

## **Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) E-Bulletin October 2008 – Issue 4**

Welcome to Issue 4 of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) E-Bulletin. Please find below some brief information on latest projects and initiatives in and around the Malvern Hills AONB – any comments would be gratefully received. Please forward this email on to anyone who might be interested.

### **Management Plan review**

The statutory review of the current Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan (2004-2009) is almost complete. We were delighted with the many detailed responses that were submitted during a three month consultation period on the draft revised plan. The draft plan was amended as a result of many comments received and the AONB Joint Advisory Committee formally endorsed the revised plan at a meeting on 19 September 2008. The Management Plan will be published by April 2009.

### **Cattle arrive at St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve**

Four Dexter cattle - Foxglove, Gypsywort, Hebe and Galangal - have arrived to start grazing duties on grassland at St.Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve. The site is owned by Malvern Hills District Council and managed by Worcestershire County Council whose staff have worked hard on this project. Reintroducing grazing (after a 10 year absence) is a key element of the site's management plan and, in part, has been made possible thanks to a grant for fencing provided by the AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

### **Keeping the water flowing**

The Malverns Heritage Project (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) continues to deliver well. Improvement work at up to 20 wells and spouts has now been completed or is near completion, and water is finally flowing once again at the Clocktower in North Malvern and at West Malvern Spout. Work to refurbish Holy Well spout is underway and a new bottling plant on the site should be up and running just after Christmas 2008. Water was first bottled at Holy Well in 1622!

### **Explore the springs and commons**

Those interested in the distinctive water features of the area can now explore them in more detail thanks to a new trail guide entitled 'Springs and Spouts of the Northern Hills'. A new booklet has also been produced on the geology, history, biology and management of the four distinctive commons that make up 'Castlemorton Commons' in the east of the AONB. Both publications have been produced with funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and are available from the AONB office.

### **Views from the hills**

Everyone knows that one of the highlights of a walk on the hills in the AONB is the fantastic views. A project to identify and to record the areas most important views is about to commence. It is hoped that this information may

be used to inform decision-making at a time of growing pressure on some of the land surrounding the AONB.

### **Supporting Sustainable Development**

A healthy level of interest has been shown in this year's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) - a grant scheme to support projects that promote sustainable development in the AONB. Eight projects have been given the go-ahead and look set to deliver a range of objectives, from reducing the use of plastic bags to conserving our orchards and adders. Some funding is still available so if you have a project in mind please call Kate Mustard on 01905 766491 or email Kate on [kmustard@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:kmustard@worcestershire.gov.uk) for further discussions and an application form.

If you do not wish to be on the mailing list for future E-bulletins please feel free to contact the Malvern Hills AONB Office by email on [aonb@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:aonb@worcestershire.gov.uk) and we will remove you from the list. Further information on the AONB and the work of the AONB Partnership can be found at <http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/>