



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

CPRE Northamptonshire News

Outlook

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Hazelborough Woods in early autumn

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SO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CPRE NORTHANTS THIS AUTUMN?

As usual, there is a lot going on. In no particular order, here is a flavour of what we are working on and what is concerning our membership as the nights draw in: -

The extensive publicity generated by CPRE's proposals for a **National Deposit Refund System** was mostly very favourable, and county members too have been supportive – with a few concerns about the practicality of such a scheme. Many people have childhood memories of returning pop bottles for pennies, and some have experienced successful contemporary deposit schemes on visits to some provinces and states in Canada, Australia and the USA, Israel and the Nordic countries. Would such a scheme result in fewer drinks containers strewn around Northamptonshire lanes and byways? Read about the proposed scheme in the report summary [Have We Got the Bottle?](#) on our national website, CPRE.org.uk.

An appeal has been lodged against radioactive waste disposal at a landfill site in **Kings Cliffe**. In the same village a new Planning Application has revived the proposal to build 150 homes on a small site.

Old Sulehay Holiday and Leisure Park, planned for a site next to the wildlife reserve, would be a major tourism development, which will require careful monitoring. The proposed housing in Creed Road, **Oundle** is causing great concern. From its location residents would likely drive into Oundle rather than take a 40 minute walk, which will exacerbate parking in the town.

Our West District committee has arranged a dinner at **The George Row, Northampton** on the **22nd October**. The speaker will be **Andrea Leadsom, MP**, who will share her reflections on the first six months of coalition government and on current issues affecting her constituency. Andrea Leadsom has already made an important mark on Parliament, having been selected to serve on the key Commons Treasury Committee, and looks to become an influential presence in the new Parliament. Tickets for the reception and dinner are £50, which will directly benefit CPRE Northamptonshire's funds. For further information please contact John Day 01604 847369 or Sally Hanrahan 01604 781729.

What will the new **Decentralisation and Localism Bill** actually do to the planning system on which we rely? What will be the practical effects on proposed developments of the new community support requirements?

Branch financial situation

The portion of your CPRE national membership subscriptions that is passed on to us in Northamptonshire only provides us with around one quarter of the funding that we need to continue the work that you are reading about in this issue of Outlook. The rest comes from income from fundraising social events, plus associated donations from a few generous individuals and from our partnership on litter with Carlsberg UK.

While some of our members enjoy attending these functions, and bring their friends and families, we know that others choose not to do so. In the last couple of years we have not generated sufficient funds from membership subscriptions and ticket sales to meet our costs, and we have had to dip into the reserves that we have built up over the decades. Our tireless volunteers, who give many unpaid hours to the work of protecting rural Northamptonshire, help us to keep our costs down.

When we ask members for their suggestions for additional sources of funds, we often hear about "One (or Two or more) Hundred" clubs, also known as "Fifty-Fifty" clubs, which are well supported in many villages and other charities. We have decided to join them.

CPRE Northants FiftyFifty Club

Starting in the New Year, we will be launching a Fifty-Fifty Club to all our members – and their friends and families, regardless of whether or not they attend our social functions. We hope you agree that this will be a fun way of supporting us – ensuring that our work can continue and, at the same time, having the chance of winning a few pounds. As with all such schemes, 50% of the money raised by sales of shares will be returned as prizes, and the other 50% will help to sustain CPRE Northamptonshire. **Please look for the application form with this issue of Outlook and support us – thank you.**

We await its publication (due in November) with great interest. There is currently a hiatus: we all know that significant changes are coming, but as yet we do not know what those changes will be. Will developers seize opportunities to exploit this uncertainty? What will happen to the county's two Joint Planning Units?

WIND FARMS – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As readers of the summer edition of Outlook will know, we in CPRE Northamptonshire believe that it is time to re-appraise how we meet carbon emission targets and develop sustainable energy. The numerous wind farms proposed for the county mean that developers will farm generous subsidies more effectively than the somewhat intermittent and gentle breezes that we experience here. The subsidies will be a regressive tax on all the rest of us energy consumers and the worrying number of gigantic turbines that have been proposed will transform our rural landscapes forever. They might just be tolerable if they genuinely made a substantial reduction in carbon that we emit, but as outlined in [our summer report](#), this will not happen.

Our report was welcomed by many around the country, and there does seem to be a shift of opinion in some political circles: lowland wind farms may well be a well-intentioned but dreadful mistake. We are working with our national lobbyists to bring these concerns to Government. However, there are large profits at stake for landowners and foreign equipment suppliers, and the wind energy lobby is rather more forceful than the zephyrs of Northamptonshire.

HIGH SPEED 2 IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

High Speed Two Ltd published an "optimised alignment" of the previously announced route in September. Their recommended route now passes through a cutting further to the north of Brackley, now north of Turweston (Bucks) and much closer to Radstone. The line also shifts 100-150 metres north as it passes through the south west of the county, closer to Aston-le-Walls, Sulgrave and Culworth but further from Greatworth, Thorpe Mandeville and Chipping Warden, where the line will now be covered. The embankment at Lower Boddington will be reduced from an astonishing 19 metres high to a still enormous 5 metres.

The change at Brackley from a high viaduct to a deep cutting will reduce the visual impact of the line, and the lateral move northwards means of course that some people will win and others will lose. Those opposed to the whole concept of high speed rail will be unmoved by these proposals. If the Government does decide to proceed with the project, which appears likely but still not certain, then these re-alignment proposals show that lobbying can mitigate the effects of the line, which was the experience of CPRE Kent during the planning phase of HS1 (the Channel Tunnel line). However, if you live in a property blighted by the project, you will find little solace in that.

While we all wait for the Government to clarify its position, in an announcement expected before the end of the year, we in CPRE Northamptonshire are continuing our dialogue with affected Parish Councils.

SALCEY FOREST: PAUL HAYTER ENJOYED OUR GUIDED WALK

On 7 September 20 members of CPRE Northamptonshire enjoyed an evening walk around Salcey Forest, led by the knowledgeable and entertaining ranger Andy Patmore, to whom we were all most grateful.

We started at the café with tea and cakes, which I can recommend to anyone thinking about a visit. Then Andy escorted us around the maze of paths in one corner of the Forest, stopping at selected points to explain the history of the royal forests, the trees to be seen, and curiosities such as the elephant pool, dug during the Second World War to enable elephants being used as "tractors" to cool off. He also described the sad plight of the horse chestnuts whose leaves are being attacked by tiny leaf miner moths recently introduced into the country; this infestation explains the apparent autumn discolouring of the conker trees. Then we climbed gradually up the treetop walkway, literally the highlight of our visit, which offers spectacular views across the plain to Northampton in the north and over the forest canopy in the south. As the sun set on a warm evening, it was a truly memorable experience.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2010/11

CPRE Northants' aims include supporting the county's farmers and growers and the rural economy as a whole, and encouraging locally produced foods, in order to reduce food miles and hence carbon emissions. To further these aims we have been working with Carlsberg UK and Northamptonshire Food & Drink Awards on the 2010 Local Food Heroes Awards, which recognise and celebrate our local food suppliers. We were looking for those people and businesses in the food and drink sector in Northamptonshire who go further in producing, supplying, promoting or selling local goods or food services.

The judging for the competition took place at Holdenby Food & Drink Fair in August, when members of the public had the enviable task of tasting food from the nominated businesses. The winners were later announced at the Awards Dinner at Holdenby House, when the awards were presented by Michelin-starred chef Jason Atherton. The winners were:

Sheena Harris

Sheena is an egg producer who keeps chickens on her farm, packs them herself and then delivers them to all the local villages and shops in Moulton, Hannington, Holcot and Walgrave. She also makes chutneys, jams, cakes and puddings. What impressed the judges was her commitment to delivering her eggs to the local villages and schools - as one of her nominating customers said "come rain or shine". The judges felt that this dedication to local food was a wonderful example of a Local Food Hero.



Sally Hanrahan, Branch Development & Education Manager for CPRE Northants, at the Holdenby Food & Drink Fair



*Sally Hanrahan with Local Food Heroes at the Holdenby House Awards dinner
Clockwise from top left: Green Patch, Limes Farm, Sheena Harris & Beckworths*

Limes Farm, Farthinghoe

Ian and Nicky Dorwood produce cakes, pies, tarts, jams, chutneys and jellies from farm-grown produce. They also provide meals to six local primary schools as part of the Clean Plate Award scheme, in which youngsters are encouraged to eat up all of their food, with the reward of a sticker to add in their sticker book. The Dorwoods have incorporated the spirit of traditional farming into the way they produce their foods.



Beckworth Emporium, Mears Ashby

Beckworth Emporium is a garden centre, farm shop and restaurant, which sells local produce including beers and wine, jams, chutneys, jellies, cakes, milk, fruit and vegetables. The judges were impressed with the development of the business and the commitment to local products and the showcase of so many other excellent local producers. One nominating customer said "Each time we have visited, the staff have been polite, courteous and smiling at all times. "Produce in all departments is excellent, the atmosphere is relaxing and, above all that, the whole place is immaculate. A treat to visit."

The Green Patch, Kettering

The Green Patch is a community allotment project set up in 2002, part of the Groundwork team from the Business Exchange, Rockingham Rd, Kettering. They grow everything from potatoes to runner beans, thyme to sage, strawberries to swedes, and they keep chickens and ducks for their eggs. Twenty-five volunteers work up to 180 hours a week, and in return take home some produce.

Green Patch also support the Future Jobs Fund, offering work to 18 – 24 year olds, who have been out of work for six months – including people with disabilities, and a newly-qualified student with a subject-related degree, who cannot find work. They sell to local residents from the site and through a shop in Kettering town centre. They provide an after school club for children from schools in Kettering.

Winter dates for your calendar

Our Events Coordinator can be reached at Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org or 01858 433136

Friday October 22

Dinner at the Northants Club in George Row, Northampton; guest speaker Andrea Leadsom MP. Ticket enquiries to John Day 01604 847369 or Sally Hanrahan 01604 781729

Thursday December 16

Carols for Christmas and the presentation of the CPRE Town & Country Awards at Cranford Hall. Tickets are £20, including supper

Spring 2011 dates for our Stop the Drop litter campaign: Friday March 25 to Sunday April 3

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