



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

CPRE Northamptonshire News

Outlook



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ANTI-LITTER COMPETITION IN CPRE NORTH NORTHANTS DISTRICT

CPRE President Bill Bryson has refocused the spotlight on a long time CPRE campaign issue – litter. Members in our North Northants District know that this issue works well with children – hence their competition. CPRE member Sandra Powell, pictured above with Lady Gayle Robinson and Sally Hanrahan, writes.....

“The competition asked children to design a poster with illustrations and words to show how all types of litter affect animals. The idea for the Litter Poster Competition came up because lecturing to children about picking up litter seemed to be ineffective, but most children relate to animals. A graphic image of the consequences of the damage that litter does to animals would hopefully get the message across.

“I suggested the idea of a poster competition to some of the local schools in the area and had a very enthusiastic response back. We had 142 entries; much thought and trouble had gone into the posters. We think that targeting children will mean they pass on the very important message to their parents and friends.”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday April 15th 2008 at 6.00 pm – Planning Roadshow for parish councillors at Cranford Hall

Friday May 9th 2008 at 6.30pm – CPRE South Northants Summer Party at Charlocks Farm, Abthorpe near Silverstone

Thursday May 15th 2008 at 7.00 pm – CPRE Northants Annual General Meeting at Great Houghton Village Hall

Friday May 30th 2008 at 7.30 pm - Annual Ball at Highgate House, Creaton. This year we move back to the traditional summer date

Thursday December 4th 2008 at 7.30 pm – Presentation of Design Awards 2008 and Carols by Candlelight at Cranford Hall



A MESSAGE FROM SIR PAUL HAYTER, KCB, LVO

To all members of CPRE Northants

Can I introduce myself as your new Chairman? It is a great pleasure to join you in carrying on the good work which CPRE does to protect the countryside in Northamptonshire. With the arrival of a new year, this is both a new beginning and also a reinforcement of what you are already doing. I look forward to meeting many of you at social events and in committee meetings and also to learning how I can help CPRE prosper.



My wife Deborah and I have lived in Charlton in South Northants for the last 16 years and before that we were close by in North Oxfordshire. I have just retired from the House of Lords where I was Clerk of the Parliaments (that is Chief Executive) at the end of a career lasting 43 years. I hope that my familiarity with the workings of Parliament and the country's political system will be an asset in CPRE's affairs and will help me to bring something extra to discussions about the conflicts which inevitably arise from time to time between central and local interests in planning matters.

I am certain that the very existence of CPRE helps to ensure that the interests of rural England are not forgotten. What we must do is to identify those interests and to keep them at the forefront of the minds of politicians and planners, both centrally and locally. For that we must show ourselves to be a vigorous and lively organisation. If you have any suggestions about how to make CPRE more effective in Northants, please feel free to contact me, either by e-mail (hayterp@gmail.com) or by post (Walnut House, Charlton, Banbury, OX17 3DR).

BRIAN SKITTRALL

A PROFILE OF THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIES GROUP

We are fortunate in adding the knowledge and expertise of Brian Skittrall to our team of wise men, the Technical Secretaries.

Brian is an IT consultant who has worked in a number of areas of the financial services industry. Three years ago he worked on the introduction of debit cards and cash machines to Rwanda – an achievement of which he is justly proud. He has settled in Bozeat from his native county of Devon and is now a Parish Councillor there. He is a keen gardener, walker & skier, and he used to sing with Bozeat Windmill Singers, but gave up singing in order to campaign against Nun Wood wind farm.



Montage of the Nun Wood site

When this wind farm was proposed he started to develop his understanding of turbines as a source of renewable energy. This brought him to the CPRE, because "they seem to be the only organisation standing up for the quality of the environment in which we live, work and play". He now campaigns generally against inappropriate wind farms - whether they are ineffective, in protected landscapes, too large, too close to homes - or all four!

Researching wind farms has made him very aware of climate change and carbon saving measures. He campaigns for more effective methods - particularly energy and fuel savings - and to expose any schemes that are profitable but offer little or no genuine carbon savings, such as burning bio-fuels that have been grown on former rain forest.

His expertise has already been very useful to us on a number of wind farm issues. Welcome, Brian!

WINE TASTING AT LITTLE HOUGHTON HOUSE A SPLENDID, CONVIVIAL AND ENLIGHTENING EVENING

At the beautiful home of Mr & Mrs Christopher Davidge, the late September CPRE wine tasting event was led by Sophie Rudge BA, an Associate of the Institute of Wine and Spirits. Sophie has worked in France and the USA gaining wine knowledge and now holds the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Diploma. She and her colleague Jen poured some superb examples of *vino rosso* and *vino bianco*.



A BRIEF PROFILE

OF THE PRESIDENT OF CPRE IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, LADY JULIET TOWNSEND

Lady Juliet has lived in Northamptonshire all her life at Newbottle-cum-Charlton in the extreme South of the County. She has always loved the landscape and stone villages of that part of Northamptonshire, but it was not until, in her late 20s, she was invited by Sir John Betjeman to write a Shell Guide to the County that she got to know the areas further north.

She first came into contact with CPRE during the late 1960s when she was a speaker at the AGM. Her mother, Lady Birkenhead, was Chairman of the County Branch for many years and on her retirement Mrs Owen Walker asked her whether she would be prepared to take over this role. It was only on becoming Lord Lieutenant in 1998 that she stood down as Chairman and followed the longstanding tradition of the Lord Lieutenant being County President.

Earlier in her life she was Lady in Waiting to Princess Margaret for ten years, and with her husband now owns a 1500 acre estate which provides prime beef to their butchers shop in Brackley, where for the last thirty years they have also run a successful bookshop.

Lady Juliet has three daughters and one grandson.



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**THE HOLCOT VILLAGE WALKABOUT
KNOW YOUR VILLAGE AND UNLOCK YOUR LANDSCAPE**

Michel Kerrou repeated the bravura performance he gave to the villagers of Cottingham, but this time with completely new subject matter. The village of Holcot (north of Northampton) is setting out on a project to produce both a Parish Plan and a Village Design Statement. Over sixty people (excluding the many youngsters) were there on a Sunday morning in October to gain new insights into the buildings that make up their home village.



The village Walkabout was in beautiful autumn sunshine: we learned of the stages in the life of a venerable threshing barn, now a beautiful modern home. Where the courses between the bricks or stones in a wall slope with the land, then the wall probably started life as a boundary wall, even if it is now part of someone's home. The exception here is The Bakehouse, now a cottage, where the stone mason chose to make his stones follow the natural contours.

Stonework that is laid randomly is probably recent build – the old stonemasons always laid stones in courses. Houses with very steep pitched roofs are usually older – except where a later builder was seeking to reproduce the older style. Holcot has many different styles of building – and numerous architectural details that remain the signatures of long gone craftsmen. One house intriguingly had a classical Georgian façade viewed from the roadside, but a vernacular, functional (but no less attractive) elevation on the opposite side.

It is interesting that a much-loved relic of last century – a K2 (Scott) GPO telephone box from the 1930s, almost obsolete technologically but still valued aesthetically, is next to the site of a former parish water pump – now completely obsolete functionally, but still valued as a bus shelter. The church of course is the architectural gem of the parish, as in many other villages. An Early English style porch, perpendicular features, built from 13C to 15C.

One or two members of the group became just a little nervous as the group approached their own homes – but they need not have been concerned: our expert was kind to them.

After refreshments back in the village hall, Peter Hopkins spoke to the group of the importance of Unlocking such Landscapes, and the CPRE Action Pack that is available for this purpose.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: CRANFORD AT CHRISTMASTIDE



NOVEMBER BALL: TOM OLIVER WAS THE GUEST SPEAKER



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