

Preseli Walking Festival 2008

Pembrokeshire's first major walking festival gets underway next month when experienced and amateur walkers will be encouraged to enjoy the local countryside – and the culture too.



Best foot forward: the Preseli Walking Festival will be a first for Pembrokeshire.

Known as the Preseli Walking Festival - Walking in the Shadow of the Hills, it intentionally coincides with five popular festivals in north Pembrokeshire. The aim is to add an extra dimension by encouraging the people who participate in the walks to take part in the events already happening at the St Dogmaels Festival, the Newport Bay Spring Festival, the Fishguard Folk Festival, Maenclochog Festival and the Drovers Festival.

Joan Asby, co-ordinator of PLANED which is helping to run the walking festival, says people in these communities have been working hard to develop cultural and economic opportunities over a number of years.

“There are many people who already come to Pembrokeshire to walk who are also interested in the wider experience that the music, heritage and cuisine of the area can offer. The Preseli Walking Festival draws together these experiences,” she says.

The Preseli Walking Festival is a natural extension of the launch three years ago of the 67-mile Preseli Circle Walk, developed by PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) in conjunction with Pembrokeshire County Council and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

As well as leisurely strolls along estuaries, treks along the top of the Preselis and guided walks through historic sites, there will be a literary walk led by Pembrokeshire author, Dr Brian John, whose books have been inspired by the Preselis.

He says there are many reasons why the Preselis are so popular with walkers. They are very dramatic in terms of landscape but are also small enough to be unthreatening, says Dr John. “I have always thought that the idea of a Preseli Circle that goes right around the Preselis and includes the coastal path stretches is wonderful,” he says.

To request a brochure with details of the walking festival contact:

Alison at **PLANED** on **01834 862116** or access it the website at

www.planed.org.uk/leaderplus/festevents.htm#pwf