

OUTLOOK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

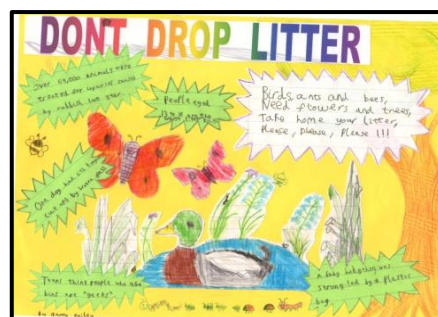
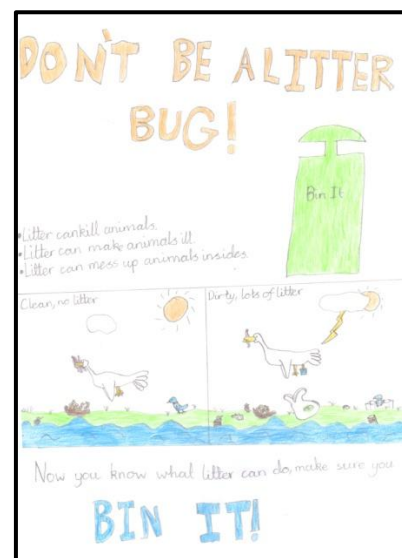
News from the Districts 2, Diamond Jubilee picnic 3, Wind farms: District Councils overruled & CPRE wind policy updated 3, 50/50 prize winners 3, AGM at Lings Wood 4, Keith Allsop retires 4, Dates for your calendar 4

Summer 2012

Online www.CPRENorthants.org.uk

Children's artwork aims to protect their countryside First CPRE Northants litter poster competition is judged a great success

During spring term, in primary schools all over the county, pupils were studying the CPRE Northamptonshire Litter Education Pack. They learned about the dangers that carelessly tossed packaging create for wild animals and birds, about King Wastelot's picnic, using the Pack's assembly suggestions, displays, photographs and a specially developed schools website, www.CPRENorthants.org.uk/primaryschools. All of this activity culminated in a poster competition on this theme, with a substantial prize fund. We feature here some of the winning posters:

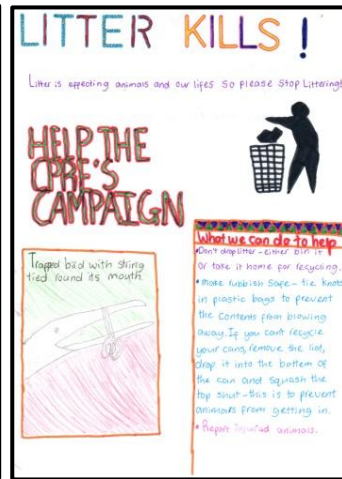
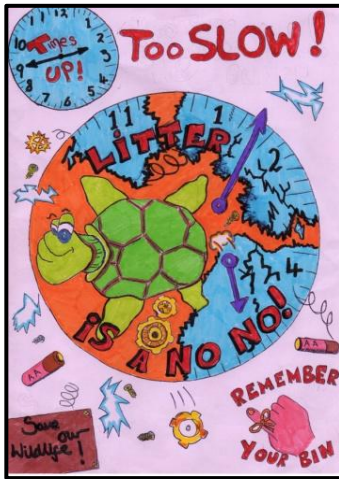


Winning posters: top row, left to right – by Amber Warner of Thrapston (year 2), Oliver McKendry of Nicholas Hawksmoor school in Towcester (year 6) and Phoebe Stimpson of Thrapston (year 3)

Highly commended posters: (bottom row) Michael Rapson of Nicholas Hawksmoor (year 6), Lily Odell of Nicholas Hawksmoor (year 6), Harry Bailey of Hackleton (year 4). On page 2, Kurtis Read of Loatlands (year 6), Macey Farquharson of Hackleton (year 6), Josh Cole of Hunsbury Park (year 6)

Also highly commended were Freya Golding of Thrapston, Grace Hughes, Hashim Khan and Caitlin Knight Jilbert of Guilsborough, Abigail Slater of Loddington, Sebastian Hodgekinson of Broughton and Ella Jennings of Bozeat

All winning posters are on www.cprenorthants.org.uk under [What's Going On](#)



There were over a 1,000 entries, which gave the judging panel some tricky work to do. On the panel were Mandy Parks of the Margaret Giffen Trust and Polly Wilson of the Wilson Foundation Trust; Tricia White, a primary education specialist and Oliver Burke, conservation manager for the Wildlife Trust at Lings Wood.

In the schools competition, the first prize - a cheque for

£500 and a commemorative plaque - went to **Guilsborough CEVA Primary School**. The second prize - a cheque for £250 - went to **Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School** from Towcester. These schools were, in the opinion of the judging panel, responsible for the most inspiring collection of entries, where the children had really responded to the message that litter imperils wildlife, debases our environment and degrades the quality of life for us all. In the **pupils'** competition, there were first prizes in each age category of £25 Amazon vouchers and 15 Commendations of £15 vouchers. The judges awarded prizes to children on the intrinsic merit of their posters.



Mrs Fowler of Guilsborough CEVA Primary School and Jenny Jeffery, assistant head of Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School receive their school's prizes from Lady Juliet Townsend, president of CPRE Northamptonshire

The whole schools litter project was funded by the Margaret Giffen Trust, the Wilson Foundation Trust and others, all of whom care about the problem of litter, and especially its impact on wildlife. We are hopeful that further funding will enable us to continue this work.

News from the Districts North & East Northamptonshire

Andrew Longley, Planning Manager at North Northants Joint Planning Unit, attended the June District meeting. Andrew described the transition from Regional Spatial Strategy to the NPPF and the development of a Local Plan with a Joint Core Strategy, incorporating Neighbourhood Plans. He emphasised the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the inclusion in the Localism Act of a duty to co-operate.

The Joint Core Strategy Review is due to be drafted by the end of July, and there will be a consultation period running through to October. Adoption is forecast for winter 2013. Changes from the RSS include lower levels of growth, stronger policies on the environment, greater emphasis on economic prosperity, a greater role for Rushden and the recognition of 'functional areas'. The most controversial plan mentioned was the proposal to create a new village in the style of Poundbury on the Deenethorpe airfield site, between Corby and Oundle.

West & South Northamptonshire

Current High Speed Two activity centres on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which has to be completed before the target date for laying the Hybrid Bill before Parliament - November 2013. The Community Forums set up by HS2 are now taking place regularly and the Branch has been represented at the two meetings that have been held to date. The third in the series is set for September.

One specific issue has arisen: -the hamlet of Lower Thorpe (five homes) will be demolished; two properties have already been purchased by HS2. The remaining homeowners have asked that the relocation of the hamlet, rather than compensation alone, is considered.

The siting of wind farms Spring Ridge, Winwick, Chelveston

CPRE Northamptonshire shares the outrage felt by South Northants Council, the local MP Andrea Leadsom, and the residents of Helmdon, Greatworth and Sulgrave at the decision by the Planning Inspectorate to grant permission for five wind turbines at Spring Ridge Farm.

The decision came shortly after a similar verdict on the Winwick Warren wind farm proposal for six turbines, which local MP Chris Heaton-Harris called "another disgraceful decision by the Planning Inspectorate.....ignoring localism & local people completely". The Winwick Warren proposals affect the countryside around Yelvertoft, Cold Ashby & West Haddon. In June the appeal for nine turbines at Chelveston, overlooking the Three Shires Way, was granted. In May, Daventry DC's decision on Lilbourne Fields near Rugby was overturned.

These are further examples of central Government overriding local planning decisions, so making a mockery of localism. As in the case of Lyveden New Bield in March, the Spring Farm Inspector acknowledges the damage to the local environment which she is authorising. This is said to be justified by the national requirement for renewable energy. But where is the evidence that these turbines will actually deliver enough energy when it is needed, to justify the desecration of the countryside? The developers and landowners are farming subsidies, not wind.

How CPRE policy is changing

There has been a small but important change in CPRE policy on wind energy. We have always supported sustainable energy as a means of reducing carbon emissions, which have led directly to climate change. However, this Branch has campaigned against subsidy farming, which has encouraged speculative turbine towers that will do little if anything to offset the burning of carbon.

Onshore wind in lowland England is rarely an effective source of renewable energy, but it is the source of financial subsidies. These skew the economic unfairly, penalising hard-pressed consumers and favouring risk-averse investors. It is a misguided effort to resolve a serious environmental problem, which amply demonstrates the law of intended consequences: our precious landscapes will be irreparably damaged as a result.

CPRE has responded nationally to the dramatic increase in the number of onshore wind proposals entering the planning system. Where onshore wind energy can contribute to achieving the policy targets, we believe that this should not come at the expense of the beauty, character and tranquillity of rural England.

We have to consider the balance between energy output and landscape and amenity harm. If this is judged unfavourable for a particular wind farm proposal, it should be opposed. There should be no planning policy presumption in favour of renewable energy development, or wind turbines in particular. The application should state the predicted outputs of energy based on site-specific measured wind data, which should be supplied with the application. This will contribute to a detailed public understanding of the renewable energy benefits of the particular scheme.

As part of her travels around the country marking her Diamond Jubilee year, HM the Queen visited Burghley House near Stamford, to attend a Diamond Jubilee Picnic held there in her honour. CPRE Northamptonshire was represented at the event by Sally Hanrahan, with David and Jane Charlton-Jones.

Jane is pictured meeting Her Majesty.



Photo ©CPRE



50/50: spring prizewinners

April: Christopher Hart of Cotterstock, Gillian Bramwell of Culworth, Paul Hayter of Charlton

May: Wendy Turner of Desborough, Brian Worton of Hollowell, Peter Pollak of Sulgrave

June: David Montagu-Smith of Farthinghoe, Terry Young of Kettering, Cormac Harrison of Barnes

Make sure that you and your family are stakeholders when the next draw takes place at the end of July. Visit www.CPRENorthants.org.uk or phone 01858 43313. Remember, half of each stake goes to the prizewinners, half to protecting the Northamptonshire countryside.

Henceforth this approach will be CPRE national policy. We will be writing to the county's planning officers and MPs shortly to clarify our views on this issue. An updated version of CPRE's policy on Climate Change and Energy will appear on our website soon.

CPRE Northants AGM 2012



This year's meeting was held last month at the Lings Wood Environmental Centre in Northampton. We were the guests of the Wildlife Trust, and after the formal business of the meeting, its conservation manager Oliver Burke (left) gave us a presentation on the work of the centre during its centenary year.

He has calculated that 95% of the population of Northamptonshire live within five miles of a WT reserve. The upper Nene Valley has been designated a Special Protection Area for overwintering migratory birds, putting it under the same category of protection as internationally important sites such as the Camargue in southern France.

Damsel flies, otters, Slavonian grebes, widgeons and pochards are becoming established in the county's protected areas. The route of the HS2 train line crosses the habitat of rare butterflies. Northamptonshire's high growth and development targets mean that the cause of wildlife protection has to be continually championed to planners and developers.

Oliver invited CPRE to participate with the Wildlife Trust and other organisations in the newly established Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area, which encompasses the entire river system in the county.

Keith Allsop

After volunteering for CPRE for over fifty years, Keith is looking for a successor

Our technical secretary for the Corby area has been volunteering for us since the mid 1950s. The 1959 CPRE Northamptonshire Annual Report lists him as Hon Secretary, and in 1969 he was the Hon Technical Advisor, by 1972 Vice Chairman and then very active over subsequent years. The 1962 report noted: "The C.P.R.E. Headquarters requested that Northamptonshire send two members to sit on the General Council, and your Committee accordingly appointed Mrs. M. M. Bartlet and Mr. K. J. Allsop."

In the 1972 Annual Report Keith contributed an article "Wanted: A Policy for our Rural Roads", another in 1974 on "Cheap Land" and in 1976 "The Saga of the M1 - A1 Road Link Continues". In 1973 he was working on sand and gravel extraction at Kislingbury. These historic reports - a most valuable information resource, now on our website - provide an excellent historical perspective on what is happening today. We would not have copies of these documents if Keith had not kept an archive of the early years.

He has continued to be very active over the decades since, but would now like to handover to someone else. Our technical secretaries' team therefore has the unenviable task of, if not replacing Keith, then at least supplementing our resources in the north of the county.

If you are, or you know someone who is, an architect or a planner, or someone with an interest in the countryside who wants to learn how to protect it, and you have a little time to spare, we would really love to hear from you. Email us at info@CPRENorthants.org.uk.

As a volunteer, the time commitment you choose is extremely flexible. And we don't expect anyone to pledge their time until the late 2060s!

Autumn dates for your calendar

Events: Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk or 01858 433136

Tuesday August 21

Presentation of awards to the 2012 Litter Heroes at Cranford Hall, by kind permission of Sir John and Lady Robinson

Saturday September 22

Summer Supper Party at the Old Rectory, Farthinghoe, by kind permission of Jill and David Montagu-Smith. Tickets £20, including live music and supper

Friday October 19

Call my Bluff wine tasting at Broughton House. Further information from davidcharlton-jones@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday November 20

Planning Roadshow at Great Houghton Village Hall

Wednesday December 12

Christmas Carols by Candlelight at Cranford Hall, by kind permission of Sir John and Lady Robinson. Tickets £20, including supper.

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Comments to: info@CPRENorthants.org.uk