



Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) E-Bulletin August 2011 – Issue 10

Welcome to Issue 10 of the Malvern Hills AONB e-Bulletin. Listed below are some examples of work that has been taking place in and around the Malvern Hills AONB to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Please forward this email on to anyone else who may be interested.

Success for Ledbury Cycle Hire

The AONB Partnership is delighted with the success of one of the projects it has supported through its Sustainable Development Fund. Financial support enabled a new business, Ledbury Cycle Hire, to establish a small cycle hire enterprise adjacent to Ledbury train station on the site of existing holiday cottages. In its early months the cycle hire business proved so successful that the initial stock of 10 new bikes purchased had to be doubled to meet additional demand. Further information on Ledbury Cycle Hire can be found at www.ledburycyclehire.com.

Burying overhead electricity cables

Unsightly poles and electricity cables at the Purlieu in Colwall have recently been removed and new power cable has been buried underground. This is the third 'undergrounding' scheme which has now been completed in the AONB and which has made a significant contribution to enhancing the natural beauty and people's enjoyment of it. Before and after images of the work at the Purlieu can be seen at <http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/>

Botanical survey of road verges

Roadside verges can be a valuable resource for many forms of wildlife. A botanical survey of 36 verge sites across the AONB has recently been completed. The results demonstrate that the majority of identified sites possess good communities of grasses and herbs representative of lowland meadow plant communities. A range of management recommendations has been made and these will be discussed with staff in Highways Authorities to help ensure that the botanical interest on these sites is sustained and, wherever possible, enhanced.

Nominate your 'grand' design

As part of a project to develop a building design guide for the AONB, members of the public, property owners, parish councils, architects, housing developers and planning

officers are being asked to nominate good examples of local building design. The aim of the building design guide is to inform future development and to ensure that this makes a contribution to the distinctive character of the AONB. Examples of all forms of domestic and commercial development are being sought. Selected examples and photographs will be included in the building design guide itself. Nominations can be submitted at: <http://countryside.org/mh> or by sending details to the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership Office, Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern, WR14 3EY. Nominations are invited until the end of November 2011.

2010/11 Annual Review now available

The latest annual review of work carried out by the AONB Partnership to conserve and enhance natural beauty is now available. It showcases the breadth of activities carried out in the area last year, from establishing a school eco garden to advising farmers and supporting the work of local bee-keepers. The annual review for 2010/11 can be viewed at the AONB website: <http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/>

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) continues to thrive

Almost £50,000 of grant has now been awarded to support 10 local sustainable development projects in 2011/12. These projects are as varied as ever and are being taken forward by a range of local communities, organisations and businesses. If you have an idea for a project please contact the AONB office on 01684 560616.

HLF success for the Earth Heritage Trust

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust has recently secured a first-round pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop its project entitled 'A Thousand Years of Building With Stone - heritage buildings and their 'lost' quarries'. This development project will investigate the feasibility of a future project that will get the public involved in researching and understanding the history of the stone buildings and associated quarrying in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. For further details please contact Natalie Watkins – surveys (n.watkins@worc.ac.uk, 01905 542014).

Colwall community orchard and allotments

A community orchard and allotments have been created in the village of Colwall, on the site of a former orchard. The site was recently purchased with loans and donations from local people and many volunteers have put a lot of effort into clearing and preparing the site. The first fresh produce has now been harvested from the allotments and further work on the community orchard will take place later in the year. A grant from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund will be used to support the installation of solar panels on site. More information on this exciting new project is available at: <http://colwallorchardgroup.org/ColwallAllotmentAssociation.aspx>.

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 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/>