



Northamptonshire
Campaign to Protect Rural England

The newsletter of the Northamptonshire Branch
of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

OUTLOOK

March 2015

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CPRE Planning Roadshow June 2015

Our next Roadshow will be on **Thursday
June 4** at Great Houghton Village
Hall. The meeting will start at 6.00 pm
for 6.30 pm and refreshments will be pro-
vided. It will end at around 9.00 pm.

The main theme will be **Making Planning
Responses Count**. We will be exploring
ways of making effective responses to
Local Plan Consultations and Planning
Applications, and appearances at Public
Inquiries.

The keynote speaker is the
Senior Planning Officer from
CPRE's National Office, Paul
Miner, whose presentation at
our May 2013 Roadshow was
well received.

The agenda will also include:

Solar Farm developments: an
update by our renewable ener-
gy expert Brian Skittrall.

**Rural Connectivity in North-
amptonshire:** Steve Batterby
on the results of our village-by-
village survey of promised and
actual mobile coverage and
superfast broadband, and what
should happen next.

Probably the Finest Culinary Competition in the World is Back!

- Sally Hanrahan

The 2015 Carlsberg UK
Northamptonshire Food
and Drink Awards
competition has been
launched for a
'magnificent seventh'
year!

The Awards, devised by
Northamptonshire
Enterprise Partnership
(NEP), are aimed at
celebrating all that is great
about local produce and
drink, recognising

excellence within the county's dining venues and rewarding those who work
so hard within the culinary sector. NEP's Chairman John Markham OBE
explained "It has long been recognised that Northamptonshire's economy
benefits hugely from the food and drink sector, currently contributing £1.5
billion each year. Moulton College's recent announcement of a new £5m Food
& Drink Technology Academy is testimony to the importance of continuing to
provide local people with the right skills to support the industry"

CPRE, passionate about the local economy, are delighted that Weetabix are
once again providing support for our Local Food Hero, Food and Drink Award.

Please visit www.cprenorthants.org.uk to nominate your local food hero and
read more about our support of local food and drink initiatives.



*From left to right: Anne Burnett, Sally
Hanrahan, Lord-Lieutenant David Laing,
our new president and Mary Laing*

New President for CPRE Northamptonshire

We are delighted to announce that David Laing, the newly
appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, has
kindly agreed to become President of CPRE Northampton-
shire. He thus succeeds the late Lady Juliet Townsend in
both roles. As someone with a fine track record in sup-
porting both the countryside and the voluntary sector in
the county, he will add great distinction to CPRE. Readers
of "Icons of Northamptonshire" will also have noticed his delightful contribution to our book as
chairman of Adrenaline Alley in Corby.





Lady Juliet Townsend 1941 - 2014

Lady Juliet Townsend DCVO, President of CPRE Northamptonshire, died on 29 November 2014 aged 73. During nearly 40 years of membership of the branch she gave it great support and encouragement. Her

death is a great loss. She was chairman for 10 years until 1998 when she became Lord-Lieutenant of the county. After that she presided almost every year at the AGM. Her mother, Sheila Countess of Birkenhead, had been chairman of the branch before her, so support for CPRE was in her blood.

Her last participation was involvement in the production of "Icons of Northamptonshire". The Icon she chose to write about, with her typically quirky sense of humour, was Hunting Country - The Finest View in Europe, illustrated by a famous Snaffles cartoon. As she said, his picture "sums up the

Northamptonshire landscape - open, rolling and quintessentially English". It was a landscape which she loved passionately. She was also very knowledgeable about the county. In her youth she wrote *The Shell Guide to Northamptonshire* at the invitation of John Betjeman (a family friend) and David Piper.

Her obituary in *The Times* aptly described her as "a gregarious woman with a pronounced sense of fun", qualities which I suspect she inherited from her grandfather F E Smith, the first Earl of Birkenhead. She was always diplomatic, as one would expect from someone who for many years was Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Margaret, but not short of opinions. She loved books and, with her husband John, was responsible for opening the Brackley Bookshop. They also opened Brackley Butchers, which sells locally-produced meat, including beef from the Townsends' Newbottle estate: an excellent example of a "local food network". She also became the owner of a blacksmith's forge in Charlton; she rescued it when it came up for sale, to perpetuate this village amenity and to support a local farrier. She was an active Governor of Charlton & Newbottle Church of England Primary School and a leading member of the congregation of Newbottle Church.

Amongst her many contributions to CPRE was the fact that she was directly to blame for my becoming Chairman!

Sir Paul Hayter

Keith Allsop RIBA MBE 1925 - 2014

Keith Allsop was a member of CPRE for over sixty years. He was involved in the re-establishment of CPRE in Northamptonshire after the Second World War, and for many of those years a member of the County Executive serving as Technical Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman. In latter years he still played a very active role in both the Technical Secretaries Group and the North Northamptonshire District Committee.

In his professional life, Keith was a principal partner in the distinguished Kettering architectural practice of Gotch, Saunders and Surridge. During his whole career Keith made time to champion the cause of CPRE. In the 1950s and 60s, whilst actively involved in high quality new development, Keith saw the need to protect the countryside for its own sake from extensive urban developments. As an architect much travelled throughout Europe, Keith often brought ideas from abroad as possible answers to the pressures on our

own countryside.

As a resident of Middleton, a village with expansive views of the Welland valley, Keith had a good grasp of the needs of our villages. He sought to ensure their sustainability in the many issues he took up - to protect and sustain the villages of Northamptonshire, particularly in the north east of the county.

With the extensive road building programmes that have affected Northamptonshire over the past fifty years (including M1, A14 and A45) Keith strove to ensure that the impact on the countryside was mitigated, and that the detail of such schemes of mitigation were carried through. In our Technical Secretaries Group, Keith was a supporter of Corby, the new town that made a significant impact on the countryside. He championed its containment in terms of its impact on the Welland valley and the northeast Northamptonshire villages. As a County Councillor, Keith



was able to bring his influence to bear on countryside issues, taking particular interest in minerals and waste.

Finally Keith always extended a warm welcome to new members of CPRE, offering encouragement and advice and sharing his extensive range of experience and knowledge.

Keith's funeral took place on 14th November 2014 at Cottingham Church, where he was laid to rest overlooking his beloved Welland valley.

Alan Mayes



MYSTERY SHOPPER

- Anna Murby

Do you like eating out?

Do you fancy trying a completely new dining venue and perhaps discover a new foodie favourite? If so, the Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards team would love to hear from you!

The team is looking for CPRE volunteers to become 'Mystery Shoppers' in their four venue categories - Restaurant, Spice Restaurant, Pub and Café of the Year. And the task itself couldn't be easier! It just involves your eating at one or more of the many competing venues. You then complete a simple review form about your visit, giving scores and comments on everything from service and portion size, to food quality and even the

cleanliness of the toilets. Your review will then be used (anonymously) to help determine the finalists in each category.

So if you are available between mid-June and mid-August, are happy to pick up the cost of your visit(s) and would like to help the awards team in raising dining standards, please contact Anna at The Mallows Company on 01933 664437 or email anna@rachelmallows.com. You can also find out more about the Awards at www.northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/foodawards or twitter at @foodawardsHQ.

Meanwhile if you have a favourite pub, restaurant or café which you think should be encouraged to take part

- for FREE - in the competition, please do let the Awards team know! Again, please call Anna on 01933 664437.

Tourist Accommodation at Jack's Green in Rockingham Forest Park

An application is being considered by East Northants Council for a range of tourist accommodation on Jack's Green, a secluded area lying a few miles to the east of Fineshade Woods, where a similar application has recently been refused. The facility would be made up of fifty five holiday lodges and nine camping pitches. We have objected to this application on the grounds that

- ◆ the site is of considerable size and located within the area of tranquillity, designated by the draft Joint Core Strategy for North Northamptonshire, and
- ◆ there would be an increase in traffic movements in the area and on the narrow access road in particular.

We are also conscious of the threat, witnessed in other parts of the county, that the chalets become permanent homes rather than holiday accommodation. Our experience tells that once permission is granted it is difficult to prevent this happening.

The ENC reference is 14/02225/FUL.

Changing of the Guard in North Northants District - *Peter Hopkins*

After nearly five years leading the North Northants District Committee, David Charlton-Jones is stepping down. His tenure as chairman has seen some interesting planning battles, notably the defeat of the proposal to build a wind farm next to Lyveden New Bield, and some very successful social events. For the latter David had some terrific support from his wife, Jane. Over the last year David worked with branch chairman Sir Paul Hayter on the successful and well-received coffee table book, Icons of Northamptonshire. David will continue to volunteer for CPRE.

Following their next meeting on March 31, Martin Gaskell will take over the North district committee chairmanship. Martin was featured in the last issue of Outlook: his career has been primarily concerned with Higher Education policy and management, and his PhD specialised in Victorian industrialisation and housing reform. He has subsequently written extensively on housing and town planning in Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries. Martin and his wife Maureen now live in Kettering, where among a range of other commitments he is a Governor of St. Andrews Hospital, a Vice-President of the County Record Society and a Deputy Lieutenant.

Superfast broadband and mobile phone availability

- Steve Batterby

We recognise that the roll-out of superfast broadband throughout Northamptonshire and the provision of high quality mobile phone services are essential for the growth, competitiveness and development of our rural economy, as well as for enhancing the quality of life for those living in the county. We therefore asked Parish Councils for their views and comments about the quality of these services within their parishes and for any concerns about the delivery and quality of improvements.

We have already had an excellent response to our questionnaire and we are confident that we will identify common problems that we can take up with the service providers.



Achieving high quality superfast broadband and mobile phone services is a difficult task, but with the evidence Parish Councils are providing, we believe we can help those delivering these essential services to focus on areas for improvement that will benefit us all.

Christopher Davidge 1929 - 1914

We were sad to hear of the passing of Christopher Davidge at Northampton General Hospital. Christopher, Olympic oarsman and sports administrator, was a generous supporter of CPRE Northamptonshire over many years.



December:

Michael Aubrey of Oundle £30
Anne Usher of Aynho £20

January:

Susan Banner, Upper Heyford £30
Jane Charlton-Jones of Geddington £20

February:

Clare Pollak, Sulgrave £30
Terry Young, Kettering £20

Recent prize-winners

Dates for your diary

Events:

Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk

Roadshow:

Thursday June 4, Great Houghton Village Hall 6 - 9

Litter Campaign:

Throughout April

Carols at Cranford:

December

Other events are being planned for the summer, please ensure we have your e-mail address so we can keep you updated.



A number of villages around the county will be holding a Stop the Drop community litter pick again this spring, competing for a cash first prize of £500 and two runner up prizes of £150, to be spent on (not necessarily litter-related) community projects. Our campaign this

year runs for the entire month of April, and all community picks held between now and midsummer are eligible. If you missed the announcement email and would like further information, please contact us on 01604 780000 or info@CPRENorthants.org.uk.

We are delighted that the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership is running a "Don't be a Tosser" anti-roadside litter campaign this year. Yes, their strapline might seem a tad offensive to some, but if it is effective in communicating the anti-litter message to teenagers and young adults, then it will have been worthwhile. We know just how hard it is to connect with some students and young drivers - unfortunately "please don't drop your litter" just doesn't work.

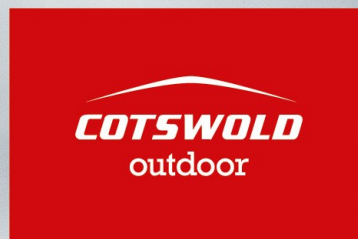
All of the District Councils in the county are participating in the campaign, along with Northamptonshire Highways. Keep a look out for their advertising, and visit their website for more details.

Discount for CPRE Members and Volunteers

We have long provided discounts on admission charges for historic houses and similar attractions, as part of the CPRE membership package. We are delighted to extend this membership benefit now to purchases from Cotswold Outdoor. For those of you who don't know them, they sell quality outdoor clothing and footwear, backpacks and other equipment for country walking and outdoor leisure activities generally.

CPRE members can now receive a 10% discount (volunteers 15%) on purchases made in-store, by click & collect and online, on the full retail value of the current season's product ranges. There are no Cotswold Outdoor branches in Northants, but there are four in the commercial centres serving the county: Coventry (45 mins from Daventry), Peterborough (40 mins from Corby), Milton Keynes (30 mins from Northampton) and Bicester (45 mins from Northampton). The online store is at www.cotswoldoutdoor.com.

If you would like to take advantage of this arrangement, please email or phone us for the discount code (info@CPRENthants.org.uk or 01604 780000).



TIME OUTDOORS IS FREE

KIT YOU CAN TRUST IS PRICELESS



10% DISCOUNT* FOR CPRE MEMBERS



STORES NATIONWIDE | COTSWOLDOUTDOOR.COM

*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Only valid upon production of valid identification in store or promotional code online. Offer expires 30.11.15

New restaurant sources local ingredients



The Tap and Kitchen is a waterside restaurant and bar at Oundle Wharf, Northamptonshire. It provides unpretentious, honest dishes made from simply cooked ingredients, sourced locally where possible. They make pretty much everything themselves from preserves to puddings through to chutneys and sauces.

Update on Ridge and Furrow Earthworks

- Steve Batterby

We had a good response to the October 2014 edition of *Outlook* in which we asked for your help in identifying well preserved large areas of ridge and furrow earthworks. These date back at least to medieval times and provided drainage and demarcation of agricultural plots. You showed that these earthworks are really valued by present day rural communities and you alerted us to several sites across the county that you believe should be protected.

Where ridge and furrow earthworks meet strict criteria to demonstrate that they are of national importance English Heritage can ensure they have full statutory protection. Several such sites already exist within Northamptonshire and English Heritage have been conducting further extensive surveys and research to identify more that may gain this protection.

This is good news but your responses emphasised that there are other well preserved areas that deserve some protection too, even if they do not meet the strict criteria for full statutory protection. We have therefore written to the planning authorities within the county asking them to list any well preserved examples of ridge and furrow earthworks as local "heritage assets". This status means that they will have to be considered if there are any relevant planning applications and it adds a level of protection that otherwise would not exist to help increase the likelihood of preservation of these historically valuable earthworks.

So you are making a difference because we've been able to demonstrate that ridge and furrow earthworks really matter to communities. Thank you!

Local food hero runner up 2014/15

Hamm Tun Fine Foods was founded in 2013 by Gary Bradshaw who is Northamptonshire born and bred. It was surprising that whilst Northampton is famous for shoes, the Saints, the Cobblers and Carlsberg Brewery, there was no sniff of a cheese. The seed of an idea was planted and so, with a passion for keeping it local and a dedication to sustainability, Hamm Tun Fine Foods started to pick up pace. Hamm Tun is an unusual name, chosen because during Saxon times the village of Northampton was named Hamm Tun. Later North was added forming North Hamm Tun.

Cobblers Nibble is a hard English cheese made from pasteurised cows' milk from a local Northamptonshire Friesian herd. It is truly handmade, in a traditional open vat with no



machinery for ripening the milk or washing the curds. It is pressed in an antique press, lovingly rubbed and turned daily for the first four weeks, then left for two weeks to naturally rind - giving the cheese a special character. The texture is smooth and creamy, mild in flavour with a tangy finish.

There is also a semi-soft cheese that is washed in Guilsborough Gold Ale from Nobby's brewery in Northamptonshire, and therefore called Cobblers Nibble Gold.