; by restoring important landscape features, and by working with communities to re-tell the stories of radical Pendle people. The scheme will increase pride in this special place and raise aspirations amongst communities, and it will bring in new investment to support the environment and the economy.
* The Pendle Hill landscape partnership is supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Fund and by the Forest of Bowland AONB. Partners include representatives of parish councils, the landowning and farming community, Pendle and Ribble Valley Borough Councils, Lancashire County Council, statutory bodies, tourism businesses and volunteers.
* Projects will be delivered by the AONB team, plus local delivery partners including In –Situ Arts, the Dry Stone Walling Association, Mid Pennine Arts and Ribble Rivers Trust.
* The Pendle Hill LP covers 120 square kilometres, stretching from Gisburn down to Whalley, and from Clitheroe across to Nelson and Padiham.
* The Hill is well known as a beauty spot and is heavily visited by residents of the local towns: it is a perfect place for walking and cycling. The area's heritage is dominated by the story of the Pendle Witches, but there are lots more stories to tell including the founding of the Quaker movement, non- conformists and radicals, Roman and Bronze Age settlers, medieval farming systems and early industrial developments. The network of dry stone walls and hedgerows give the area a distinctive feel, and the landscape is also important for its wild moorland, rare birds and woodlands.
* For further information contact the LP Scheme Manager cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk on 07891 537835 / 01200 420420
* Visit the project website at [www.pendlehillproject.com](http://www.pendlehillproject.com) or visit our Facebook page 'Pendle Hill Project' for up to date news and views.

**About the Heritage Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported

