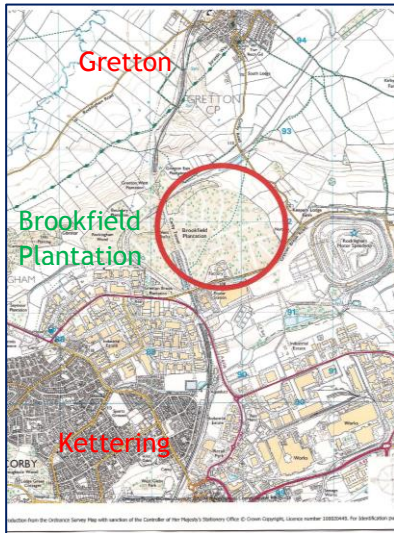


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Brookfield Plantation

- CPRE member challenges Corby planners

Brookfield Plantation is 95 hectares of woodland on the escarpment overlooking the Welland valley on the North edge of Corby and permission is being sought to create an industrial estate whose principal business will be sorting and reclaiming waste. The application is particularly controversial because the area has long been considered a greenfield site and therefore unsuitable for industrial development but Corby Borough Council have re-defined Brookfield as brownfield thus bringing it within NPPF guidelines for development.

A CPRE member from Gretton, the village nearest to the site, is challenging this ruling. Mrs Ann Craske has used the Freedom of Information Act to discover how the Council justified the change and has employed a top planning lawyer to argue that the land is still greenfield and ask the Council to reverse their decision.

The debate continues and meanwhile Mrs Craske has submitted a lengthy and well-argued document to Corby Council in which she uses all aspects of planning law to emphasise the case against this development.

CPRE North Northants has objected to the application on the grounds of detriment to the landscape and damage to the local environment, the availability of alternative sites and traffic and highway considerations.

CPRE Northamptonshire Town and Country Award Nominations 2013

The Town and Country Awards recognise projects in Northants that protect the countryside, assist urban renewal and improve everyone's quality of life. Previous winners have included the communal village shop at Sulgrave, 78 Derngate, the new stand at Towcester racecourse and the renovation of Rushton Hall to a Hotel. There are five categories for this year's competition which include a building in any location featuring: Sympathetic restoration and re-use, an example of innovative new build, novel energy-saving measures and outstanding design.

- Woodford Mill, Ringstead Road, Ringstead - complete restoration of a derelict water mill to form a tearoom.
- Bridge Street Housing, Thrapston - imaginative housing using traditional materials.
- Carlsberg Offices and depot - new office and depot building adjacent to the riverside in central Northampton.
- Derngate Errol Flynn Cinema - new arts cinema added to the Derngate complex.
- Barton Hall - Vines Hotel - Historic Country House restoration to form a modern hotel.
- Greyshott Spa, Fawsley Hall Hotel - new Spa facility at country house hotel.
- Becketts Park Marina, Northampton - new marina in central part of Northampton.
- Kings Head Spratton - imaginative restoration of a village public house.
- The Four Pears Little Houghton - transformation of a village public house.
- Wadenhoe tea rooms - conversion and restoration of a large threshing barn to a shop and tea room with a small plant centre and garden.



Fracking: curse or blessing? - by Peter Hopkins & David Montagu-Smith

CPRE is currently developing a national policy on fracking. It is possible that there will be planning applications to use the technique in Northamptonshire, as in many other English counties, although there are no current ones of which we are aware. It is certain to be a major countryside issue in the years to come. So what exactly is it, and why is it used? Is it a curse - or a blessing?

Hydraulic Stimulation, or Fracturing, as a means of extracting oil and gas has long been called fracking by industry insiders. Of course, the mainstream media quickly adopted the term when the technique was applied more widely, firstly in the US and now in many countries.

It is the process of generating large fractures within targeted oil or gas reservoirs in the subsurface of the Earth. Fracking is the pumping of water, with sand and additives in small quantities, at high pressure into specific sub-surface formations.

These fractures can be as long as several hundreds of metres. Fracking is generally performed at depths of 1,000 metres or more, where permeabilities are too low for hydrocarbons to flow under their own pressure. The purpose is to boost hydrocarbon flow rates from reservoirs, perhaps in mature conventional reservoirs where flow rates have dropped due to prolonged production, or to exploit new tight or low permeability reservoirs, such as Siltstone or Shales.

There are uncertainties with this technique: the extent of potential reserves may not yet be understood, and there is bound to be concern over environmental issues. Currently there are doubts about political commitment too. And there are a number of other concerns - some real, some imagined.

Many onshore wells will drill through active aquifers, and so strict regulation is essential. Before any complex operations take place in the borehole, aquifers, which lie at shallow depth, must be protected behind three or four layers of steel casing and cement.

Opponents of the technique object to the pumping of chemicals underground, but its supporters point out that these are not poisonous. Typical composition of the pumped fluid is 95% water, 4.5% water and 0.5% chemicals, which might include sodium chloride (salt), ethylene glycol (as used in household cleaners), borate salts (cosmetics), sodium and potassium carbonate (household cleaners), guar gum (foodstuffs) and isopropanol (detergents). Operators require an Environment Agency permit and must assess the chemicals and waste disposal methods to be used.

Should fracking be allowed? There is a clear energy security benefit if fracked gas displaces imports, and it should stimulate economic growth and local employment. Neighbouring communities will benefit financially under schemes that are proposed. However, there will only be a net reduction in carbon dioxide emissions if fracked gas leads to a drop in the millions of tonnes of coal burnt to generate electricity, as has happened in the US.

In the countryside we are particularly concerned about permanent wellhead infrastructure and our precious aquifers. The key to safeguarding our farmland and landscapes is proper planning and environmental controls, rigorously enforced. Then we will get the benefits of fracking without the environmental disasters that occurred in those poorly regulated American states where it was pioneered.

Garden Party at Lamport Hall on 9th June



Over fifty CPRE members and friends attended our party. The gardens were at their best and we were able to enjoy the wonderful borders and the large walled garden lying in the seven acres of grounds that surround the Hall with its classical frontage, started in 1685 and completed in the 18th century. We were also able to enjoy the ground floor rooms including the library, the 17th century Oak Room and the High Room with its magnificent ceiling dating from 1740.

Our volunteers provided a magnificent buffet and while our members enjoyed their canapés and a glass of wine our chairman, Sir Paul Hayter presented the Litter Heroes awards to the Brookside Residents Council and the villages of Cranford and Hinton-in-the-Hedges. In addition a special award was made to Hannah Reneerkens for her unstinting efforts while litter picking in Loddington.



Icons of Northamptonshire - Consultation by Paul Hayter

In 2008 CPRE published Icons of England, a book which celebrated the delights of rural England in photos and words. With an introduction by Bill Bryson, 70 well-known contributors wrote a page of text to accompany a photograph of some feature of the landscape which they treasured. It was a beautiful celebration of the countryside.

CPRE Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Council are now proposing jointly to publish a book for our county. This is where we need your help: to choose 70 Icons of Northamptonshire and to identify the people who could write about them.

It is probable that the icons will be selected in 12 groups, listed below. Bearing these in mind you are invited to nominate features of Northamptonshire which you think should be included, and where possible to suggest the name of a prominent person with Northamptonshire connections who might be invited to write about them. For example, you might suggest Althorp (Earl Spencer) or The Saints Rugby Stadium (Jim Mallinder). Icons do not have to be buildings. Is there somewhere in the Northamptonshire landscape near you, for instance, which you love and would recommend as an example of rural England at its best?

The 12 categories are: ancient Northants; villages; towns; open countryside; churches; industrial archaeology; big houses; transport; notable employers; sport; rivers and natural world; oddities.

Christine Moore - New Volunteer Profile



I attended my first Northamptonshire CPRE Executive Meeting in 1972 when I commenced my working life with Northamptonshire Rural Community Council (now Northamptonshire ACRE-Action with Communities in

Rural England). I also started taking the minutes of the Tidy Village and Churchyard Competition, and in addition, took minutes for the Northamptonshire Historic Churches and Best Kept Churchyard Competition.

I was a young, inexperienced and frightened minute taker at my first CPRE meeting. Captain Lowther from Holdenby House was the Chairman, Colonel Fell was the Secretary plus

around fifteen others including our present President's own mother. I held the position for the next thirty five years and at one time my office was the CPRE Secretary's office, so I have been quite involved with the organisation.

When I retired from ACRE I had been organiser of the Tidy Village and Village of the Year competitions. My latter role was that of County Secretary to Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils, along with the responsibility for the smooth running and training of local town and parish councils, a role which I truly miss to this day.

I retired from NALC some six years ago and after doing various other roles I decided to undertake some voluntary work (as you do !) and went to the Volunteer Centre in Northampton. What did I find - CPRE required a note taker for their meetings. Well I could not let that one pass me, could I? So here I am, full circle, taking minutes for CPRE.



The North Northamptonshire District will be holding its consultation evening to gather ideas from members for our county's icons on Thursday 24th October at Deene Park (by kind permission of Robert Brudenell Esq). All members and friends are warmly invited to join us at this informal evening which will be held in one of the great rooms in this truly iconic setting. As usual you will be offered a glass of wine and delicious canapés, together with the opportunity to meet fellow members and exchange views on the memorable people, places and things in our county. To reserve a place(s) either call David Charlton-Jones (01536 747164, mob 07818 066896) or e-mail to davidcharlton-jones@hotmail.co.uk. (There will be a small charge on the door of £5 to cover expenses). The evening will start at 7.00pm and full details will be sent out in the week before the event.

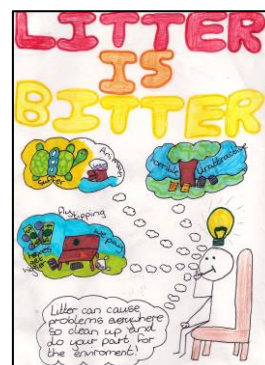
Please send your suggestions, with your name and address, to info@cprenorthants.org.uk



50/50: recent prizewinners

May: Clementine Harrison of Barnes £25, Susan Stevens of Sudborough £15
 June: Gayle Robinson of Cranford £30, Sir John Greenaway of Lois Weedon £20
 July: John Baylis of Market Harborough £30, Kate Harrison of Barnes £20
 August: David Montagu-Smith of Farthinghoe £30, John Day of Spratton £20
 September: Blaise Nicholls of Bushey, Herts £30, Terry Young of Kettering £20

Junior School Litter Poster Competition - results



Year 6
Winner



This is the second year of a successful campaign. Over 500 primary school children entered with Delapre Primary School collecting a cheque for £500. The runner up was Rothwell Junior School which collected a cheque for £250. Twenty five children from six schools in the county won prizes of Amazon vouchers.

The presentations took place at The Wildlife Trust, Lings Wood Education Centre. It was a real pleasure to see so many pupils and adults enthusiastic in their commitment to 'Stopping the Drop'.

Year 3 winner

Secondary School Litter Poster Competition - results



Year 7 Individual First Prize

The secondary school year 7 litter poster competition is in its first year. It was judged by Trisha White, volunteer from CPRE Northants, Sally Hanrahan, Development and Education Manager for CPRE Northants and Vicky Main, director of the NFU in Northampton.

The first prize of £500 was awarded to Campion Secondary School in Bugbrooke and the runner up was Malcolm Arnold Academy in Northampton. Fifteen pupils were awarded Amazon vouchers.

Dates for your diary

Events:

Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk

24 October – Icons of England event at Deene Park. See article for details

6 November – Planning Roadshow at Great Houghton Village Hall
From 6.00 – 9.00 Refreshments served.
Anyone wishing to attend please contact Sally Hanrahan on 01604 781729. No charge for members.

11 December – Carols at Cranford and the Town and Country Design Awards by kind permission of Sir John and Lady Robinson.

7.00 pm to include mulled wine and supper. Cost £20.00 per person.

Outlook production team: Trisha White, Sally Hanrahan, Sue Baylis & Peter Hopkins
Comments to: info@CPRENorthants.org.uk