

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS ARE A BIG SUCCESS

THE TRADITIONAL craft of hedgelaying attracted more than 80 spectators when the Bowland competition of the Lancashire and Westmorland Grand Prix was held at Cockshotts Farm, Sabden.

In the last of seven competitions held during the season, 21 competitors aged from teenage to seniors, novices to highly skilled, took part over five classes in a five-hour period, each laying between 5.5metres to 7 metres (6 yards to 8 yards) and a total of 150yds.

The competitions help keep alive the traditional craft of hedgelaying.

Hedge-lengths are judged on neatness, quality of cuts, use of stakes, how vertical they are, straightness of line, spread of material in the hedge and overall appearance in keeping with the Lancashire and Westmorland style. In six months time, hedges will be judged again on regrowth.

Winners of the day's five sections were announced by Dave Padley who helped organise the competition, and awards were presented by Sabden's County Councillor Albert Atkinson, who is chairman of the Forest of Bowland Joint Advisory Committee.

Spectators also had the opportunity to have-a-go at hedgelaying or dry stone walling with trainers explaining basic skills and answering questions about traditional crafts.

Also, in Sabden village hall, there were 12 stalls promoting village businesses and crafts along with information stands from the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, the Dry Stone Walling Association and the National Hedgelaying Society.

Fantastic refreshments of soups, sandwiches and home-made cakes were served all day by the village hall team. Val Darwent a member of the team said "The day was a huge success and raised a substantial amount towards much needed refurbishment of the village hall"

The weather held for a guided three-mile walk around part of Sabden Valley, during which walkers were shown how hedgerows and dry stone walls shape the landscape. For family groups, there was a mile-long nature trail with information about different species linked with dry stone walls and hedgerows.

Jessie Tearle, on behalf of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, said: "We would like to thank everyone who came along to the event, all the competitors and local business owners. Special thanks to the village hall caterers and committee who provided excellent refreshments and service throughout the day. The event also demonstrated the excellent partnership work between the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedgelaying Association, the Dry Stone Walling Association and the Pendle Hill LP which will continue throughout our Traditional Boundaries project.

"Biggest thanks go to Dave Padley and to Bobbie Gill and family at Cockshotts Farm for allowing their hedge to be used by competitors."

PICTURE CREDIT: Simon Edwards. PICTURE CAPTION: Photo 1: 1st Place Winners of the classes – from left – right – Junior Class, James Dodgson, Starter Class, Pete Stevens, Championship Class, Craig Procter who also won best overall on day, Novice Class, Sally Capewell and Open Class, Steven Boyes.

Photo 2: Competitors in action laying the hedge.

CONTACT DETAILS: For more information, contact The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Team on 01200 420 420.

Ends

PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

EDITORS NOTES

- 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 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 see the project website at www.pendlehillproject.com or visit our Facebook page 'Pendle Hill Project' for up to date news and views.

About the National Lottery 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.heritagefund.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).