

May 2013

Online www.CPRENorthants.org.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LITTER HEROES 1, LOCAL FOOD HEROES 2, HIGH SPEED TWO UPDATE 2, 50/50 2, LITTER "SAFETY REVIEW" 3, SCHOOL LITTER POSTER COMPETITIONS 3, WEST NORTHANTS JOINT CORE STRATEGY 4, LAMPORT HALL 4, DIARY DATES 4

CPRE Litter Heroes - THE RESULTS OF THE SPRING CLEAN UP

Every spring, before our clean-up campaign, we think that it is going to be difficult to top last year's efforts. And every spring, after the campaign, you surprise us.

This year's winners (see below) were responsible for an exceptionally strong effort. Some communities - like this one - are new to litter picking, and others have picked every spring for many years. Some have reported that the gross abuses - usually of fly-tipping - have reduced. Others have told us that the litter just keeps on coming; there's even more this year than last.

As we go to press, a private member's Bill is going before Parliament to address the scourge of villages on through routes: packaging tossed from the windows of passing vehicles. This insalubrious practice has always been illegal, but virtually impossible for local authorities to prosecute. If successful, this Bill will make the vehicle's registered owner liable and subject to an £80 fixed civil penalty, irrespective of whoever in the vehicle was the litterbug. This is already the law in Greater London. Let us hope it reaches the statute book for the rest of England.

Meanwhile, here are the comments of this year's winning Litter Heroes.



Brookside Residents' Group: A well-deserved first prize for a community effort

"Nearly forty volunteers including eight children, litter picked along the Billing Brook stream in Lumbertubs, Northampton, around the small lake at the back of the Salvation Army, & the large Dragonfly lake across the Billing Brook Road. 'It was amazing how many cans & bottles were found - we filled a dozen recycling sacks with them' one volunteer commented. Five shopping trolleys were removed as well as dangerous wire netting, broken furniture, toys, bikes, clothes, a bag of videos & crisp packets. We hope the residents will see the difference we have made. The wildlife needs a clean environment, not pieces of wire which can hurt them, or other things which can contaminate the water."

Margaret Pritchard MBE, Brookside Residents' Council

The runners up were Cranford and Hinton-in-the-Hedges

"During this year's blitz in Cranford, 14 of us have, to date, collected 63 bags of litter plus many miscellaneous large items including 9 car wheels/tyres, goal posts and a skateboard. From the volume of the litter collected we are still failing in our attempts to either curb litter or to pick it up on a more frequent basis. I cannot speak too highly of the help given to us by the Street Cleaning Department of Kettering Borough Council in providing us with all the tools for the job and collecting the gathered litter." Brian Keech



"The intrepid Team, from our small village of Hinton-in-the-Hedges with a population of less than 200, bagged the rubbish from the verges, ditches and hedgerows along 2 miles of roads outside our village boundaries. We filled 19 large plastic sacks and collected up other "dumped rubbish" including six old tyres, rusty metal objects, remains of a wire fence and household shelving amongst other "things". We were fortunate to be able to enjoy good company and fine weather."

Charles Field



2013/14 Local Food Hero



MEMBERS - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you use your local butcher, your local fruit and veg shop, have a coffee at a garden centre or visit a farm shop? If the answer is yes to any of these, and you like what they do, let us know. Fill in a form and nominate them for the Local Food Hero Award.

This is part of the prestigious Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food & Drink Awards which are generously sponsored by: Carlsberg UK, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, Booker, British Pepper & Spice, Whitco, Whitworth Bros. Ltd, Explore Communications Ltd, Aspire Hospitality, Newlands Farm, Collins Fresh Produce, Heygates Flour and Animal Feed and Electrolux.



Last year's winner was dairy farmer, Gerald Bailey. Gerald is the second generation to run the family business of Newlands Farm at Hannington, near Kettering, having bought the land with his late father Jim in 1976. Nearly 40 years later, he now sells over 70,000 litres of milk and cream a year to customers across Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. His own herd of 140 Friesians and other farmers in the county supply the milk to his dairy.

The person who nominated Gerald described him as 'a real asset to Northamptonshire' but that's not exactly how Gerald sees himself. 'We don't do it for the limelight,' said Gerald, 'and to be honest, we simply want to ensure that we offer an excellent service, even if it means jumping in the van to deliver a few litres of semi-skimmed to a customer in distress. And I suppose this award says we're doing a good job of it.'

The joint runners up were Pudding Pie Cookery School in Middleton Cheney and Seven Wells Butchers in Oundle.

For more details about the awards, including downloading entry forms, please visit www.northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk or www.cprenorthants.org.uk. Alternatively, please email rachel@rachelmallows.com or call 01933 664437.

Follow us on Twitter: [nshire_food](https://twitter.com/nshire_food) and [letyourselfgrow](https://twitter.com/letyourselfgrow)

High Speed Two, Update **BY PETER HOPKINS**

CPRE Northamptonshire is continuing its policy of constructive engagement with the High Speed Two project. It seems now very likely that both phase 1 (London to Birmingham) and phase 2 (onwards to Manchester and Leeds) will proceed, especially after the recent High Court judgement against Buckinghamshire County Council and others. However, until the Hybrid Bill is presented to Parliament later this year, nothing is certain. The legal challenge had sought a judicial review on ten different issues. One issue was upheld: it dealt with consultation on compensation. The others were deemed unsuccessful in a 259-page judgement. Bucks CC has said that it will take the case to appeal.

It is expected that High Speed Two Ltd will publish its draft Environmental Statement soon. This will inevitably be a massive document, intended to identify the effects of the project on communities along the route and the mitigation that HS2 has planned to meet them. There will then be further consultation, including local roadshows, which will be an opportunity to test these intentions. The devil is always in the detail, and responding to these proposals will be an onerous task. But it is now most important to lobby for reducing the adverse effects of the railway on people, their homes, on our beautiful countryside and the natural environment. We will continue to seek beneficial changes and to reshape HS2's priorities wherever we can.



50/50: recent prizewinners

January: Patricia Hopkins of Brackley £25, Nigel Earle of Northampton £15
 February: Alan Mayes of Irthlingborough £25, David Banner of Upper Heyford £15
 March: David Montagu-Smith of Farthinghoe £25, Peter Pollak of Sulgrave £15
 April: Nigel Searle of Brigstock £25, Juliet Wilson of Fotheringhay £15

"THE CARLSBERG UK NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOOD & DRINK AWARDS OFFER OUR GREAT COUNTY THE CHANCE TO SHOUT ABOUT THE WONDERFUL QUALITY AND DIVERSE OFFERING IT MAKES TO THE CULINARY WORLD. OTHER COUNTIES MAY BE FAMOUS FOR PARTICULAR INGREDIENTS OR FOOD TRADITIONS BUT FEW HAVE THE RANGE THAT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HAS. FROM SPARKLING WINE TO GREAT BACON, RICH STOUT TO GREAT JUICES, LOVELY SAUSAGES TO EXOTIC CUISINES, NOT TO MENTION COOKERY SCHOOLS, THE PLACE HAS IT ALL."

WILLIAM SITWELL - AWARD WINNING EDITOR, BROADCASTER AND WRITER

"THE STANDARD OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S PUBS AND RESTAURANTS CONTINUES TO INCREASE YEAR ON YEAR AND I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PARTICIPANTS FOR USING EXCELLENT LOCAL INGREDIENTS AND FOR THEIR TRUE SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT. TAKING PART IN THIS COMPETITION OFFERS A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PROMOTE THEIR EXCELLENCE AND, WHILE IT WOULD BE FABULOUS TO HAVE MORE REGIONAL AWARDS LIKE THIS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, OUR COUNTY SHOULD BE VERY PROUD THAT THESE AWARDS HELP TO KEEP ITS RESTAURANTS, PUBS, GROWERS AND SUPPLIERS ALIKE AHEAD OF THE GAME!"

STEVEN SAUNDERS FMCGB

Examination in Public of the West Northants Joint Core Strategy

BY JOHN DAY & PAUL HAYTER

The West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) has prepared a Joint Core Strategy (JCS) for Northampton Borough and the districts of Daventry and South Northamptonshire. This was examined in public by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State at the Northampton Saints rugby ground for ten days in April 2013. CPRE made representations and CPRE West Northants members attended most days of the examination.

The examination was concerned simply with the 'soundness' of the JCS and not with the details of any planning application. The JCS is a strategy document which will be coupled with the Local Plans eventually adopted by the three constituent authorities.

The first two days of the examination focused upon housing numbers, which had been reduced from those in the recently revoked Regional Strategy. These were challenged by developers, who argued that the numbers in the JCS were 'plucked out of the air'. Further the JCS policy of adding 'Sustainable Urban Extensions' to existing towns was questioned because of a lack of reasoned assessment for the choice of sites, with no proper assessment of alternative sites. The Inspector agreed with the concerns raised and instructed the JPU to undertake further work which he would review and which must include alternative sites.

Amendments to the JCS will require consultation and the Inspector expects a further three-day hearing in the autumn.

Notwithstanding obvious improvements to Daventry town centre recently, concern was expressed that too much of the housing allocation was concentrated in and around Daventry. It was contended that a greater percentage of the district's housing allocation should be directed to the larger villages to satisfy 'rural need'.

A major concern for CPRE members is that it is now likely that no JCS will be adopted until the second half of 2014. Consequently the Local Plans for the three constituent authorities are unlikely to be in place, i.e. formally adopted, until early 2015. Under paragraph 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the absence of a Local Plan will make possible a developers' free for all in West Northamptonshire during 2014 because of the presumption it creates in favour of sustainable development. The planning process for the next 18 months will not be 'plan-led'. The absence of a '5 Year Land Supply' in Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts is also problematic. A number of recently proposed housing developments refused by the planning authorities have been subsequently granted permission on appeal. In most instances a principal reason for approval was the absence of a '5 Year Land Supply'.

In future appeal hearings where CPRE makes representations we will have to focus on the definition of sustainability and the character and setting of new developments.

Lampport Hall and Gardens

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A REAL SUMMER TREAT
SUNDAY 9TH JUNE, 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM**

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the magnificent house and seven acres of restored gardens, by permission of the Trustees of Lampport Hall.

As usual we shall be providing light refreshments, wine and soft drinks to help you enjoy the day to the full. Afterwards there will be a presentation of the 2013 CPRE Northamptonshire Litter Heroes Awards, celebrating those villages that are making a stand against the insidious problem of litter.

The ticket price of £15 includes the tour of the ground floor rooms, access to all gardens, a glass of wine or soft drink and canapés (there is no charge for children under 16). All proceeds from this event will go to support the work of CPRE Northamptonshire.

For further details please contact David Charlton-Jones davidcharlton-jones@hotmail.co.uk (01536 747164).

Dates for your diary

Events: Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk or 01858 433136

Sunday June 9

Visit to Lampport Hall & Gardens and presentation of Litter Heroes Awards. 11.00am to 2.00pm. Tickets £15, free for children under 16

Saturday June 22

Supper party and concert at the Old Rectory, Farthinghoe at 7.00pm. Featuring the choir Andante. Tickets £20

Tuesday July 9

5.00pm CPRE Northants AGM at the Wildlife Trust, Billing Lings, Northampton
6.30 pm – Presentation of prizes to winners of 2013 Primary School litter poster competition

Friday July 26

CPRE West Northants event at Greens Norton. Invitations enclosed with this newsletter

Wednesday December 11

Carols by candlelight and supper at Cranford Hall, by kind permission of Sir John and Lady Robinson

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