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Online www.CPRENorthants.org.uk

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Weetabix Sponsors CPRE's Local Food Hero Award 2014/15

The search for Northamptonshire's 'Local Food Hero' is underway!

Do you know someone who you think of as a 'Local Food Hero'? A person or a business who has done more in the last year to promote local food than any other and who has a strong connection to their culinary community?



If so, why not nominate them in this year's Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards?

Yet again Northamptonshire CPRE, alongside category sponsor Weetabix, has teamed up with the competition to support the 'Local Food Hero of the Year' award, one of sixteen awards designed to celebrate all that is great about local produce and drink. The awards recognise excellence within the county's dining venues and reward those who work so hard within the culinary sector.

Previous winners include a charity allotment project, a village community shop, a dairy farmer and an award-winning producer of oils. Your nomination might be a café serving home-made cakes, a local delicatessen, the independent butcher on your high street - or perhaps your favourite micro-brewery?

To nominate them for this prestigious title, and to bring them the recognition you think they deserve for their efforts, download and complete a simple nomination form. You can find this at the Awards' website - www.northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk. You can also email your nomination to rachel@rachelmallows.com or call the Awards' office on 01933

664437. The closing date for nominations is Monday 9th June. The winner will be announced at the glittering Awards Dinner at Royal & Derngate in Northampton on Thursday 16th October.

Visit www.northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk or www.cprenorthants.org.uk for more details on all sixteen categories in this year's Awards. You can also follow the competition on twitter at @foodawardsHQ or on Facebook at facebook.com/foodawards.

- Sally Hanrahan

We have moved to

The Wheatsheaf, Spring Hill Farm, Harborough Road, Pitsford,
Northampton, NN6 9AA

Our new phone number

01604 780000

Woodland Walk at Apethorpe Manor - David Charlton-Jones



Photo: Courtesy of English Heritage

Sixty members from all parts of the county came to the Manor House at Apethorpe on the 12th April and enjoyed a stroll along the lakeside woodland walks amid the spring flowers. There was a wonderful display of fritillaries under the beech trees and the rather chilly east wind did not put off our members enjoying a glass of wine and a magnificent selection of canapés.

Our thanks go to our hosts, Lord and Lady Brassey and the committee members, whose tireless efforts made the occasion such a success.

Love Northampton Food and Drink Festival 2014

- Anna Murby, *The Mallows Company*

CPRE campaigns to support our county's rural economy and that includes local food production. On Friday 4th and Saturday 5th July, Northampton town centre will be buzzing with the launch of the first Love Northampton Food and Drink Festival being staged by the county's food group 'Made In Northamptonshire', in association with Northampton BID. Come and visit our stand on the 4th and meet Graeme Willis, the local foods expert from CPRE National Office.

The Festival, in the glorious central courtyard of The Guildhall, will offer visitors the chance to sample and buy the wares of some of the finest local artisan food and drink producers from across Northamptonshire. Eateries in the Heritage Quarter will be playing their part with promotions, with special menus using local produce and foodie activities! The event, which coincides with Independents' Day - a national campaign to support independent retailers - is FREE and will run from 11am to 4pm on both days.

Please visit www.northamptonshirefoodanddrink.co.uk. Further information will appear in participating venues and in the local press in due course, but in the meantime, please contact Rachel at The Mallows Company on 01933 664437 or email rachel@rachelmallows.com for more details. Twitter: @foodawardsHQ Facebook: [facebook.com/foodawards](https://www.facebook.com/foodawards).

The Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food & Drink Awards are generously sponsored by: Carlsberg UK, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, Booker, British Pepper & Spice, Explore Communications Ltd, Heygates Flour and Animal Feed, Northamptonshire County Council, Pidy UK Ltd, Steven Saunders VIP Hospitality, Weetabix, Whitco Ltd and Whitworth Bros. Ltd.



English Heritage and Historic England

Dr Dale Dishon, English Heritage Principal Inspector for Northamptonshire, was the guest speaker at North Northamptonshire's March meeting at Cranford Hall.

Dr Dishon explained organisational changes which meant that properties open to the public would in future be administered under the name Historic England, while monuments would remain under the English Heritage label.

The work of English Heritage in the county was described with particular reference to two of our best-loved properties, Lyveden New Bield and Apethorpe Hall. It was very satisfying for Dr Dishon to be able to report that the windfarm application at Lyveden had finally been withdrawn during that week.

The wide range of planning activities in which English Heritage was involved mirrored our own objectives, including large scale housing developments, parklands and country houses. As our guest expressed it: "Anything that was likely to erode the character of the countryside".

Witches' Knickers . . . To school governors, parents and grandparents: do you care about the litter invasion?

The beginning of May saw a mass mailing to every primary school head teacher in the county. We are raising awareness amongst primary school pupils of the littering problem. The mailing included a CD of the manual 'How to run a School Litter Campaign' and encourages staff to use the wealth of information to teach pupils about their community responsibility and to make them focus on their local littering problem and its effect on wildlife. Our website has a dedicated primary section with information, games and additional links: www.cprenorthants.org.uk/primaryschools.



The culmination is a competition, with prizes for each year group. Entries are invited for a rap/poem or a photograph with a title and caption. The winning school, based on evidence of the effort they put into the project, will receive £500. Pupils will win Amazon vouchers; £25 first prize, 4 second prizes of £20 and runner up vouchers worth £15. All entrants for the 2014 competition will receive a 'Stop the Drop' wrist band. Final submission date is 30th September. Please contact your local primary school to see if they've taken up the challenge. For more information please contact Trisha.White@cprenorthants.org.uk.



King Richard's Copse, Silverstone

High Speed Two

News from Parliament

- Sir Paul Hayter

As CPRE members will be aware, the House of Commons voted on 28th April by a majority of over 400 in favour of a High Speed railway from Euston to Handsacre in Staffordshire (near Birmingham), along the line proposed by HS2 Ltd. This is Phase 1 of the railway which is expected eventually to go north from Birmingham to Manchester and Leeds and beyond.

This vote is not the end of the matter but it is a very significant step forward, because the presumption now is that the railway will be built. What happens next is the Parliamentary discussion of petitions from those who are "directly and specially affected" by the proposed line. This process, which will take at least a year, involves a Committee of six MPs, acting like a jury, adjudicating on the petitions. If they find that petitioners have been adversely and unfairly affected, they have the power to amend the bill (within certain limits) to give the petitioners some remedy.

CPRE Northamptonshire is not going to petition because most of the objections which we raised have been dealt with fairly satisfactorily in negotiations with HS2 Ltd. However South Northants Council, as the local planning authority, has decided to petition. We have been consulted by them on the contents of their petition, because we indicated our support for some of the main points which they are raising. In particular they are arguing that:

1. The design of the railway's infrastructure should take account of the vernacular style of building in our area, instead of being the same along the whole line of the railway, and
2. Noise reduction measures should differentiate between town and country, since the damage done by fast-moving trains is greater in quiet countryside than in more noisy urban areas.

We agree with both these points.

How to see the wood for the trees - Peter Hopkins

High Speed Two Ltd has now published an extraordinary volume of detailed maps, specifications and plans about Phase 1, the London to Birmingham section of the proposed line. Interpreting all of these takes an incredible number of screen hours, even with fast broadband and a really good computer. Some will say that this may well have been what HS2 Ltd had in mind all along.

CPRE has been working with the data mapping company Ito World to build a computer app, which will help those interested in seeing the wood for the trees. Almost literally: HS2 have trumpeted their plan to plant up to two million trees, many of them fast growing, along the line - in order to screen it. This sounds like a great idea, until you use this app to see that fifteen years after the line opens, along most of its length, the area where you can see trains will be just as extensive as when they first start running.

Visit hs2maps.com. You will see three different views of the line, showing its effect on the landscape, and its impact both during construction and when it is operating. You can see, for example, the ZTV or zone of theoretical visibility, meaning the areas where - according to computer models - the construction activities will be visible when the line is being built. You can see which roads and rights-of-way will be closed and diverted, whether for many years or permanently, and where the construction traffic will be routed. And you can see the effects of train noise on both settlements and open countryside.

This information may be accessed without logging in or paying a charge; there is an even more detailed level of mapping available on payment of a licence fee.

The mapping tool is just one of the ways in which CPRE Northamptonshire will continue to press HS2 on protecting landscape character, improved noise mitigation and high design standards for its infrastructure.



50/50: recent prizewinners

January: Robin Jones of Brixworth £25; Brian Worton of Hollowell £15

February: Helen Garton of Hulcote £30; Tean Hatt of Oundle £20

March: Peter Pollak of Sulgrave £30; John Day of Spratton £20

April: David Montagu-Smith of Farthinghoe £30; Jane Wincott of Church Stowe £20

Solar Farms in the Countryside - *Brian Skittrall*



Solar farms have taken over from windfarms as the new threat to the Northamptonshire countryside. As solar panel prices have fallen, a rash of new proposals has appeared. History was repeating itself as another subsidy driven technology has threatened our countryside; this time the technology could be better sited in towns and cities, where the electricity is needed.

We have responded by creating a branch policy document, which we published in April. The document outlines how we will respond to planning applications and explains that our approach is supported by both Government and planning

policies. We have sent a copy to each of the Northamptonshire Local Councils, Parish Councils and MPs and some Councils have already told us that they will use it when they create their own policies. It is also helping to shape CPRE's national policy, because we are participating in the task force that will create the national policy for solar farms.

We tested our new policy when responding to the proposal on the edge of Farthinghoe and were pleased to see that the officer's recommendation that the scheme should be refused cited many of the concerns that we raised. The application has now been withdrawn.

Currently we are responding to applications at Wicken (South Northants) and we are awaiting a 3 part proposal near Burton Wold. Braybrooke is presently at the scoping stage.

Our policy on solar farms can be found on our website at www.cprenorthants.org.uk/campaigns



Long Service Awards

Sir Paul Hayter presented Sue and John Baylis with their long service awards at the Lamport garden party. John and Sue spend much of their time in France and we wish them both well. Sue continues as a volunteer for CPRE Northamptonshire through the magic of the internet.

Call for Volunteers

Do you care about where things are built? Do you wonder why the bulldozers keep getting onto productive pastures and arable land, while disused brownfield land remains disused?

Do you have a few hours to spare each month to help us with these and similar issues?

We are always looking for volunteers to help us. It is interesting work, and its reward is that our countryside survives for future generations to enjoy as much as we do.

For more information, please email info@CPRENorthants.org.uk or phone 01604 780000.

Dates for your diary

Events: Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk

28th May - guided tour of Drayton House. For information please contact David Charlton-Jones on 01536 747164

23rd June - CPRE AGM to be held at the Wildlife Trust. See enclosed invitation

23rd June - 5.45 pm refreshments and Local Litter Hero awards presentation at the Wildlife Trust, Lings Wood Northampton

9th August - walk and picnic at Thorpe Malsor reservoir. See enclosed invitation

25th August (Bank Holiday) - family-friendly afternoon walk followed by an early evening BBQ. For further details contact Jane Kimbell on 01327 830535

30th September - Final submissions for the Primary School Anti-littering Competition

16th October - Carlsberg Northamptonshire food and drinks awards at the Royal and Derngate theatre, Northampton. For information please contact Sally Hanrahan on 01604 780000

Outlook production team: Trisha White, Sally Hanrahan, Sue Baylis & Peter Hopkins

Comments to: info@CPRENorthants.org.uk