



CPRE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF ITS 2006 DESIGN AWARDS

CPRE in Northamptonshire has announced the winners of its inaugural Design Awards. The competition was introduced to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Northamptonshire Branch of CPRE and to raise awareness of good design in the county. The Awards recognise contemporary developments that have added to the quality of the environment and our enjoyment of it.

The judges were Lady Robinson, CPRE Branch chair; Dick Zielinski, the Northampton architect; and Alan Mayes, long-time CPRE volunteer in Northamptonshire and Principal Architect Planner in Conservation and Design for Warwickshire County Council.

The Design Awards have a number of categories covering development, restoration and improvement projects from the last few years in Northants towns and villages. Twenty-two nominations were received from all over the county, ranging from a millennium beacon to a racecourse stand. The judges were most impressed by the standard of all of the entries and, although they wished to encourage all entrants, they chose the examples that stood out from the rest as clear benchmarks of good design.

The 2006 Design Award winners are:

40 Big Green, Warmington (near Oundle) - a recently-built house in a village setting that displays excellent detailing and a modern design that is sympathetic to its surroundings.

The Marketplace, Brackley - a significant urban improvement at the heart of one of the county's traditional market towns.

The Empress Stand at Towcester racecourse - a large new building that makes a statement in its own context and exhibits a high standard of detailing and a highly appropriate use of materials.

78 Derngate, Northampton - a fine example of the restoration of a building that had become degraded, and is now a widely-visited historic building that adds to the county's range of historic assets.

We congratulate all of the winners and thank the other entrants for encouraging good design in the county.

The stylish Design Award plaques will be presented at the CPRE Northamptonshire Christmas event. It is intended that these will be displayed at each winner's site. The Christmas event is to be held at Cranford Hall (between Kettering and Thrapston), 7.30 pm on Friday December 8, by kind permission of Sir John Robinson and Lady Robinson. It is open to both members and non-members; for tickets contact: Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.

Another competition is planned for next year when further nominations will be sought.

LILFORD HALL

What a treat to visit one of our county's major country houses after its closure as a family home for so many years. About 100 members and friends of CPRE attended a most enjoyable evening on 29 September at the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Charles Micklewright, the present owners of Lilford Hall. Approaching the house through the park on an early autumn evening, the architecture took on a magical appearance with lights glinting through the massive bay windows. Lilford is one of the county's few examples of a Jacobean country house, sensitively extended in the Victorian period by the Lords of Lilford and now about to undergo a major programme of much needed restoration. Charles Micklewright and his wife kindly welcomed us into the beautiful panelled dining room

and allowed visitors to wander through other ground floor rooms and to inspect his plans for the restoration of the house. We wish Mr and Mrs Micklewright well with their project and thank them for a memorable evening.

The evening was a great success for CPRE Northamptonshire - raising approximately £1000 - and many thanks to all concerned for their help with delicious food and wine served at this event.

Alan Mayes
CPRE Northamptonshire

PERMACULTURE

Northamptonshire has a new sustainability initiative in the form of a Permaculture Group: PermOrganics Ltd. They are a new community co-operative based on 4.5 acres of a 300 acre farm in Rothersthorpe, where the group are currently implementing a permaculture design to create abundant areas of organic vegetables, fruit, herbs and dye plants; wildlife habitats, forest garden, aquaculture and a woodland crafts training area. The field is situated in an elevated spot overlooking the canal towards Milton Malsor and from this vantage point you can see the Hill Fort at Hunsbury.

The group aims are: to provide access to education in sustainable land use, to grow organic produce to be sold locally and to encourage more people to go out and enjoy the health benefits of working with the natural environment.

Dawn Houghton, the PermOrganics co-ordinator says - "We are dedicated to sustainable living and do actually walk our talk. We are fully aware of the need to refine our lifestyle to prepare for the change in global climate. Our economy and environment are very unstable at present and we feel that more people need to realise the true implications this poses. By being able to re-learn life-skills and by re-connecting to the natural cycles and reassessing what each family needs to do to adapt to the changes, everyone can learn to live more sustainably."

She adds "It's not just about is our coffee Fair Trade or if our light bulbs are low energy. These are just the tiny changes we can make and they DO make a difference. But it encompasses where we work, how we travel, how we heat and light and cook in our homes, how to prepare for the summer hosepipe bans, but more importantly there are issues that the government and media never seem to report about

PermOrganics was formed to be a skills and information exchange for the residents of Northamptonshire and bordering counties. The 5 key members are experienced and qualified in their own fields, from Permaculture to Ecological Design.

"As a not-for-profit enterprise we are here to work with the residents of Northamptonshire, to provide a place of beauty and abundance for them to enjoy and to be a loud voice to ensure the county becomes more sustainable for generations to come."

This innovative and radical co-operative works closely with The Permaculture Association Britain, and is listed in the new edition of The Green Building Bible. "We are more than a permaculture group - we are here to help permaculture Northampton!"

For more information please visit www.permaculture.org.uk
email permorganics@yahoo.co.uk

Dawn Houghton
Member, CPRE Northamptonshire

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS' MARKETS

... have provided this list of certified markets, the NAFM members selling produce within the recommended criteria

BRACKLEY Location:

Market Place 3rd Saturday monthly
9.00am - 1.00pm

DAVENTRY Location:

High Street 1st Saturday monthly
9.00am - 1.30pm

HICHAM FERRERS Location:

Market Square Last Sunday monthly
9.00am - 2.00pm

NORTHAMPTON Location:

The Market Square 3rd Thursday monthly
9.00am - 1.30pm
Saturday monthly 9.00am - 1.30pm

OUNDLE Location:

The Market Square 2nd Saturday
monthly 8.30pm - 1.30pm

TOWCESTER Location:

Richmond Road Car Park 2nd
Friday monthly 9.00am - 1.30pm

WELLINGBOROUGH Location:

Market Place
Last Thursday monthly
9.00 - 1.30pm

DATE FOR DIARY

.Please, note date for the Summer Ball 2007 -
Friday, 14 September 2007 - Highgate House, Creaton.

HOW TO CONTACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Local CPRE office contact telephone number
01858433136

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

If you share our beliefs about protecting our precious heritage of beautiful countryside, consider leaving a gift to CPRE Northamptonshire in your will.

Your legacy, no matter what the amount, will help us to ensure that developments are sensitive to the countryside and that housing sprawl is kept in check. With your help there will be a green, tranquil and beautiful England for all of our grandchildren to enjoy.

Thank you.

John Baylis

TRANQUILLITY CAMPAIGN

CPRE's National Campaign on Tranquillity was launched last month. Along with beauty and diversity, tranquillity is one of the key features that characterises the countryside, and its existence is fundamental to CPRE philosophy. One of the most important benefits the countryside can give us, it can be both inspiring and calming.

A sense of tranquillity can be induced by many means - a peaceful walk in green and open spaces, a quiet night beneath starlit skies, sound of a brook, sight of wildlife in remote places and farm animals grazing at peace. Sadly, tranquillity isn't so easy to find anymore/The ever-present noise of aeroplanes and cars, the spread of housing and industrial buildings, the light pollution that turns night into day - all are slowly contaminating our tranquil areas.

CPRE have produced new maps, which indicate a further deterioration of tranquil areas. It is the aim of CPRE to use this evidence to campaign for policies to protect tranquillity. This campaign is a three-year project. The new maps will plot the effects of noise, built development and light pollution on detailed topographical maps. The overall level of tranquillity plotted on the maps, in any area, will reflect a combination of the negative effect of disturbance plus the positive effect of features that enhance a sense of tranquillity.

CPRE Northamptonshire will be working with National Office on this campaign and the participation of our members could have a significant effect.

If you have a favourite tranquil spot please send us a photograph and a description of this. Details will be posted on our website.

Sally Hanrahan Development Officer