

# The Dorset Review

Campaign to Protect Rural England



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**Protecting Dorset**  
Campaign to Protect Rural England

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**Front Cover image** – View of Lankham Bottom Nature Reserve with distant views of Cattistock Village.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year we celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the first meeting was held on April 16<sup>th</sup> 1937. The meeting was attended by 400 people and chaired by Lord Shaftesbury, Lord-Lieutenant of the County. Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, (the Ministry was at that time at least was concerned with housing as with health) wrote that the proposal to form a branch was "singularly opportune," since the whole of the county, with the exception of the Portland urban district, had recently under the leadership of the county council been brought within the scope of the Town and Country Planning Act. "An important factor in the preservation of amenity," continued Sir Kingsley, "is to secure that the buildings which are erected are in harmony with their surroundings and with each other." Lord Ilchester proposed "That a county branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England be established in Dorset." Unity would be strength, and that was why he was asking those attending to pass the resolution. This was seconded by Lord Rockley. The resolution was carried unanimously.

When you are next in Dorchester why not visit the Dorset History Centre to view the Dorset CPRE records. The documents have been split into two batches and have the collection reference D/PRE. The service is free, but there is a charge for photocopying.

### Housing White Paper

As I write, we are responding the Housing White Paper consultation. I recently represented the Dorset CPRE Branch at National Office to discuss the 'One CPRE' response to the Housing White Paper. The meeting was both productive and informative and concluded that a single, consensus-based consultation submission from CPRE National Office, its branches and regions would have most impact on government thinking as compared to a larger number of varied submissions from across the country. However, there is still real concern as to the future of both the Dorset Green Belts and the Dorset AONB. It would seem that in the Housing White Paper, Green belts could be subject to a 5 year review, and given the experience of other counties, will leave many Green Belts under threat. As to AONB's, if for example, Kent CPRE had



not gone as far as pursuing their objections to building in the AONB through a Judicial Review, several hundred houses would have been built in the Kent AONB. But whilst taking all these aspects into consideration, we must not forget under any circumstances that large tracts of Dorset countryside is unprotected, and Dorset CPRE must do all in its power not to forget that reality in our defence of the Dorset countryside.

### Shaun Spiers, CPRE's Chief Executive

Shaun will be leaving CPRE in May to join Green Alliance as executive director. Shaun was guest speaker at our Branch AGM held last November and opened a discussion on the 'Urbanisation of Dorset'. On behalf of the branch I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past 12 years and wish him success in his new job and have written to him expressing our thanks..

### Looking to the future

Of course, as an organisation that looks to the future and preservation of the countryside, CPRE is aware of the need for more housing, especially affordable housing for local residents. But we must also ensure as an organisation that the 'Urbanisation of Dorset' is not allowed to continue as of late, which in turn will only encourage urban sprawl and the increasing infrastructure required to service a growing population. Here of course we must not forget our farming community. They face a difficult future, especially in dairy farming, and we must listen carefully to their concerns, especially given it is they who have been responsible for creating the countryside we so enjoy today. However after taking such aspects into consideration, the role of Dorset CPRE, whilst accepting these real challenges, sees its position as one that does all in its power to defend what is so wonderful about the Dorset countryside and that without it, the tourist economy would collapse and be of little or no benefit to either local residents, the farming community or the businesses that increasingly rely so heavily on tourism.

*Richard Nicholls*  
Chair of Trustees



## OPEN DAY AT LANGHAM WINE ESTATE

We hope you will come and join us for our Open Day for members on Tuesday 13th June. It will be primarily a Dorset Food and Drink Event this year to be held at the Langham Wine Estate, Crawthorne, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7NG (clearly signposted off the A354). The event will include Wine Tasting and Vineyard Tour. We are also having a few quality local food producers whose products complement Langham's excellent wine.



*Vines at Langham Winery*

Dedicated to producing world-class sparkling wine, Langham Wine Estate lies just a 10 minute drive from the centre of Dorchester. The 30 acre vineyard is solely planted with the classic Champagne varieties: Chardonnay, Pinot noir and Pinot meunier. Everything is grown and made at the single site allowing the owners to take control of the production process from grape to bottle. Please visit their website for more information [www.langhamwine.co.uk](http://www.langhamwine.co.uk). Winners of 'The Most Outstanding English Sparkling Wine' 2015 and 2016.

Please return the enclosed A4 booking form.



*Wine tasting at Langham Winery*



*Langham Winery vineyard*





## Local Plan Review

Many of you will know that the day after the Society's AGM our hard-working Secretary John Newman had a heart attack whilst on a visit to London. I am happy to report that following a successful bypass operation he is making a good recovery and already back in harness with the major contribution to our submission on the Local Plan Review (LPR).

The consultation period in relation to the first phase of the review is now completed. I know many of you visited one of the roadshows and also attended the AGM when the details of the Review were discussed. I hope some of you made your views known to the Councils. John Newman has produced a detailed report which was adopted by your Committee and has been submitted as our contribution to the debate. I have included here some of the executive summary for your information and if anyone wishes to see the full report I am happy to supply an e-copy on request.

*“ We welcomed the invitation to respond to the Review and wish to ensure that the emerging Local Plan secures a legacy for Sherborne and its district that we can be proud of. ”*

Our detailed response does point out the statistical bulges in population of the young at boarding schools and the elderly in care homes and sheltered housing in Sherborne and West Dorset, to ignore them is to misunderstand the local economy and its drivers.

The Review ignores Brexit, the rise of the self-employed, part time working (including home/internet based jobs) and the changes in retirement age. More and better and local economic analysis has to be done over the next 6 months to give real credibility to the Review – we feel it lacks this. It is ignorant of the relationship between Yeovil, Sherborne and surrounding villages. Also, missing in the economic issue: growth, tourism and employment in Sherborne are restricted by substandard and inconvenient road (often narrow country lanes), bus and rail links.

## Housing target

The Review sticks with the housing need target for the plan period of 775 houses per annum for the whole area: the current figure. This is excessive and needs to be recalculated in accordance with new standardised criteria which will emerge from the Dept. of Communities and Local Government. In the interim we think 589 is a better figure but still probably too high.

Where the housing is located is vital so our generation do not despoil Dorset.

*“ WDDC must not ignore the development of brownfield sites which should be seen as a first priority. ”*

They get no mention, WDDC should encourage with policy their development particularly that owned by Dorset, WDDC, HMG and other Governmental bodies.

## Development in villages

For villages with defined development boundaries, we recommend developments but with two caps in the plan period – the first on size of the development fixed at 2.5% of the households in the village and the second on cumulative amount in the plan period of 5% again on households. We continue to want local development plans to have real democratic meaning.

## Building design in Sherborne

In Sherborne we want an improvement in design and mix; we feel that the current programme is delivering more than enough but badly designed and finished houses. Without any real evidence of need locally we take the view that 40 houses being delivered annually is adequate and might be over the top – brownfield should be first, then second (after taking into account current plans) perhaps some small carefully designed mixed developments on greenfield sites.

The proposal to build 450 houses between the Babylon Hill roundabout and the Comptons beside the Yeo and in West Dorset but next to South Somerset, is nonsensical. This would throttle journeys between Yeovil and Sherborne unless the traffic problems of the

Sherborne and Lyde Roads are dealt with in advance. Such a scheme needs sensible dialogue with South Somerset and a real understanding of the interdependent factors in the local economy. Certainly, if any such development ever took place in the future it must be against the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland allocation not for South Somerset.

In Sherborne there is land designated as employment land and the Review asks whether there is enough. We believe there is and call on the planners to be flexible in its use given the change in commerce over the last 50 years.

Finally, on retail development in Sherborne, we call on WDDC, the Town Council and Dorset to implement the policy that has been in place for many years of town centre expansion. The land is there (owned by WDDC and Dorset) to the East of Cheap Street and is now tarmac car parks. It is ripe for redevelopment, of a suitable type.

## Sherborne Hotel Site

In late March Kate Greatrix, of Quantum, issued the following statement about further changes to the site.

*‘Spring is in the air and we are very much looking forward to the longer and warmer days ahead.*

*It has been a few months since our final exhibition, held in December last year and I am sure you are wondering what we have been doing and how we are getting on with our application – No news is hopefully good news!*

*Firstly, I wanted to say thank you to everyone who came to see us at our Exhibition and for your many positive comments regarding our community engagement – we really have listened and have worked hard to evolve our plans following your suggestions and comments.*

*Since January we have been working closely with West Dorset District Council's planning department to develop a final scheme we are all happy with. As many of you may know we have had some concerns raised by the Conservation Officer and the Landscape Officer. We have held meetings at the Council's offices to talk through these concerns and have made some amendments to our masterplan in order to deliver a scheme that satisfies the planning team.*

*Unfortunately, the need for these changes and the current workload of the*



*Sherborne Hotel Site For identification purposes only, not to any scale*

planning authority will cause a delay in our application being decided. Our revised application will be resubmitted this month and will go out for further consultation over the coming weeks, with a final decision hopefully being made in the next few months.

*In brief the changes are:*

- Amendments to the top North West corner of the site taking the houses further away from the boundary beside the A30 and reduction of extra care housing to 37.
- Increased landscape buffer from the A30 to improve landscaped screening and enhancing the entrance to Sherborne.
- Reduced footprint of the extra care apartment building with a small reduction in its height and reduction in balconies on all sides of that building.
- Consolidated car parking spaces for the hotel to improve landscaping and accessibility.
- Increased tree planting to the southern boundary.'

## Appeals

We were delighted to hear at the end of January that the Planning Inspector had rejected the Gladman appeal for housing at Rymer Road, Yetminster. However, our joy was premature as Gladman have now put in a request for a Judicial Review. The company are notorious for never giving up and using the legal process as far as it will go. Similarly, but with a different developer, in Milborne Port (Gainsborough), a second appeal has been lodged against a further planning application rejection. I am sure you will agree that something should be done relating to such continuous pressure against the known wishes of the local population. However, I don't see too much evidence that this situation will

change unless we can get something done during the discussion of the Housing White Paper.

## Consultation

We have continued our dialogue with the representatives of Sherborne Castle Estates. They have indicated in their submission on the LPR that they have had such meetings and wish them to continue with the aim of securing some agreement on any housing allocation on their land.

We have had two breakfast meetings with Sir Oliver Letwin to discuss the LPR and also some key issues related to the Housing White Paper, viz: calculation of need and the setting of housing targets, the 'housing delivery test' and the means by which councils can hold the development industry to account, and the impact of proposals on the ability of councils to protect the Green Belt as well as other environmental/landscape/heritage designations.

## AGM

Around 50 members attended the AGM in March at which the following officers and committee members were elected: Peter Neal, (Chairman), David Gould (Vice-chairman) John Newman (Secretary), John West (Treasurer), Robin Bawtree, Richard Kirlew, Shaun Leavey and Malcolm Saunders. The Committee is completed by Dickie Bird as President



and Kate Pike as Sherborne Town Council Representative. Sarah Headlam didn't stand for re-election as she has left the area to be nearer her family. She was thanked for her contributions to the Society over many years.

Peter Neal indicated that he intended to stand down as Chairman next year to make the way for some new blood to take over.

## Date for the Diary

Shaun Leavey has arranged a **Farm Visit on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.00 pm at Brian Lock's farm** at Bradford Abbas. The visit is restricted to 20 members and if you wish to book a place please contact Peter Neal ([peter.neal21@outlook.com](mailto:peter.neal21@outlook.com) or 01935 814801) as soon as possible.

*Peter Neal*  
Group Chairman



# HOUSING WHITE PAPER: LISTENING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AT LAST?



*Housing development near Upton, Purbeck*

be released only in exceptional circumstances sounds reassuring – until we realise that under the definition of ‘exceptional circumstances’ in the Housing White Paper it looks like these circumstances are set to become much less exceptional.

We also fear that the requirement to ‘examine fully’ other options may prove to be toothless in practice. Since the introduction of the NPPF in 2012, planning inspectors have rarely challenged local authorities who have actively sought to promote Green Belt release, even where there are significant amounts of brownfield land available.

## Housing targets

While of course Dorset CPRE, as well as local residents, accepts that there is a need for more housing, especially affordable housing, it does not accept the unduly high number, 73,000 houses currently required by central government to be built in Dorset. It believes that such a number amounts to at least 150,000 new residents and 100,000 more cars by 2033, further squeezing our inadequate infrastructure.

Also, the increasing pressure on our Dorset infrastructure services such as education and the NHS, which already suffers from staff shortage, does not seem to have been taken into account. These staff shortages are largely caused by the high cost of property, now unaffordable for nurses and ancillary workers, arising from a lack of truly affordable housing available.

If we are to protect the countryside and prevent urban sprawl, it is essential that housing targets are local, honest, realistic and deliverable. The outcome of this consultation represents the acid test of whether the Government is able to protect the countryside while meeting its aspiration for more house building.

## Supporting Local Communities

Given these pressures, CPRE is supporting local communities across Dorset in fighting these unsustainable demands by central government for unacceptable housing numbers. The coming months are going to be incredibly busy for us – marshalling evidence, constructing persuasive arguments, and getting our message to the widest possible audience. There is a three-month window for CPRE to respond to the White Paper and the consultation on the new housing targets methodology itself.

The full effects of the White Paper will take some time to unfold. Notably, the details of many measures in the paper are interwoven with an expected update to the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** later this year and the promise of a new standardised way of calculating Objectively Assessed Housing Need. Both present hazards for the countryside.

If your community or Parish Council is under pressure from developers to destroy your local environment, the atmosphere of your Market Town, AONB or Green Belt, please contact Dorset CPRE who will give as much assistance as possible through the local CPRE groups to ensure that the Urbanisation of Dorset does not go unchallenged.

*Richard Nicholls*

On Tuesday 7th February, the Government published its long-awaited Housing White Paper. At times we have feared that this would herald a new assault on the countryside and yet another round of developer-driven planning changes. That is certainly what some very well-funded and well-connected organisations and businesses have been pressing for.

Dorset CPRE is hugely heartened that the Paper promises continued protection of the Green Belt, support for more brownfield development, and to address the failures of the housing market as opposed to further meddling with the planning system – all fundamental issues CPRE has relentlessly banged the campaign drum on. There are also proposals to discourage developers from dragging their heels once they have the land and permissions needed to build.

CPRE campaigned strongly for these promises to be a core part of the White Paper, and they are a testament to what CPRE can achieve for the countryside with sound evidence and powerful, patient campaigning. CPRE is now working to influence the consultation on how to calculate the need for new housing.

In his annual lecture to CPRE on 20<sup>th</sup> February – his first speech after the release of the Housing White Paper – Housing Minister Gavin Barwell looked to reassure us that the Government hadn't changed its attitude towards the Green Belt.

## Green Belt: When exceptional circumstances aren't exceptional

Permanence is one of the two essential characteristics of Green Belts, along with openness. Green Belt's permanence is critical to minimising land speculation by developers and encouraging the long-term management of Green Belt land for farming, nature reserves and other natural resources. In policy and practice this has meant that Green Belt boundaries, once set, should endure for at least the typical 15-year life of a development plan and, preferably, for longer.

There is now concern that the Paper as a whole could serve to fundamentally weaken the status of Green Belt.

The White Paper now suggests that Green Belt boundaries can and should be reviewed every five years, as part of the new legislative requirement to both have a Local Plan and then to review it every five years. This interpretation is supported by paragraph 22 of the Government's very recent response to the Select Committee inquiry on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

This isn't the only way that Green Belt's protection is weakened by the Paper. The Government's reiteration that Green Belt can

## PASSIONATE AND PROUD: DORSET LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS



Dorset Blue Trailer

In Dorset CPRE's campaigning, our concern is not just with the factors that influence the beauty and diversity of our countryside, but also the wellbeing of our rural communities. In 2014, we decided that we needed to be more proactive in supporting local communities and the businesses that are essential to them, and we launched a campaign to help village shops face the relentless onslaught from the supermarkets. We started to sponsor a class 'Best Village Shop', in the Best Dorset Village Competition run by **Dorset Community Action**. With the latter we also organised a retailing seminar.

*“We are also concerned to support farmers, for without a prosperous farming sector there is little hope that the countryside will be well maintained.”*

We are now seeking to highlight the activities of the more environmentally responsible farmers at a time when the whole question of farm subsidies is up for debate given Brexit (see article on page 20). We have always strongly supported local foods, which are a mainstay for the better village shops, and this is good for farmers, consumers and the countryside. Nationally we have campaigned for the “30:30 Challenge” trying to get consumers to pledge sourcing 30% of their food from within 30 miles of where they live, and carried out much work mapping Local Food Webs. In the Dorset Review we now hope to provide regular coverage of these wonderful foods and their makers, and raise issues pertinent to their prosperity.

### Factors Driving Growth

Dorset is home to some of the most delicious and exceptional food and drink in England. From the curious but tasty Dorset Knob made by Moore's Biscuits, which even appears in throwing competitions, to the Dorset Blue Vinny, a delicious cheese that was extinct for decades before being revived in the 1980s. There are no shortage of distinctive Dorset food and drinks. The county is lucky to have both a strong farming sector and a coastline that still supports an active fishing fleet, so the foods reflect that.

Barley and now grapes grown on the chalk downlands, and apple orchards elsewhere support the local beer and cider makers as well as the wineries that have sprung up in recent years. Not that farmers and fishermen have had easy times in recent years. One of the factors behind the growth of local foods has been the generation of farmers that have been forced to diversify their businesses into 21<sup>st</sup> century “cottage industries” making wonderful prepared foods and drink from their own grown produce.

### Tourism has helped demand for these foods

Tourism, Dorset's biggest economic driver, has helped demand for these foods. It is also true that the success of Dorset's restaurants, such as Mark Hix's Oyster and Fish House, that make a play of the quality and freshness of local produce, and the influence of the sustainable food campaigner and TV chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, have helped too.

The acclaimed Pig on the Beach Restaurant at Studland insists that all ingredients have to come within 25 miles of the



## PASSIONATE AND PROUD: DORSET LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS (continued)

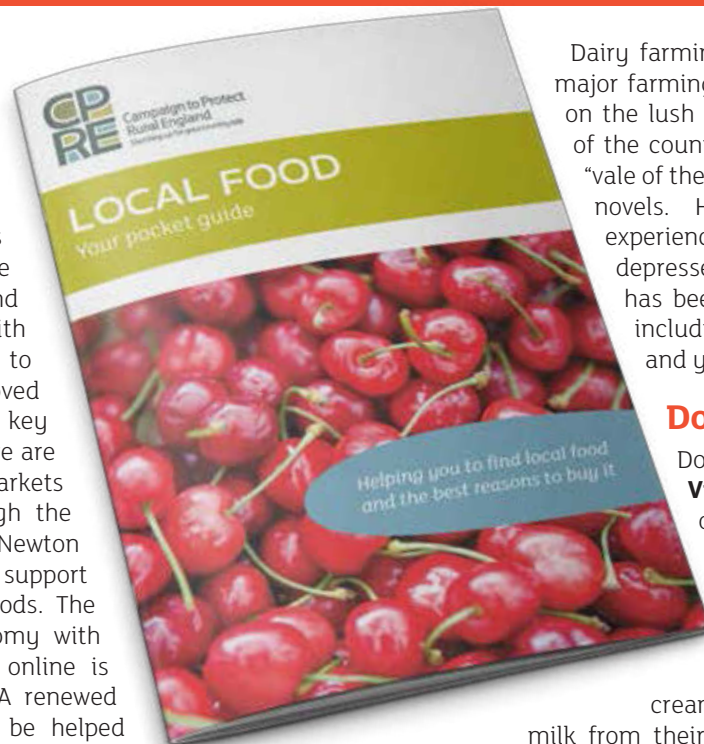
site. Screen Bites, which organises viewings of films themed around food, and the efforts of Dorset Food & Drink (organised by Dorset AONB) to promote local food producers are also recognized. Consumers overall are more aware of the need to eat more healthily and the virtues of “buying local” with reduced food miles, benefits to the local economy, and improved quality, freshness and taste key reasons to buy local food. There are now lots of regular Farmers’ Markets and food festivals too through the year, such as the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival, which help support makers of distinctive local foods. The growth of the internet economy with people happy to order food online is a boon for small producers. A renewed focus on local foods should be helped by Brexit, even if it is just the impact of the weaker pound on imports. However, it is not easy growing successful food businesses as most supermarkets are still either reluctant to stock local products from small companies or else take all the profits. Therefore mainly local producers rely on selling at Farmers’ Markets, farm and village shops, delis, or direct to pubs and restaurants, as well as online. The likes of Dorset Cereals and Fudges, whose muesli and biscuits grace most supermarket shelves, and have grown into major local employers, are still rare.

We hope to highlight many of the local producers in each Review, especially those who make distinctive high quality foods using local raw ingredients rather than imported ones. In this issue we are going to cover Cheese.

### Cheese Revolution

It wasn’t long ago that the French would snigger into their Brie at the mention of “fromage anglais”. Stilton and cheddar aside, it had a reputation for being bland and mass-produced, but British and now Dorset cheese-makers, particularly artisanal ones, are making waves and winning top international prizes.

What’s remarkable about the cheese revival is that in the Eighties the industry was on its knees. A combination of Second World War rationing, the rise of supermarkets, and restrictions imposed by the centralised Milk Marketing Board that favoured industrial producers, like Dairy Crest, had slowly strangled the life out of traditional cheese-making. Cut-price supermarket competition was a major factor and was still hitting cheddar producers recently with Dorset-based Denhay closing its cheese business in 2013 to concentrate on its more profitable and delicious bacon. The number of UK dairy farmers has halved since 1996 alone. But a small band of pioneers, including Neal’s Yard Dairy founder Randolph Hodgson, helped keep Britain’s last remaining producers afloat while also nurturing a new generation of cheese-makers, who soon started to profit from interest in British food in the Nineties. There are now nearly 900 British cheeses, more than in France, and exports are growing fast too.



Dairy farming has always been one of the major farming activities in Dorset, especially on the lush pastures of the north and west of the county. The Blackmore Vale was the “vale of the little dairies” in Thomas Hardy’s novels. However dairy farmers have experienced tough times recently due to depressed milk prices and diversification has been crucial to many for survival, including making cheese, ice cream and yogurt.

### Dorset Cheese

Dorset is best known for **Blue Vinny**, but even production of this died in the 1960s and became extinct. Mike Davies at Woodbridge Farm resurrected the recipe in 1980 and they are the only producers of this marvellous blue-veined creamy hard cheese, using the

milk from their own Friesian cows. It has EU protected food status in being awarded a PGI or Protected Geographical Indication. Mike Davies was one of the original Rick Stein Food Heroes and was awarded the No 1 Country File Food Hero, nominated by the chef Lesley Waters.

In 2000, operations were extended for The Dorset Blue Soup Co which was created by Emily Davies, his daughter, which uses the cheese in many of its soups. The

idea was born when they were looking for a way to use half-cut truckles of cheese left over from farmers’ markets. They linked up with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and

have produced soups under the River Cottage brand too. She was the winner of the 2008 Taste of Dorset Harmsworth Award for outstanding contribution to food in Dorset. The range now



Maturing Dorset Blue Vinny Cheeses





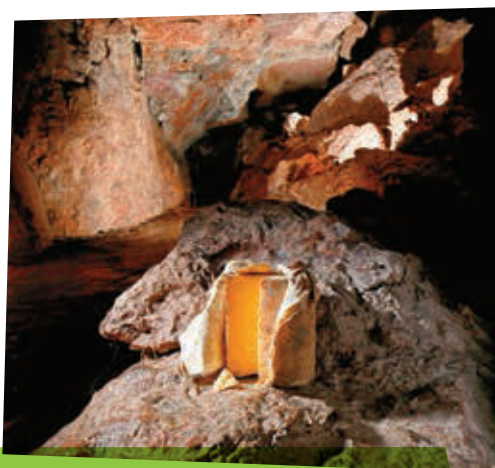
*Dorset blue Cheese*

the A3030 outside the farm. To be successful in this business, Emily says "you've got to be passionate and proud". The website address is [www.dorsetblue.com](http://www.dorsetblue.com).

**Ford Farm** on the Ashley Chase Estate is the biggest cheese producer in Dorset, but that does not mean sacrificing quality. It is one of the few remaining traditional farmhouse cheddar makers, producing nearly three quarters of the UK volume, and employing about 130 people, and are now part of Barber's of Ditchat, the Somerset cheese company. Traditional West Country Farmhouse Cheddar is made to methods and recipes that date back many hundreds of years, and is made into cloth covered truckles, unlike block cheddar which is less labour intensive to manufacture, which they do produce as well. They use the highest quality milk, sourced from local, free-range dairy herds that graze the lush pastures of the Bride Valley in West Dorset, and the process is performed almost exclusively by hand. Their best-known brand is Coastal cheddar. They are not afraid to innovate and their Dorset Red, a mild, orange cheddar cold smoked over oak chips has become a local favourite. Diversification includes delicious sheep and goat cheeses too.



*Ford Farm Cave Aged Cheddar*



*Ford Farm Cave Aged Cheddar*

also includes award winning chutneys, which are their fastest growing products and can be bought in Waitrose. All are available through fine food shops, delis and farm shops, and Emily also runs a pop-up shop most Saturdays on

the accolade of Best British Cheese for their cave aged hard goat cheese at the 29<sup>th</sup> World Cheese Awards in Spain. As a guarantee of authenticity and origin, Ford Farm Cheddar has been awarded the renowned Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) accreditation. They distribute in supermarkets as well as specialist food shops, and are a major exporter of cheese, especially to the USA. Their website is [www.fordfarm.com](http://www.fordfarm.com).

In 1992 Annette Lee founded **Woolsery Cheese**. All the cheeses were handmade using traditional methods and fresh milk to produce a range of cheeses from soft through to hard cheeses, in either goats or cows milk. They believe in everything being as natural as possible and no artificial additives or ingredients are used, just natural milk. She tried selling to supermarkets in 2002 and was in all the main multiples but their pricing left her little profit so she then sold mostly in farmers' markets, specialist food shops and online. She regularly won prizes in the national food competitions. However, in the last month she has announced her retirement but we believe she is hoping to sell some of the business so watch this space.

**Chalke Valley Cheese** pride themselves in producing the finest handmade artisan cheeses, from a single local herd of Holstein/Friesian cows, enjoying the beautiful chalky pastures of North Dorset. It is a story of a cheesemaker who wouldn't give up easily. Alison French was made redundant from Cranborne Chase Dairy when it was closed a few years ago, and was determined to start up on her own. The former biologist had become hooked by cheese-making and set up Chalke Valley in 2011. Cranborne is a brie-style cheese that is proving particularly popular. They have won awards at various food competitions, and distribute through markets, specialist food shops and direct to restaurants. Their website is <http://www.chalkevalleycheese.co.uk/>.

James McCall also worked at Cranborne Chase and has now set up **James' Cheese**. He concentrates on affinage, meaning ageing and maturing, to develop washed rind cheeses. He has a specialised washed rind maturing room in Child Okeford and has developed new exciting cheese ranges with Chalke Valley. Look out for award-winning Francis and Burwood Bole, made by him, when next shopping. He mostly sells to specialist food and cheese shops. His website is [www.jamesscheese.co.uk](http://www.jamesscheese.co.uk).

## CPRE Tasting

The Dorset CPRE Countryside Forum meeting in January tasted some of the produce from Ford and Dorset Blue. They liked them all but singled out both Coastal with "its powerful, creamy taste" and the Cave Aged Cheddar from Ford, and the delicious Woodbridge Chutney from Dorset Blue.

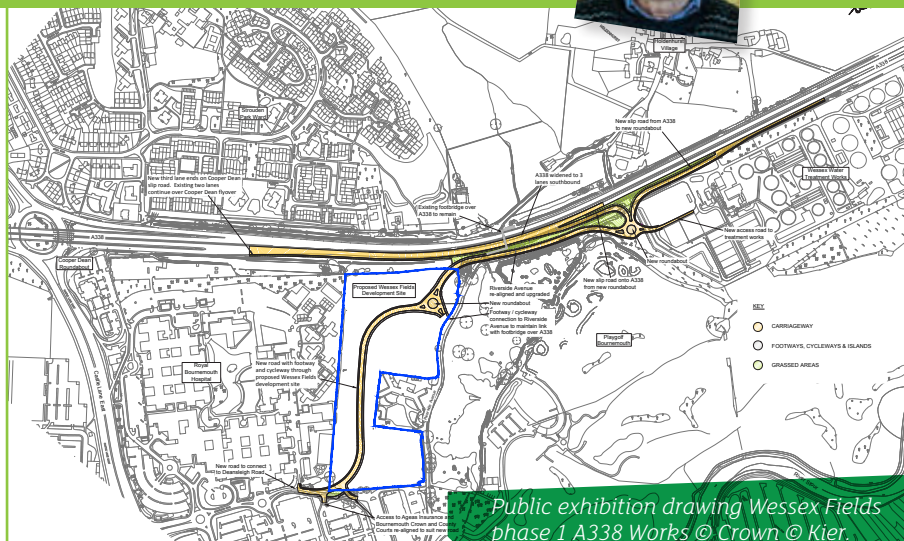
## Issues

There are many challenges and issues facing Dorset cheese producers, but many are similar to those facing other food sectors so we shall cover these all at a later date, with suggestions how we can all help. In the meantime do try the cheeses, and buy at independent shops who contribute more to the local economy than supermarkets, and care more about the provenance of their foods!

*Rupert Hardy*



## EAST DORSET GROUP



### Unsustainable Location

This proposed development has little in the way of public transport. The only buses run Monday – Friday to take the local children to school. The no. 97 Bus service runs from Cranborne to Fordingbridge and another from Fordingbridge to Verwood and Ringwood. Both services pick up and drop off at Alderholt but of course they do not run when there is no school. Generally, they run early morning and mid-afternoon.

Cycling would not be very safe as these are narrow and winding country roads. For this reason, there should be no further development at Alderholt. This development proposes up to 25% affordable housing and made available to people that have a limited income and yet they would have to run at least one car and possibly two. Each house on the development would require room to park two cars.

### Outside the Village envelope

The developer lectures us on the need for more housing but due to Brexit and the Government's White Paper on Housing, there must be some concern about what will be required in the future. We believe this development needs to be rejected until the White Paper passes into law. There is to be "an honest assessment" of the need for new homes as part of this Housing Paper. Therefore, it is imperative that any unplanned development is not allowed until the Local Plan Part 2 is published incorporating these changes.

This proposed development, less than 50 houses, is in such a sensitive environmental area, within 400m – 5km of Cranborne Common, an internationally designated heathland.

This development is neither in the Local Plan Part 1 or included in the village envelope.

### Appeal

Last year we objected to the planned access and transport assessment for application **3/16/0102/OUT** in Verwood submitted by Bargate Homes Ltd. East Dorset District Council refused the outline planning application, and the developer has taken it to appeal.

*Janet Healy*

## CHRISTCHURCH AREA

### A338 Works

A programme of works is currently underway to transform access/egress to/from Bournemouth Airport, Aviation Business Park and Wessex Fields. The projects taking place include improvements to Blackwater Junction and a new link road, off the A338 at Wessex Fields, to Bournemouth Hospital. Bournemouth Borough Council have completed the clearance of vegetation at Blackwater East and West Junctions. Road-works at Blackwater Junction and Hurn Roundabout are set to commence in September this year with work at Wessex Fields not beginning until Spring 2019.

### Roesht Hill Development

Major plans have now been unveiled but there is no indication of a new school or surgery on the site as existing facilities are deemed to have the capacity to expand. The current submission by Taylor Wimpey covers vehicular access only. A more detailed application, at a later date, will include plans for a community complex, a central open space including floodlit sports pitches, a road bridge over the River Mode and other smaller green areas. 35% of the 875 mixed-size housing is to be affordable.

### Redundant Gasholders

Plans have been submitted by Southern Gas Networks for the dismantling of two gasholders adjoining the Civic Offices. There will be funding from Ofgem allowing for de-watering, de-

contamination and infilling works. The proposed removal will enable a more productive use to be established on this brownfield site offering redevelopment potential. Last year there were grandiose plans to open up access to the river and create a marina with housing, shops and restaurants. There is also the possibility that new council offices could be built alongside a new leisure centre: both replacing current facilities.

### East Dorset Group needs volunteers

At the moment there are only two of us covering the East Dorset Group. It would be greatly appreciated if a volunteer could offer their services to deal with CPRE concerns in the Bournemouth Area. This would enable the Group to more effectively protect urban/rural East Dorset. Please contact Linda Williams, Dorset CPRE, on 0333 577 0360.

*David Skipper*

*CPRE Volunteer covering Christchurch Area*

### Application 3/17/0596/OUT Land North of Ringwood Road Alderholt

The CPRE are very concerned about this planning, a resubmission of **3/16/1448/OUT**. It does not appear in the Local Plan and we feel that this would set a precedent if approved and the flood gates would be open to countless additional planning applications which would place the planning department and Council under considerable stress.



## MIST OVER MILLHAMS RECYCLING CENTRE

A few days after Christmas we visited Millhams, our Community Recycling Centre; which is just over the bridge, at Longham. It was a lovely, cold morning, the mist just lifting over the JCB, as you can see in the photo. Like many men, my husband relishes his time at the recycling centre and all such establishments. Living in an urban environment demands that everyone disposes of unwanted 'stuff' in the recommended ways. For many people, I've noticed, this is problematic.

On Bournemouth Council and Millhams' website I couldn't believe how much information people are given. There is even help with washable nappies; not the washing, but the purchase of terry towelling nappies. Disposable nappies are one of the world's biggest problems because they are not truly disposable.

Everything at Millhams has been made easy for those who find decisions troubling. Colour coding is used, as are line drawings for those who find English difficult. I don't mean non-English speakers necessarily. The layout of the centre is like a Roman amphitheatre, built for chariot racing. One just follows the road round until the desired receptacle is reached. The site men are on hand too, so there should be no problems.

I know a great deal is being done in schools today to promote civic responsibility. I'm sure the present generation of children know more than I did in the 50's and 60's. Indeed, life in the adult world was never mentioned. A sense of responsibility was assumed to be present, as if God given. Now, in schools, environmental issues are discussed and incorporated into the curriculum. I appreciated, when teaching, how much local studies meant to children. This local interest leads to an appreciation of one's role in society.

### Throw-away society

When I talk to people my age; the retired, we remember our parents having new elements put into kettles and fires. The 'beater' washing machine could be repaired by anyone strong enough to put the belt back on the hook. Swiftly, everything became disposable and irreparable. My mother often lamented the sheer folly of the 'throw-away society'; which caused us to raise our eyebrows, at her 'old fashioned' notions. Now, her words are haunting. We cannot keep robbing the earth of resources; poisoning its waters and building over good food producing land.



The EU did introduce many laws to improve recycling and composting rates. In 2013 the UK composted or recycled 43.5% of its household waste. Wouldn't it be marvellous if 100% were recycled? Because councils now encourage a variety of collections and bio degradable schemes, there has been a 235% rise in household waste recycling from 2001 to 2010, which is fantastic. Well done EU!



Changes in rules at centres such as Millhams have caused tempers to flare, when some vans are turned away. It is often the cause of fly tipping, another thing which makes me fume. I read once of a man who gave his builder cash to pay for the recycling charge; only to find his old bathroom fittings and bricks dumped a mile or so down the road, near the picturesque village pond. It might be, that before work is completed, the householder pays a fixed amount for any recycling, online. Recently a new van permit scheme has been introduced to reduce the amount of commercial waste that is brought into Millhams for free disposal.

Truly, a recycling visit to Millhams is a reward in itself; but pop around the corner to Haskin's Garden Centre Café if you want further, more fattening, rewards.

*Margaret Morgan*

CPRE Member



## WEST DORSET GROUP



*Dr Paul Kelly speaking at the West Dorset Group AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> March*

### AGM

We held our AGM at Stratton Village Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Dr Paul Kelly gave a talk on 'The health benefits of the environment', please see his article on Green Spaces and Health on page 16. The topics covered during the meeting include:

### Farming

There is little doubt that farmers have been instrumental in developing our countryside, and have done so to the benefit of both the countryside and its wildlife. However, Belinda Gordon, CPRE Head of Government and Rural Affairs, recently commented, "Amidst the rush towards global competition, decisions are being made that do not take into account the wider pressures brought about by rural developments with regard to either the land, or for that matter our health and well-being". As Chair of Dorset CPRE Trustees I have commented previously with what I see as the continuing urbanisation of the Dorset Countryside, and complaints from CPRE members in the Marshwood Vale and the village of West Milton have been growing of late regarding the increasing numbers of huge tractors and trailers using local country lanes to service new mega dairies.

These tractors and trailers have led to a ten-fold increase in farm traffic using the local country lanes with trailers the size of HGV's invading hamlets for up to five months of the year, mainly between May and October, and very often at night. In doing so, not only are local hedgerows being destroyed especially on tight bends, but little local village bridges are being damaged at a cost to the local Council, as well as villagers subjected to noise, pollution and traffic jams. Of course, farmers do have to make a profit, but if local farmers consulted with local Parish Councils and local residents, I am sure a way forward could be achieved.



*Colmer's Hill from Bridport Town Hall taken by David FitzJohn*



*Dorset CPRE Photo Competition entry taken by Madeline Selby*

### Local Plan

Following on from very much the same theme, there is a growing concern amongst CPRE members and the general public in regard to the number of houses required in West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland under the Local Plan. Of particular concern is the lack of what is described as 'affordable housing'. The provision of affordable housing has always been a CPRE issue living as we do in such a lovely part of the country with low wages, house prices and rented accommodation are unaffordable for many local residents. An example here is the recent planning application to convert Dorchester Prison into flats. The developers argued that their profit margins were such that it was impossible for them to provide flats for sale at what is defined as an 'affordable' price. The affordable price being 80% of market value. It was hoped that the recent Government Housing White Paper would go some way to resolve the matter. However, the Government have now, it would seem, dropped plans to build 200,000 starter homes at 20% below market price, leaving the provision of 'affordable' open to question.

### Planning Appeals

Other areas of concern with regard to housing provision are to be found across the Weymouth and West Dorset Area in which developers are increasingly challenging District Council planning decisions. In Nottingham for example, on the outskirts of Weymouth, developers are appealing against a decision made by the District Council not to allow for the development of a large housing estate (WP/15/00072/OUT) with up to three hundred and forty new home. This appeal is being opposed by local residents, and 126 local people have written expressing their support for the local Council's decision. It is a greenfield site and residents are concerned about increased traffic, noise, flooding and the destruction of the natural landscape and wildlife habitat. At present, the matter is still in hand, and a date for a hearing is still to be set. The same concerns have arisen in the village of Maiden Newton. Here whilst a planning application for 8 houses has been agreed, the developers are arguing that their original application for 20 houses be reconsidered. At the time of writing, the matter is still in the hands of the Inspector, and we await his decision.

### Rampisham Down Solar Park

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 we received confirmation that British Solar Renewables had finally withdrawn application no 1/D/12/001664. The plans were approved on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 but later 'called in' by the Department of Communities and Local Government. In January 2017, the developer was given permission for a smaller 17.3 MW alternative site, application WD/D/14/002974, and work on the site is well underway.

*Richard Nicholls*  
Group Chairman



# CPRE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUG 2016

Dorset CPRE will consider giving money to causes other than campaigns that oppose something. An important criterion is that the funding requests must meet our charitable objectives. We set aside up to £20k per year for grants and fund requests.

## Grants were provided for the following projects:

• Lychett Minster Planning Watch	£ 1,500
• Worth Matravers Planning Group	£ 200
• Capability Brown 300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival	£ 1,000
• DWT Rampisham Down Appeal	£ 200
• Buckland Newton Residents Group	£ 500
• Best Village Shop Prizes & Retail Seminar	£ 295

An Open Day was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July at Waterston Manor to raise funds in aid of CPRE to assist local campaigns. Just under £7,500 was raised. Proceeds from the fundraiser totalling almost £3,300 went to Dorset CPRE after deducting costs, clearing No Slyers Lane Turbines' account balance and Mapperton Preservation Group's legal costs. Due to Katharine Butler winning the Judicial Review, that quashed planning permission for the proposed Mapperton Solar Park, our possible exposure was turned into a gain due to Katharine's generosity.

## Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2016

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2015 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	2	27,059	27,059	32,605
Activities for generating funds	3	6,747	6,747	2,860
Investment income	4	5,165	5,165	6,354
Total incoming resources		<u>38,971</u>	<u>38,971</u>	<u>41,819</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	5	20,556	20,556	23,888
Charitable activities	5	6,495	6,495	19,016
Total resources expended		<u>27,051</u>	<u>27,051</u>	<u>42,904</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		11,920	11,920	(1,085)
<b>Other recognised gains/losses</b>				
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		<u>12,089</u>	<u>12,089</u>	<u>(660)</u>
Net movements in funds		24,009	24,009	(1,745)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		234,103	234,103	235,848
Total funds carried forward		<u>258,112</u>	<u>258,112</u>	<u>234,103</u>

A detailed set of accounts including the Trustees Report can be found on our website and are also available on application to Linda Williams or Richard Norman.



## NORTH DORSET GROUP



North Dorset has recently seen some large planning applications approved but overall, and in the wider context, approvals and housing applications have been running at acceptable levels within the framework of the Local Plan. A continuing concern, though, is the relatively high number of houses being built and planned in the countryside. While applications for renewables have continued to fall, the Mapperton saga continues.

### Housing developments

Recent approvals have included 97 houses at Shaftesbury East, on the last two available plots and 28 sheltered apartments on New Road in place of the ATS garage; additionally outline permission has been granted for 50 houses at Barnaby Mead, Gillingham and 350 houses at Blandford St Mary close to the A350/A354 intersection and Tesco. However, all is not bleak; levels of development have slowed down generally. Housing approvals and completions seldom follow exactly the same trajectory, for market and other reasons, with an ebb and flow, and target figures being exceeded in some years and not in others. Developers obtain permissions and build on timescales that suit them.

### Housing Completions

In 2015/16 and in recent years more generally the number of completions per year has fallen behind the Local Plan target of 285 per year; in 2016/16 there were 220 completions, or to be more exact net additional houses, against an average of 228 for the last 5 years. But this dip follows a decade of over-provision against the plan. The substantial developments in the pipe line, for example that of 350 houses at Blandford St Mary, are likely to offset this shortfall in the coming years. We have to understand, though, that the Council can only facilitate, it cannot itself build houses. The 2015/16 figures include 30 and 19 affordable homes in the towns and villages respectively, also 100 dwellings were built on brownfield land. This is a creditable achievement in a predominantly rural district.

A major concern, though, has been the number of houses being built in villages and the countryside. Of the 220 houses completed some 80 were in villages and the countryside.

### So what does the future offer?

The Council has an identified a supply of land for 2251 houses amounting to more than 6-years supply. Included are a number of relatively large development sites in the four towns and infilling generally elsewhere. In Blandford these include the former Milldown Primary School, brewery, Dorchester Hill, A350/A354 near Tesco and Lower Bryanston Farm sites. The last is potentially contentious. At Gillingham sites include St Martins, station



road, Lockwood, Bay, Park and Ham Farms and Lodden Lakes; at Shaftesbury, Coppice Street, Wincombe business park and Littledown; and at Sturminster Newton, William Barnes School, livestock market, Northfields and east of the former Creamery.

### Developments in villages

232 houses are earmarked for the villages, which is high in my view and about 10% of the overall supply figure. Before you choke with rage I should explain that about a third are to be built, or are being built, on brownfield sites, for example, former industrial sites at Bourton, Okeford Fitzpaine and Winterborne Kingston; these will have a positive effect on these villages, removing eyesores. Yes, there has been a loss of employment but this would have occurred in any event and overall North Dorset is very strong economically with an unemployment figure of less than 1%. Also we believe that industry is best located in towns, on sites that do not cause nuisance to local residents and have good road access. Of these 232 houses earmarked for the countryside most are likely to be in the larger villages designated for development in the Local Plan with only 17 sites identified in the smaller villages, principally those without amenities and services.

We shall closely monitor planning applications in the villages, distinguishing between large villages, where some development is appropriate, and small villages, where only 'infill' is desirable, looking particularly at applications for larger developments, more than 5 houses.

### Mapperton Solar Farm

The threat of wind and solar farms has reduced as government subsidies have been scaled back but the Mapperton situation continues to evolve. You may recall that two applications for a solar farm of more than 100 acres were approved and subsequently annulled following appeals to the High Court. A further application is currently with East Dorset District Council for consideration and we await the outcome.

### Transport

On transport there is little new to say on the C13. Proposals for major 'improvements' to the A303 at Stonehenge and along the route to Ilminster have been unveiled for consultation. Some of you will welcome this, believing improvements long overdue. I am cautious at present; the two main issues are possible landscape damage and increased capacity. On the first Dorset is little affected as the short stretch of road in the county is already dualled. As far as assessing possible negative effects on Stonehenge itself, related monuments and places along the route we will follow the line taken by CPRE branches in Wiltshire and Somerset. Extra capacity is a worry as it may encourage long distance commuting and green-field development in North Dorset.





## Spring Party and AGM 2017

Our Spring Party was held on 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Old Rectory, Fifehead Neville, through the generosity of members, Anne and Ivor Faulconer. Our AGM on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at Clayesmore School was well attended. Our speaker Guy Parker of the Environmental Agency gave a talk on 'Protecting rural communities from flooding'.

*Stephen Howard*  
Chairman



Spring Party on 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Old Rectory, Fifehead Neville

## CPRE AWARDS

At Dorset CPRE we are fortunate to have fantastic volunteers who help us with completing consultations, respond to planning applications, assist with recruitment and campaigning to name a few.

At our Branch AGM, held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, Shaun Spiers presented an Outstanding Contribution award to Janet Healy for her years of tireless work responding to local planning applications and the Local Plan, and as the Dorset CPRE Topic Leader for the Green Belt. Terry Stewart received a Lifetime Achievement award for outstanding work as an active campaigner for Dorset CPRE for many years, and long-standing positions as Chair of the Purbeck and Poole Group, Branch President and Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee.

### Types of award

Name of Award	What is it?	Who's it for?	Examples
<b>Positive Contribution</b>	<b>Certificate</b> – individually signed by CPRE NO Chair of Trustees, Su Sayer	Anyone who has made a positive contribution to Dorset CPRE	For any effort or task that has helped Dorset CPRE from envelope stuffing, assisting at events and committee meetings.
<b>Made a Difference</b>	<b>Certificate</b> – individually signed by CPRE NO Chair of Trustees, Su Sayer	Anyone who has enhanced Dorset CPRE for the long-term	For any effort or task that has been implemented and has a long-term benefit to the Branch.
<b>Length of Service</b>	<b>CPRE Medal (engraved by national office)</b> (plus certificate) <i>10 years = Medal + Certificate</i>	Anyone who has volunteered with Dorset CPRE for 10 years and over.	Time dependent but it can be over a continuous stretch of time or for those volunteers who have been helping on-off for a longer period.
<b>Outstanding Contribution</b>	<b>CPRE Medal (engraved by national office)</b> plus certificate	Anyone within Dorset CPRE who has made an outstanding contribution – with a tangible outcome – to the overall cause of CPRE	This would be a one-off award to the person being nominated and is open to anyone who has made an impact in campaigning for a beautiful and living countryside. They could have single-handedly fought off a potentially-devastating planning application or they could be a keen campaigner etc. The contribution needs to be measurable in some way.
<b>Lifetime Achievement</b>	<b>CPRE Medal (engraved by national office)</b> plus certificate	A one-off award for someone who has worked tirelessly for CPRE over many years.	This is similar to the Outstanding Contribution but is an opportunity to recognise someone whose outstanding contribution has been stretched over years of dedicated service to CPRE.

### The process

Please provide the name of the volunteer, which type of award you would like, the reasons for the award.

The closing date for nominations is 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. They can be made through your local district group or direct to Dorset CPRE by email [info@dorset-cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@dorset-cpre.org.uk). The Trustees will review all nominations received when they meet on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The awards will be presented on 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Branch AGM.

**Winner:** Sunrise over Godlingston Heath by Mary Bevis



### 2016 Photo Competition

At the same event, Rupert Hardy presented the prizes for the 2016 Dorset CPRE photographic competition on the theme of the beauty of the Dorset Countryside. The Countryside Forum and Susannah Hubert, a professional photographer, helped to judge the winners. We received 139 digital images from 42 photographers. The two winning photographs are:

**Runner-up:** Wild garlic in a misty Kingswood, Purbeck, by Alan Bevis



## GREEN SPACE AND HEALTH

Readers may recall that I wrote an article in the Spring 2016 edition of this publication that focused on the relationship between green space and health. The following is an extract:

*“ There is a growing body of evidence that green spaces are much more than an amenity. Accessible green space provides a facility for exercise that is vitally important as both a therapeutic and as a preventive measure in a range of conditions, including circulatory disease and obesity. Further, there is a growing body of evidence that green spaces can have a role in both treating and preventing stress. Some studies have found that merely being able to view a green space can have health benefits. ”*

### Role of Green Space

Since then a few things have changed. The financial position of the NHS at that time was precarious and has now become worse. The need for prevention of sickness has therefore become greater, and the role of green space appears to be gradually gaining in significance politically although, in my opinion, the political will does not seem to be sufficient to join up the dots. By this I mean that there continues to be no or little integration of the public health function with individual planning decisions, except possibly for some new towns.

### Local Plans

Although there may be professional health inputs to the development of at least some local plans, there are generally no inputs with regard to the decision-making process for individual planning applications, for example as a consultee. Technically, this should pose little difficulty as upper-tier local authorities already have Health and Wellbeing Boards. Other

potential resources exist in the form of Public Health England and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Of course, being more familiar with Dorset, I cannot entirely confirm that the situation is the same in other parts of the country, but conversations I have had indicate that the situation is indeed at least similar.

### Independent Paper

However, there may have been some progress. I produced an independent paper titled *Green space, health and local policy: a brief survey of the literature* (available at <http://milford-uk.com/papergreenspace.pdf>), which has been distributed to local health bodies, including those mentioned above, and to the CPRE national office. The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) held a conference on the benefits of the natural environment to health and are continuing to address this matter. Nationally, the subject appears to have climbed up the agenda, including a Parliament publication titled *Green Space and Health*, which acknowledges at a senior official level the important role of green space (available at: [researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0538/POST-PN-0538.pdf](http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0538/POST-PN-0538.pdf)). Meanwhile, the academic base continues to strengthen, both at home and internationally.

Nonetheless, I have seen very little impetus towards making health and public health professionals become a consultee for an application where there is potential loss of green space, and indeed for other potential health concerns (e.g. sewage overflow). I believe that it is appropriate that this missing link is corrected. A holistic approach is necessary in planning as well as in healthcare.

*Dr Paul Kelly* PhD



Dorset CPRE Photo Competition entry – Compton Down taken by Mary Dorey







Morning Mist on Corfe Hill ©R Hollister-SPS

### Useful planning and the protection of 'natural assets'.

There is no shortage of draft plans about to be presented to us all: plans that will affect our future health and wellbeing. It is pleasing to see the Dorset Local Nature Partnership also emphasizing the importance to local people of the natural assets that we should and must protect.

Green Belt Zones are designed, amongst other things, to foster urban regeneration and are not intended to be areas of land 'earmarked' for development. Planning law must not be accepted as a 'developers charter'. Planning law is basically supposed to ensure local needs are met to the satisfaction of the local communities concerned whilst protecting / enhancing natural assets.

It is pleasing to note that Purbeck District Council is now taking more time to ensure that all our political representatives really do have adequate information before making their decisions affecting the future of us and our environs / countryside and we also await the initial draft proposed Local Plan from the Borough of Poole with interest.

### Housing targets

To help them in these matters our local Group has sought to provide all relevant information about the value of our natural assets in Dorset and the potential threat to such assets that would be created if any **unproven** alleged 'need' for suitable housing was accepted. Revisions to governmental 'guidance' are

imminent (hopefully to correct previous errors) and earlier local strategies for employment have been damaged by imposed 'permitted development rights'. Development viability studies conducted in private have prevented the public from understanding why land (bought at the wrong price) is not returned to the market for revaluation. We also have disused / underused urban properties. Truly affordable housing for working local people remains a significant unmet need, and the fact that planning law does not allow development priorities to be controlled are some of the matters that make useful planning very difficult, let alone are there enough planners?

True to our principles, we remain committed to assisting our 'decision makers' in their unenviable task of meeting proven local needs to the satisfaction of the local communities concerned.

### Renewable Energy in Purbeck

There has still been no visible activity recently at the site of the proposed Alaska wind farm at East Stoke. Neither has there been anything to see of the proposed solar panels at Primrose farm also in East Stoke. Nor have we seen any obvious activity at the site of the proposed high-voltage underground cable which might connect either of these two projects to the National Grid at Westminster Road in Wareham.

### AGM and Open Evening with Quiz

We held our AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> April at The Parish Hall in Wareham. Maria Clarke, Dorset Local Nature Partnership Manager, gave us a brief outline of the work and ambitions of the partnership as it seeks to stress the real benefits of our natural environment. Paul Sturgess, local countryman and passionate photographer, tested our knowledge of Purbeck using some of his magnificent pictures that emphasise the real beauty of the area.

Naturally your views (as a Member or prospective Member) concerning the above will be appreciated by me in our efforts to ensure planning development is useful to our communities and **not just** to the bank balances of developers.

*Gerald Rigler*

Group Chairman



Maria Clarke, giving a talk at Poole and Purbeck AGM on 12th April

## MINERALS AND WASTE IN DORSET



This is a summary of our recent work on minerals and waste in Dorset together with a few other items of interest.

### Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Minerals Sites Plan

This Plan will be reviewed in the light of responses from the public and from many other organisations including our response from Dorset CPRE before a further consultation on the revised draft takes place in the autumn of 2017.

Twenty-seven minerals sites have been nominated to the Mineral Planning Authority at Dorset County Council (DCC). These will identify the locations of future mineral development required to deliver the 2014 Minerals Strategy.

### Imerys Ball Clay Operations Dorset – Community Liaison Group

I attended a meeting of the Group at the Springfield Hotel in Wareham on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

There was much discussion of the recent contamination of the Toll Bar Stream from the outflow of the settling lagoons at the new Doreys Pit South open-cast ball clay pit. This was reported by local residents and tests by the Environment Agency (EA) showed that suspended solids and acidity were outside the allowed limits. The water was cloudy and small fishes seem to have disappeared from the stream all the way down to where it joins the River Frome. Damage to wild life was very limited and there was no damage at all to the local environment or to adjacent property.

Imerys immediately tackled the situation with aluminium sulphate to act as a flocculent, sodium carbonate to adjust the acidity and regular monitoring of the conditions to make the water compliant. An automated monitoring system will be set up and sedimentation will be removed from the stream bed.

All this has cost Imerys a lot of money and they will be required to repay the cost of the investigations by the EA. They may also have to pay a fine for this contravention but it hoped that a donation (possibly several tens of thousands of pounds) might be made, instead, to a project associated with the immediate local environment. The Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fisheries Association will be asked to advise.

The Toll Bar Stream is named after the Holme Lane Side Bar to Grange Road which was originally built as a Turnpike Road in the early nineteenth century.

### Doreys South open-cast ball clay pit

The extraction of sand and gravel from this new open-cast pit has been taking place for some while now with large numbers of very big articulated and other lorries travelling in both directions on Grange Road. There are far more lorries than originally suggested by Imerys and they have already been churning up the grass verges when they pass each other and other vehicles. Three members of the Community Liaison Group complained rather strongly about this at a recent meeting but our complaints were dismissed out of hand.

### Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative Committee

The next meeting of this Committee will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March and I will report in due course.

### Arne Lagoon

It seems that the RSPB have been too busy with their new visitor centre and with the recent Autumnwatch and Winterwatch TV programmes to do very much about the lagoon.

### The Furzebrook Restoration Project

I raised this at a recent meeting of the Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative Committee but nature is proceeding slowly here and it will still be quite some while before the area is restored to the original fully developed heathland.

### Jurassica

Richard Edmonds, until recently with the World Heritage Site Team at DCC, is now working with the Trustees on this important proposal at a worked-out stone quarry at Broadcroft Quarry on the Isle of Portland.

### Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan

This Plan will be reviewed in the light of responses from the public and from many other organisations including our response from Dorset CPRE before a further consultation on the revised draft takes place in the autumn of 2017.

The Draft Waste Plan, once adopted, will cover the management of all wastes including household, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition, hazardous wastes, and waste water.

### New Waste Treatment Sites

Binnegar Environmental Park in East Stoke near Wareham is being considered by Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) for a new facility to manage black bag waste.

Langton Lodge Farm at Black Lane and land east of Sunrise Business Park, both in Blandford, have been suggested by DWP as possible sites for a recycling centre, a waste transfer facility and a vehicle depot. A consultation on all of these sites ended on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

### Consultation on possible changes to Dorset's Household Recycling Centres

There has been some controversy over opening hours at the HRCs and the new charges for DIY waste and old tyres. The Dorset Waste Partnership, like all other Local Government Bodies, is required to reduce its costs in these difficult times.

### New waste containers

About 900 new properties are built each year in Dorset by developers and every one of these is supplied with a set of recycling and waste containers by DWP at an annual cost of around £46,000. The Partnership is required to make more financial savings and it is considering whether to make a charge for supplying and delivering the containers.

*Dr John Larkin*

Minerals and Waste Adviser to Dorset CPRE



## ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 2017 – What next for the countryside, post Brexit?



*Agri desert by the Ridgeway*

This interesting conference was organised by Julie Girling, one of the six MEPs for the South West. She reminded us that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was introduced in 1962 because of fears for food security.

All present favoured keeping and strengthening many EU regulations, for instance those controlling agricultural chemicals (the EU is about to ban bee-harming pesticides), water pollution, Protected Landscapes (such as AONBs), biodiversity and migrating birds. However, it was acknowledged that Brexit is an opportunity to clarify the tangle of incrementally developed regulations. Also, CAP subsidies have not favoured environmental protection, for example farmland birds have precipitately declined. Grants are paid overwhelmingly to owners of large farms and only for areas of land used for agriculture, driving the clearance of marginal areas good for wildlife.



*Field margin with flowers*

It was argued that future subsidy payments should be targeted at innovative farming practices that would benefit

the public by enhancing the environment and landscape, and better maintain soil fertility for the long term. If DEFRA (or a successor ministry) administers regulations, there needs to be independent enforcement.



*Red Campion*

This conference showed encouraging support for policies favoured by CPRE. However, there are powerful lobbying forces ranged against the environment, in agricultural chemical companies and organisations primarily representing the interests of large scale landowners who own half the land in rural England. Brexit could result in a bonfire of regulations, good and bad alike, in the name of the economy, against the long term public interest.

A summary of the day together with the presentations and programme can be viewed using the link: <http://www.juliegirling.com/environment-conference/>

*Dr Suzanne Keene*



# TRAVELLERS REST: A DORSET FARM THAT VALUES THE ENVIRONMENT



*CPRE Members Walking Through Wildlife Strip With George Hosford*

Last autumn a group from Dorset CPRE were invited by George Hosford to visit his farm at Durweston on a gorgeous, sunny day. He farms 2000 acres rented from the Rothermere estate with his brother Dougal. It is mostly arable but there are cattle and sheep on permanent grassland. One of the interesting crops are poppies for the pharmaceutical market, but the biggest ones are barley, wheat and oil seed rape. In 2013 the farm won the Barn Owl Trophy awarded by the local branch of the Farming and Wildlife Group for their conservation efforts. Dorset CPRE want to highlight the activities of the more environmentally responsible farmers at a time when the whole question of farm subsidies is up for debate given Brexit.

Much of the farm lies within the South Wessex Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In 2010 they were accepted into the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS), which provides a subsidy for farming the land less intensively, particularly the grassland, and for planting wildlife-friendly crops around the farm. The aim is to benefit the wild bird and insect populations, provide more varied grass swards, and to enhance the hedgerows and woodland.

## Environmental Responsibility

There are many areas of the farm's landscape that are important. Wildlife habitats range from chalk downland to mixed woodland, old hedgerows and riverbank. Several areas of downland have been fenced off over the years

and have been grazed extensively to preserve the native flora and fauna. This has proved very successful and during the summer months these areas are rich in cowslips, orchids and other downland plants. The farm has many miles of old hedges. Great care has always been taken to preserve them. This has usually involved fencing them in to prevent any sheep damage, regular trimming and sometimes laying. The current policy is to trim most hedges only once in every two or three years, and then only in January and February. This makes the physical job of trimming more difficult as there is so much more to cut off, but it does provide more food for birds in winter.

## Tree planting

In 1994 several new clumps of chestnut, beech and oak trees were planted in the river meadows to replace the old parkland trees that are gradually coming to the end of their lives. Later a screen of beech and lime trees was planted around the grainstore. Several areas of hazel coppice are being worked regularly, or brought back into production for

spar making for thatching, or for firewood. Further tree planting has been carried out since then, and extensive hedge renovation has been undertaken around the farm since joining the HLS in 2010.

## Public Access

The farm is crossed by countless public rights of way which are regularly used by walkers and riders. Every effort is made to keep these well repaired. Good gates and stiles are provided as and where necessary.



*Silky Black Aberdeen Angus Calves*



Over the years the Hosfords have been keen to encourage visits to the farm. Local school children are always welcome. They believe that a farm can be a remarkably effective and stimulating classroom, with relevance to most of the subjects taught in school.

## Field Margins

Every effort is taken to look after field margins. Cultivation is avoided too close to hedges, which can damage the roots. A margin around each field is left uncropped unfertilized and unsprayed, to prevent weed encroachment into the crop, and eases the first round with the combine, as well as encouraging wildlife movement. One of the main reasons they use liquid fertiliser on all the crops is because it is much more accurate than using solid and there is no risk of it ending up in the hedge bottom. Many of the hedges are now bounded by 6 metre wildlife margins, which together provide valuable wildlife corridors throughout the farm.



Wildlife Strip

## Woodland

The largest blocks of woodland around the farm are leased to the Forestry Commission but there are several areas within the tenancy, including some stands of hazel coppice which are worked by local thatchers when required. There are now about 30 hectares of woodland within the farm, and they are working with the landlord, to improve some of the woods, which were neglected for years by the commission because they became uneconomic to work. Consequently much contains overstood timber, preventing enough light reaching the woodland floor, consequently there is little flora to support the woodland fauna in places. They hope that with some grant aid, and good advice, they can improve the situation, for roughly neutral cost, and end up with healthy woodland sustaining a good mixture of plant and animal life at all levels. It can be an eye opener to discover how much damage can be done to woodland by uncontrolled wildlife such as squirrels and deer. Extensive hedge renewal and fencing projects have been carried out as part of the HLS agreement.

One project in 1995 was the rejuvenation of four acres known as Fox Warren. This area was rapidly reverting to overgrown scrubland with the deterioration of the fencing. A lot of clearing of scrub and hazel was carried out to enable new fences to be erected. Cattle grids were put in on the road at either end of the area to save a lot of fencing and to open up both sides of the road for grazing. This has made stock management easier, and created a parkland effect. The area is surrounded by commercial Forestry Commission woods on one side, ancient woodland on the other with many areas of scrub in between. They believe this has now created a balanced and useful habitat for farm and environment.

## Environmental Improvements

A project carried out about 25 years ago was the repairing of a dew pond on Shillingstone Hill. The pond was no longer water tight. The pond was repaired and it now supports a variety of wild plants and is a notable addition to an interesting field containing an ancient monument and several mature oaks.

A beekeeper keeps around twenty hives on the farm, which as well as producing delicious honey, do good pollination work on crops during the summer, not to mention the wild plant life.

## Pollution Control

Great care is taken to prevent pollution. A new yard drainage system was installed in 1998 to take rain water and run off from the sheep pens to a large soakaway. A further wash down area was constructed in 2011, with a catch pit to contain settled out washings. Care is taken when mixing sprays to prevent any spillage and all tank washings are sprayed out onto crops. A bunded area is used for mixing sprays, spray cans, silage wrap and fertilizer bags go into a recycling scheme.

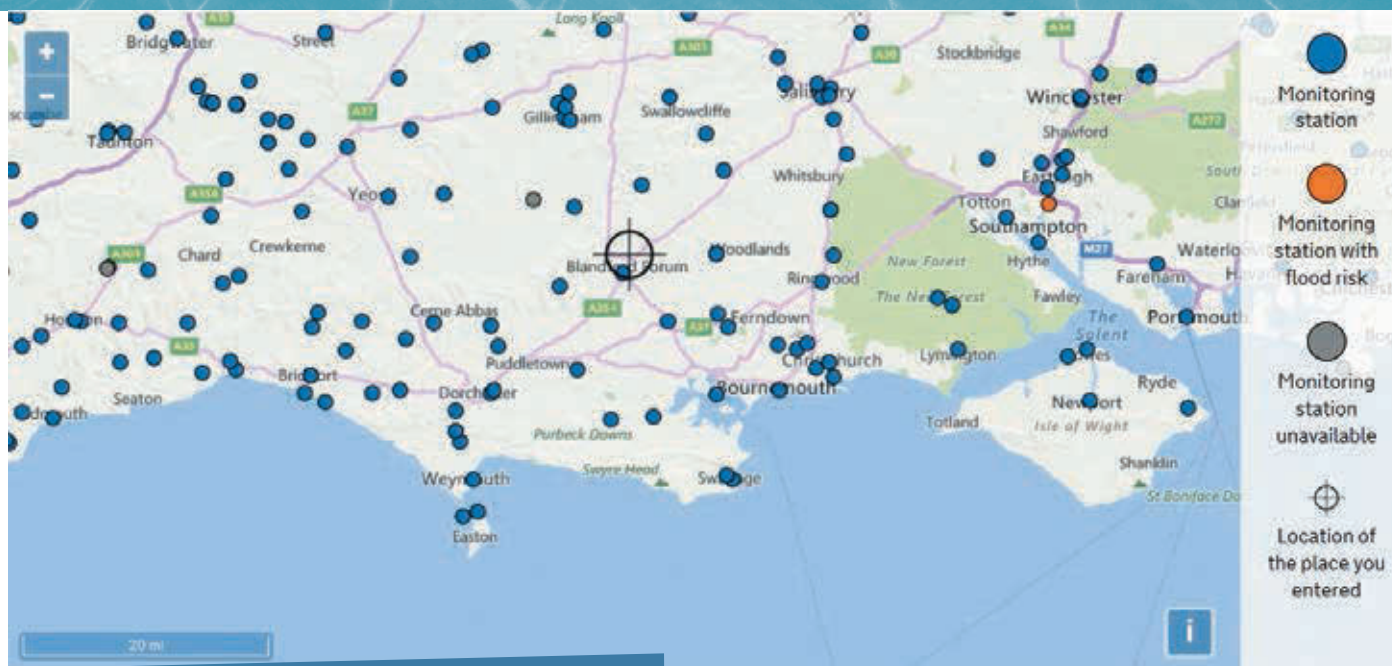
Scrap metal is not allowed to accumulate other than on a heap in the farmyard, which is sold to a local merchant. Liquid fertiliser, and the use of bulk animal feed and home saving of seed in reusable bags prevents much wastage and litter. Old engine oil is kept in drums and collected by an oil recycling firm.

## The Future

George sees many challenges ahead as well as opportunities with Brexit, although he voted to Remain. The fall in sterling has certainly helped farmers in the short term compete with their EU rivals. One EU issue that annoyed him recently was the ban on Glyphosates which he views as an essential inexpensive herbicide with low toxicity in its pure form, and without it UK farmers will be disadvantaged versus their global competitors should this still apply. Overall in a post-Brexit world the Hosfords should be well positioned with regards to future farming subsidies as it is expected that greater environmental responsibility may be a key criterion. Dorset CPRE enjoyed their visit and our Treasurer, Richard Norman, has volunteered to do a butterfly survey there. We wish them every success.

*Rupert Hardy*

# FLOODING



Map of 5 days level information based on postcode

## Future Flood Prevention:

In November 2016, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRAC) published its second report of Session 2016 – 2017 on 'Future Flood Prevention'. Many of the recommendations given would add clarity to those involved in the area of flood prevention. The Government has responded to the EFRAC report and the reply from EFRAC was:

*“.....we are therefore disappointed that the Government's response addresses a number of our recommendations in only a cursory manner.”*

*In particular, the response provides little insight into the assessment Defra has made about the merits of our recommendations on promoting catchment-wide approaches and on new governance arrangements. We request that Defra provides us by the end of February with additional information on how much of the £2.5 billion flood risk management programme for 2015–16 to 2020–2021 includes natural flood management approaches, beyond the £15 million referred to in the response. We also request a fuller response by the end of February to our proposals for improving local governance and partnership working at catchment level to address our concerns about fragmented and inefficient flood risk management structures.*

*Additionally, we consider the Government justification for its rejection of a number of other recommendations, including on insurance, resilience and sustainable drainage, to be deficient. The response largely repeats the original Government evidence to the inquiry about ongoing work programmes which have long-term or opaque timescales. We are disappointed there is no commitment to achieving outcomes on these issues by the deadlines set out in our Report. Defra must update us by the end of 2017 on progress on those recommendations where actions will not be completed in the timescales we recommended”.*

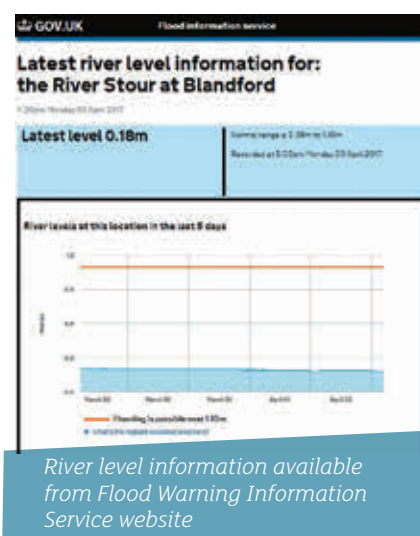
## Response to the Housing White Paper

The White Paper includes a short section on Flood Risk in which a number of amendments to The National Planning Policy Framework are proposed. None of the proposals take into account the recommendations made by EFRAC covering resilience and sustainable drainage issues. It would appear that Government considers its response to EFRAC on these issues is acceptable although EFRAC is “disappointed” in the response received to its report Session 2016 – 2017 on “Future Flood Prevention”.

## Flood Warning Systems

Government has recognised that only about 75% of communities in England at risk from being flooded are given warnings through the Environment Agency(EA) flood warning scheme. One option which the EA is keen to test is to use locally sited warning devices which may be able to give more accurate warnings of flooding.

This initiative is being investigated as a result of the agreement from the EA to install a monitor in the Iwerne at Stourpaine where flooding occurs. A contract has been signed with a supplier to provide the system. The installation will be close to the EA Blandford offices which will enable the EA to monitor the system at a convenient location and test whether or not it is suitable to be rolled out to other locations across the country.



River level information available from Flood Warning Information Service website

*Derek Gardiner*  
Topic Leader



# LITTER CAMPAIGNS

## Litter Free Dorset

Dr John Larkin attended a meeting of the new Litter Free Dorset Working Group at County Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> March. He has been involved in these matters since Paul Goldman, from East Orchard in North Dorset, and Richard Mann, then Dorset CPRE Director, convened the first meeting of the Rural Litter Initiative in September 2003. The title of the Group was soon changed to Dorset Campaign Against Litter (DCAL) and he attended the last DCAL meeting on 6th October. The Campaign has now merged with the new Litter Free Dorset (LFD).

Natalie Poulter, temporary chair of LFD, said that the formal aims and goals of the project were as follows:

### The project aim:

Working together in an independent partnership, effecting positive behaviour change to reduce littering across Dorset's towns, villages, countryside and open spaces.

### The Project goal:

To be an umbrella for a broad range of stakeholders involved in litter prevention, providing an independent network and mechanism for partnership working on littering issues where new and existing resources can be co-ordinated for greater impact.

This will be a three-year project. Funding has now been secured for the first year to demonstrate the viability of the project, and the plan is to secure funding from other sources in successive years. Charlie Wild was introduced as the Project Officer for LFD and she will work half-time on LFD and continue to work half-time on the Litter Free Coast and Sea Project.

The LFD Project will try to find ways to reduce littering at source by visitors and by residents of Dorset and also to encourage and help the many litter-picking groups which have been established all over the County.

The Working Group discussed litter-picking in general and especially on the verges of main roads and the obvious safety issues. The more important sources of litter include food packaging, cigarette butts, dog waste, nappies and baby wipes, fly tipping and drink bottles and we discussed the best ways of dealing with all of these.

A broader range of people will be invited to join the Group including the Tourist Board, schools and youth groups, the universities, parish councils, and the National Farmers Union.

## Litter-free Purbeck

76 volunteers of Litter-Free Purbeck's voluntary groups litter-picked in various parishes of the Isle of Purbeck as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

Backed by parish councils, Dorset Waste Partnership and the National Trust, Litter-free Purbeck has groups now established in Corfe Castle, Worth Matravers, Langton Matravers and Swanage, and is growing, with 90 volunteers signed-up. To get involved, please email [litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com](mailto:litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com).

## Dorset Devils

Setup over three years ago by Peter Ryan, Dorset Devils has over 188 residents of Bournemouth, who love where they live but dislike the sight of litter and its effects on their community and environment. They each litter pick where they live, whenever they like and also do community activities as



Alex with Mum Sarah taken by Peter Ryan

TeamDD. They aim to be visible in the community in the hope that their presence will encourage others to manage their own litter. More details on their campaign and projects can be found on [www.dorsetdevils.org](http://www.dorsetdevils.org). CPRE donated new Streetmaster Pro easy grip litter pickers to help with their campaign.



Volunteers from Clean Up Corfe, part of Litter-free Purbeck'

## Litter picking equipment

Dorset CPRE has a supply of litter pickers and high visibility vests that can be provided on loan. Please contact Linda Williams, [info@dorset-cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@dorset-cpre.org.uk), to arrange collection.



## CPRE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CPRE National Office publishes a number of reports based on detailed research. Here is a summary of the most recent reports that can be found on CPRE Resources webpage [www.cpre.org.uk/resources](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources):

### The end of the road? Challenging the road-building consensus

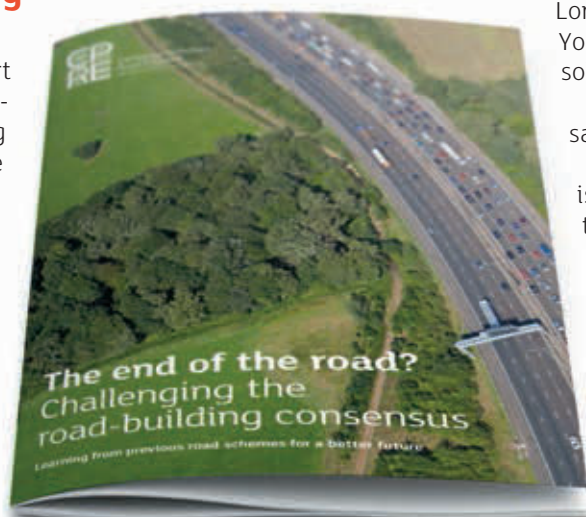
This CPRE report reveals that road-building is failing to provide the congestion relief and economic boost promised, while devastating the environment. It directly challenges government claims that 'the economic gains from road investment are beyond doubt'; that road-building will lead to 'mile a minute' journeys; and that the impact on the environment will be limited 'as far as possible'. The report shows how road building over the past two decades has repeatedly failed to live up to similar aims.

The report is based on a study commissioned by CPRE and carried out by consultants Transport for Quality of Life (TfQL), which examined 86 official studies of completed road schemes.

### Landlines: why we need a strategic approach to land

This pamphlet argues that the case for a national approach to land use is more pressing than ever by showing that England's land is under an increasing multitude of pressures. The current, fragmentary approach to land use is failing to address the problems caused by often conflicting demands: environmental degradation, rising costs and harm to health and wellbeing.

The 'Landlines' pamphlet brings together a number of experts to argue for greater national coordination on land use, a longer-term approach that can



enhance both the environment and the economy. Architect Sir Terry Farrell, UK Committee on Climate Change Chair Lord Deben, and Chair of the Woodland Trust Baroness Young are among those who propose different national solutions for how we use our land.

Sir Terry Farrell CBE, architect and urban planner, said:

"The scale, complexity and seriousness of these issues mean we cannot any longer proceed as before, treating land as a disposable asset. We have now got to plan proactively for rapid and radical change."

### Local Food – What's the deal?

As mentioned in our earlier article on 'Dorset Local Food Producers' there are many good reasons to choose local foods, such as benefits to your health, your community and your local environment. In presenting some of the best for you in this booklet CPRE hopes to encourage you to seek out local food.

If you usually shop only at supermarkets, it could mean making gradual changes to where and how you shop

as, with a few worthy exceptions, supermarkets stock low levels of local food. Shopping around can take a little more time but once you see how rewarding, cost-effective and tasty it can be, you won't regret it!





## OBITUARY

### Mary Milborough Norman 18.10.1918 – 22.11.2016

My mother was the child of an Army family. When my grandfather was posted to India she was sent to the Royal School, Bath. Later when she was at a Teachers Training College in Cambridge she met our father and married in June 1944. She followed our father out to India where they spent 14 happy years and raised a family. In 1961 they returned to the UK and decided to settle in Dorset as they both had ties to this area. They settled in Winterborne Houghton and happily lived there for 50 years.

After we boys left home, our mother joined CPRE and Men of the Trees (now the International Tree Foundation). She became very active and involved in all aspects of protecting the county against the depredations of the developers and planners as well as trying to keep the footpaths and bridleways open. She was well known to carry a pair of secateurs and pliers on her when walking. She earned the grudging respect of the local farmers who eventually did their bit to keep them open.

She worked for North Dorset CPRE and there were four redoubtable ladies, Chrisobel Cayford, Gillian Carter, Ruth Collier and my mother. They became well known to the local planning departments. They knew the planning law as well as if not better than the planners themselves and won many battles. I remember once manning a CPRE housing stall in Wimborne when I got chatting to a Blandford Council member. When he realised that I was Mary's son, he departed with the words "Wait till I tell them there is another Norman in CPRE!!" He admitted that she was a force to be reckoned with and could run rings around them.



Presentation ceremony in 1999, from left Charles Bowen, Chairman of Dorset CPRE, Mary Norman, Betty Reynolds and Sir David Ford, CPRE National Chairman

She was eventually recognised with the Countryside Medal on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1999, the first from Dorset to be so honoured though not the first to be chosen. As she got older she became more involved with ITF and when you drive around Dorset today you will see the results of her planting. The Lime avenue as you approach Greys Bridge in Dorchester, the Beech avenue that is slowly growing as you come off the Wimborne round-about on the Blandford bypass, the Lime avenue near Winterborne Clenston and a large memorial planting on Okeford Hill as well as lots of other trees throughout Dorset.

*Richard Norman*

## LEAVING A LEGACY

### A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN HELP PROTECT OUR GLORIOUS COUNTRYSIDE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



If you share our beliefs about protecting our precious heritage of a beautiful countryside, please consider leaving a gift to CPRE in your will.

Your legacy, no matter what the amount, will help us ensure that developments are sensitive to the countryside, and that housing sprawl is kept in check. With your help, there will be a green, tranquil and beautiful England for tomorrow's children to enjoy.

*"The English countryside is an exceptional creation – immensely old, full of surprises and nearly always pleasing to look at. For me, the countryside represents so much of what makes life worth living but how much of it will be left for future generations to enjoy?"* Bill Bryson

### 3 Simple steps to leaving a legacy to CPRE

1. Find a solicitor or other qualified advisor
2. Decide what type of gift you'd like to leave CPRE – a share of your estate or a fixed sum.
3. Take our details with you – your solicitor or advisor will need our full name (Dorset CPRE), address and registered charity number 211974.

## DORSET CPRE MEMBERSHIP

Membership of CPRE not only helps fund the organisation's campaigning work and maintain a team of nationally acknowledged experts – but can also bring benefits to individual members.

A number of Dorset properties and those in neighbouring counties offer discounts on admission prices with half-price entry deals available at over 200 properties throughout England.

All of these Dorset properties offer a discounted admission for CPRE members.

Visitors are asked to check for individual opening times before setting out as many are seasonal.

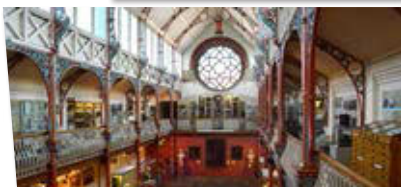
### Athelhampton House & Gardens

The property is built around an unmodified Tudor Hall, with a fine collection of English furniture from Jacobean to late Victorian periods. The award winning architectural gardens feature the famous pyramid shaped yew trees and diverse water features, plus a boarded walk along the River Piddle.



### Dorset County Museum

This award-winning museum showcases 135 million years of Dorset's fascinating history. Whether it's dinosaurs, archaeology, geology, fine art, costume and textiles, or Dorset's literary greats there is something for everyone to enjoy here. Children can enjoy interactive displays, museum trails and free school holiday activities. Other facilities include a tearoom and shop.



### Edmonsham House

As featured in Country Life and The Dorset Magazine. A fine Tudor/Georgian manor house with Victorian stables and 12th century church nearby, 6 acre garden and 1 acre organic walled garden. Teas on Wednesdays in April & October only. In Cranborne Chase between Cranborne and Verwood, off the B3081.

### Forde Abbey & Gardens

Forde Abbey is on the Dorset/Somerset border. This former Cistercian monastery, now a family home surrounded by 30 acres of award-winning gardens, invites you to enjoy a full day out. The gardens are open daily and the house is open on Tuesdays to Fridays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. The Shop, Tearoom, Plant Centre and Pottery are open every day. Parking is free. Dogs are welcome on a short lead. There is a full calendar of events on the website.



Dorset CPRE members also receive –

- Two Dorset CPRE reviews per year, Spring and Autumn
- Countryside Voice magazine, twice a year
- Fieldwork, our quarterly newsletter to help you campaign
- Membership of your local county branch
- Access to our Planning Hotline for advice from CPRE staff

Further information can be obtained by writing to us at – Dorset CPRE, PO Box 9018, Dorchester, DT1 9GY or by calling 0333 577 0360, or via our website [www.dorset-cpre.org.uk](http://www.dorset-cpre.org.uk)

### Mapperton Gardens

Terraced valley gardens surround a Tudor/Jacobean manor house, stables & dovecote, croquet lawn, Italianate formal garden with fountains, orangery, grottoes, and a 17<sup>th</sup> century summer house. Off A3066 Crewkerne or A356 from Dorchester, take B3163.



### Serles House & Gardens

Voted one of the 10 best private gardens in Great Britain, this garden is for people of all ages. The plantings fit in with over 60 relics rescued from oblivion by Ian Willis. The Anglo-Indian conservatory, plant-pot man, tree-house and cannons from the Solent are highlights of this remarkable experience. Location: Centre of Wimborne. On B3082 West of town, very near hospital, Westfield car park 300yds. Off-road parking close by.

### Wolfeton House

Grade I\* medieval & Elizabethan Manor house. Magnificent carved oak panelling, splendid plaster ceilings, grand fireplaces, unique stone great stairs and 17th century pictures and furniture. 1.5 miles from Dorchester on A37 towards Yeovil. Check for current opening times.





# DORSET CPRE MEMBERSHIP

## DECEASED MEMBERS

### East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Dr Judith Gillespie-Smith  
Dr J Clarke

### North Dorset:

Mrs Mary Norman  
Mrs J M Bullock

### Poole & Purbeck:

Mrs Rita Potter

### West Dorset:

Mrs Standen McDougal  
Mr Geoffrey Poole  
Mr Hubbard  
Mr Norman Gower

## NEW MEMBERS — Since October 2016

### East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Mrs Richard Kemp  
Mr John Remnant

### North Dorset:

Mr John Graves  
Mrs Clare Lowes  
Mrs Fiona Felton

### Purbeck & Poole:

Mrs Jane Lewis  
Mrs Diana Parry

### The Sherborne and District Society:

Mr Roger White  
Sir Christopher Coville

### West Dorset:

Mrs Patricia Atkinson  
Miss Janet Willy  
Mrs Anne Nicholls

### Outside Dorset:

Ms Caroline Spicer

We also welcome members who have moved from other branches or re-joined during the year.

## DIARY DATES

**23<sup>th</sup> May** – Farm Visit 6.00 pm at Brian Lock's farm at Bradford Abbas

**13<sup>th</sup> June** – Open Day at Langham Wine Estate, see enclosed booking form

**18<sup>th</sup> November** – 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM, 11 am at Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Please visit the Dorset CPRE website for 2017 meeting dates for the Countryside Forum and District Groups.

## NOT ALREADY A MEMBER?

Joining is the single most effective way to stand up for the countryside. The more you can give, the more we can do to keep our countryside safe. As a member you'll receive our regular Countryside Voice magazine, and enjoy discounted entry to over 200 houses, gardens and other attractions around England. Please visit our website for details on how to join or contact our office for a joining form. CPRE Membership also makes an ideal present.



# CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DORSET BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 211974

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website: [www.dorset-cpre.org.uk](http://www.dorset-cpre.org.uk)  
 @DorsetCPRE

BRANCH SECRETARY **Mrs Linda Williams**

## Executive Committee & Trustees 2017

### PRESIDENT

**Mr Edward Fox OBE**

### VICE-PRESIDENT

**Mr Stephen G Howard** **01747 828249**

Summer Pool Cottage, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury SP7 9LQ

### LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

**Mr Alan H Kenyon** **01305 250051**

2 Augustan Close, Dorchester DT1 2QU

**Capt Dickie Bird, LVO, RN**

**01935 850576**

Manor Farm House, Trent, Sherborne DT9 4SW

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**Mr Richard H Nicholls** **01308 422679**

159 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AG

### HONORARY TREASURER

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Mngani, 15 Hillcrest Close, Glue Hill, Sturminster Newton DT10 2DL

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**Mr Peter Neal**

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**Mrs Sandra Brown**

**01929 551071**

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**Dr Paul Kelly**

**01305 814711**

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**Dr Guy Dickinson**

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Summer Pool Cottage, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury SP7 9LQ

### The Sherborne and District Society:

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### Purbeck & Poole:

**Mr Gerald Rigler** **01202 601109**

9 Sundew Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 9NX

### East Dorset, Bournemouth and Christchurch:

**Contact Dorset CPRE Branch**

## Countryside Forum

### CHAIR OF COUNTRYSIDE FORUM

**John Holiday** **01258 817796**

Hill Farm, Woolland, Blandford Forum DT11 0ER

## Advisers to the Forum

### Trees for Dorset

**Mrs Rachel M Palmer** **01929 462423**

Clouds, 14 Cologne Road, Bovington, Wareham BH20 6NP

### Dorset Wildlife Trust:

**Mrs Alison C Kaye** **01305 260401**

High Ridge House, Charminster, Dorchester DT2 9QZ

### Environment Agency

**Guy Parker** **01258 483460**

Flood Resilience Advisor (Wessex)  
Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park,  
Higher Shaftesbury Road, Blandford Forum DT11 8ST  
Email: [guy.parker@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:guy.parker@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Farming Adviser

**Shaun Leavey OBE FRAGS** **01258 483460**

7 Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AB

### CPRE SOUTH WEST

### Regional Chairman:

**Janette Ward**

c/o 8 Rowdens Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 1TU

### DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in some of the articles do not, necessarily, represent the views of CPRE Dorset. Many of the articles have been written from a personal viewpoint.

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PRINTED BY: Remous Ltd, Milborne Port, Dorset DT9 5EP