

Project Brief – The Pendle Hill Radicals

Introduction

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the lead partner of the proposed Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership (LP). This exciting programme of activity looks to re-connect people with their landscape and their past, to safeguard the area's wildlife and heritage and to 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 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. This programme 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 LP scheme has three themes:

- To improve the environment
- To build the local economy
- To provide opportunity for everyone to get involved

These themes incorporate a number of projects, and you can read more about these and the area and its heritage here <http://forestofbowland.com/Pendle-Hill-Landscape-Partnership> . The themes will be gathered together with a series of creative and digital threads, bringing the two sides of the hill together and inspiring and involving people in this special place.

Identified Needs and Threats for the project

There is a lack of connection between people and their past: a lack of knowledge of notable events and people from the Pendle Hill area, some of whom changed English society, and even the world!

The area has an over reliance on the Pendle witches story – there is so much more to tell

There is a lack of aspiration and belief amongst young people that they can make a difference: this project provides an opportunity to inspire them and an opportunity to build team skills and personal confidence

This is also an opportunity to develop research and curation skills

Description of the Project

Key aims of the project are:

- To re connect people to their past by researching and re-telling the stories of notable Pendle people and movements which had a major impact on our society
- To organise and support a series of projects which celebrate these non-conformists and activists through research and creative interpretation
- To generate community pride and cohesiveness, and to increase aspiration, especially amongst young people

Key stories to tell include **George Fox** and his vision on the hill that led to the founding of the Religious Society of Friends (also known as the Quakers); **Richard Cobden**, 19th century leader of the anti-corn law league and free trader who started his career in Sabden's calico print works; the development of **Friendly and Co-operative** societies such as at Downham in the 18th and 19th centuries; **Thomas Arthur Leonard** who founded the Holiday Fellowship movement from his congregational church in Colne in the 1890s; the Independent Labour Party and the **Clarion Club** in Newchurch, which has been run for over 100 years for and by workers from the mill towns who want to enjoy the countryside; and the many **non-conformist** churches and chapels in the villages and towns.

We anticipate that the project will focus on one radical each year, working with historians, writers and local people to uncover the stories. We also hope that young people, supported by a creative agency or artist will then be involved in interpreting the stories for a wider audience, maybe through performance, film, written work or other medium.

Identified Outputs

The initial projection is for:

10 volunteers to be involved over the 4 years, and 20 training days delivered

Partners to liaise with

Museums and galleries, libraries and archives in the local area

Local history groups

Churches and chapels

Arts organisations and funders

Young people via schools, colleges, youth clubs, junior theatre groups etc

Budget

The outline budget is for £80,000; however this is flexible and could be increased, especially if additional match funds could be identified. HLF is currently providing £70,000 and the remainder is still to be identified/secured

We would accept that a 20-30% management fee could cover the costs of a project manager over the 4 years, other costs could include volunteer expenses, and professional fees, travel, materials and artists commissions

Publicity and promotion will be provided by the central LP team (budget of £10,000 over 4 years)

Development work required (2016-17)

Draw up detailed costings

Liaise with partners

Identify researchers, artists and young people to work with, at least for year 1

Outline research to identify 4 key radicals to focus on

Agree HLF outcomes to be delivered

Identify and secure match funds