

# Outlook

Number 22 Autumn 2009



*Barnwell Country Park, Oundle*

photo by June Middleton

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## GOOD NEWS: LOCAL FOODS FUNDING SECURED

**SALLY HANRAHAN**

CPRE Northamptonshire's bid for £5,000 of Grassroots funding has been approved by the Northamptonshire Community Foundation. The new project, called '**Buy Local, Eat Local**' will be an outreach awareness and fact finding project aimed at local people. It will raise understanding of the importance of local food and find out how people can be encouraged to buy more locally produced food.

### Attention Parish Councils

**Who has the portfolio for planning and development issues on your Parish Council?**

We want to set up a database of Parish Councillors who take the lead on these issues for each village. This will enable us to keep in touch with those people who are most interested in planning matters.

We are asking that Parish Clerks or Councillors, or indeed anyone who has this information, to send an email to us at [info@CPRENorthants.org](mailto:info@CPRENorthants.org), or else leave a quick message at 01858 433136, with the relevant councillor's name, parish and email address. We will of course ask their permission before adding anyone's name to our database.

The project will run from October '09 to August '10. It will build on the success of our recent FoodMiles Primary Education Pack that is helping to build awareness with school children and it will complement the current Buy Local Foods Awards scheme that celebrates local food suppliers and supporters. As part of the project we will conduct a survey, talking directly with local people, and this will be used to inform the next steps in our work to support local foods in the county.

**Do you enjoy the walks around Salcey Forest?  
Would you like to know something of the history of this beautiful area?**

Andy Patmore is a Forestry Commission Wildlife Ranger and has worked for the Forestry Commission for many years. His work involves wildlife control and conservation projects.

Andy will present a talk on The History of Salcey Forest at Great Houghton Village Hall, Leys Lane, Great Houghton NN4 7QA at 7.30 pm on October 22. An invitation is enclosed with this issue of Outlook.

## SYWELL AERODROME: THE OPERATOR RESPONDS

### AN UPDATE FROM DAVID MONTAGU-SMITH

Mr Michael Bletsoe-Brown, Managing Director of Sywell Aerodrome Ltd, has pointed out a number of points made in the article in the Summer 2009 edition of Outlook, which he considers do not fairly reflect the history of the developments at Sywell Aerodrome or the plans for the future operations there. Following a detailed discussion with Mr Bletsoe-Brown, and regretting any factual errors which may have arisen, we are very pleased to offer him an opportunity to respond to that article. He makes the following points:-

#### The Joint Consultative Committee

Sywell recognises the importance of having good relations with its neighbours. It is fully in support of the Committee, in the hope that it will serve as a forum for constructive and informative liaison with the local communities and not simply for continual confrontation.

#### The Runway

The new runway will be licensed for a length of 1,000 metres. The length, alignment and location of the runway have all been verified by Wellingborough Borough Council to conform with all the necessary approvals, which have been given. Although the runway will be open all year round, it will not be equipped or certified for large scale commercial operations.

#### Scale of Activity

The runway will be able to accommodate small turbo-prop and executive jet aircraft and helicopters, as well as the piston engined aircraft which been active at the airfield for many years. The aerodrome hopes to develop as a centre for corporate business air travel. There is no intention or prospect of freight or large scale commercial passenger flights – neither the runway nor the facilities at Sywell can handle these. There is no intention either to seek to lengthen the runway – there is no room on the airfield for such an expansion, which would anyway require, in effect, a planning application for a new runway.

#### Sywell Wood

The aerodrome is contracted by the Forestry Commission to manage the area of the wood adjoining the airfield. In order to comply with the Civil Aviation Authority regulations it has been agreed that trees in that area have to be coppiced for the safety of landing aircraft. All the works carried out on the wood are part of that work, and the area is already regenerating at a fast pace.

### Hedgerow Management Day

Identification, planting and maintenance

Friday 9th October 2009, 10.30am – 3.30 pm, at Holcot Village Hall. Lunch is included.

The event is jointly organised with Louise Pymm of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. It is free, but **booking is essential**. To reserve a place, please contact FWAG on 01926 318280.

The day will include all aspects of hedgerow management and biodiversity, including:

- The importance of hedgerows for wildlife, landscape and history
- Practical advice on creating, maintaining and restoring hedgerows
- The identification and recording of hedgerows

**After lunch:** a discussion on hedge planting and a demonstration at a local farm.

**CPRE Northants are providing grants towards the purchase of plants and guards. Application forms will be available on the day.**

The history of the developments at Sywell since permission was sought for the all-weather runway has been one of conflict and controversy. We hope that the future relations between the Aerodrome and its neighbours will be increasingly well informed and constructive for the benefit of whole community. CPRE will continue to work to help this process.

**Editor's note:** From these comments, Mr Bletsoe-Brown is making the record clear: that he is seeking to develop Sywell for corporate business air travel only, and neither for airfreight nor for large scale passenger flights (corporate business aviation excludes commercial flights made by licensed air carriers). CPRE supports a successful rural economy, whilst tranquillity and the countryside are protected.

If you have any comments, please let us have them - [info@CPRENorthants.org](mailto:info@CPRENorthants.org) or 01858 433136.

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BUFFET SUPPER

JOHN & NANCY JEFFERIS

The new and very modern Visitor Centre at Stanwick Lakes proved to be an excellent venue for our September Buffet Supper, which was a happy and relaxed occasion. The Centre stands on the edge of several disused gravel pits near the River Nene, with its stretches of reed beds and willow trees. Nearby is a children's play area and hides for bird watching.



We were initially welcomed with a glass of bubbly and, as promised by Jane Charlton-Jones, our organiser, we watched the sun set over the lakes. Then we retreated indoors to a pleasant sociable space with chairs and tables ready for our groups of guests, in anticipation of an excellent buffet.

Alyson Allfree, Director of the Rockingham Forest Trust, gave us a brief introduction to the project. The lakes are not 'true countryside' but provide easy access for people of all ages to explore an interesting area and to learn more about the natural world, through direct experience. Helen Mandel, the CPRE Northants Countryside Access Advisor, has recently commended this approach to the Branch Executive Committee. Alyson was presented with a copy of Icons of England by Lady Robinson, our Vice-President, who recalled that some years ago CPRE had not opposed the planning application for these gravel pits!

After Alyson's talk, over 50 members and friends were able to choose from an attractive selection of dishes prepared by the chef who had obviously taken great pleasure in arranging a very varied and appetising menu. Although 9.00 p.m. was the official closing time, George, the centre manager, kindly did not

hurry away people who were still chatting and enjoying themselves.

Many thanks go to Alyson Allfree and the Trustees of the Rockingham Forest Trust for allowing us the free use of this eco-friendly facility. Well over £500 was raised for Branch funds.

## CONSULTATION: WEST NORTHANTS JOINT PLANNING UNIT

JOHN DAY HAS SOME SERIOUS CONCERNS

John has written a letter to the WNJPU ([www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org](http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org)) in his capacity as CPRE Technical Secretary for West Northamptonshire. His letter of 25 September has been enclosed with this edition of Outlook. In summary, he believes that the JPU's Emergent Core Strategy Consultation is flawed in both structure and content, and should be withdrawn for re-appraisal.

In summary, he has three specific and very serious concerns:

1. **The timing of the consultation.** The JPU favours Option 2 of the East Midlands Regional Plan Options Consultation, which envisages significant additional development for Northampton, creating a much larger urban area. This pre-empts the EMR Plan Options Consultation, which has a later closing date, and therefore disregards opinions expressed to it by members of the public.
2. **Bias in the questionnaire.** The JPU promotes a favoured option, and hence its questionnaire is biased towards it.
3. **Development of greenfield land.** The Emergent Core Strategy ignores the boundaries around Towcester, Daventry and Northampton, which were legally designated when the West Northants Development Corporation was set up, and proposes major urban extensions into the open countryside beyond.

**Other concerns** are:

- The promotion of Northampton as a city, presumably without a public debate

- The fact that three board members of the Development Corporation, a “delivery vehicle” committed to growth, are also members of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee – clearly a potential conflict of interest
- While assurances are given that the proposed growth will not be housing-led, provision of housing is the core element of the strategy. There is no detailed analysis of, nor funding provision for, infrastructure requirements: schools, health care services and utilities
- The national target of 60% brownfield development, re-iterated in the regional plan, is not addressed, even though urban regeneration is a core requirement

Please send any comments to John via [info@CPRENthants.org](mailto:info@CPRENthants.org) or PO Box 7939, Market Harborough, LE16 9XW.

## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SUPPER PARTY

SALLY HANRAHAN

Our party was held on a wonderful summer evening at the home of Jill and David Montague-Smith in Farthinghoe (*photo on the right*). Supper was a terrific salmon with salad and some delightful puddings, produced by Jill and her team of volunteer helpers.

There was a good attendance of over fifty people, so this enjoyable social evening contributed greatly to Branch funds. Everyone much appreciated the hospitality and the superb venue of Jill and David’s home in Farthinghoe.



## PROFILE OF JAMES MOULSON

JUDGE OF OUR 2009 FOOD AWARDS COMPETITION

James is Head Chef and Director of Mash & Co Catering and James Moulson Consultancy Ltd. He has had catering experience at Claridges, was head chef aboard the QE2 and has spent eight years developing some of the foods that appear in High Street retailers. He now has his own company,



which combines both catering and menu development.

At Mash & Co, James enjoys creating bespoke menus for his clients, and adding variations to traditional dishes. His passion is in his presentation and the excellent flavours he produces from (where possible) locally sourced ingredients. He also gives demonstrations in his kitchen, so that he can share his knowledge and

experience with others who want to achieve great things in their own kitchens! His dishes are being stocked by two of the major supermarkets and by many independent retailers.

**Upcoming Events: Dates for your Diary**  
Our Events Co-ordinator can be reached at [Sue.Baylis@CPRENthants.org](mailto:Sue.Baylis@CPRENthants.org) or 01858 433136

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009** – Hedgerow Management Event at Holcot Village Hall

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009** – 7.30 pm  
A Talk on the History of Salcey Forest by Andy Patmore at Great Houghton Village Hall, Leys Lane, Great Houghton NN4 7QA. Tickets are £10, including refreshments

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009** – 7.00 pm  
An evening of wine and canapés and the presentation of the ‘Buy Local’ Food Awards 2009 – to be held at Boughton House.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009** – 7.30 pm.  
Christmas Carols by Candlelight and the presentation of the Town & Country Awards at Cranford Hall, by kind permission of Sir John and Lady Robinson

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