

KENT VOICE

Protecting Kent's Countryside
AUTUMN/WINTER 2016

**Great news - victory
at Court of Appeal**

**The love of
chickens**



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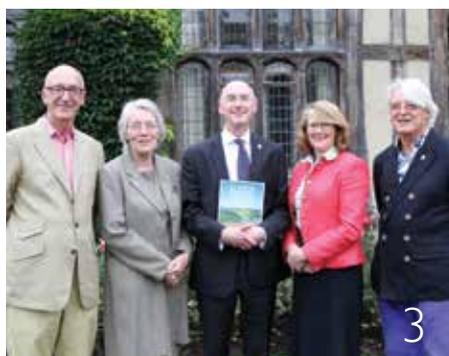


What a celebration!



We held a wonderful garden party last month to celebrate CPRE's 90th anniversary. Joined by 90 members and supporters, we marked 90 years of campaigning for the countryside in the lovely setting of Hever Castle. We also highlighted our concerns about aviation expansion and its threat to air quality and tranquillity – see page 8.

Guests of honour were nonagenarians Peter and Jean Davies who both turned 90 in 2016, sharing their birthday year with CPRE and the Queen!



1. Hilary Newport, Wendy and Graham Clarke (president), Amanda Cottrell DL (vice president), Christine Drury
2. Peter and Jean Davies
3. Branch chairmen John Croxon (London), Christine Drury (Kent), Shaun Spiers (CPRE Chief Executive), Kristina Kenworthy (Surrey), David Johnson (Sussex)
4. Peter Davies cuts the cake
5. Hilary Newport with district chairmen Hilary Moorby (Ashford) Gary Thomas (Maidstone), Kate and Nigel Britten (Sevenoaks)
6. Julia Robinson, Sally Pavey (CPRE Sussex), Brendon Sewill (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign), Duncan Leslie (Hever Castle Chief Executive), Martin Barraud (Gatwick Obviously Not)

All photos Paul Buckley



Director's Introduction



Hilary Newport

It's nice to help celebrate the successes and achievements of CPRE's 90-year history, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on how much Britain has changed since 1927. Ninety years ago, after the Great War, Lloyd George's government recognised the acute shortage of housing and embarked on ambitious plans to build 'Homes for Heroes' - social housing to supplement the low output of private sector homes, whose building rates had been slashed by the scarcity of labour and materials.

Meanwhile CPRE's founders were helping shape the policies that would lead to the planning system that has done so much to deliver the homes and infrastructure that we need while protecting some of the most diverse and valued countryside in this beautiful and densely-populated country.

Something that we share 90 years on is a similarly critical lack of affordable housing. House prices have soared beyond the reach of many people on ordinary incomes, and the private rental sector is picking up the gap left by the sale of much of the country's social housing under Right to Buy legislation. Increasingly strident calls to loosen the bolts on the planning system, widely (but wrongly) perceived as the means to bring affordable housing within the reach of ordinary families, are achieving no such thing. Recent planning reforms are simply making it harder to say 'no' to those housing schemes that really should be rejected – out-of-town greenfield sites that will deliver communities dependent on car-based travel, rather than the regeneration so badly needed in our towns and cities.



Has the time come for a radical re-think that might allow local planning authorities to once again deliver sustainable, affordable housing, with rents and housing benefits ploughed back into providing more secure, affordable homes for current and future generations?

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Blue Tit by Richard Enfield



Autumn leaves by Jill Catley



Flax field by Vicky Ellis



Tel: 01233 714540 info@cprekent.org.uk



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Help us to do more



By Tessa Woodward,
CPRE Kent's new membership volunteer



New member at Kent County Show

CPRE Kent campaigns tirelessly to save our countryside for future generations – recently we prevented development at junction 8 which would have ruined the setting of the AONB and the important heritage asset of Leeds Castle and we have influenced dozens of local plans. With more members and volunteers, we could do so much more! Therefore, we are launching a volunteer and membership drive.

We need members

Sadly, our membership is declining – from more than 3,100 in January 2012 to just over 2,500 now. We hope you will help us recruit more members – please spread the word to your friends and contacts and help raise our profile in your towns and villages. We have included a membership form on the back page and also offer gift membership packages (see page 30) – great Christmas presents. Members help us gain credibility, strengthen our voice, keep our charity alive and help fund our campaigns. If you can, please think about volunteering and becoming more actively involved with our wonderful charity.

Why volunteer? So many people volunteer – they raise funds, do conservation work, help people, look after animals, run groups, bake cakes and so much more. Many

of us will have benefited from a helping hand at some point.

But why do people give their time and energy for no pay? Partly out of an instinct for community no doubt, but also to learn new skills, to do something interesting or meaningful and to meet people. It is known that people often feel healthier and more cheerful as a result of volunteering!

Please consider yourself invited to help CPRE Kent – even if you only have a little time. Based on my experience, I'd say you need to care about the cause, be clear about your role, have a skill or be prepared to learn and be willing to work as part of a team.

What will you get out of it?

A sense of achievement, acknowledgement or recognition, fun, humour and meeting new people, personal and professional development, new skills and a sense of meaning and purpose as you contribute your energy to protecting the English countryside. We promise to help make this happen!

Volunteer opportunities

If you are passionate about the English countryside, please get in touch. Here are some tasks you could help with but you may have your own ideas.



Photo - Litter Action



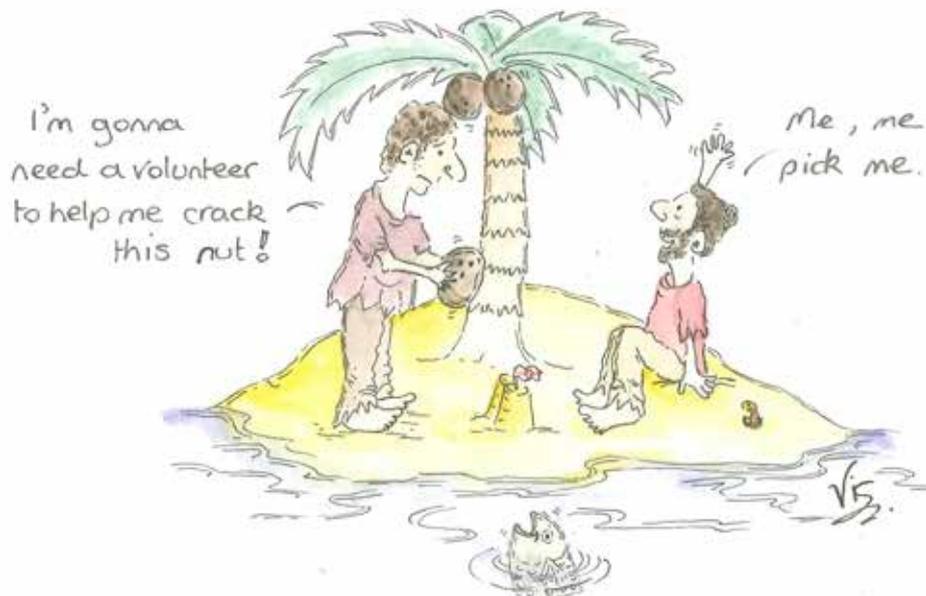
Kent County Show



Kent County Show

- Help staff a CPRE stall at an event such as the Kent County Show or a village fete
- Help to organise an event such as a garden party or a CPRE Kent competition
- Organise a litter pick
- Start a community herb/wild flower garden
- Become our Events Co-ordinator
- Help in the Charing office to follow up contacts, input and analyse data from surveys
- Write a blog for our website on an aspect of the Kent countryside
- Ask your local newsletter or parish magazine if we can write an article about CPRE for it
- Drop off issues of Kent Voice and CPRE leaflets in your community
- Suggest or contact corporate sponsors and celebrities who may be able to support us
- Offer a prize for a CPRE raffle, quiz or awards ceremony
- Offer a donation once or regularly
- Help protect the English countryside in future by offering CPRE a legacy (see p17)
- Tell us if you have special skills e.g. photography, video editing, responding to planning applications, writing grant applications.

meanwhile on a desert island somewhere...



Why I Volunteer

by Rose Lister

When I started helping out at the CPRE Kent office in January I was a twenty something with no real idea about what I wanted to do. I was interested in sustainability, urban regeneration and, specifically, heritage. After my mother chatted to Christine Drury about me, I was lucky enough to be given an opportunity to join the charity as an intern with the aim of writing a heritage planning advisory package.

By jumping in the deep end and really looking at the potential loss and damage to our precious heritage both rural and urban, I started to view the world through different eyes. I have written blog posts and articles, been involved with events and committees and attended London meetings about heritage and sustainability. Since volunteering, I have been inspired to start a masters degree in planning policy and practice. CPRE Kent has given me opportunities to do things I'd only dreamed of and I believe volunteering has made me a better person.



Interested? If so, come and join us - it's fun and CPRE Kent is waiting to welcome you!

Contact info@cprekent.org.uk or phone 01233 714540.



Hop along cherry ripe

by Rose Lister

What do you think of when someone says ‘heritage’? Is it the grandeur of Canterbury Cathedral or the dignified grace of Leeds Castle? But what about the White Cliffs of Dover that Vera Lynn made us fall in love with? Or the hop gardens that were responsible for so much of Kent’s past wealth and the fruit trees in our orchards?

A major part of our heritage is not something that was built. It was grown and cultivated lovingly through rain and shine. It drove our economy and christened our beautiful county the ‘Garden of England’.

Folk tales say that the first hop garden in the UK was planted near Canterbury in the 1520s. Kent, being a rich and fertile land with enough wood to make poles and charcoal to dry the flowers, naturally became the main producer of hops in the country. The flavourful and aromatic flowers revolutionised the brewing process making the product clearer and less perishable. By 1655 a third of all hop crops were produced in Kent. During the heyday in the mid-1800s as many as 80,000 people would flood into Kent during harvest

season to help pick and dry the 77,000 acres of Kentish hops. The great yearly hop picks were even responsible for baby booms as the plants produce phyto-oestrogen, a hormone influencing chemical; nine months after the yearly hop harvest a flurry of babies, many called Hopkins, would be welcomed to the world. During the war East Londoners came down en masse to help, seeing the excursion as a paid holiday and a break from the cramped and smoggy conditions of the big smoke.

The Great War however was hard on Kent’s hop economy; a tax on hops made beer less popular and reduced demand. Meanwhile hop harvesting machinery reduced the need for vast amounts of labour so hop farming became a juggling act against decline in earnest.



Sadly, by the 1960s much of the traditional method of harvesting this marvellous crop had died and many of the hop gardens that were once so abundant were ploughed into other uses.

Today the few remaining hop gardens in Kent are a sight to behold. Some still supply local micro-brewers driving a new wave of traditional beer and hop farming. Others have diversified like Castle Farm in Shoreham, which maintains a heritage hop garden producing decorative hops as well as a small orchard growing ‘Norfolk Royal’

Photos, Top - Thomas Alexander pictured harvesting Wye Challenger hops. Above, Lavender being cut & distilled for English essential oils. ©Thomas Alexander



Hop-picking in Yalding, Kent 1944

variety heritage apples. Owners, the Alexander family, have recently diversified into lavender production for flower bunches and essential oils. (See www.hopshop.co.uk)

Kent's orchards are just as historic as our hop gardens. Indeed the humble Kentish cherry has a grand history: the head fruiterer of Henry VIII, Richard Harris, planted and cultivated cherry orchards in the heart of what is now the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Romans, when they invaded, found wild cherry trees growing and began their cultivation, developing the sweeter varieties. The church monastery at Teynham even sent cherries to the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1376 earning the monks 20 pence.

By the time of Henry VIII's fruiterer gifting his king 105 acres of cherry orchards, Kent was fast becoming known for its sumptuous cherries. The 17th and 18th centuries were the boom era for orchards and saw the creation of the Faversham Fruit Belt along the North Downs from Rochester to Canterbury. The popularity of the fruit is shown

throughout the creative arts in paintings such as *Cherry Ripe* by Sir John Everett Millais and the folk song of the same name written by the English poet Robert Herrick. By 1951 there were over 5,000 acres of cherry orchards in Kent and 1964 saw 75% of the nation's cherries being grown in Kent. Sadly, this was not to last and by the mid-1990s cherry orchards in Kent had diminished to less than 550 acres. Today the towering cherry trees of the past have been replaced by dwarf varieties; they still flower every spring, carpeting the ground with delicate white blossom. Despite this diminishing acreage the cherry revival has begun. In the early 2,000s some historic orchards, such as the one in Lynsted, became established as community orchards.

Our rural heritage is as precious to us as the towering spires of Canterbury Cathedral. It is with pioneering efforts such as the Faversham Hop Festival and National Cherry Day, organised by the Park Farm Community Orchard, that our historic orchards and hop gardens are kept alive for the future.





Noise threat to heritage and tranquility



We have actively campaigned against airport expansion for many reasons – the environmental harm, the effect on the landscapes that would be swallowed up by new runways, terminal buildings, housing and infrastructure, the added traffic and the severe impact of aircraft noise on communities.

This constant drone of planes overhead is already suffered by many in West Kent. It is detrimental to health and destroys the tranquillity we fight to protect. It affects people and wildlife but also tourist attractions and businesses if the quiet enjoyment of beautiful places is ruined by noise.

One example is Hever Castle near Edenbridge, which has been welcoming visitors since 1963 and last year attracted 298,000 people. Here, Hever Castle’s Chief Executive Duncan Leslie, pictured left, outlines his concerns.



“Ultimately the castle will not survive long term if it develops a reputation for being underneath a flight path. Visitors to the castle, while they enjoy the Tudor history, basically want a nice day out in the countryside, and watching jumbo after jumbo fly over the 38-acre hand-dug lake, with its walled garden and collection of classical sculpture, clearly ruins this.

“New development generally cannot happen at the expense of heritage assets. Any motorway or railway line in the countryside would not be allowed to go straight through historic castle grounds. Gatwick has the busiest runway in the world resulting in their extending the straight line approach out over the top of the castle, despite it being possible to use a different less sensitive route. We are getting one plane every minute at peak times and the noise can be over 80 decibels (dB) with the majority of the readings over 64dB (the World Health Organisation recommends daytime outdoor noise levels of less than 55dB to prevent ‘serious community annoyance’).

“It would not be fair for one business to profit (Gatwick) while another suffers from the former’s physical intrusion. The absurd thing is that if someone tried to build a factory in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that made even half the noise that an aircraft does here at Hever Castle they would be refused permission even if the noise affected a small area with few or no houses.

“Quiet, beautiful areas close to the country’s capital should be protected at all costs, particularly where they have Grade I heritage assets. These are things that cannot be replicated elsewhere and we need to preserve proper places to escape for peace and tranquillity.”



All photos: Hever Castle





Chairman's Update

Great News...

As this edition sets out so well, CPRE has to fight on many fronts in Kent. Getting development in the right place in today's environment is tough. We support the plan-led process and engage deeply with the preparation of local plans. When sites have been properly considered, we support development so long as it is well designed.

Tough decisions

However, sometimes this planning system fails spectacularly as it did at Farthingloe. We then occasionally take our fight to the courts: this is costly and uncertain and not something we ever do lightly. CPRE Kent trustees have had some tough decisions to make.

Building on an unprecedented scale

The Farthingloe valley west of Dover is part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It was firmly rejected for development in the Dover Local Plan. We were therefore appalled when, in June 2013, Dover councillors approved building on an unprecedented scale of over 600 homes in the AONB.

Their officers had recommended refusal. The proposal linked the development to a contribution to heritage restoration work, a visitor centre, 31 houses and a hotel at the early 19th century fortifications at Western Heights.

Planning error

The planning error was to deliver these at the cost of acknowledged serious harm to the AONB and rejection of proposals to lessen that harm. CPRE Kent, Natural England, the AONB Executive and the National Trust all asked the Secretary of State (SoS) to call in the decision so the concerns would be considered at a planning inquiry. Despite his own department's recommendations, the SoS failed to do this.



Farthingloe

Good news for all AONBs

CPRE Kent decided to challenge the decision at the High Court. Our judicial review was rejected by Judge Mitting in December 2015. We carried on to the Court of Appeal and on September 14th 2016 Lord Justices Laws and Simon delivered a judgment that re-confirmed the protection of AONBs and quashed the planning permission. This result is good news for all AONBs and everyone who cares about the remarkable and historic countryside setting of Dover.

Important victory

We await Dover Council and China Gateway's response to the quashing and whether they appeal to the Supreme Court. This is therefore not the end of this fight, but we have undoubtedly obtained an important victory to celebrate for AONBs. My thanks to CPRE Kent's trustees and all of you as members for your support. We will let you know the next installment in the spring. Do send me your comments: christine.drury@btopenworld.com



Farthingloe



Farthingloe

Light pollution



threat to our view of the stars

Stargazing by Nils van Rooljen



by **Susannah Richter**

Gazing at the stars on a clear night sky is one of life's most wonderful free experiences. Children stare with awe at the planets in the Milky Way and our fascination with space is greater than ever after astronaut Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station and his amazing spacewalk.

Yet that breathtaking view of the stars is being obscured and ruined due to the veil of light that spreads across our night skies.

In Dartford, dominated by road networks and the Dartford crossings, it is sad that there are no truly dark skies left. And in other parts of Kent our enjoyment of the stars is ruined by man-made light polluters. Thanet Earth, the giant greenhouses used to grow salad, is in fact the second worst light polluter in the country – second only to Tata Steel in Rotherham.

We know this from CPRE's fascinating night blight maps – the most detailed ever satellite maps of England's light pollution and dark skies. The light pollution includes:

- skyglow – the pink or orange glow we see for miles around towns and cities, spreading deep into the countryside, caused by a scattering of artificial light by airborne dust and water droplets
- glare – the uncomfortable brightness of a light source
- light intrusion – light spilling beyond the boundary of buildings, sometimes shining through windows and curtains

Overall, Kent is the 29th darkest county out of 41. Ashford has the county's darkest skies, 68th of 326 districts nationwide. Ashford Borough Council adopted a specific Dark Skies Policy in 2014 to increase awareness about ways we can minimise light pollution and to raise the profile of dark skies as an environmental asset we are increasingly at threat of losing.

Our research comes at a time of wider awareness of the harmful effects light pollution can have on the health of people and wildlife. The maps were produced using



Thanet Earth by Craig Solly



satellite images captured at 1.30 am throughout September 2015 and this illustrates just how long into the night England's lighting spills.

It is known that dark skies are beneficial to our wellbeing. Light pollution can disturb our sleep, prevent our enjoyment of the countryside and affect wildlife, by interrupting natural rhythms including migration, reproduction and feeding patterns.

We are calling on Kent's local authorities to use these maps to

identify areas with severe light pollution and target action to reduce it, as well as identifying existing dark skies that need protecting.

And just think, without the natural night sky we could not have:

- Navigated the globe
- Walked on the moon
- Learned of our expanding universe
- Discovered that humans are made of stardust

For more information or to view the maps go to:

<http://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/>

District	Ranking out of 329	% in three darkest sky categories, less than 1 NanoWatts / cm ² / sr
Ashford	68	85
Tunbridge Wells	72	76
Shepway	99	74
Sevenoaks	101	47
Dover	106	66
Canterbury	112	78
Maidstone	116	55
Swale	137	47
Tonbridge and Malling	156	32
Medway	196	12
Gravesham	202	0.3
Thanet	241	8
Dartford	260	0



Blood moon by Harriet RH



“For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.”

Vincent van Gogh

CPRE Kent recommends that:

- Local authorities follow Ashford's lead and develop policies to reduce light pollution in their emerging local plans.
- The councils use CPRE's maps to inform decisions on planning applications and identify individual facilities that should be asked to dim or switch off unnecessary lights.
- Local businesses review their current lighting and future development plans to save money by dimming or switching off light to reduce pollution as well as meet their promises over reducing existing pollution (e.g. Thanet Earth).

headlines

from the campaigns frontline

Hilary Newport updates us on the latest campaigns

Mast Plans

The cut-throat world of international financial trading is threatening to impact on Kent's landscapes, with two separate applications before Dover District Council for microwave transmitters near Richborough. At well over 300m tall, these would be the tallest structures in western Europe – taller even than The Shard which dominates London's skyline, and more than three times the height of the cooling towers which were demolished in 2012. Their purpose is to shave fractions of a second off the time it takes traders to complete financial transactions. We think that the open and tranquil landscapes at Richborough deserve more respect.



Richborough by Phillip Bragg

Operation Stack

The Transport Select Committee carefully scrutinised the proposals for a huge permanent lorry park at Stanford (we gave evidence). When they reported their conclusions in June, they agreed with our views – that more needs to be done to justify the construction of such a huge facility when alternative strategies to manage the problem of delayed lorries had not been fully explored. Unfortunately, Highways England has nevertheless declared its intention to press ahead, despite having worryingly little time to properly assess its environmental consequences.



Stanford, photo by Sharon Hayles, SOS Kent



Stanford by Nick Clout, SOS Kent

Farthingloe AONB

Brilliant news from the Court of Appeal on September 14th when judges quashed the planning permission to build more than 600 homes in the AONB at Farthingloe near Dover. Read the Chairman's update on p9.

Lower Thames Crossing

Highways England is still to announce its final recommendations on the site of another Thames crossing, but its preferred route is east of Gravesend. Plans for this tunnel are progressing despite the acknowledged fact that, upon completion, it would only draw 14% of the traffic away from Dartford – a painfully poor improvement to the intolerable levels of congestion and air pollution currently suffered at Dartford.



Harvest by Marcia O'Connor

Brexit and the Future of Farming

The countryside that surrounds us is unarguably the product of the work of generations of farmers, shaping the landscapes in the production of food but also providing immeasurable wider benefits – clean air, flood management, carbon storage and supporting wildlife. Britain's decision to leave the EU could have far-reaching consequences for the future of agricultural subsidies, which could impact on the ways our landscape is managed. Brexit gives us the opportunity to help support a resilient farming sector that brings benefits to all. CPRE's report *New Model Farming* (see cpre.org.uk) presses the case for supporting more diversity and innovation in farming.

Your feedback...

The feature on two builders' views of the housing crisis in the last Kent Voice received widespread national interest.

Here Canterbury committee member **Nick Blake** shares some of his thoughts:

- When purchasing brownfield sites, the price should comprise of a partial payment to the owner, with the full price and option to buy negotiated subject to any unforeseen costs arising when clearing and preparing the site.
- As regards social housing, it should be normal, and preferable in terms of economies of scale, for developers of small sites to pay towards the provision of social housing off-site.
- It is wrong that at Thanington, just outside Canterbury, permission was granted for 1,150 homes before the Local Plan Inquiry even considered the site (pictured above). No detail has been given on physical development, when access seems possible only through narrow residential roads.
- We now have yet another planning application for a Canterbury site ahead of the Local Plan. The proposed Mountfield "Garden City/suburb" of 4,000 homes and many other uses, fails to conform to the City Council's brief, is incomplete and contradicts itself in many aspects. It will harm the views across the city including the cathedral and from the countryside to the east.
- The development of Hawkinge airfield has led to an amorphous spread out development which has no personality, no tight centre to focus on and is low density. It is an example of how NOT to develop.

If you have any comments to make on articles in this edition of Kent Voice, please send them to the editor:

susannah.richter@cprekent.org.uk



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Rural affordable housing a lifeline for villages

In our second feature on the housing crisis we focus on rural affordable homes. Housing associations are under more pressure than ever before with cuts in grants and rents and growing demand, particularly in rural areas where wages are low and few affordable homes are available.

Susannah Richter talked to two rural housing associations about the challenges they face.



Above left Alison Thompson
Above right Sue Chalkley

Hastoe and English Rural Housing Association (ERHA) are leading campaigners in rural housing. They are passionate about providing more affordable homes in villages to keep communities alive and vibrant. Both lobbied intensively to make the right to buy voluntary for housing associations (HAs) and have vowed never to sell off their village homes.

This is because it is so difficult to replace those homes and demand is growing. Only 8% of rural homes are considered affordable and incomes are far lower (average £19,700 compared with £26,900 urban). Open market house prices are 22% higher in villages than towns.

It's a lengthy and expensive process to get rural homes built. Often the developments are small and they are almost solely on exception sites (areas outside village confines which would not normally be granted planning permission and are therefore much cheaper than development land). The HAs work closely with parish councils, local authorities, rural housing enablers

and communities to ensure the housing mix is right for the village.

Hastoe lobbied successfully on the Housing and Planning Bill to ensure starter homes would be exempted from exception sites so they remain a way for HAs to get rented homes built. "Usually there is a real sense of pride from the landowner that they are able to help and leave a legacy for their communities," said Hastoe's Chief Executive Sue Chalkley.

"We need a mixed community to keep our villages alive"

HAs used to receive a grant of up to £60,000 for every affordable rented home built. Last year that was cut to around £12,000 and this year to £0 for rented homes. Meanwhile, the Government has dictated rent cuts of 1% per year for the next five years. Both HAs



Photo Hastoe



Photo Hastoe



English Rural Housing Association

have had to reduce their building programme. At its peak (2012) Hastoe was building 550 homes a year, now just 50-100. ERHA was building 70 a year and that has been cut to 30. Yet the demand in Kent is many hundreds per year.

“This makes me really sad. So many people are working hard but on a low wage and desperately need homes for rent. They cannot aspire to buy a home but they want and need to live in their communities,” said Sue Chalkley.

Alison Thompson, Senior Regional Housing Manager at ERHA, explained that they now have to include some open market properties in developments to cross subsidise the costs. “It’s not all doom and gloom though and has in fact presented opportunities,” she said. “We are meeting a new need and have built small bungalows for older people wanting to downsize but stay in their village. Plus, we are being innovative – we are offering some self-build plots which reduces the risk to us and again meets a need and we prioritise selling them to local people.”

Affordable homes are vital for communities to thrive. Without them, families will move to cheaper properties in towns and then the lack of demand within the village can lead to the closure of schools, village shops and pubs. As it is, the number of people aged 30-44 fell

9% over the last decade, many moving to towns after being priced out of their communities.

Sue Chalkley: “I can’t see how villages will survive. Local employers won’t be able to find employees, the facilities will have gone and there will just be affluent older people driving out of the village.”

One example of the need for younger people was in Charing where the fire station was under threat of closure as there was a shortage of retained firefighters. When ERHA built a development, one of the first tenants was a young man who became a retained firefighter, demonstrating just how much impact affordable homes can have.

“We need a mixed community to keep our villages alive,” said Alison Thompson. “Our homes really are a lifeline. Some people have been living in cramped conditions, with parents or in mobile homes, and

are desperate for their own home in the area they grew up in or work. One new tenant said she felt like she’d won the lottery the day we handed her the keys.”

To be eligible for a HA home, people need to have a strong connection to the village and be on a relatively low income (in most cases less than £30,000 a year). They then get an affordable rent (80% of market value) and, vitally, security of tenure.

Despite initiatives like the right to buy, shared ownership and starter homes, many people will never be able to afford to buy their homes. Here in Kent our housing associations are safeguarding their stock to ensure it is available for future generations. This will allow people, particularly young families, to live and thrive in their village communities and, we hope, maintain vibrant, active and working villages with a mixture of age groups and income earners.



English Rural Housing Association



WE BELIEVE QUALITY HOME INSURANCE CAN'T BE RUSHED

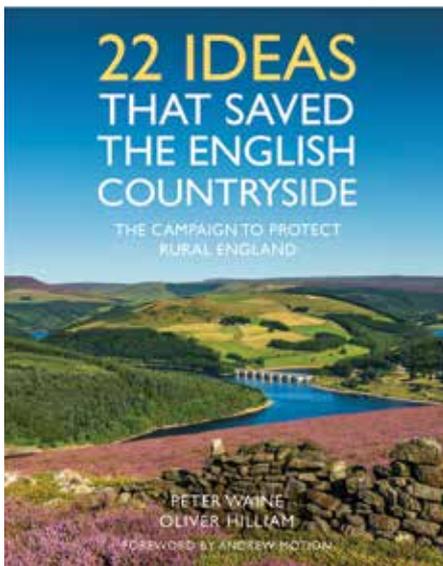
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22 Ideas that Saved the English Countryside

Book review by Christine Drury

This book is joyously full of spectacular photographs of the English countryside. Peter Waine, CPRE's former chairman, and Oliver Hilliam, who is the master of its archive, have produced a book that is a fitting 90th birthday present to The Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Featuring the thoughts of some of CPRE's celebrated supporters, it weaves new threads of understanding why we are so passionate about the English countryside. Melvyn Bragg's chapter "Discovering the Landscape"

identifies the sudden yearning for nature as an "earthly paradise" to escape the hell of the industrial revolution and to find "calm and communion with rest of life". Today we escape to the countryside expecting less stress, clean air and a view: no wonder CPRE has to work so hard to get tranquillity policies in local plans and to get landscape recognised in planning decisions.

In many campaigns, CPRE works closely with the National Trust; Simon Jenkins' contribution reminds us that Toys Hill in Kent was one of the first pieces of countryside it acquired. CPRE is distinct because it doesn't own land. David Putnam introduces CPRE's formation in 1926 after a long campaign to get recognition that London's suburban expansion was swallowing up the countryside. Then, as now, the challenge was how to allow the economy to grow without sacrificing the countryside.

The triumphs are celebrated well: National Parks are a huge success, Green Belts are equally important, but under constant threat from both rhetoric and development plans. All are a valuable history lesson for our campaigning today.

"A Countryside Worth Fighting For" tells the story of the war artists' record of disappearing Britain, and CPRE's role in suggesting

locations for their art. The project re-connected John Piper and other artists with the beauty of the countryside. Today 'fighting for the countryside' is an apt description of much of CPRE's campaigning.

Above all, this is a book that endorses our passion. We are allowed and encouraged to be emotional: as Wordsworth taught us through his poems, and Andrew Motion has continued in his prose and poetry for CPRE. Protecting the Kent countryside is necessary: this book gives an admirable sense of history to that endeavour and is also a fascinating read.

***22 Ideas is available to CPRE members for £15 including P&P (40% discount) when ordered direct from the publishers with offer code QPG420 by calling 01 903 828503.**



Photo: Toys Hill, National Trust

Help protect the future of Kent's countryside with a legacy gift

By remembering CPRE Kent when considering your will you can help ensure we will be here protecting the Kent countryside well into the future

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To find out more contact Vicky Ellis 01233 714540 / Vicky.ellis@cprekent.org.uk



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Photo Vicky Ellis

The love of chickens

Keeping chickens has had a resurgence in popularity in the last decade and it is thought up to 750,000 people now enjoy the birds as pets and egg layers. It is a rewarding and fun hobby as Vicky Ellis explains.



“no eggs taste better than from your own chickens”
Vicky Ellis

Chickens un-ruffle a hectic lifestyle, they gently cluck and scratch around clearing your garden of pests. Keeping them instils responsibility in children and provides a source of conversation to visitors. You will become familiar with each hen’s individual personality and they will never cease to amuse.

The welfare of your birds is paramount, therefore picking the size, type (large fowl or bantam, hybrid or pure breed) and number of birds for the space you have is important as chickens have a defined pecking order. It’s not fun being bottom chicken and often less is more. Stressed birds don’t lay, so the more room and free range you give them the more content and productive your birds will be. It’s not essential to keep a cockerel with hens so it’s worth considering

whether you would like to stay on good terms with your neighbours!

Housing

You can choose just a coop or one with a run, depending on space. I have a static coop with a run, allowing my birds to come down safely in the early morning until let out for the day. If you intend to keep your birds confined, then the coop should be portable and moved every day. Most coops are wooden and consist of an elevated roosting area (chickens like to go up to bed) with a perch, nest boxes (chickens like somewhere private to lay their eggs) and a ramp down. Use bedding such as untreated shavings or straw in the roosting area, bark for the run area (unless on grass) and hay for the nest box. When choosing your coop think about nesting area, security from



predators, roosting, insulation from heat and cold, ventilation, protection from the elements, portable or static and cleaning.

Equipment

You will need a drinker for water, a hopper for food and a corn bin or metal dustbin to store the food. Hoppers can be plastic or galvanised and can be hung or placed on the ground. I place mine on the ground under cover from the rain - if you are going to place yours outside then pick one with a hood to keep food dry.

Health

As with any animal, it is a relentless battle to keep chickens free from parasites. Chickens suffer from prions, viruses and bacteria, far more than I can explore in detail here, so I will just highlight what I consider to be the most prolific and worst nightmare of any chicken enthusiast - red spider mite. Usually brought in by the wild bird population, it is incredibly hard to exterminate and can cause severe stress and anaemia, feeding on the chickens at night. There are many remedies on the market but I have found none work as well as Diatom, which can be found in any good country store. Red spider mite has an exoskeleton which Diatom lacerates - to us it's a bit like walking on broken glass. It is harmless to all pets and can be liberally dusted on the chickens and in and around the bedding,

concentrating on corners, gaps and under perches. Do this once a week - every time you clean out to prevent re-infestation. You will get to know your chickens and notice when one is off colour. A good husbandry routine will help prevent most illnesses.

Security

To keep your chickens safe from predators such as rats, foxes and stoats the chicken wire needs to be thick enough to withstand gnawing. With a static run the wire should be buried to prevent burrowing under from foxes and rats. I keep my coop on concrete. If the chickens are free-range they should be religiously shut in at night and not allowed out too early when foxes are still around. Your garden should be securely fenced to prevent escapees and if you use electric netting, make sure you keep any batteries fully charged and use a spare while charging.

Diet

There are various formulated and unformulated diets available. Corn should only be fed occasionally as it's very fattening. Mashers are suitable for young chicks but point



Photo Kent Cady

of lay and older should ideally have pellets, either improver, growers or layers. I feed layers all year and my chickens flourish on them. I also feed fruit and legumes such as oranges, melon, berries, apples and pumpkin (a natural wormer) and they acquire grit whilst free-ranging. If your hens are not free-range then grit or broken oyster shell should be made available to aid digestion. Looking for food is very important for chickens, with free-ranging hens spending up to 75% of their time foraging, supplementing their diet with caterpillars, slugs and other insects.

Your birds can be sourced from local poultry auctions, a rescue for spent battery hens, local breeder or farmer.

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Local Plan *round-up*



The CPRE Kent planning team, Jillian Barr and Paul Buckley, review the latest situation with local plans.



Hollingbourne Hill Walk by Ben Allen

In the last edition of Kent Voice we anticipated 2016 would be a challenging year. We weren't wrong and local authorities across Kent have been working hard to progress local plans. They have been told to produce their local plans by 2017 and, although some may not meet that deadline, it is clear that steady and determined progress is being made right across Kent. For the most part, the need for community involvement is recognised as an important part of plan-making and CPRE Kent hopes that consultation and engagement activities are not discouraged by the Government in its drive for up-to-date local plans.

Consultation on Main Modifications to the Swale Local Plan

Swale Borough Council proposed new sites in their 'main modifications' consultation to meet the revised local plan target of 776 homes per year that was specified by the inspector examining the local plan. The flexibility available to the council was restricted by parameters set by the inspector, and included the settlement strategy, environmental constraints and the fixing of the two 'planning areas' approach which focuses growth on the Thames Gateway area, with a 'proportional boost' in Faversham and the rural areas.

While CPRE Kent understands the demands faced by the council and the limited flexibility available to it, we are concerned that the proposed modifications do not respond to the challenges in the borough that we know will affect deliverability of the new sites and quality of life of residents. Congestion and air quality, for example, are key issues affecting local people and the council needs to ensure there is enough understanding of the impacts of development on heavily used roads and junctions.

Effective local plan policies

In June, Ashford Borough Council published its Regulation 19 Publication version of the Local Plan. It was the first time CPRE Kent had been consulted on the plan and this has made it very hard to fully respond to the plan and its evidence base. Although we support the more realistic housing targets it identifies, we believe the plan needs some more work to ensure it can meet the 'tests of soundness' that will be considered by the planning inspector during the examination. Although CPRE Kent has made comments on sites, we



also believe that some of the key policies need to be improved. Given five-year supply challenges and the need to determine speculative development proposals, all councils need to ensure they have effective and well evidenced development management policies. We encourage councils to talk to us at the early stages of their plan preparation so that we can make our comments as soon as possible.

Examination of local plans

Stage 2 of the Canterbury Examination (which started on the 19th July) reconvened on 13th September for seven days and the Maidstone Local Plan Examination was due to open on 4th October. CPRE Kent was due to attend both examinations. Inspectors for both the Maidstone and Canterbury local plan examinations have asked for comments on how 2014-based population and household projections, recently published by the Office for National Statistics, should be used. CPRE Kent takes the view that, given the decision to leave the EU and the uncertainty of the form that this will take, including international migration, great care should be taken in using the projections.

A very busy year

The next few months are going to be a busy time for local authorities in Kent. Swale Borough Council and Canterbury City Council will continue with their examinations and Maidstone Borough Council and Dartford Borough Council will begin theirs. Gravesham Borough Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Shepway District Council will embark on Regulation 18 Consultations in the autumn and Thanet District Council and Medway Council will publish the next drafts of their local plans early in the new year. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council will be developing their evidence base and getting ready to publish consultations on their emerging local plans in spring and summer 2017 respectively.

The district committees and the CPRE Kent planning team will be working hard to respond to the plans as they progress.

Volunteers needed

More volunteers are needed to assist with local plan consultations to help protect the countryside, our wider environment and deliver the development local people need. If you currently work (or have previously worked) professionally in a planning, transport or environment field (or know someone who would want to help), have a good knowledge of your local area, or are just passionate about the people and places where you live, we would love to hear from you.



Local Plan Overview

Our list gives the latest situation on local plans throughout Kent. In addition, each local authority has an old-style local plan which has 'saved' policies still relevant when considering planning applications. These will gradually be replaced as new plans are adopted. Details of currently 'saved' policies are provided on local authority websites.



Land at Thanington by Vicky Ellis

Ashford

- Core Strategy adopted July 2008
- Town Centre Plan adopted February 2010
- Tenterden and Rural Sites Plan adopted October 2010
- Urban Sites and Infrastructure Plan adopted October 2012
- Chilmington Green Area Action Plan adopted July 2013
- A Regulation 19 publication version of the plan was published in June 2016. The council will publish a timetable for the next stages once it has considered consultation responses.

Canterbury

- Herne Bay Area Action Plan adopted April 2010
- The Canterbury Local Plan was submitted for examination in November 2014. Stage 1 of the examination took place in July 2015 and stage 2 took place in July and September 2016. An inspector's report is expected later in 2016.

Dartford

- Core Strategy adopted September 2011
- A Regulation 19 publication version of the Dartford Development Policies Local Plan was published for consultation in January 2016. The plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination with the hearings scheduled to start October 2016.

Dover

- Core Strategy adopted February 2010
- Land Allocations Plan adopted January 2015
- A draft of the Gypsy & Traveller Local Plan is expected to be published this year.

Gravesham

- Core Strategy adopted September 2014
- Work on the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan is underway, involving a review of the Green Belt. An Issues and Options consultation is expected in late autumn 2016.

Maidstone

- Affordable Housing Plan adopted December 2006
- Open Space Plan adopted December 2006
- A draft new local plan was published for consultation in March 2014, with further consultation on new sites and policy changes in October 2015. The Regulation 19 Publication Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and examination hearings are scheduled for October and November 2016.



Sevenoaks

- Core Strategy adopted February 2011
- Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan adopted February 2015
- The gypsy and traveller policy and sites will be included in the new local plan
- A new local plan, which will eventually replace the core strategy and Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD, is currently at an early stage. Regulation 18 consultation is expected in early summer 2017.

Shepway

- Core Strategy adopted September 2013
- Consultation on the 'issues and options' stage of the Places and Policies Plan was undertaken January–March 2015. A Regulation 18 Preferred Option consultation is expected to be published in autumn 2016.

Swale

- The draft Swale Local Plan was submitted for examination in April 2015. A first round of examinations hearings completed in December 2015. A consultation on Proposed Main Modifications ended in August 2016, and the examination is expected to reconvene at the end of 2016.
- The council will not progress to a Local Plan Part 2 on gypsy and traveller site allocations if modifications to the local plan align with up-to-date policy on gypsy and traveller sites.

Thanet

- Cliftonville Plan adopted February 2010
- Consultation on a draft local plan was undertaken in January–March 2015. The Regulation 19 pre-submission plan is likely to be published for consultation in early 2017.

Tonbridge and Malling

- Core Strategy adopted September 2007
- Development Land Allocations Plan adopted April 2008
- Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan adopted April 2008
- Managing Development and the Environment Plan adopted April 2010
- The council has started a review of the adopted plans and a Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation is expected in autumn 2016.
- Tunbridge Wells
- Core Strategy adopted June 2010
- The Site Allocations Local Plan was adopted in July 2016
- The council has commenced work on a new local plan and is expected to publish a Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation in spring 2017.

Medway

- An issues and options consultation on a new local plan was completed in February 2016. The council has an agreed interim housing needs target of 1,000 homes per year, and will review whether to increase this after considering the issues and options consultation. Further Regulation 18 consultation on Spatial Options is expected winter 2016/2017.

Kent County Council

- The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which sets out strategy for mineral provision and waste management in Kent, was adopted in July 2016
- KCC intends to publish a Local Development Scheme in the autumn which will establish the timetable for the preparation of Mineral and Waste Sites Plans.



Hare by Graham V



Autumn trees by Rachel Kramer

Around *the districts*

A quick catch-up with our district committees - don't forget if you would like to become more involved with CPRE Kent in your local area please contact us in the office and we will put you in touch with your district chairman.

Autumn endings by Rachel Kramer

Ashford – Hilary Moorby

- Warehorne Solar Farm was required to have an environmental assessment. No further information has come forward to date.
- The large AXA site at Sevington, next to the M20 J10a, has been sold to Aviva. The plans have been permitted but building depends on the plans for J10a of the M20. Consultations have finished and we wait for the outcome of our comments, including concern about the exit/entrance to Barry Road onto the existing 2070 and the proposed layout for J10.
- Chilmington Green - this development is still not off the drawing board after eight years of detailed consultations. In the draft local plan, it is scheduled to have 2,500 houses built by 2030, i.e. only half built by then!
- Gladman developments in Smarden and Brabourne were refused, against officers' recommendations in Smarden's case. We expect both to go to appeal
- Kingsnorth - the draft local plan has been put out to consultation. The Jarvis plan to cover the whole village with development has been considerably watered down. But the village has been asked to take a further 1,900 houses on several sites. We will be considering these carefully as it seems out of proportion at nearly 20% of the housing proposed for the whole of the borough.



M20, photo The Village Alliance

Canterbury – Alan Holmes

- The debate on the local plan drags on. Our thanks to Barrie Gore and Paul Buckley for their participation in the hearings in September.
- The Mountfield development of 4,000 houses in south Canterbury is said to have been redesigned, possibly influenced by our strong representations.
- We have objected to a development of 1,000 houses at Sturry. It now appears that part of the site is heavily polluted from its use as a firing range.
- A hearing into a Development Control Order is due this autumn on the Richborough line of pylons to provide link for the undersea cable from Belgium to Canterbury. We have yet to decide how this should be handled.
- The local barracks has been sold to a developer with outline planning permission. A London borough outbid the local council and is using the accommodation for homeless people from London.



Mountfield by Vicky Ellis

Dartford and Gravesham – Alex Hills

- The consultation has closed on the Thames crossing. Government documents show that a new crossing will increase congestion and increase pollution. A tunnel east of Gravesend will still leave the Dartford crossing over capacity. CPRE Kent will continue to push for strategic solutions and for measures to minimise the environmental and landscape damage. Thank you to the local action groups which fought such a hard and imaginative campaign against the crossing.
 - The Ebbsfleet Garden City and Paramount projects continue to develop and we will remain active with both.
 - We are still waiting to see if Gravesham Borough Council plans to encroach into the Green Belt. I am assured the council is doing everything it can to avoid this.
-

Dover – Derek Wanstall

- Great news at Farthingloe with the quashing of planning permission for a development that would have severely damaged the AONB (see p9).
- The St James project is progressing well (120,000 sq. ft. retail and leisure development), also the Snargate Road improvements. But the 40mph speed limit from Capel down to Aycliffe needs sorting out. With the widening of the A2 from Lydden to Whitfield being mentioned again vehicles would be held up at the Whitfield roundabout. Traffic needs to be kept slower at junctions.
- We await the decisions on the two communications masts at Richborough. Over 200 comments were submitted, the majority of them objections.
- Kingsdown water bottling plant is awaiting a decision to move into the Alpine Nursery at Ringwould, involving an AONB. The local community has organised more than 100 comments against this. CPRE Kent feels there is a highway safety issue and it would be better suited to an industrial site away from residential areas (there are vacant premises/sites available).
- At Ash village Quinn Estates has applied to build 112 properties on top grade agricultural land, even though there are existing allocated sites in Ash which have not been started. We are concerned about traffic problems and unnecessary loss of productive farmland.
- The Goodwin Sands consultation is in progress. Any dredging must not be detrimental to the wildlife, historic heritage and environment of the area.
- Work has started on the Connaught barracks site. This is good for housing but again we are concerned about the effect on the roads and will watch how things develop.
- Dover obtained £3 million lottery funding to improve Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens Parks which is good news for our green spaces.



Goodwin Sands, photo 38 degrees

Maidstone – Gary Thomas

- The Maidstone Draft Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. We have objected to many aspects - the most significant problem is the target number of new homes at 18,560. This near 30% increase is grossly disproportionate and based on projections of recent past building rates.
- Kent County Council has complained that traffic levels will become unacceptable. We agree, but Maidstone appointed its own consultants to argue against this.
- In many parts of the borough air quality is poor and exceeds allowable limits. The planners have ignored this problem, which will only get worse.
- Recently some contentious development sites were put forward to the planning committee ahead of the examination. We have written to the Secretary of State to try to get them called in or delayed so that they remain in the examination.
- We also query the number of traveller sites in the countryside, planned as a result of studies made in 2011. Government policy has now significantly changed but the planners refuse to review the number.

Medway – Hilary Newport

- A Gladman development of 200 homes just outside the Swale boundary on the A2 was turned down at appeal for reasons of the potential harm to heritage assets.
- The public inquiry over Lodge Hill has been delayed again while further ecological studies and alternative habitats for nightingales are pursued.

Sevenoaks – Nigel Britten

- Sevenoaks District Council has to find room for 12,400 homes in its next 20-year local plan (compared to 3,300 in the current plan). Whether that reflects actual need for housing or simply demand is a key issue, because there is not enough brownfield land for that much development. Landowners have responded to the council's 'call for sites' and we shall soon know which sites the council considers suitable, how much development they will accommodate and – crucially – whether the Green Belt will be affected.
- We are concerned about the redevelopment of Moorhouse Tile Works, a mile outside Westerham in Surrey with plans for a 60,000 sq. ft. parcel distribution warehouse and 40,000 sq. ft. of commercial buildings. The operation would involve many hundreds of vehicle movements per day so the implications for Westerham lying on the main distribution route, the A25, are particularly serious.

Shepway – Graham Horner

- We are concerned about plans for Otterpool Park, a proposed 12,000 home new town sandwiched between two parts of the AONB. Details are sketchy but it is difficult to see how this can be designed sympathetically and the need for this amount of housing has not been demonstrated.
- We have campaigned strongly against the 250-acre Operation Stack lorry park which will remain empty for 348 days of the year but blight the countryside more than any housing development.
- Members took part in a 700-strong protest march in Hythe in August to protest against a lack of democratic process and the assault on every remaining urban green space in Shepway.



M20, photo The Village Alliance

Swale – Peter Blandon

- Swale Borough Council has produced a new draft housing allocation in response to the examiner's finding last year. CPRE Kent has commented on it raising objections to the allocations on Sheppey in view of the likely transport impacts and the deeply unpopular development proposal at Wises Lane in Borden, which would effectively close the gap between Sittingbourne and the village of Borden.
- The travellers' site in Spade Lane, Hartlip remains the subject of a Swale enforcement effort. The council applied for leave to remove occupiers from the land. However, the High Court has requested further reports.



Manston by Simon Moores

Thanet – Hilary Newport

- Last year's consultation on the Thanet local plan, proposing 12,000 new homes by 2031, drew unprecedented public response, voicing dismay at the high targets. Most of the major strategic housing sites are on the highest grades of agricultural land – this should be a major factor in setting more realistic targets.
- The future of the Manston Airport site remains unclear, with conflicting plans to redevelop the site for mixed employment and housing in conflict with ambitions to restore aviation to the site with the creation of a freight hub.

Tonbridge and Malling District – Cally Ware

- Tonbridge and Malling's draft Issues and Options Report (The Way Forward) has been published. The development strategy includes areas of Green Belt around Borough Green and Tonbridge. However, around West Malling, the Green Belt is to be extended to the east to include the area between West Malling and the A228 Ashton Way bypass. The final report was due last month and the committee will respond.
- Thank you to outgoing chairman Cally Ware from all at CPRE Kent for your years of commitment and hard work as a branch trustee and chairman of the district and communications committees. Wishing you good luck as you move away.

Tunbridge Wells – Elizabeth Aikenhead

- The borough Site Allocations Development Plan document has been approved by the inspector and adopted by the council. The council has started work on a new local plan and issued a call for landowners to propose sites for new or re-development. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment suggests that sites for approximately 650 new homes per year will need to be found, almost twice as many as under the allocations document. Since then the Government has published even higher housing projections and some developers argue the figure should be 850 per year.
- We have objected to an application to build up to 180 homes in the Crane Valley at Brick Kiln Farm, Cranbrook (pictured right by John Wotton) on a rare surviving medieval field landscape adjoining ancient woodland in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Sadly, the inspector has approved this allocation and an adjoining site for 250 houses as the council persuaded him the housing need in Cranbrook constituted exceptional circumstances. We therefore suspect the planning application will have been approved by the time you read this, and this special landscape will be lost forever.
- We objected to an application by the Air Ambulance Trust to build a new regional headquarters at a totally unsuitable rural site at Old Hay, near Paddock Wood, surrounded by horse paddocks, served by very narrow rural lanes much used by horse riders and cyclists and subject to flooding. We are pleased that the Trust has now withdrawn the application and will continue at its existing bases at Redhill and Marden.



Environment Committee – Graham Warren

- We are participating in the South East Water Company Focus Group and Southern Water Company Stakeholder Panel, both working to produce a new draft Water Resource Management Plan for 2019. The emphasis is on a more flexible strategy taking into account the uncertainties influencing water demand - climate change, population growth, economic forecasts and environmental sustainability targets.
- Groundwater reservoir levels are close to normal but late summer rainfall has been low. We will need above average winter totals to carry us into summer 2017.
- On the fracking front, Kent is now a member of the CPRE National Office group working on an updated policy guidance note on shale gas exploration and development. We support an option with an unconditional ban in areas where development threatens water resources - the Weald of Kent and North Downs would fall into this category. We are providing technical support to Sussex, including evidence for the campaign against exploratory drilling by UKOG at Broadford Bridge.
- The Land Use/Food Security Group has produced an important briefing note raising awareness of the continuing loss of productive farmland. There may be funding for a study of the pressures of housing development and population growth on land availability and food security.

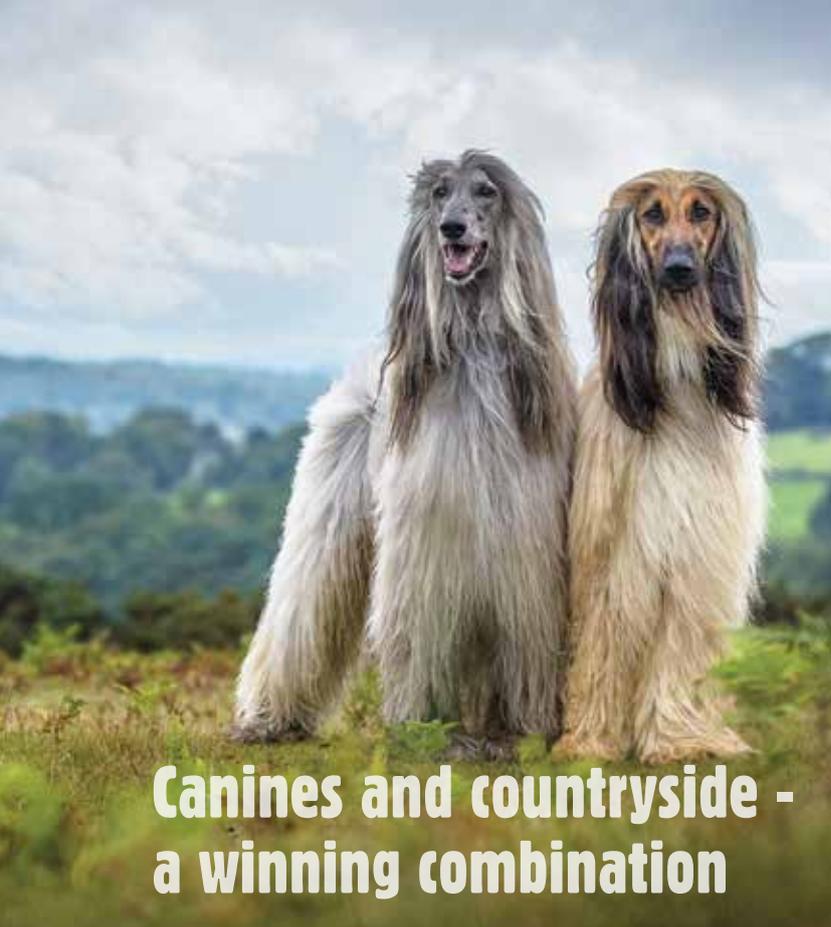


Historic Buildings Committee – John Wotton

- The committee opposed a proposal to de-list the historically important former Prince of Orange pub in Ashford, which had been badly damaged but retained valuable Georgian features. We were disappointed that, despite our objections (and those of the Georgian Society and others), Historic England decided to de-list the building.
- The committee opposed outline planning permission for 180 homes at Brick Kiln Farm, Cranbrook (see Tunbridge Wells).

Committee members needed

- Many of our committees are keen to recruit new members – especially Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling. Please contact our office if you are interested in helping play a part in protecting the countryside in your area: info@cprekent.org.uk



Canines and countryside - a winning combination

A Maidstone man has won the Kennel Club's Dog Photographer of the Year competition out of almost 13,000 entries.

Jamie Morgan won the portrait category with this beautiful photo of Afghan hounds Ozzie and Elvis captured in Ashdown Forest.

Jamie's backdrops are usually in Kent. He said: "Having grown up in a farming family in beautiful Kent, the outdoors has always had a place in my heart."

Jamie gave up his electrical business after an industrial accident to set up Hound Dog photography.

To view all the competition winners visit: www.dogphotographeroftheyear.org.uk and to view Jamie's work see www.hounddogphotography.co.uk



Social Scene

Our social organiser Margaret Micklewright has planned some super outings for the next few months

9 Nov 2016 An evening tour of the fascinating **College of Arms** (pictured below) with supper and wine included.

11 Jan 2017 Our festive lunch will be in the **Fairfax hall in the grounds of Leeds Castle** (pictured above). Includes access to the beautiful grounds and the land train to transport us from the car park to the restaurant - £28

27 April 2017 A visit to **Brogdale National Fruit Collection in Faversham** including a conducted tour by tractor trailer.

More details on the insert in this magazine



A date for your diary Kent Branch AGM



Friday 18th November

Our AGM will be held on Friday 18th November at Lenham Village Hall. Details included in this magazine. The guest speakers are **Helen Whately MP** and **Sue Chalkely** from Hastoe.

Christmas is coming

Help us raise funds by buying these cute CPRE Kent Christmas cards - £2.99 per pack of 10.

Available at the AGM or from the office (01233 714540).

Plus why not consider gift membership (see P30) or the book '22 Ideas that Saved the English Countryside' (see P17) as Christmas presents?

Belmont House & Gardens, Faversham

One of the perks of CPRE membership is reduced admission to some of England's finest gardens and historic houses.



We have been featuring some of the Kent attractions and in this edition we look at Belmont House and Gardens in Faversham.

The beautiful Georgian house of Belmont, standing amid its parkland, commands stunning views of the rolling Kent countryside and is a completely unspoilt and distinctive example of the work of the architect Samuel Wyatt.

In 1801 the house was bought at public auction by General George Harris (later Lord Harris) who had defeated the Tipu, Sultan of Mysore, in 1799 at the battle of Seringapatam. The acquisition was made with prize money from his successful military career.

Belmont contains fabulous mementos of the family's history and travels - paintings, furniture, Indian silverware and perhaps the finest private clock collection in the country. There is also a unique collection of water-colour landscape paintings set in the West Indies by the Trinidadian artist Michel Jean Cazabon (1813-1888). The paintings were commissioned by the 3rd Lord Harris when he was Governor of Trinidad.

The layout of the grounds at Belmont largely date from the 1790s and form part of the Colonel Montresor's remodelling of the park, although the planting has been altered and added to by different generations of the Harris family over the past two centuries.

The gardens are full of interest throughout every season; the kitchen garden, originally designed by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd, is a wonderful mix of traditional and modern gardening: a beautiful Victorian greenhouse, figs pleached on the walls, arbours festooned in golden hops, and an abundance of soft fruits, traditional apples and pears along with a variety of vegetables grown for the house. The walled garden to the rear of the stable yard is another intimate enclosed area set with long borders of annuals and perennials.

The gardens are open all year round from 10.00am to 6.00pm. There is a tea-room and events including cookery demonstrations and open air theatre throughout the year.

The house can be viewed by guided tour on Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays from April to September. CPRE members receive half price admission to the gardens.



Photos: Belmont House



Vicky Ellis

News round-up



Events

CPRE Kent has been busy attending events all around the county. We had particular success at this year's Kent Show, where we managed to recruit numerous new members, sell merchandise, raise funds for CPRE Kent and chat to the public raising our profile. A huge thank you to the volunteers involved. HRH the Duke of Kent visited our stand and was welcomed by Richard Knox-Johnston, Hilary Newport and Christine Drury (pictured left). If you feel you would like to help at any future events, please contact me in the first instance.

Fundraising

There are many ways to help CPRE Kent raise vital funds. If you work, payroll giving is an option as anything you give gets tax relief. Internet shopping through Easyfundraising raises funds with no cost to the buyer and big names such as John Lewis, M&S and Tesco all donate. Joining our lottery club is a fun way to support us with a good chance of winning - at £12 per share for a whole year it is excellent value for money (see back of your address sheet).

Gift Membership

Why not give something unique and special this Christmas and buy a gift membership for someone? Contact us for a form or download one from our website. Don't forget members are entitled to two-for-one or half price entry to many beautiful and historic attractions across England.

Our advertisers

Please support the companies who advertise in Kent Voice as they contribute to the cost of publication. When you phone or visit them, please mention their ad so they know it is being seen and will support us again. If you have a business that you would like promoted within the Kent Voice, then please contact me in the office. Vicky Ellis on 01233 714540.



EVENTS

Please consider helping out at any of these events - entry fees will be reimbursed. Your support is appreciated. Or you may know of an event that you would like to represent CPRE Kent at.

Still to come in 2016

Green Christmas Market, Faversham Guildhall, 3rd December

Dates for your diary 2017

Agri Expo, Detling Show Ground	1st March
Kent County Show, Detling Show Ground	7th, 8th, 9th July
Biddenden Tractor Fest and Country Fair	22nd, 23rd August
Weald of Kent Ploughing Match, Marden	16th September
East Kent Ploughing Match, Quex Park, Birchington	27th September
Green Christmas Market, Faversham Guildhall	TBC December





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Here are the winners since the Spring /Summer edition of Kent Voice:

April 16

Mrs A Reader	£40.00
Mr E Sweeny	£30.00
Mr P Whitestone	£25.00
Mr B Wilson	£15.00
Ms J Fadden	£15.00
Mr N Pearson	£15.00

May 16

Mr C Catt	£40.00
Mr D Burgess	£30.00
Mrs M Moore	£25.00
Rev'd J Emmott	£15.00
Mrs P Pollock	£15.00
Mrs G Collins	£15.00

June 16

Mr C Daniel	£100.00
Mrs A Hone	£50.00
Mr N Britten	£25.00
Mrs M While	£20.00
Mrs J Claburn	£15.00

July 16

Mrs P Hollington	£40.00
Mr Mrs M Williams	£30.00
Mrs G Scales	£25.00
Mr C David	£15.00
Mrs C Ware	£15.00
Mr M Loveday	£15.00

August 16

Mr S Winn	£40.00
Mrs A Nicholls	£30.00
Mr G Meaden	£25.00
Mrs C Colley	£15.00
Mr Mrs D Noakes	£15.00
Mrs M Russ	£15.00

Sept 16

Mr Mrs Noakes	£40.00
Mr Mrs Wise	£30.00
Mr P Mattocks	£25.00
Mrs P Pollock	£15.00
Mrs M Moore	£15.00
Mr H Fox	£15.00



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We always love to hear from our members, so please feel free to drop us a line and tell us what's happening in your part of the county. We are especially eager to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer as a district committee member. If you want to help us to keep Kent beautiful, then get in touch with us at info@cprekent.org.uk or call 01233 714540.

Office Contacts

Director

Dr Hilary Newport hilary.newport@cprekent.org.uk

Marketing & Office Manager

Vicky Ellis vicky.ellis@cprekent.org.uk

Planning team

Paul Buckley paul.buckley@cprekent.org.uk

Jillian Barr jillian.barr@cprekent.org.uk

Campaigns and PR Manager

Susannah Richter susannah.richter@cprekent.org.uk

The countryside you cherish is disappearing fast, greenfield land is being swallowed up.

Noise and light pollution are destroying the tranquillity of our countryside. Our village and rural communities are under threat. We are fighting for a beautiful and thriving countryside that all of us can enjoy for generations to come.



Please join us to help protect the countryside you love
CPRE membership starts at £3 per month

Title	Full name		
Address			
			Postcode
Telephone	email		

We would like to update you on our campaigns and fundraising. If you would prefer not to receive any communication then please call 0800 163680 or email supporterservices@cpre.org.uk

Please tick here if you are happy for us to contact you by

Phone		Email	
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If you would like your partner and/or family to also enjoy CPRE membership please add their details. We recommend a minimum membership of £5 per month for a couple. The more you give the more we can do.

Title	Full name	Age (under 18s)

Direct debit is the easiest way to pay and helps us plan our work. Membership starts at £3 per month but you may like to give more.

I wish to give the monthly amount of £3 £5 £10 I'd rather pay £ per month/quarter/year (delete as appropriate)
Please complete the Direct Debit form below and Gift Aid if applicable.

Boost your donation by 25p to every £1 you donate. Simply tick the box below and complete the declaration below. Thank you!

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Please treat as Gift Aid all donations and subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. If your circumstances change, or you want to cancel your declaration, please contact us on 0800 163680

Full name	
Signature	
Date	

For more information or to join over phone please call the Supporter Services team on freephone 0800 163680. CPRE holds and manages data in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

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Address	
Postcode	

Name(s) of account holder(s)

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Bank/building society account number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Branch sort code

--	--	--	--	--

Service user number

7	2	4	2	4	5
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Reference (for office use only)

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Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay CPRE Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with CPRE and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)	
Date	

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

Please complete this form & return to **CPRE Supporter Services, Freepost RTCK-UBXX-BBCR, 5 Lavington Street, London, SE1 0NZ.** Campaign to Protect Rural England, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England 4302973, Registered charity number 1089685

