



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

CPRE Northamptonshire News

Outlook

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Hazelborough Woods in autumn

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NEWS ITEM

BILL BRYSON

At the CPRE Annual General Meeting in London on 9th July, members formally adopted leading author Bill Bryson as the new CPRE President, taking over from newspaper columnist and military historian Sir Max Hastings. He said that he was honoured to be asked, as he had for a long time been a huge admirer of CPRE, what we do and what we stand for.

Bill has written many erudite and funny books: *A Walk in the Woods*, *In a Sunburned Country*, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, and more recently *Shakespeare: the World as a Stage*. However, the book that first brought him fame, *Notes from a Small Island*, is the most significant to us: it speaks of the beauty and variety of the English countryside, its uniqueness and finiteness.

The new President's speech to the AGM was well covered in the media; he made exactly the same points on the on Radio 4 PM programme just an hour after he spoke to the AGM. He will be a terrific asset for the CPRE. Not only is he a prolific, fascinating and best selling writer, he speaks with conviction and always generates considerable the media attention.

His personal campaigning effort will concentrate on **fly tipping and litter, pylons & overhead cables** and the **creation of woodland and hedgerows**.



Courtesy Random House

Sally Hanrahan & Peter Hopkins

78 DERNGATE, NORTHAMPTON THE HOUSE THAT MACKINTOSH BUILT

Have you visited one of the most interesting tourist destinations in Northampton? In July CPRE Northants volunteers and their friends enjoyed a private tour of this fascinating place, one of the winners of our 2006 Design Awards competition.



Unless you are hunting for it, take a walk along Derngate Street and you will probably pass by number 78 without a second glance. From the outside it is just another Georgian terrace house. Inside it is a striking display of golden yellow triangles of jewel-like glass, dramatic candy striped canopies over the guest beds and trendy-looking light fittings that you cannot believe are ninety years old.

W J Basset-Lowke built up the successful Northampton model engineering business that bore his name – making beautifully detailed models of steam engines and ships and many other Edwardian triumphs. He clearly had an eye for detail, combined with a burning need to impress. He had Charles Rennie-Mackintosh carry out what we would now call a home makeover, which is how the Glasgow designer and architect who subsequently impressed the world came to do his only commission in England.



Guide Marion Marriott with CPRE volunteers



Guide Ken Simpson with CPRE volunteers



John & Nancy Jefferis, co-chairs of the new enlarged North District of CPRE Northants

After a welcome and introduction by Les Patterson, the former mayor of Northampton, the CPRE Northants party toured the wonderful house, gallery and museum. The tour was all the more enjoyable because of the knowledge and intriguing insights of the volunteer guides, Marion Marriott and Ken Simpson.

If you have never been to number 78, you don't know the county of Northamptonshire!

Peter Hopkins

PROFILE OF DAVID EDSALL

CPRE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND TECHNICAL SECRETARY

After boarding school (Christ's Hospital) David did his National Service, which took him to the Middle East. This enabled him to have an enjoyable leave – visiting Aquaba, Petra, Jerusalem, Damascus, Beirut and Cyprus and beginning a long-lasting fascination with travelling.

David then studied at Wadham College, Oxford before taking up his profession as a teacher. He taught in independent schools: St Paul's, The Leys (including an exchange to Australia) and Oundle School. In the latter school he was Head of Mathematics and in that capacity David got very involved in syllabus reform, chairing the project "Mathematics in Education & Industry" (MEI) which produced the first of the Component A level syllabuses.

Later at Oundle he became a Housemaster for 10 years and, as is usual at boarding schools, was involved in many other activities. These included coaching rugby, supervising sailing, adventure training with the CCF, running a pottery club, organising junior expedition days – perhaps a sort of modern renaissance man! He was able to enjoy both the long summer holidays on camping trips all over Europe and a strong interest in early church architecture.

After being a Housemaster, David qualified for a sabbatical term and spent that time driving out to Turkey, via the former Yugoslavia and Greece. It was during this time that a colleague invited him to join the East Northants District of the CPRE, in the role of Technical Secretary. He took this on board without any knowledge of planning matters and little familiarity with CPRE policy: he is still working hard in this capacity.

David then became further involved in CPRE activities by offering to go – when no one else was available - to a Regional Group meeting. This led to him becoming the Northamptonshire Regional Representative, and when the Regional Group needed someone to take over as its nominee for the National Executive, David took on that role too. He later became involved with the Milton Keynes South Midlands development plan – these things sort of happen!

More opportunities to travel lay ahead. He now has a new hobby of building and running model railways; he has always loved building things. He now takes them to exhibitions, to see how other people like - or criticise - them!

Recently David has been invited to become an official guide at Ely Cathedral – only one day a month but very rewarding. He maintains a very busy life with the enjoyable moments far outnumbering the frustrations.

Sue Baylis interviewed David Edsall



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 10 November 2007 at 7.30 pm - Annual Ball, Highgate House, Creaton. This year our guest speaker is Tom Oliver, CPRE National Office.

Thursday, 29 November 2007 at 7.30 pm - 2007 - Design Awards Presentation and Christmas celebrations with Northamptonshire choir at Cranford Hall, Kettering.



In association with Waitrose

**NO COWS =
NO COUNTRYSIDE**

FAIR TRADE FOR BRITISH FARMERS BRITISH FARMERS NEED TO EARN A LIVING WAGE

The lifestyle magazine Country Living has teamed up with Farmers Guardian and Waitrose to campaign for British Farmers to receive a fair price for the food that they produce. Not since the Second World War has it been so important to support British farmers and the countryside they manage.

While 86 per cent of the public believe Britain should be a farming nation, just 18 per cent of us choose to buy British food. The result is that thousands of farms have already been lost, and our landscape is consequently endangered.

Liz Falkingham, Editor of Farmers Guardian says, "if we want to avert the ongoing destruction of rural infrastructure, [and] to have the security of our own food supplies, it is surely time to look more closely at our own buying choices. Not just what we buy, but where we buy it and whether there really has been a 'fair trade' for the British farmer who produced it".

To find out more about the campaign go to www.fairtrade4britishfarmers.co.uk.

Sally Hanrahan

British Food Fortnight is 22nd September to 7th October - surely an event whose celebration would be most enjoyable!

FARMERS' MARKETS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

BRACKLEY Market Place
3rd Saturday of each month
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

OUNDLE The Market Place
2nd Saturday of each month
8:30 am to 1:30pm

DAVENTRY High Street
Town: Daventry
1st Saturday of each month
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

TOWCESTER
Richmond Road car park
2nd Friday of each month
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

HIGHAM FERRERS
Market Square
Last Saturday Monthly
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

WELLINGBOROUGH
Market Place
Last Thursday of each month
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

KETTERING Wicksteed Park
3rd Sunday of each month
8:30 am to 1:30pm

CPRE NORTHANTS DESIGN AWARDS 2007

AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION: QUALITY NOT QUANTITY

Our many thanks to those of you who have kindly sent in entries for this year's Design Awards Scheme. Eight high quality entries have been received to date, but please do let us have any last minute entries if you have further suggestions. All entries will be accepted up to the point of judging, which will take place in October.

Think **good design**, and I am sure you will think of another entry!

Please do keep the date of Thursday, 29 November (7.30 pm) free and in your diary. I hope that you will again be able to join us at Cranford Hall for a most enjoyable presentation ceremony.

Alan Mayes

Help always wanted

Our volunteers are always looking for help to spread the load, just a little.

If you could give some time in any role, in any part of the county, please call 01858 433136 or email info@CPRENorthants.org

