



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Thursday 17th March

Final year of family nature events around Pendle Hill

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership is in its fifth and final year of free family nature events, and there is still time to take part.

Since the National Heritage Lottery Funded project started in 2018, there have been 52 events for local families to enjoy. These have all been delivered by the partnership's Outdoor Learning Officer Alison Cross, whose role is funded by The Ernest Cook Trust.

Earlier this year in February, Alison worked with the project's Community Archaeologist Jess Wight, along with volunteers, to create an Archaeology Discovery day at Clitheroe Castle. Children loved learning about artifacts that had been found within Lancashire, as well as making Roman pottery to take home. "There were some older children who particularly enjoyed handling replicas of historic items and learning about the importance of archaeologists, and that they are not all like Indiana Jones," said Alison.

During February half term, Whitehough Outdoor Centre hosted Alison and a box of owl pellets. Families had booked onto a creatures of the night event, to celebrate the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's Dark Skies week.

Adults and children learnt about owls, what they eat and how they produce a pellet, which contains the fur and bones of small rodents. The challenge was to dissect the pellet to identify what little creatures had become dinner. The answer was lots of shrews and voles.

One mum-of-two commented, it was "honestly one of the best activities I've done with my boys to date. I'm on the hunt for an owl nesting tree so I can find my own pellets! Thanks so much, they had much to talk about at school today."

Easter holiday events are now being planned, including a minibeast hunting session in partnership with Ribble Rivers Trust. This will be at Spring Wood near Whalley and Victoria Park in Nelson. Little ones can search for bugs that live in the woodland and water.

Landscape walks for families will return in April, with a three-mile Spring Landscape Walk in Sabden. Booking is essential for all these events, via the website <https://www.pendlehillproject.com/whats-on>

Alison is always looking for new volunteers to assist her with school trips, family events and the Little Sapling toddler group. If you would like to find out more about Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership family events and volunteering opportunities, then get in touch with the team at <https://www.pendlehillproject.com/get-involved>

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 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 or visit our Facebook page 'Pendle Hill Project' for up to date news and views.

About the National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk

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Figure 1 Roman clay pots being made at archaeology event at Clitheroe Castle



Figure 2 Granddad and Grandson learn about bones found within an owl pellet



Figure 3 Archaeology event with community archaeologist Jess Wight



Figure 4 Girls enjoy Owl Pellet Dissection at Whitehough



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