

# OUTLOOK

March 2019



Northamptonshire  
Campaign to Protect Rural England

[www.cprenorthants.org.uk](http://www.cprenorthants.org.uk)

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The newsletter of  
CPRE Northamptonshire

Photograph of Wicksteed Park  
courtesy of Suzanne Bowen

## Town and Country Awards 2019

The CPRE Northamptonshire Town and Country Awards are held every two years. In 2017 we had a wide range of entries and the winners included a new housing estate in Daventry, restored buildings in Stoke Doyle and Thrapston, a garden in Sulby and a petrol station in Roade. Please look out for suitable candidates for the 2019 awards. Entries can be new buildings, conversions and restorations or enhancements to the urban and rural landscapes. You can find full details of entry requirements and entry forms on the CPRE Northamptonshire website [www.cprenorthants.org.uk](http://www.cprenorthants.org.uk). Paper copies of the entry form are available on request.

Our awards schemes are a way in which CPRE can positively acknowledge and encourage good design within our county.

Northamptonshire is a county without National Parks, Greenbelts or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All these are designations which can give significant protection to the countryside that they encompass and, arguably, can put pressure on the adjacent residual countryside.

CPRE Northamptonshire has decided to take up a challenge from one of our members and investigate the possibility of an AONB for our county. The Government has recently opened a public consultation on AONBs and National Parks, following a review called the Glover Review, to which CPRE nationally has provided input. Given that no new AONB designations have been made since the late 1990s

and there is already an unofficial waiting list, it may be an uphill battle within our county. However, we would

## Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

*Alan Mayes*

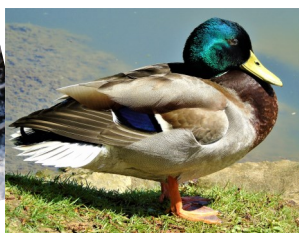
like readers' views on areas of the county you consider worthy of such a designation. Please give your reasons and email your suggestions to [alanmayes123@gmail.com](mailto:alanmayes123@gmail.com). This will provide helpful background information in taking our case forward.



Northamptonshire has no National Parks, no Greenbelts and no AONBs



## Photographic Competition



We were lucky to have photographer Caroline Mardon to judge the entries for the photographic competition. She is well-known for portraiture and more recently interiors and gardens with an extensive portfolio of published work. She is currently involved in putting together images for a book that has followed the progress of several stunning gardens.

<https://www.carolinemardon.com>

### Winners:

County boundary in snow - Peter Hopkins

Poppies at Ditchford - Suzanne Bowen

Mallard duck - Ann-Marie Leonard

Summer Leys by air - Ann Bowen

Counting sheep at sunset in Welford - Rose-Marie Jarvis

Busy shadows in Irchester Country Park - Ann Bowen

## Has Your Village Entered?

### The New Northamptonshire Village Awards 2019 in association with CPRE

Building on the success of the 'Best Village' competition, we are inviting you to enter your village for the **Northamptonshire Village Awards**, now sponsored by CPRE Northamptonshire. It is a new scheme to encourage initiatives by the village community and the provision of facilities for all the population. It recognises the importance of community involvement, as well as care for the natural and built environment, which creates not just an attractive village but a vibrant community. The judges will be looking for villages that can demonstrate enterprise, initiative and community spirit in how the village cares for all its inhabitants and how the village is looked after, as well as the involvement of local businesses and the welcome given to visitors. They will want to know about the past, the present and the future.

We have listened to your comments and have greatly simplified the application process. As a result we hope that many more villages will enter. We have found that the most successful villages in the competition have a group working together on their application rather than just one individual.

For more information visit

[www.northantsacre.org.uk/northamptonshire-village-awards](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk/northamptonshire-village-awards)

Please note that the closing date is 18 April 2019

## Corby Needs You

Have you got a passion about the way in which your area is being developed?

CPRE Northamptonshire is looking for volunteers to help keep an eye on planning in Corby and the surrounding area. A few hours per week is all that is required. No previous knowledge of planning is necessary as you will work with a team of volunteers.

If you would like more information please call  
Sally Hanrahan  
01604 780000  
or email [Sally.Hanrahan@cprenorthants.org.uk](mailto:Sally.Hanrahan@cprenorthants.org.uk)



## Bill Driver

As we go to press, we have been informed that our colleague Bill Driver passed away on 13 February 2019. Bill was a very active member of CPRE Northamptonshire for many years, in our technical secretaries group of

planning experts, our executive committee and in our North Northants district activities. His particular area of expertise was transport issues.

Bill had stepped down from active involvement in recent years as a result of poor health, but nevertheless he kept a keen eye on our activities. We will miss him.

## Calling the Litter Heroes of 2019...

... and their Northamptonshire village or town or school or community group.

Litter continues to be big news. Awareness is growing across the country, and



Cllr Liz Searle receiving a prize cheque and certificate from David Laing for Brigstock's entry in 2018

indeed across the world. Our litter campaign strives to increase that awareness and to encourage a change in behaviour, with the aim that plastic and other unwanted packaging never reach the great outdoors in the first place. Schoolchildren are a very important target for this message, but then so are adults of all ages.

As the problem gets bigger, we are announcing a significant change for our 2019 Awards. This year we are delighted that our prizes and picking equipment giveaways are personally sponsored by David Laing. This will enable us to award our successful litter pickers more than twice as

much as in previous years.

To enter this year's Awards:

- ♦ Motivate a team of pickers in your village or town or school or community group.
- ♦ Choose a picking date or dates between now and June 22 and let us know your planned date by an email to [info@CPRENthants.org.uk](mailto:info@CPRENthants.org.uk). If you are unsure about how to organise a pick, please ask us.
- ♦ Email your best three or four picking photographs and tell us about your litter pick in a few paragraphs. Describe how it was organised, who was involved and what happened. If you're not sure what to include, ask us what has impressed our judging panel previously.

A total of £2,000 will be

2019 Litter Awards sponsored by David Laing, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and president of CPRE in the county

awarded to our winning villages and other groups of litter pickers across Northamptonshire. There will be an additional prize for children and young people from schools and youth groups. The prize money may be spent on any community-related project in the local area of the winning group, at their discretion.

### Happy picking!

CPRE Northants litter campaign team

## Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges Northampton Gateway & Rail Central Update

- Brian Skittrall

The examination of the Northampton Gateway proposal is well under way. It has mainly been handled by written submissions with a few public hearings covering different aspects of the scheme. The process is nearly complete and a decision is due by 9 April.

CPRE Northants have submitted a written objection highlighting a number of ways in which the proposal is harmful and does not

comply with planning policy. We also warned that the scheme could be counterproductive and undermine the government's aim of creating a national network of rail freight interchanges for long haul freight. This is because it could encourage more nationwide distribution hubs as it is within the freight industry's Golden Triangle.

The Rail Central proposal was accepted for examination on 15 November after a false start and we will be responding to that at the appropriate time. We anticipate that although the two schemes are different and our response must reflect that, there will also be similar concerns to those raised for the Northampton Gateway proposal.



## 2018 CPRE Community Award Winners

- Alan Mayes

The CPRE Northamptonshire Community Awards were launched in 2018. A new scheme to recognise those who have enhanced our countryside, villages and towns and the quality of life in our county. We had a large number of entries, ranging from village shops to community gardens, posing a difficult task for our three judges - Martin Gaskell (CPRE), Carew Treffgarne (CPRE) and Elaine O'Leary (CEO of ACRE).

Joint winners were Geddington Brickyard Garden and The Friends of Eastfield Park in Northampton. In Geddington use has been made of a derelict brickyard site in open countryside. They created a community garden, where a

multitude of local community groups are represented and take part in the maintenance. In Eastfield Park, a friends' group was established to raise the profile of the park and work alongside the Borough Council to maintain and enhance it for the benefit of the different urban communities that live around it.

Two highly commended awards were given to Sulgrave Village Shop and Weedon Bec Community Orchard. Well done to all who took part.

The awards were presented by Mr David Laing at a most enjoyable evening with Christmas Carols at Cranford Hall.



*Geddington Brickyard Garden*



*The Friends of Eastfield Park, Northampton*

### Dates for your diary

- ♦ **Spring Party**  
5 April 7.30 pm  
Come and join us for a fun party night of Sinatra and swing classics from Rick Astbury at The Mere, Little Houghton.  
See enclosed invitation for full details
- ♦ **Musica Choir**  
21 June 7.30 pm  
Enjoy a varied musical programme at The Old Rectory, Quinton, NN7 2ED  
See enclosed invitation for full details
- ♦ **CPRE AGM and Awards Evening**  
16 July 5.30 pm  
ACRE, Hunsbury Hill
- ♦ **Planning Roadshow**  
10 October 6.30 - 9.00 pm  
Parsons Memorial Hall, Gt. Houghton
- ♦ **Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies**  
15 December 4.00 pm  
Easton Neston Church

### Contact Details

*Martin Gaskell - Chairman*

One of the difficulties for any organisation in the electronic age, is keeping up-to-date records of members' email addresses and doing so in a way that is compatible with our responsibilities under Data Protection Legislation.

If we have got the wrong email address or someone has changed their email address, it is often hard for us to know unless that person tells us that they no longer seem to be getting information from CPRE.

Hence this appeal. If you have not been hearing from us electronically for some time or we are still using an out-of-date address do please let us know so we can check our records and make sure we have your correct contact details. Likewise, if you know of any other member who feels they have been forgotten, do please alert us through: [peter.hopkins@cprenorthants.org.uk](mailto:peter.hopkins@cprenorthants.org.uk).

We also recognise that many of our contact details for parish councils are no longer correct. Over the coming weeks we will be undertaking an exercise to bring these up-to-date, so we can best keep in touch with parish clerks throughout the county. This is most important to CPRE as a way of reaching village communities.