

The Dorset Review

Campaign to Protect Rural England



80 years of campaigning for the countryside

In this issue

- 80th Anniversary
- District Group updates
- Dorset Best Village Shop
- Dorset Local Food Producers
- Litter Campaigns

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Front Cover image – View of St Catherine's Chapel and Chesil Beach

CHAIR'S REPORT



Housing Minister

Alok Sharma, who took over from Gavin Barwell who lost his seat in the June election, has replied positively with regard to offering a meeting to discuss our concerns regarding housing numbers in Dorset.

Trustees & Life Vice-President

Two new Trustees joined us in November 2016. Dr Paul Kelly is a dentist with a PhD in public health. He is an amateur historian, archaeologist and palaeontologist. Dr Guy Dickinson retired in May 2012 after working 26 Years at the Royal Crescent Surgery in Weymouth. He is a long-time member of CPRE and recently took on the Chair of the West Dorset Group.

Richard Heaslip recently stood down as Vice-President to care for his wife. He was made Life Vice-President in May, in recognition of his work in East Dorset, updating our Constitution and overseeing our branch re-structure in 2014.

Volunteering and Membership

To achieve our aims, we will require more volunteers to come forward. Whilst I can report that Dorset is one of the larger Branches in England, Branch membership is falling as it is in other CPRE Branches across the country. At a recent meeting in London, the Branch did raise this particular concern, and it was encouraging to hear that our National Office are now looking positively into the vital matter of recruiting new members. However, I would appeal to individual members to try to recruit just 5 members over the coming year, and in that way we will continue to be a vibrant and outgoing organisation at a time when the countryside is so under threat. However, despite these challenges, Dorset CPRE continues to do all in its power to protect what we believe is the loveliest County in England and to make our views known at local, regional and national level.

Countryside Forum

Our Countryside Forum with countryside specialists and invited experts meet five times a year in various venues around Dorset. In June we visited Kingston

Recent research by the Town and Country Planning Association has shown that councils across the country are concerned as to the future of affordable housing. This has been brought about in that councils no longer receive direct funding for affordable housing. In fact, councils are now increasingly reliant on developers being granted planning permission to reach the housing targets set by government. The consequence of such an approach is that in Dorset for example, whilst Poole aims for 40% affordable houses, it has only completed 7.7%, one of the lowest in the country. But there is an emerging pattern taken by developers who claim that through the means of a viability assessment, it is no longer possible to build the requisite proportion of affordable homes as required in the Local Plan.

For example, in Sussex, an American real estate investment trust recently told a local council that a viability study demonstrated its development could not provide more than half the council's 35% affordable housing target. Faced with the prospect of an appeal, which councils can now ill-afford because of cuts in Government financial support, the council simply waved through the application for 2750 homes and a business park development. In doing so, the council simply accepted the developer's assessment.

It is also becoming apparent that with affordable housing, the government seem blithely unaware as to what is actually happening in rural areas. Public transport is being decimated, public services centralised, and little consideration seems to be given to the distances rural communities will need to travel to reach these essential services. As such, the role of CPRE will need to change in that we are now having to fight not only for the protection of our countryside, but retain what we consider so special about our landscapes and wild areas. We, in CPRE, accept that there is a shortage of housing generally and particularly of affordable housing but it must be provided in the right places and designed appropriately.

Very much to this end, the Branch met with CPRE National Office recently to discuss how we address such matters, and I will be in a position to report back on any progress at our forthcoming AGM.



View over Dorset cursus at Down Farm by Rupert Hardy

Maurward College, Luke Rake, Chief Executive, spoke about the work of the independent agricultural college and its 60 years' experience of delivering courses in land-based subjects. The college is one of 14 independent farming colleges in the UK. Luke Rake is on the board of the Local Enterprise Partnership and chairs the Rural Enterprise Group. Su Sayer, Chair of CPRE National Office, attended this meeting.

In September, Sarah Harbige, Dorset LEADER Programme Manager, gave a talk on the LEADER Local Action Group, how it allocates project funding to rural businesses and community groups to help them create jobs, help businesses to grow or benefit the wider rural economy. The meeting was held at Down Farm that lies between Blandford and Salisbury, and owned by the celebrated amateur archaeologist Martin Green – See page 26 for article on Down Farm.

80 years of campaigning for the countryside

Eight decades on, Dorset CPRE is still very much alive and kicking. Over the years CPRE played a leading role in establishing National Parks, Green Belts, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the town and country planning system.

In essence, we stand for the same thing now as we did back in 1937 – to retain a beautiful, diverse countryside for the benefit of everyone, wherever they live. A countryside which can give us the big views, open skies and tranquillity we all need to get away from it all. But also a vibrant, productive countryside which provides good livelihoods and the

natural products we will need forever – like food and fresh water. A great deal has changed, a great deal has been lost – but Dorset still has a glorious countryside.

I hope that as many members as possible will take the opportunity to come and meet Crispin Truman at our 80th Anniversary AGM on 18th November.

Richard Nicholls
Chair of Trustees

CPRE 80th Anniversary AGM

Crispin Truman, new Chief Executive of CPRE, Guest Speaker Branch AGM

We are delighted that Crispin will join us on Saturday 18th November for our 80th Anniversary AGM at Cerne Abbas Village Hall. Current proposals are to start the AGM at 11am and have lunch at 12.30pm. **Please return the enclosed A4 booking form.**

Crispin started his new role at CPRE on 4th September and paid tribute to his predecessor, Shaun Spiers, who has stoutly defended our historic achievements while shaping the national debate on affordable housing, urban regeneration, litter, greener transport and so much more.

Crispin joined CPRE from The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) where he was responsible for major regeneration projects and creating partnerships to help sustain local heritage. His love of the countryside and experiences working with rural conservation groups drove his enthusiasm for CPRE, he said.

"I love being in the countryside and enjoy walking or cycling out of town whenever I get the opportunity," he added. "In my time at CCT I've thoroughly enjoyed working with rural communities to save their local historic churches – now to have the chance to lead the premier charity working to protect and enhance rural England is fantastic."

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know the thousands of volunteers, members and professionals who make CPRE what it is: working day in day out to keep our countryside beautiful for all."

He added: "Green space, so essential for our health and well-being, is too readily sacrificed for development when there are better options. We need to get serious about both protecting our glorious, irreplaceable countryside, while



building the affordable homes and well-designed infrastructure that we need."

If my time at CPRE takes us significantly closer to our ultimate vision of 'a countryside valued and enjoyed by us all as a huge national asset', I will be very happy indeed.

We hope as many members as possible will make the most of this opportunity to meet Crispin and tell us about key issues affecting your area as well as listening to his priorities for the future of CPRE.



Housing targets

We had expected to have a very busy summer digesting and commenting on the Government's proposals for the calculation to be used for setting housing targets. However, their ideas were not ready before the summer recess and have just been published. In areas where affordability is an issue, extra housing demands will be placed on Councils; Dorset will be affected. However, locally the resulting housing numbers could be very similar to those in the Local Plan. We will work hard with Sir Oliver Letwin and the WDDC/Weymouth and Portland Councils' Planning team to try to ensure we are not forced to accept inappropriate development of too large a scale.

The Councils currently do not have a five-year land supply and are therefore open to speculative developments which are difficult to reject. (The NPPF states that in such circumstances the default position is that permission is granted in favour of sustainable development). If there is pressure on the numbers to be increased even further in the New Local Plan Review, then this situation could be made even worse. We shall continue to make the case that the five-year land supply, which is controlled by housing developers not the Councils, is an invidious rule which makes a mockery of good strategic housing planning.

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Paddock Garden and the Arts Centre

In my years as Chairman of your Society I have never faced such a difficult situation as that posed by the proposals for the Art Centre in Sherborne and whilst of course agreeing that such a

Centre might be good Community, after having a meeting with SCACT and the Foundation your Committee felt there were a lot of unanswered questions which precluded them supporting the current proposals. This situation hasn't altered. E-mails have been exchanged with the Chairman of SCACT, looking for some form of compromise, to date with no success.

At the July meeting of the Town Council at which they agreed in principle to lease the Gardens to the Trust, in summary (for full details contact me) I said:

At the meeting of the 20th March I indicated that we are supportive of an Arts Facility in the Town but have yet to be convinced that this cannot be achieved without control of Paddock Gardens, and the substantial alterations to it, as proposed. Our view still remains the same.

The Council are being put in an invidious position having been offered one option only, with a take it or leave it approach taken by SCACT and The Foundation. The views of those of us who have concerns (and there are more people with these views than some of you may think) have been completely ignored. Indeed the opinions of most of the 115 or so individuals and organisations, who were involved in developing the Paddock Garden in its current form, haven't been properly consulted in anyway. It may be that the majority of these people will support the project but they haven't been asked. We are being told to accept that the only way the Arts Centre can succeed is to have space and access for large works of art. This hasn't been backed up in any business plan with rigorous market research and costings etc.

It is a great pity the way this whole exercise has been handled, in which with concerns have been ignored, when consensus could have prevailed with 100% commitment behind the project. Finally if the Council do go ahead in principle then please ensure the lease is much tighter than being proposed and that an independently assessed business plan, agreed by the Council, is forthcoming before any final decisions are made.

I am pleased to say that the conditions of agreeing to the principle of a lease fitted with my request. Namely that an independent solicitor is appointed to advise the Council on the legal position

and that there is a robust business plan produced for scrutiny before any final decision is made. We then still have the planning process to go through, in which I am sure there will be much discussion about the actual design of any Gallery, its relationship with Sherborne House and the whole issue of parking to be resolved.

Current Local Developments

Barton Farm

Persimmon has gained approval for Phase 2 of Barton Farm (Corelli) development. We opposed this being granted until the road access work had been completed. However permission was granted on the condition that no houses were to be occupied before the junction works were finished. This being the same condition as for Phase 1 yet the road works only started at the end of August and won't be completed until next June!

Bradford Road

Bovis are now well underway with their Bradford Road site. I gather that they are keeping the neighbours informed at all stages of the build and that generally good relations have been maintained.

Restful Homes has sold the Girls School site at Bradford Road to Barchester Healthcare. We understand their architect have been on site. The original design, in Arts and Crafts style, although an over development of the site, was at least of good quality. We understand that this basic style will remain.

Sherborne Hotel site

The final plans for the Sherborne Hotel site are now awaiting a decision from the WDDC Planning Committee. (Indeed as you read this it may have been made.) As you are aware we have supported this development in principle as the Town needs the hotel. However, we have indicated that we do consider that the site is being overdeveloped and that the apartment block is too high. Quantum has indicated consistently that without the supported assisted living build the Hotel will not be viable.

Other developments

We have objected to number 62 Cheap Street being granted change of use to make the site suitable for a Coffee Shop. However, it is very difficult to argue over such changes as the economic effect on other businesses isn't a planning

matter. Maybe it should be? If councils were able to ask for details on possible displacement and reject applications if this was likely, then this would help to keep viable High Streets with a range of businesses.

We were very disappointed to hear that in Milborne Port, after 3 Appeals permission has been granted for a development in Gainsborough. We objected through-out to the applications but again the power of the developer, with the financial muscle to keep on appealing, has won. It does seem wrong that developers can keep on coming up with 'tweaks' to schemes and put through endless appeals, when the local people have no such ability to object when planning permissions are granted, unless the decision can be taken to Judicial Review which is rarely the case.

Farm Visit

In May around twenty members and guests paid a visit to Brian Lock's farm on the outskirts of Sherborne. We were shown round by Brian and his wife Lucy. We discovered the unusual nature of the farms produce – namely the growing of crops to produce seed for the cultivation of cereals, rape and grass by arable farmers. We visited several fields under cultivation, discussed the extreme standards required for seed production, saw the seed processing plant and other highly specialised equipment used on the farm. At the end of the evening we were entertained to supper and drinks at the Lock's house. I am grateful to Shaun Leavey for organising the trip and to the Locks' for a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable evening.



Visit to Brian Lock's farm at Bradford Abbas 23rd May 2017

Gryphon Geography Award

The 2017 Geography Award was presented to Joseph Bishop, at the Gryphon School Prize Ceremony in Sherborne Abbey on 16th September. Joseph comes from Yeovil. He gained 3A* Grades at A level, in Geography, Economics and Applied Business. He is going to Bournemouth University to study Business and Economics. We wish him well.



Joseph Bishop receiving Geography Award



Rebecca Bailey who played Elizabeth

Bringing Ambridge to Sherborne

In place of our Autumn Lecture we hosted the play 'No Finer Life' written by Graham Harvey, farming author and agricultural story editor to Radio 4's The Archers. The play is based

on a true story about a young farmer, George Henderson, who took on a small Cotswolds farm and transformed it into one of the most productive farms in the country. The play tells the story through the eyes of the young girl who visited him and became his wife. We were all amazed (or transfixed) by the talented Rebecca Bailey who played Elizabeth, engaging us with her story telling and singing. She was supported by the excellent Alistair Collingwood, who composed and played all the music and a fine technical team.

This was followed by a Q & A with Graham Harvey to talk about the issues raised, farming and all things Archers and Ambridge. Thank you to everyone who made the evening a great success.

Committee Appointment

I am delighted to tell you that Roger White has agreed to being co-opted onto the Society's Committee, with immediate effect. Roger is an architectural historian and former Secretary of the Georgian Group and Garden History Society. Roger has written extensively on 17th and 18th century topics for a variety of journals and magazines and is perhaps the country's leading authority on Georgian landscape architecture. He is a tour director with ACE Cultural Tours, with which he has recently lead tours of Westminster Abbey, Wren's City Churches and The Great Palladian Houses of Norfolk. I am sure he will be a great asset to the Committee.

Peter Neal
Group Chairman

WOOL ON THE WILDSIDE

Why turn a village into a town?

We have recently set up an environmental group of experts – many of whom live in Wool to record its high level of biodiversity. This includes rare species perhaps not found in other areas of Dorset. There have been three areas where Cuckoos have been recorded singing, 100 Southern Marsh Orchid Hybrids in one meadow, an Osprey and even a possible Nightingale in Coombe Wood where the first cuckoo calling was recorded. Nightjars have produced their strange brrr call from early May till mid-July on the Woolbridge Heath – singing all night and competing with the Cuckoo in the dawn chorus on one occasion. A pole-cat has been recorded in two gardens and on one organically farmed field earmarked for development a good showing of wild cornflowers have been seen - this at a time when Wool is keen to plant wildflowers in the Parish!

“As you drive along the A352 through Wool you may be quite unaware of the richness of Wool Parish for wildlife.”

The Parish having within its boundaries an SPA (Special Protection Area) under the European Bird's Directive; an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest); The Frome which runs through the Parish; 98 NCI sites of nature conservation interest; LNR (Local Nature Reserve); 13 Ancient Woodlands some small but the proposed SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space) to support the proposed development is very large; several acres of Organic farmland – several of these fields are designated for development. One would have thought Purbeck Planning department would have decided it was NOT the ideal place to accommodate **1000 houses** (indeed in the Purbeck Review 2012 none were allocated here) thereby making a village into a town. The amount of interest raised by our group “Lower Frome Valley Flora & Fauna” is extensive and it is obvious many people come to live in Wool because they value the rural and wildlife amenities gained from using local footpaths around the village.



Children attending the Saturday Club on local nature reserve

Local Nature Reserve

I run a club on Saturday mornings for children 7 to 11 years old focused on our Local Nature Reserve – 8 Acre Coppice. Here the children are recording every species they find and making drawings of some. They have 55 on record at present but hope to have 100 by the end of the year. They have also been involved in management-coppicing and clearing ivy from the Bluebell areas. The club is called Wool on the Wildside (we still have some spaces) and that's how we hope to keep Wool. We are taking various actions to keep the public involved. Surely country life is all about enjoying what we still have for free – some of our most precious amenities. To find out more, please visit the website www.woolwildlife.org.uk.



Moth

We thank Dorset CPRE for their support both written and financial support in helping to keep Wool on the Wildside.

Rachel Palmer

Dorset Coast Forum

The Poole Harbour Commissioner

At the Annual Meeting of the Forum held at Emmanuel Church in Swanage, Brian Murphy, The Poole Harbour Commissioner, gave a detailed account of the Port Master Plan. A new deep berth at the South Quay will accommodate bigger ferries and cruise ships and Sunseeker could export their boats from Poole rather than from Southampton. This would create more jobs, increase the revenue for the Harbour and give a welcome boost to trade in the town.

We had a guided tour of Swanage Pier where we were shown the recent storm damage and the expensive repairs to the underwater supports in progress. We were then shown the nicely refurbished museum, the shop, and the meeting rooms in the adjacent Marine Villas.

Dorset Coastal Connections

The Coastal Community Fund will support Dorset Coastal Connections – People and Places. This DCF initiative is a portfolio of 18 coordinated and

connected projects which include the Christchurch Welcome Hub; the Public Realm Enhancements at Poole; new access at Lulworth Fossil Forest; East Cliff and West Bay Beach Access; and also an Arts Trail cycle access between Lyme Regis town mill and Uplyme.

Dr John Larkin

Dorset CPRE Representative at the Dorset Coast Forum

TOLPUDDLE THEN AND NOW

The Tolpuddle Festival weekend, held on 14th to 16th July, was fun for all the family and a good time was had by all.

How different from times in Tolpuddle not 200 years ago; the early 1830s to be exact.

Briefly, farm worker's wages were woefully inadequate at 10 shillings a week, but reducing them further was akin to starvation wages; especially for family men. An anonymous contributor to a London paper, in the 1830s, listed the weekly needs of a single man. Old money was pounds, shillings and pence(d), as you probably know.

Bread flour	3s 4d
Bacon	2s 7and a halfpenny.
Butter	1s
Cheese	8d
Beer/milk	1s 9d
Salt	1d

Added to his housing, clothing and fuel costs, he would need 14s and a penny ha'penny. For a wife an extra 6d. Yeh. It must have been known then that a wife ate nothing but fairy dust. Note the monotony of the diet and no sugar or the cheapest orange label tea. It was presumed that vegetables were grown at home, which wasn't always the case.

At that time the Speenhamland Poor Relief System had been adopted, which gave bread only for relief. Many farmers cut pay to workers, knowing the Parish would make up the wages. This was unpopular as men wanted to provide for themselves; being 'on the Parish/Dole' was hated. In addition, bread was unsatisfactory as nourishment for hard working men.

Tolpuddle Martyrs

Parliament then was made up of landowners, who mistrusted working men before all else. The troubles in France had frightened them terribly. In addition, men were breaking machines, burning ricks and worst of all, grouping together to discuss changing the status quo, because they were being treated worse than cattle. The recent Combination Act had forbidden men grouping together for any reason, such as union formation. This was the undoing of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Suffice it to say, Tolpuddle farm workers, George and James Loveless, James Brine, James Hammett, Thomas and John Standfield were sentenced to the penal colonies in Australia, in 1834. George Loveless sailed later to Van Dieman's land, which was a more terrible punishment than convicts suffered on mainland Australia.

Public outcry soon brought them home and union supporters leased them farms in Essex, which they farmed successfully until they emigrated to Canada in the 1840s; except for James Hammett, who returned to Dorset. He died in the Workhouse in 1891, but was treated 'like royalty'. Perhaps he was allowed the extra sausage?



Entry to Tolpuddle Museum



Margaret Morgan visiting the Tolpuddle Museum

I heard someone talking about the Tolpuddle Martyrs recently, as they had attended the march:

"They were causing trouble, so obviously they were punished."

I wanted to strike the speaker a smart one, for such a statement. 'Causing trouble' for wanting enough money to feed and clothe their families and themselves?

Grueling labour

Not wanting a holiday or even the whole of Sunday off. Paid holiday? Oh please. I have read of instances where the breadwinner was too weak, on one meal a day, to continue working. And this in a land of plenty. Farm work before mechanization was non-stop grueling labour; in all weathers, with no Wellington boots or effective rainproof clothing. Men would spread fat on the shoulders of their outer wear, then put sacking on top of that.



Tolpuddle Martyrs statue in front of the Tolpuddle Museum

I think that exemplifies the attitude that many people still have. Country people can be useful, as they produce food, but on the whole they are simple, ignorant or plainly beneath them. Why the people who produce the nation's food should be the lowest paid and soonest derided has always been a mystery. That has changed, thanks to their union and a more enlightened atmosphere generally.

Perhaps if the people picking fruit and vegetables traditionally had been treated as human beings, we would not have to rely on foreign workers? Is a toilet and warm rest room too much to ask? Everyone else expects them don't they? We must all thank the Tolpuddle Martyrs and others like them, for making a stand against tyranny, for that's what was happening in 'England's green and pleasant land'. How would one classify 'zero hours contracts'?

Margaret Morgan

CPRE Member

DORSET CAN MAKE THE BEST ICE CREAM IN THE WORLD

Following on from our article on Dorset Local Food Producers, which we are now more proactively supporting, and especially the cheesemakers in our last review, we are moving on to cover the delicious topic of ice cream. Dairy farming has always been one of the major farming activities in Dorset, but dairy farmers have experienced tough times recently due to depressed milk prices so diversification has been crucial for survival. Ice cream has been an obvious choice for some given the high quality cream and milk produced on the lush pastures here, as well as the availability of wonderful fruit and other ingredients.



Pete and Hazel Hartle, Purbeck Ice Cream founders

Purbeck Ice Cream

The biggest and best known maker is **Purbeck Ice Cream**, based in Kingston in Purbeck. Twenty nine years ago Pete and Hazel Hartle had to give up their Friesian dairy herd thanks to the introduction of milk quotas with farmers paying levies if they exceeded their quota, but saw the potential in making ice cream for the many tourists visiting beautiful Purbeck. With their twenty staff they now make wonderful award-winning dairy ice cream using their neighbours' milk, with no artificial additives, and their annual production has now reached a staggering 750,000 litres. They try to source as much of their ingredients as possible from Dorset. Their strength is the quality of their ice cream and they continue to expand both their range of products with forty flavours now available and the locations where they can be bought. A third is still sold in Dorset and the biggest sales are to restaurants, cafes and pubs, followed by retail and scooping outlets. They tried selling to supermarkets but they wanted them to compromise on the quality, so now they only sell through independent shops, which we applaud.



Purbeck Ice Cream marmalade flavour

New flavours every season

They bring out new flavours every season and this year Salted Maple is doing very well, but they have also brought out Truffle ice cream, using local truffles, for use by restaurants as a savoury dish, paired with pasta for example. It won a Great Taste Award this year too. Other new flavours are Chai Latte and Pineapple Sorbet. They are very environmentally minded, both in terms of their carbon footprint as well as recycling everything they can. They are continuing to expand and are planning new offices and production units to cope. This October a new range is coming out with a focus on the local area, and sales will support a local charity. Overall they are great supporters of local events and charities. Their website is www.purbeckicecream.co.uk.



Purbeck Ice Cream beetroot flavour

Baboo Gelato

Chasing them in awards is **Baboo Gelato**, set up by Annie and Sam Hanbury in Bridport in 2015. She studied gelato making at the Gelato University at Bologna. They buy in 200 litres of full cream milk a day from a local dairy farmer but also use the fruit from their own smallholding to flavour the gelato. Is gelato different from ice cream? Gelato has a higher proportion of milk and a lower proportion of cream, and is churned at a much slower rate, incorporating less air and leaving the gelato denser than ice cream. However I should add that both ice cream and gelato using the best ingredients and made well are equally delectable, even if slightly different!

The key drivers for them are quality and flavour. Their gelato is made using artisanal six litre batch machines. *Sam*



Annie Hanbury from Baboo

Hanbury says "Dorset can make the best ice cream or gelato in the world" thanks to the wealth of local quality ingredients here.

He wonders why Italy has been so pre-eminent in ice cream as their cows rarely see a good pasture. They sell a wide range of gelati and sorbets from their kiosks in West Bay and Lyme Regis, as well as distributing tubs within West Dorset to restaurants, pubs, cafes and independent shops. They have no intention of selling through supermarkets. One new flavour that found favour with this writer was Humbug, a minty concoction that brought back memories of childhood. One innovation are Baboos which are bite-sized, multi-flavoured, chocolate covered ice creams which are perfect for serving after dinner with coffee. Their website is www.baboojelato.com.

Other Ice Cream Makers

Other local ice cream makers in Dorset include **Barford Ice Cream** based outside Sturminster Marshall. When milk prices plummeted in 2006 their small dairy farm ceased to be viable so they took to making delicious ice cream from their 200 strong herd. They try to source as many of their ingredients as possible from Dorset. They primarily sell from their own attractive gardens. Their website is www.barford-icecream.co.uk.

In Osmington is **Craig's Farm Dairy**. They sell excellent ice cream from their farm shop, which is made from their own dairy herd, as well as delivering it and other foods to a small range of other outlets in South Dorset. Their website is www.craigsfarmdairy.co.uk.

There are a number of ice cream parlours in Dorset's seaside resorts making some or all of their ice cream. Those getting good reviews include **Giggi Gelateria** in Bournemouth and Swanage, as well as **Rossi's**

in Weymouth. Finally there is **Ecco Gelato** in Sherborne, which is a new artisan gelateria using local ingredients. It too is getting excellent reviews.

Do please try any of these ice creams or gelati, and not just when the summer sun is beating on your head!

Rupert Hardy



Strawberry gelato from Baboo

EAST DORSET GROUP



Planning applications

Land north of Ringwood Road, Alderholt 3/17/0596/OUT. This is a re-submission of 3/16/1446/OUT. Planning permission was refused. The developer is appealing and an enquiry is to commence on 26th September 2017.

The applicant has now submitted some amendments to the plan but so far the Planning Inspectorate have not confirmed acceptance. I will not be commenting on the amendments. My original objections still stand. The most important point is the unsustainability of this location, it is also outside the village envelope and has no SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace).

VTSW4 Land north of Eastworth Road, Verwood – Bargate Homes development 3/16/0102/OUT – The appeal failed on the grounds of SANGS provision. There is no movement on this. The land put forward as available for SANGS is not in the ownership of Bargate Homes and they have no permission to use it. We are still waiting for Pennyfarthing Homes to put in a full planning application for the other part of the site. Outline planning permission has been approved.

Wimborne Leigh Road

This site is also split in two and the planning applications have been approved. Unfortunately, the Wyatts

development will be using an existing road (Parmeter Road) as access. The residents of this road had been assured that it would not be used.

Cranborne Road developments

Bloor Homes acquired land for the housing development on the outskirts of Wimborne. They are planning to build 630 new homes on a 101-acre site located off Cranborne Road, north of the town. The land is split into two areas, east – 60 acres – and west – 41 acres. Outline planning permission for the scheme was granted by East Dorset District Council in March this year followed by a detailed planning application for the scheme. I am out of touch with the full details of this scheme but as far as I can tell, full planning permission has now been given with some reserved matters. These relate to access junctions, the new school access and spine road. The most important relates to the foul water pumping station and I believe there are some concerns over a vital culvert not in the developer's ownership.

Local Plan

The Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 2 is due out this year. There are some frightening whispers about all the sites being put forward by the usual developers.

Bournemouth

Residents and businesses are being encouraged to have their say on how Bournemouth accommodates future development across the town. Bournemouth Borough Council has now launched a review of the current Local Plan, a key policy document which sets out the long-term vision for Bournemouth.

As part of this first stage of the review the council is asking residents and businesses to comment on a range of issues, including the future location of residential development as well as the future of the greenbelt.

A new Local Plan is expected to be adopted in 2019 following further consultation. The consultation for the first stage of the Local Plan review runs for eight weeks, 15th September 2017 to 10th November 2017. For more information and to have your say visit www.bournemouth.gov.uk/BLPReg18.

To be kept informed about the Local Plan review and other planning policy consultations (if you are not already on the Planning Policy database) please email planning.policy@bournemouth.gov.uk.

Janet Healy

Kimmeridge Welcome Hub

Dr John Larkin attended the Kimmeridge Welcome Hub Development Workshop at the Kimmeridge village hall. This Hub is one component of the portfolio and Dorset Wildlife Trust has been awarded funding to transform the present marine centre into a Welcome Hub where they will interpret and raise awareness and support for the newly designated Marine Protected Areas in Dorset's coastal waters. Representatives from various local and national groups suggested a variety of coastal related matters and other displays which might be suitable for the new Hub.



View overlooking Kimmeridge Bay



The Dorset Wildlife Trust Fine Foundation Centre will become the new Kimmeridge Welcome Hub on the Jurassic Coast

OPEN DAY AT LANGHAM WINE ESTATE



Justin Langham giving members a tour of the vineyard

A big thank you to all our members who came to the summer Open Day at Langham Wine Estate in June. Sparkling wine, sizzling beef sirloin and scrumptious cheese were all in evidence as part of Dorset CPRE's new initiative to promote local food and



Justin Langham pours wine for CPRE Member

drink producers.

Over ninety CPRE members attended and went on a vineyard and winery tour. They had the chance to sample some of Justin Langham's delicious award-winning English sparkling wines, as well as the produce from various local Dorset food makers. This included succulent beef and other meat from the Brace of Butchers in Poundbury, marvellous Blue Vinny cheese and chutneys from Dorset Blue, as well as cheese from Ford Farm, the biggest producer of Traditional West Country Farmhouse Cheddar in the UK. All three have won many prizes for their fantastic products too. Members also enjoyed the excellent buffet lunch provided by Helen Furness Catering from Cerne Abbas. Langham Wine Estate welcomes visitors on certain days (see website www.langhamwine.co.uk) for tours and tastings, with a brand new kitchen recently opened. Justin says: "We want



Claudia Foot from Dorset Blue with Reg Hanbury, a Dorset CPRE volunteer

more people to discover and enjoy our wines, and learn how we produce world-class sparkling wine in the heart of Dorset". We would like to thank all them, as well as the volunteers, who made the day such a success.

We want to highlight too some of the problems local quality food and wine producers experience. These mostly concern distribution and include the reluctance of most supermarkets either to stock local products or give them a reasonable profit margin, the slowness of many catering outlets to highlight the provenance of their raw materials on menus, poor promotion of Farmers' markets, and as always the burden of red tape. However the cheaper pound should be already benefiting local foods, which are available at Farmers' markets, independent farm and village shops, and online, as well as some more enlightened supermarkets.



Mark Vaughan and Nicolle May from Brace of Butchers

CPRE also developed some years ago the concept of local food webs-the connections between producers, retailers and consumers- which highlights the importance to the local economy, landscape and community of local foods.

Rupert Hardy



Planning Applications

Nottingham near Weymouth

Unfortunately, and despite the valiant efforts of our previous Chairman, Richard Nicholls, who made an excellent speech opposing it, a planning application for 340 houses on a Green Field site in Nottingham was agreed. This involves mature trees being felled and a length of ancient hedgerow being removed. Frustratingly the original application had previously been turned down by the Planning Committee. It appears the Committee was advised that their opposition would not withstand an appeal. A planning meeting was reconvened with a recommendation that it should be supported.



Nottingham site September 2017

Vearse Farm

In Bridport, the Vearse Farm battle continues. The application calls for 760 houses, an industrial site and a school. It will destroy part of the Dorset AONB and is vulnerable to flooding. Bridport's infrastructure is already strained but reports in the local paper confirm DCC have very recently given the go-ahead for transport plans with access via the B3162. West Dorset CPRE and the local campaign group, "ADVEARSE", do not agree. The traffic in Bridport will be very severe or at a standstill. This will also affect their much-needed tourism.

Littlemoor

We are also faced with the 'Littlemoor Urban Extension' application. This is in the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and is a very large site of 38 hectares on the north side of the Littlemoor Road. It is a proposed mixed-use development including 500 dwellings in 13 hectares. 35% are allegedly



View of Littlemoor from South West

affordable but as usual we expect that will fall. In addition, they plan a hotel, car showrooms, a residential care home, a school of 420 pupils and other "employment land". We fail to see why these must be in the AONB. The developers even claim it will enhance the AONB but that is hard to understand! The NPPF states developments in the AONB can only be agreed if there are exceptional circumstances. We are unaware of any. There is currently no planning officer in charge.

Membership

There has been a lot of discussion at both our group meetings and at national level about the precipitously falling membership of CPRE, especially amongst younger age groups. We met with our new CEO at the CPRE South West Regional Meeting in Taunton in September and took up the issue at that meeting. We have several ideas including a new car sticker and advertising on Facebook (and perhaps Instagram) targeting those with declared planning and environmental interests. We would

ask all CPRE members to recruit at least 2 or 3 new members by Christmas. We are especially keen on recruiting younger members. It is their countryside which is being lost, and once lost, is lost forever.

Local Government

There is some confusion about the future of local government. It looks likely that they will be self-financing by 2020. This may have a direct effect on the number of affordable homes. CPRE itself, in an article in June 2017, is deploring the practice of reducing the percentage of affordable homes through poor viability claims by the builders (section 106). Local authorities grant planning permission to applications on the condition that a certain number of affordable homes are built but these can be overturned by a 'viability assessment study'. CPRE has called on councils to finance the building of affordable homes themselves - but is this in danger now? In September, the CPRE released a new report 'Needless Demand: How a focus on need can help solve the housing crisis'. It shows how Government could split need and demand, and so tackle the housing crisis more effectively.

It calls for clearer definitions of 'need' and 'demand' to be applied to planning policy, and for councils to apply them to their housing targets and local plans.

In Dorset we await the Secretary of State for Communities' decision.

Guy Dickinson
Group Chairman



Map of Littlemoor Urban Extension

BEST DORSET VILLAGE SHOP COMPETITION 2017



Cattistock Stores

The Dorset branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England was very pleased to be sponsoring again a class of this competition. Village shops face relentless competition from the supermarket chains and discounters, and now they are faced with consolidation among their suppliers, with Tesco looking to acquire Bookers as an example.

For once the shops are holding their own

However, we can say the shops seem to be holding their own for once, with fewer closures than in recent years. One clear trend has been for more shops to belong to a symbol group, such as Spar, to help their buying. Another has been the higher proportion of quality local produce on sale, which we wholly applaud, although it is not always clearly marked as such, which is a pity. Overall customers seem more ready to appreciate the local convenience, and pay for it, as long as the shops are inviting, with friendly staff and enough stock. More shops are offering tea rooms too which boosts footfall in the shops as well. Overall we are hoping this competition will highlight the better retailers and show others what can be done too. The criteria used for this award were evidence of good customer service, the shop acting as a community hub, innovation in terms of product range and services, how attractive the shops are and how much local food they are selling and promoting.

We have started a campaign to promote quality local food and drink producers

In 2014 we launched a campaign to help Dorset village shops. This year we have also started a campaign to promote quality local food and drink producers, and we held our summer Open Day at the Langham Wine Estate with a number of food producers showing off their delicious foods to complement the award-winning sparkling wine made there. Therefore, please spend more in your village shops, but particularly on the wonderful local produce they showcase.

This year our two main contenders were Okeford Village Shop at Okeford Fitzpaine, and the Cattistock Stores.



Best Village Shop winner Cattistock Village Stores

Okeford Village Shop

Okeford Village Shop was taken over by its current owners eighteen months ago and has undergone a major refitting. The new owners are trying very hard to meet the needs of the village and doing so successfully. They are open long hours, even for a stamp. Space utilisation is excellent and the shop is part of the Spar "symbol" group, but still manages to convey some character and charm, as well as selling lots of local produce. They have a Post Office section and there are plans to open a tea room soon.

Cattistock Stores

Cattistock Stores is run in conjunction with a sister shop in Maiden Newton. It has also undergone a recent major refitting, with the addition of a lovely tea room at the back. It is a very inviting shop with an attractive window display, good range of stock and a well-presented interior making good use of bunting. They are friendly and try very hard to satisfy the requirements of the village, ordering anything for customers, and are clearly doing a good job. Lots of local food is on display and there is a Post office section. The tea room even goes as far as offering free treats to dogs that accompany their owners as this judge found out to complement the delicious food at reasonable prices on the menu.

The judges declared Cattistock the winner, but Okeford came in as a worthy runner-up. **Please do visit these stores, but do remember all Dorset village shops deserve your support!**

Rupert Hardy
One of the judges



Local Plan

I painted an optimistic view of housing supply in North Dorset in my article in the review in the spring, saying that development was continuing in accordance with the Local Plan, which we largely supported but at a level below council targets. Since then a serious threat of increased and unsuitable development has emerged. It is reported that developers are set to get their way over “undesirable and inappropriate” projects after North Dorset District Council slipped in its five-year housing land supply. The authority no longer has the essential five-year housing land supply for controlling planning applications that are not in line with its adopted Local Plan; it now has a housing land supply of only 3.42 years. The dip in supply is attributed in part to a slow rate of housing development over the last year with only 140 homes completed against the annual target of 285, and slower progress than expected on developments ‘assumed’ in the local plan, principally major development around Gillingham.

Slip in the five-year supply

The Council will now have to apply the national presumption in favour of sustainable development which will allow more development to take place. The change will be applied to all planning applications with immediate effect. The Council stated that the slip in the five-year supply of housing land was beyond its control, which CPRE accepts. Housing construction and completions are driven by the market, which is depressed as a result of a sluggish national economy and uncertainty, and not by the Council. I highlight the highly misleading and bureaucratic use and abuse of the adjective sustainable in the context of development norms. Few rural developments are truly sustainable; they use agricultural land, generate additional road traffic and consume other scarce resources.

Councillor David Walsh, the Council’s portfolio holder for planning has said: “This is very frustrating for the council. Ten years of hard work has gone into putting a local plan together which sets out how residents want the area to be developed. It has been examined and approved by the Secretary of State’s inspector. Through this local plan we have allocated land for development and have given planning permissions to developers, but the market is neglecting to bring forward housing. This could mean we may be required to allow development in locations not identified in our current plan, which are neither desirable nor appropriate.”

“The current system is penalising local planning authorities for the lack of development in their areas, even though they are not actually able to influence the delivery of such development. Having met and spoken with planning ministers and the Town and Country Planning Association, I continue to push for local authorities to be given the tools with which to bring forward development on sites with permissions granted. I had hoped that these would come through the Housing White Paper. We will continue to work with the Gillingham developers to help progress the site so that it can boost our supply in the future.”

So how should we react to this threat?

I have told David Walsh that we are generally supportive of Council policies and share his concerns but that of itself is not enough. A further concern is that some developers are opportunistic and unscrupulous and will seek to take advantage of the situation, putting financial gain above concerns of local people and landscape protection.

In these circumstances, which are not of our choosing, we must increase our vigilance, challenging and opposing unsuitable development as and when it is proposed. We need your support in countering this threat to our precious countryside.

I gave a prepared statement to the press setting out our concerns. The Blackmore Vale Magazine published a most appropriate front page article on August 11th under the heading ‘Countryside Champion

warns developers will move in on ‘weak’ North Dorset’, highlighting our and wider concerns over this unfortunate situation. In it I deplored the setting aside of an agreed Local Plan because of a short-term supply problem. The BVM is much respected and widely read locally and many of you will have seen the article. So desperate is government for more building that it is putting our countryside at unnecessary risk.

Planning applications

Stalbridge

An early example of the scale of the threat is illustrated by a recent application for up to 120 dwellings on land north of Lower Road, Stalbridge from Gladman Land. We have written as follows ‘We strongly object to the above application, which does not meet policies and development criteria in the Local Plan (LP), and will seriously damage precious landscape in the Blackmore Vale around Stalbridge. CPRE is aware of the need for more housing in North Dorset, especially affordable housing for local residents but this should be achieved only within the context of Local Plan Policies’. This single application far exceeds Local Plan provision for Stalbridge over the whole plan period! It is much too large for a small town to absorb.

Subsequently two more housing applications, from Lightfoot this time, have emerged for Stalbridge for up to 98 dwellings at Barrow Hill and up to 60 dwellings at Thornhill Road. These are in addition to the existing application for 120 dwellings off Lower Road. This is somewhat alarming and I hope it is not a foretaste of what awaits us! If this were not enough, Gladman has subsequently made a further application for 130 houses nearby in Henstridge, a few miles north on the A357 but just in Somerset.

We should not wholly despair, however. There is some hope, I believe, that appeals on refusal of large applications by LPAs, in situations where there is national presumption in favour of sustainable development, as in North Dorset, will not necessarily lead to a refusal being overturned, if sufficient evidence to unsuitability is presented. National Office research has identified a number of cases where refusals have been upheld. This should give us hope but not encourage complacency.

“Brownfield sites are to be preferred, as they are relatively sustainable, but they are not sufficiently prioritised by government.”



View of Fontwell Down by Rupert Hardy

Shaftesbury

In Shaftesbury we have opposed an application for 20 dwellings on the east of the town along Mampitts Lane at Langdale Farm. While the number of houses proposed is relatively small the location is highly sensitive affecting attractive countryside on the county border with Wiltshire, with footpaths used by town residents. The area is designated as AONB and the proposed development is also strongly opposed by the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB authority.

Corn Exchange Blandford

You will be pleased to hear that the Council has abandoned plans to make significant and damaging changes to Blandford's historic and icon grade-1 listed Corn Exchange, which we and many others opposed. Instead modest restoration will now take place.

Road proposals and developments

I will continue to update you on road proposals and developments. These principally include A303 along the north of district and C13 at Melbury Abbas. Dorset County Council Highways have now completed consultation on minor 'improvements' on A350 corridor on

which speed limits of 50 mph between villages will be introduced on A350 itself while a 40 mph restriction will be applied to Spread Eagle Hill in Melbury Abbas on C13. The Council have been awarded £2.4m for this work. No decision has yet been taken on HGV routing and strategy. There has been local criticism of the consultation process and recommendations. This saga is far from over! Wiltshire Council continues to press government for improvements to the A350 north of Warminster; if successful this will put more pressure on Dorset roads, particularly A350/C13.

We had a most enjoyable Spring Party in early April at the Old Rectory, Fifehead Neville through the generosity of members, Ivor and Anne Faulconer; it was well attended and members explored the delightful gardens in warm spring



North Dorset Summer Party held at Old Rectory, Ibberton

sunshine. Our Summer/Autumn party was held early September at the Old Rectory, Ibberton through the generosity of members, Christopher and Clare McCann.

Stephen Howard
Group Chairman



North Dorset Summer Party held at Old Rectory, Ibberton

CASHING IN ON BARNs

In April 2014 planning regulations were changed by the government to enable an existing agricultural building – usually a barn – to be converted into up to three houses without the need to apply for planning permission. This was an extension of the existing Permitted Development Rights, which already allowed farmers to erect agricultural buildings, construct roadways and undertake other sometimes large and intrusive developments outside normal planning law. At the time, it was reasoned that ancient barns were being demolished due to lack of contemporary use for them, and that allowing conversions would help to address the housing shortage. The regulations were further relaxed in 2015.

Permitted Development applications

There have been a large number of Permitted Development applications for conversions since the regulations were changed, and many of them concern not historic buildings but ordinary modern agricultural barns. Land agents are keen to earn fees by encouraging landowners to take advantage of the relaxed regulation, and the temptation is obvious: to create a valuable dwelling that can be sold on even though it may be in a highly unsuitable location in the middle of the countryside, well outside any settlement or village.

However, the planning authority still has to receive formal “prior notification”, to enable them to determine whether the proposed works would qualify as a conversion or a new build. If the latter, planning permission has to be applied for in the normal way.

Many local authorities are refusing these applications but the applicants often take the decision to appeal. North Dorset has recently had its share of unsuitable applications and appeals.



Converted barn, Tisbury Row by S. Keene

The snappily entitled, Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 (Part Q) holds the key, setting out in detail the conditions that must be met if the development is to be permitted. These include:

- The building must have been in agricultural use on or before 20 March 2013.
- The total number of dwellings on the site, including any existing house or mobile home, must not exceed three.
- The area of the building must not exceed 450 sq.m.
- The conversion must not extend the external dimensions of the existing building.



Suitable for conversion? In countryside near Okeford Fitzpaine by S. Keene

- The site must not be in an SSSI (site of special scientific interest), AONB, National Park or conservation area. It must not contain a scheduled monument and the building must not be a listed building.

Permitted only are the replacement of doors, windows, roofs or exterior walls and the installation of water, drainage, gas, electricity and other services – not the construction of new foundations or a floor slab. Any demolition must be no more than “partial”. It can only be single storey. If the barn in question is a steel frame structure not strong enough to support a house it can be refused: revised guidance in March 2015 emphasised that “It is not the intention of the permitted development right to include the construction of new structural elements for the building”.



Converted barn near Tisbury by S. Keene

These caveats were confirmed and strengthened in a judicial review, *Hibbitt v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2016] EWHC 2853.

The planning authority must take account of transport and highways or noise impacts, contamination or flooding risks; whether the location or siting makes a change from agricultural use impractical or undesirable (judged how?), and of the design or external appearance of the building. It is forbidden, however, to apply the regulations concerning sustainability contained in the NPPF.

Many have described this state of affairs as a planning mess, as it takes decisions away from democratically elected councils and encourages the erosion of the countryside by random houses which may in due course be claimed as precedent for other developments in unsuitable rural locations, for only minimal gain to the housing stock. We await with interest decisions on some recent applications in North Dorset, to which we objected on behalf of the CPRE.

Dr Suzanne Keene

POST-BREXIT UK AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE: Some Very Personal Views

I need to briefly preface the following observations about the future of UK farming by flagging up my own background in the industry. This consisted of 34 years working for the National Farmers' Union and previously being a farm manager in Greece. I am a Life Member of the National Trust and a participating member of CPRE

My professional career taught me that generalisations about "farming" so widely deployed by conservationists, politicians, and especially the media, reveal an inherent failure to appreciate the enormous diversity of agricultural and horticultural enterprises that operate commercially across the UK and in Dorset. There is just as great a divide between the working practices, technology, and environmental impact of – say – a small dairy farm and a large scale glasshouse enterprise as there is between a car manufacturer and a dry cleaners. Even more influential in sloppy thinking about land use has been the media's insistence on over-simplifying what is a highly complex industry.

I take the view that each individual sector needs to have its requirements for a post-Brexit support system properly analysed before any strategic decisions are made about its incorporation into a national support package. This sort of analysis is what occurred prior to the UK's entry to the EEC (as it then was) under the auspices of the National Economic Development Council. Economic Development Committees (EDCs, colloquially known as "Little Neddies") had been set up for particular industries. Detailed analysis was carried out into the potential implications of EEC entry for all the major agricultural and horticultural commodities by the EDC tasked with responsibility for farming.

Post-Brexit trade scenarios

Currently I see little sign of that sort of detailed and important work being conducted. However a study by Northern Ireland's Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and the University of Missouri has modelled the impact of post-Brexit trade scenarios on a very limited range of UK commodity prices and production. The work is funded by the agricultural departments from each country of the UK. The full report can be found on <https://www.afbini.gov.uk/>.

Scenario 1 (close to the type of arrangement the Government is seeking with the EU) has relatively small positive and negative impacts.

By contrast **Scenarios 2** (World Trade Organisation (WTO) Default) and 3 (Unilateral Trade Liberalisation) represent "no deal scenarios". They are projected to have a very significant impact. In a few Scenario 2 cases the impact is positive, but it is mostly negative. The modelling also shows that the impact in the livestock sector is much greater than the potential impact on the arable sector. Scenario 2 envisages Sheep prices down by 30%, and Wheat/Barley down by 4 to 5 %.

Scenario 3 – really a worst case scenario for all farmers – envisages Beef prices down by 45%, Sheep prices down by 29%, Dairy down by 10%, Wheat down by 5%, and Barley down by 7%. The potential impact of these last two scenarios on the Dorset landscape is extremely disconcerting. Personally I have seen very little reference to this within the mainstream media which seems far more pre-occupied with the implications of Brexit for the City of London.

UK horticultural industry

British Growers (an association representing leading vegetable and salad growers in the UK) has produced a robust and optimistic report on the benefits of giving continued support to the UK horticultural industry. It lays great emphasis on the extent to which past success had been helped by the EU Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Aid Scheme which has channelled money to "Producer Organisations" on a match-funding basis. Whilst horticulture operates across only 4% of the UK's arable land it employs a full-time equivalent of 50,000 people and has a farm-gate value of £3.1 billion. Despite that importance to the rural economy (and the health benefits of UK grown fresh food) who has recently heard any utterances from either Westminster of Whitehall about the need to safeguard this sector post-Brexit?

During my time working in a non-executive capacity in defra I was aware that those of us who wanted to see this country maximise its self-sufficiency in food were opposed by civil servants who argued for "food security" (i.e. importation of food from other stable countries) as an alternative policy. It is a tempting hypothesis as food imports have, and always will, play a part in supplying the range of products that consumers demand.

Food supply

However over-reliance on imported produce ignores the fact that we can never be 100% confident about food security because political and climatic factors militate against ever knowing for certain that a food supply from abroad will be available. I am not arguing against the need to have access to food supplies from abroad. However all too suddenly a country can find that a war, a tornado, or an unexpected livestock or plant disease makes that previously "secure" supply quickly disappear from our shelves. From a selfish perspective that may not matter too much if it is a particular brand of coffee or an exotic fruit, but it will soon stir up any population if the shortage is in bread, milk, or meat.

There are lessons from history that are all too easily forgotten. I recall the "sugar crisis" that affected the UK in 1974 when traditional supplies from the Commonwealth did not materialise, and the country suddenly had to rely on beet sugar from the EEC. Even more ironically I remember Ministers being taken to task by the media for failing to make grain available to Ethiopia during the 1984/5 famine there, and the Minister of Agriculture explaining that "unfortunately" the intervention stocks which had been so derided as "grain mountains" were no longer available to deploy abroad.

My message is simple. As we in CPRE seek to influence the way Brexit should take effect in the countryside we should not forget those crucial lessons from history in our wish to enhance the landscape and increase biodiversity. Put another more populist way "throwing the baby out with the bathwater" is not going to solve anything, and could lead to a diminished landscape.

Shaun Leavey OBE FRAGS

Farming Adviser to Dorset CPRE



WE NEED MORE EFFECTIVE CONSULTING

Effects of fracking (or the like), Green Belt enhancement, pollution reduction, infrastructure issues, growth implications, sustaining communities, food production, mental health and environmental constraints plus, of course, truly affordable housing all require effective and wide consultation to secure sound decisions. The basic recommended procedure is:

1. Talk to each other
2. Listen to concerns and raise concerns
3. Seek and share views and relevant information
4. Consider what then becomes available, clarifying assumptions that risk misunderstandings.

Standards of communication will vary but, as GB Shaw said, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." For clarity, to reduce mistakes and to win active support, honest and open two-way courteous communication is essential.

Local Plans

Poole Borough Council has issued a Local Plan that regrettably, amongst other things, ignored timely comments about the inaccuracy / irrelevance of certain statistical guidance material. No explanation of any such disregard has been offered and so authors of the comments do not know how their viewpoints could be misunderstood to the point of ignoring them.

Purbeck District Council announced months ago that it intends to launch a procedure to develop a Local Plan but, at the time of writing, no details have been given about when and where any relevant communication

will occur, risking the chances of a useful consultation – diaries fill up!

Both of our local authorities have much to protect and to ensure the satisfaction of their electorates, let alone the Planning Inspectorate but regrettably neither appear to understand the benefits of effective / well publicised two-way courteous communication.

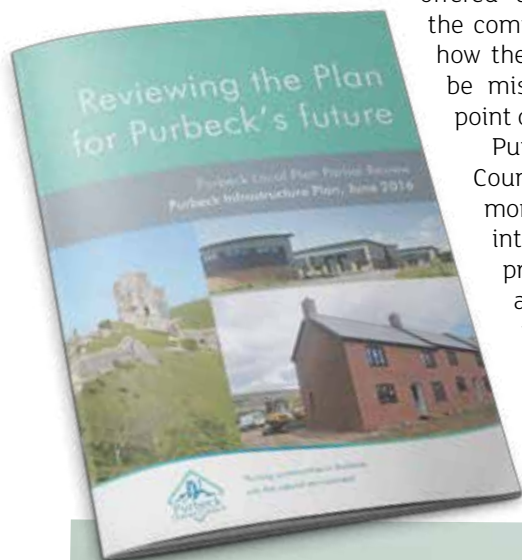
Full "public engagement" requires organisations to deal with the classic dilemma (attributed to Robert McCloskey) which may be stated a "***I know that you believe you understand what you think I said but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.***" How better to deal with this challenge than through honest and open two-way courteous communication? Nolan, Gunning and Cadbury all tried to make this point in their various ways and, as the effects of local shortages bite on our Councils, the reasons to promote effective public engagement become even more persuasive: mistakes could be minimized and support maximized.

It is hoped that all Purbeck and Poole Councillors will benefit from the personal lobbying by local CPRE Members (and potential members) that they undertake on those issues listed above of personal concern. If you do not receive acceptable responses, please share them with me since CPRE has a strong interest in ensuring real priority is given, on this small island, to protecting the countryside, open spaces and affected communities including the provision of adequate truly affordable housing through sound and evidence-based local planning.

Communication and Trust are the given ingredients of any successful relationship and therefore poor communication undermines trust – a factor that affects elections, as every responsible politician knows.

The pen is mightier than the sword but not the mouth! Also, the worst distance between two viewpoints is misunderstanding. With your help I, and your local committee, will try to improve the relevant understandings of our local Councils, possibly hamstrung by their Cabinets. No wonder some Councils have reverted to using all their elected Councillors in an effort to make better (more sustainable) decisions.

Gerald Rigler
Group Chairman



Views of boats in Swanage



image of traffic taken from CPRE report on 'The end of the road? Challenging the road-building consensus' published in March 2017

POOLE FACES HOUSING AVALANCHE

Poole Draft Local Plan

Poole Council has issued their Draft Local Plan for development of our Borough, which calls for 14,200 more homes to be built by 2033, which is a 42% increase in house building. In total Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch Councils are planning on building the massive total of 38,600 extra homes which will have a massive impact on your Quality of Life.

The trouble is that Poole just has a very limited amount of building land. The Government is shortly to issue new guidance on how housing target totals must be restricted by environmental restraints. We have the sea along the South, Poole Harbour to the West, solid Bournemouth development to the East and European protected Dorset Heathlands and the Green Belt to the North. We probably have more environmental restraints – than any other Town in England.

Affordable homes

We also have a number of other problems with providing homes for our residents: some 6% of current homes are 2nd homes, and Poole's house prices have tripled 1998-2007. Only 645 affordable homes were built 2006-2017, against the target of 2,450, so there is a desperate shortage of affordable homes for the younger generation. So the Council plans to build 660 affordable homes per annum. There is a major increase in the elderly – the over 85s will nearly double by 2033. Housing growth will increase the nitrogen levels in the Harbour, increasing algae mats, attacking wildlife and seabirds. The Plan calls for 5 new Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the Borough. But the Council has found it impossible to find any temporary Traveller Transit sites. They inspected 93 possible sites – but none were acceptable to the nearby residents. The Town Centre Heritage Conservation Area is on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register because of development threats to our Heritage architecture and character.

Increased traffic

But it is not just the housing pressure that will affect your Quality of Life. The 38,600 houses planned for the conurbation will mean some 58,000 extra vehicles, including the additional HGVs and vans from the planned 9,000 new Poole jobs in 33 additional hectares of new employment land. These extra vehicles will lead to total traffic jams in the rush hours – which

will seriously increase air pollution. Poole is already criticised by Government for our serious air pollution Hot Spots – this can only get worse. Also did you know that Dorset NHS wants to close the Maternity and Stroke Units at Poole Hospital and transfer them to Bournemouth Hospital? Can you imagine pregnant mums and stroke victims battling through the rush hours from West Poole and Wareham – they just will not get there in time. There is the Golden Hour in which a stroke victim must be treated.

So how does the Council propose to build 14,200 houses on our very limited building land? Well firstly they want to build upwards. Despite breaching the official Core Strategy, Richard Carr has got planning approval for two 6 storey blocks on the Salterns Marina site (he even applied for 11 storeys!) that will be very intrusive eyesores – and he got permission for an 8 storey tower next to the RNLI. The Council has recently approved a 120 feet high block of flats in the centre.

The next policy is to build more densely in the centre with smaller flats, and develop the 8 brownfield sites in Poole and Hamworthy that have remained undeveloped because the developers have waited until the land value has increased – and they refuse to build affordable houses, despite the Core Strategy saying that 40% of all houses must be affordable.

Green Belt

Finally the Council wants to build on our Green Belt, despite 2 Secretaries of State for Housing writing that Green Belts MUST be protected. Government policy states that Green Belts must not be developed if it is to provide more housing, and also that nearby residents must approve any building in the Green Belt. Despite residents' polls in Merley and Bearwood strongly objecting, the Council is proposing 1,300 houses in their Green Belts. So our Council is deliberately flouting Government instructions. Even before the Poole Local Plan has been approved, 2 Developers have applied for thousands of developments both North and South of Magna Road in clear breach of the Plan. These Applications will be considered soon and our supine Planning Committee may approve them.

So our beautiful Borough is threatened by an avalanche of housing, severe health threats from air pollution and major environmental damage. PLEASE tell your Councillors that you do not want YOUR town to be despoiled by too many houses and invasions into the Green Belt.

Terry Stewart

President Branksome Park Canford Cliffs Residents Association

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

We continue to await further consultations on this Plan for twenty-seven minerals sites which have been nominated to the Mineral Planning Authority at Dorset County Council to deliver the 2014 Minerals Strategy.

Imerys Ball Clay Operations Dorset – Community Liaison Group

On 19th June we had an excellent tour of the enormous new open-cast pit at Doreys South. The topsoil and overburden have been removed and put aside for the eventual reinstatement of the workings. Large quantities of sand and gravel and of various types of ball clay are presently being excavated for customers in this country and in Spain and elsewhere.

It was fascinating to see the excavating machines, dumper trucks and other large-scale equipment used in this work. Imerys take great care of the environment with a complex series of settling ponds and much else to ensure that only clean plain water is discharged to the wider countryside.

Arne lagoon

This worked-out ball clay pit continues to naturalise and fit in better with its surroundings.

Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative Committee

I attended a meeting of this Committee at the Council Chamber in Westport House, Wareham on 24th March. Oil production in 2016 averaged 16,600 barrels per day and present production continues at about the same rate. Well maintenance works and the replacement of beam rods continued throughout the site and a new composite material pipe was installed to collect waste water from D-site and reduce the tanker movements on Rempstone Estate roads.

A substantial number of trees near the Gathering Station and elsewhere no longer needed for visual screening were felled and the areas restored to heathland. The low-pressure ground flare was taken out of service and the total day to day flaring at the plant reduced. The oilfield was recently re-audited and certified to the ISO14001:2004 Environmental System Standard.

The Furzebrook Restoration Project

The newly established heathland also continues to develop slowly on what was for many years a heavily industrialised site.

Chicksgrove quarry

Suzanne Keene drew my attention to a planning application at Chicksgrove quarry near Tisbury in the Cranborne Chase AONB where they produce the famous Chilmark Stone. The new owners want to be able to process unlimited quantities of stone from external sources as well as that quarried on the site.

I have recently visited the quarry and it is indeed a fairly small well-run business but I support Suzanne (and the AONB) in their efforts to keep the works at about their present size.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan

We continue to await further consultations on this Plan for the management of all wastes including household, commercial and

industrial, construction and demolition, hazardous wastes, and waste water.

Litter Free Dorset

I attended a meeting of the Litter Free Dorset Working Group at Boscombe on 27th June. LFD have installed seventeen roundabout signs with the message “Don’t fling it, bin it” and Dorset Waste Partnership have installed a similar number with a warning about fines for littering. Litter Free Purbeck has now been established for over a year with more than 100 volunteers and fifteen separate litter picks during the summer. Dorset Devils have been litter picking with several schools, with Bournemouth in Bloom and with the Great Dorset Beach Clean.

Cigarette ends (mainly in towns) and roadside litter are major causes for concern throughout the County.

Alaska Wind Turbines

Purbeck District Council have confirmed that work has started on the construction of the concrete bases for the four very large wind turbines proposed for the Alaska development at Masters Pit in Puddletown Road. However, the termination of subsidies from Central Government for all on-shore wind turbines makes financial viability of a project like this unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Jurassica

The new committee are seeking support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and elsewhere to develop a palaeontological museum in this worked-out stone quarry located on Portland.

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

I attended the Magnox Winfrith Open Evening on 12th July. We were given a guided tour to see the progress which has made in decommissioning the site. Many buildings have been decontaminated and demolished and the ground returned to heathland or grass. We saw the Active Liquid Effluent System, ALES, which deals with all the active and non-active liquid wastes and Tradebe where they crush big steel drums of low level radioactive materials for efficient transport to the storage facility at Drigg in Cumbria.

Dorset Green Technology Park

At the meeting of the Winfrith Site Stakeholders Group Mr Richard Wilson, Purbeck District Council, said that there had been no development of the Park for its proper use as an employment site in the several years under the management of the Zog company or indeed since that company went into receivership in 2014. The Park was designated as an Enterprise Zone in April 2017. The Local Enterprise Partnership, LEP, supported by PDC and others are presently developing 6.2 hectares with twenty work-space units to accommodate small businesses. This is to be called The Quadrant because of its shape and is the first such development on the site for twenty years.

The wider Dorset Green site covers about 25 hectares and is being marketed for employment purposes by The Home Communities Agency. Some sites will be sold and some of the very large redundant buildings will be refurbished in the second phase of this development. Tradebe Unitec and other companies will continue to work nearby.

Dr John Larkin

Minerals and Waste Adviser to Dorset CPRE

NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Natural Flood Management (NFM) is an approach that has received increasing attention in the last few years, especially following the storms and subsequent flooding in Cumbria and Yorkshire in 2015.

So what is Natural Flood Management and can it really help reduce flood risk?

There is no single definition but NFM it is often described as a holistic, whole catchment approach which involves working with natural processes to reduce coastal erosion and flood risk whilst at the same time delivering environmental benefits such as improved water quality or enhanced river habitats. Phrases such as 'slowing the flow', 'upstream thinking', and 'catchment based approach' are often used.

Natural Flood Management can involve a wide range of measures, which help to protect, enhance and restore the natural flow regulation, function of healthy soils, vegetation, and floodplains. This approach has a role in reducing flood risk in areas where built, hard flood defences may not be feasible and it works alongside other measures such as dredging, river management, the management of urban run-off and increasing resilience in local communities and infrastructure. Actions taken in the steeper, upper parts of a catchment to slow the flow of surface water runoff can help to reduce flooding in the lower, flatter parts of the same catchment. Measures include improved land and soil management, tree and hedge planting, moorland ditch blocking (in uplands), intercepting and attenuating flow paths, constructing in-channel leaky dams, reconnecting rivers with their floodplains and in towns - sustainable urban drainage systems and rain gardens. These are not new ideas on their own but bringing them together as a single holistic approach to manage catchments and flooding is new to the mainstream and government.

NFM is not intended to replace more traditional flood management activities - rather it complements existing flood defences and can help to reduce the costs of such schemes.

Current understanding and evidence suggests that NFM is most effective at reducing the risk of smaller scale, more frequent flooding. NFM measures on their own are unlikely to reduce the risk of larger flood events that occur 1 in every 30 yrs or more often, which is why traditional built flood defences such as walls and embankments will still be required.

The Dorset landscape is mainly chalk downs with groundwater fed rivers. NFM measures will still provide a benefit to flood risk but probably only until high groundwater levels are reached. Across the County reducing runoff from farmland could deliver the best benefits. By increasing the ability of rainfall to soak into soils we can help to restore aquifers below ground, whilst also reducing soil runoff from fields onto roads. Soils often get washed into ditches and road gulleys which cost local authorities money to maintain and keep clear. The soils and silt also end up in the chalk streams of Dorset covering river gravels and reducing the chance fish have to spawn. Bunds, hedgerows and trees can be planted and field gates moved to intercept overland flow pathways across farmland and these can hold water back, so delaying the time it takes for rain to reach the river system.

Evidence is building for the positive role that these measures can have in flood management but it's still limited and many knowledge gaps remain, especially regarding the effectiveness of NFM on different scales of flood.



Figure 2.7. River and catchment based natural flood management measures: These measures typically seek to reduce the rate or amount of runoff and/or improve the ability of rivers and their floodplains to manage flood water.

Diagram 1. Schematic version of a river catchment showing how NFM measures may look within a working landscape. Image taken from NFM handbook produced by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

DEFRA released £15M of funding in the 2016 Autumn Statement to develop a number of key NFM projects. These aim to demonstrate a wide range of measures across different catchments and to produce more data and evidence to support the wider take up of NFM related measures as an appropriate flood risk management approach.

Of this national funding £14M has already been allocated to 25 large schemes across the country, with a project at Williton in Somerset being the only successful one in Wessex.

The remaining £1M is being managed through the local Catchment Partnerships for smaller projects with the shared objectives of reducing flood risk, delivering multiple environmental benefits, providing evidence and working in partnership. The Upper Piddle Headwaters project in Dorset was the only one in Wessex chosen to receive £50k of funding by DEFRA. This project by working with landowners, farmers and partners will look to improve the infiltration of rainwater into soils through land management and will attempt to reduce runoff during intense periods of rainfall.

oto 1. Example of rainfall running off fields using roads and / or tracks as a route to get directly to the river network bringing with it soil and silt.

Alasdair Maxwell
Environment Agency

LITTER CAMPAIGNS

Cigarette Butt Campaign

Litter Free Dorset (LFD) launched the 'bin your butt' on 11th September starting in Dorchester Town. Signs went up at either end of South Street showing how many cigarette butts have been swept up each week. The campaign is asking people to use appropriate street bins, wall-mounted cigarette bins or a portable "stubby bin" to help achieve a cleaner county. Businesses are doing their bit to help by displaying posters, having bins for smokers available and handing out the personal stubby packs provided by CPRE. The #BinYourButt campaign is also visiting Ferndown & Swanage. Please check social media for further information and campaign updates.



Dorchester Town Crier with Matilda, Litter Free Dorset

Getting the litter-free message out in Purbeck

Litter-free Purbeck's volunteer groups took part in twenty events this summer to push out their anti-littering message during peak holiday season. Their new group the Wareham Wombles, led by Nicola Wiggins, got off to a fine start on 1st July when 30 volunteers including Michael Tomlinson, MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole, Cllr Malcolm Russell, Wareham's Mayor, and other councillors turned out to litter pick areas around Bere Road and Northmoor. Volunteers removed a lot of historic rubbish and were complimented on their work. All four quarters of the town have now been given the same TLC following three more litter picks, and the group will continue to go out regularly throughout the year.

Volunteers also took part in beach cleans on Swanage beach and as part of an outreach project supported by Sustainable Dorset, Litter-free Purbeck's litter awareness stall was at local fetes. In partnership with the National Trust, the stall was also to be seen in the tourist-magnet locations of Corfe Castle, Knoll Beach, Studland and at Spyway Car Park, Langton Matravers, on the route out to the coastal quarry, Dancing Ledge. Visitors to the stall could pick up CPRE Stop the Drop portable ashtrays, learn about the long-term harm that litter



Children gave their views on litter at Litter-free Purbeck's awareness stall at the National Trust's Spyway Car Park on Bank Holiday Sunday.

does to marine life, wildlife and farm animals, and to the environment, as well as learn how small changes in lifestyle can have a positive impact reducing plastic waste and litter. They could also pick up a list of Refill Dorset locations – shops and cafes where free of charge anyone may top up their refillable water bottles with tap water – along with the details of the scheme's free app for smartphones. #RefillDorset is a project run by www.litterfreecoastandsea.co.uk.

Children were also invited to write their views on litter onto luggage tags. 'I think that litter is a downside to our world and it makes our environment an unpleasant place to be,' wrote Eliza from Hertfordshire, while Louise from Weymouth wrote 'Dropping litter is lazy and irresponsible' while an anonymous writer left the straightforward message 'Rubbish is Rubbish. PUT IT IN THE BIN!'.

To get involved, please email litterfreepurbeck@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter - @LitterfrPurbeck.



Michael Tomlinson, MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole and Cllr. Malcolm Russell, Mayor of Wareham, were among the volunteers at the inaugural litter pick by the Wareham Wombles in July.

SUPPORT CONTINUES TO GROW FOR THE DORSET NATIONAL PARK



Clavell's Tower, Kimmeridge Bay looking towards Portland by Tim Arnold

Growing numbers of communities and societies are expressing their interest in and support for the Dorset National Park proposal - and we can now look forward to Natural England undertaking their next assessment in 2018.

In a welcome decision, following a year-long evaluation, **Purbeck District Council**, at its August meeting, unanimously resolved that: *Council notes with interest the Dorset National Park proposal and the opportunities this could offer to keep Purbeck special; keeps the proposals under review; and looks forward to Natural England undertaking the next stage of its evaluation in 2018.*

The **Thomas Hardy Society** gave the National Park a lead role in its latest newsletter, when announcing the support of the Society and its President, Julian, Lord Fellowes [the author of Downton Abbey].

Other messages and resolutions received recently by the Dorset National Park Team include those from: the **Char Valley Group Parish Council** (the parishes of Whitchurch Canonichurum, Wootton Fitzpaine and Stanton St Gabriel,) **Chideock PC** and **the Chideock Society**, **Moreton PC**, the **Marine Conservation Society**, the **Purbeck Society**, **Trees for Dorset**, the **Ramblers Area Council in Dorset**, the **John Muir Trust**, the **Camping and Caravanning Club** and **Swanage Photographic Society**.

It is great news for Dorset's communities, economy and environment that **Natural England** is committed to undertake its next assessment of the National Park proposal as soon as resources allow in Autumn 2018.

Introductory leaflet

An introductory leaflet about the National Park and much more information, including FAQs, are on the attractive website: www.dorsetnationalpark.com. The website now gives interested organisations the opportunity to display their logo and a link to their website. **Dorset CPRE** is there along with other interested and supportive organisations such as the Swanage Railway Trust and Purbeck Ice Cream!

Whatever the future holds for Dorset local government, a National Park would be an asset, valuable partner and source of



Kite Surfing, Portland Harbour by David Parnell

funding for our local authorities, communities and businesses. And in uncertain times for farmers and landowners, a National Park can help them and their various business interests to thrive.

The National Park Team continues to meet with a wide range of stakeholders and welcomes and values all views. If you know of a local council, community, society or business which would like to hear about the National Park, with an opportunity for questions and discussions, please let us know: info@dorsetnationalpark.com and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sandra Brown

Dorset National Park Team

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:

Needless Demand: How a focus on need can help solve the housing crisis



Needless demand: How a focus on need can help solve the housing crisis is the eighth paper in CPRE's Housing Foresight series. It analyses the current method that councils use to plan for local housing and what is being built as a result. It finds that 'housing need' and 'housing demand' are being conflated in planning policy, with the result that numbers matter more

than type and tenure of housing.

Needless Demand shows how Government could split need and demand, and so tackle the housing crisis more effectively. It calls for clearer definitions of 'need' and 'demand' to be applied to planning policy, and for councils to apply them to their housing targets and local plans.

Consultation on the OAN/SHMA Methodology

On 14th September the Government published its consultation on measures "to boost housing supply in England". The consultation sets out a number of proposals to reform the planning system to increase the supply of new homes and increase local authority capacity to manage growth.

In response to the publication Matt Thomson, head of planning at the CPRE National Office, said:

"We hoped that this consultation would go some way to addressing the housing crisis while fulfilling the Government's commitment to protecting the countryside. It failed in this regard.

"Forcing high housing numbers onto the most expensive areas is the wrong answer. Building executive homes in expensive areas will simply not address the crisis in housing for young people and families. It will entrench the dominance of housebuilders and speculators over development and focus growth in the south-east. In areas such as Epping Forest, it will lead to the loss of further areas of precious countryside, such as Green Belt and AONB. We can build the homes we need and protect the countryside.

"If we are to solve the housing crisis, the Government needs to empower communities to plan for the types and tenures of new homes that they need, and let them decide who will build the houses and where they should go. We have to redress the critical decline of genuinely affordable housing, especially in rural areas. All the consultation proposes is to 'streamline' the current system, which is already failing.

"The Government admits this document is not enough to solve the housing crisis. They are right. It is more likely to make it worse."

Uncertain harvest: does the loss of farms matter?

The latest paper in CPRE's Farming Foresight paper looks at the data on farm numbers and sizes and raises questions about the loss of farms and their diversity.

UK data show that we have lost over a fifth of English farms in the past ten years alone. In particular, the number of farms below 200 hectares is falling. Numbers of intermediate and smaller farms are declining, though smaller farms are the worst affected. If current trends continue, few if any farms under 20ha could be left within a generation while most of those up to 50ha could be gone in two generations. Worse still, the official data may underestimate the extent of change occurring in who manages the land.

This report argues that farm size diversity is a crucial consideration as we move towards Brexit. It could help deliver the many public benefits that we need farming to provide and that public funding – and the market where possible – should foster and reward.



OBITUARY

John Langham, CBE, 1924 – 2017

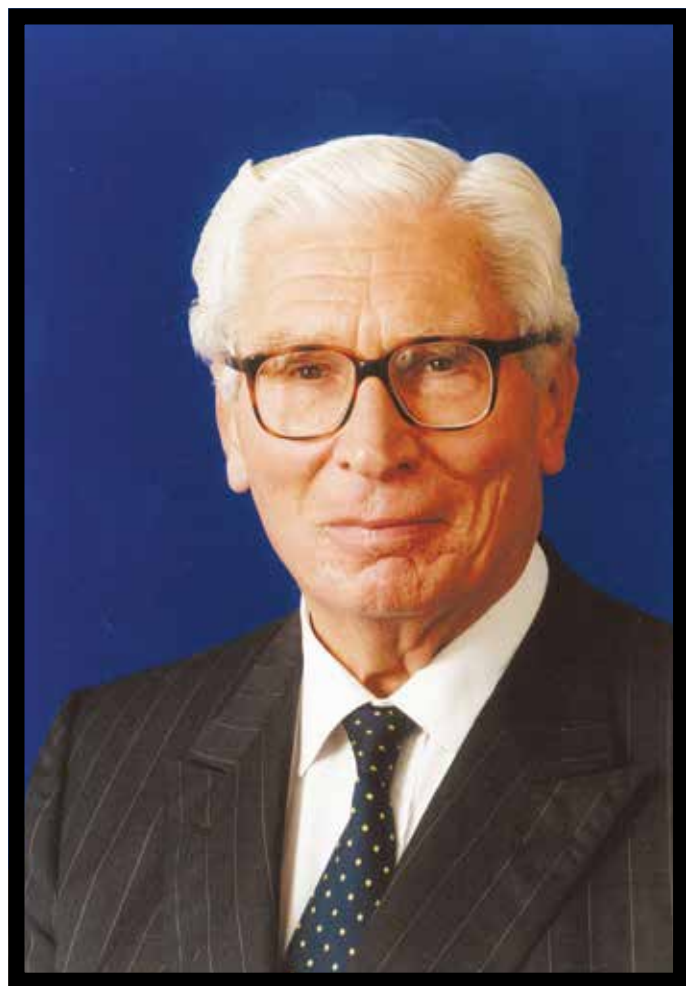
John Langham, who died in April at the age of 93, was a very long-standing and generous Member of CPRE Dorset.

He enthusiastically developed and extended his large agricultural estate at Bingham's Melcombe which has a Grade 1 listed manor house dating from 1554 and gardens laid out by Geoffrey Jellicoe. He loved all animals and banned hunting on his estate. Many Members will remember visiting the vineyard at Crawthorne in June of this year and meeting Justin, John's younger son, who has won several international prizes for his English sparkling wines.

John served in the Royal Navy, had a long career in marine engineering and then established Langham Industries in 1980 for the manufacture of ship's propellers, and many other marine interests as far afield as Singapore and Namibia. In 1996 he bought Portland harbour and developed it into a successful port for cruise ships, the Royal Navy and the 2012 Olympics. His elder son, Christopher, also a committed CPRE Member, has taken over the running of Langham Industries.

We extend our condolences to his wife Betty whom he married in 1949 and who was at Crawthorne in June, to their two sons and to their daughter.

Dr John Larkin



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.

DOWN FARM, SIXPENNY HANDLEY

Down Farm lies between Blandford and Salisbury, owned by the celebrated amateur archaeologist Martin Green. The farm occupies an area of downland and part of the valley floor of the river Allen. When Martin Green took over the 260 acre farm from his father almost 40 years ago it was farmed as arable, but Martin soon changed to almost entirely permanent pasture for sheep grazing. His joint objectives are environmental conservation and archaeology. For example one area is left as rough tussocky grass as habitat for small voles and mammals which are prey for short eared owls, several of which regularly overwinter at the farm. Ravens nest in the trees around Fir Tree Field.

There are a large number of prehistoric sites on the farm, including a length of the Neolithic Dorset Cursus, round barrows and henges (circular areas enclosed by a bank and ditch – not necessarily stones). A truly remarkable feature is the Fir Tree Field shaft. Martin discovered this by observing a circular crop mark. It is 10m in diameter at surface level and is estimated to be over 25m deep. It was excavated to a depth of 13.2m.

The earliest levels of fill at the bottom of the shaft consisted of layers of naturally weathered chalk interspersed between thin humic lenses. Finds comprised flint artefacts and animal bones



Excavated and reconstructed pond barrow. The wooden posts have been placed in post holes found during excavation by S. Keene.

including two young roe deer that had accidentally fallen in. The final three metres of fill consisted of several silt-rich layers which had accumulated very slowly from the late Mesolithic to the latest Neolithic, encompassing the period of dramatic change from hunter gathering to farming. Further discoveries made include bones of red deer and aurochs, some with signs of butchery, worked flint and both plain and decorated pottery.

It seems that the shaft was formed by natural processes due to water percolation from melting glaciers at the end of the Ice Age. It may have held ritual significance for the early people of the area.

There is much active archaeology on the farm. Several universities including Cambridge, Reading and UCL, carry out projects – with Southampton University undertaking excavations. Martin has excavated two of the round barrows and two Neolithic henges restoring them to resemble their original appearance. It makes a huge difference to understanding these to actually see what they looked like and walk inside them.

As well as excavations, Martin has a very impressive museum showcasing some of the most spectacular finds from the farm and from fieldwalking round about, including some geological specimens. The level of care and documentation would put many a professional museum to shame.

Many group visits are organised to the farm, to the museum and to walk round some of the archaeological sites, as Martin loves to talk about the archaeology. If you get the chance take it -- this will be an experience you will always remember.

Dr Suzanne Keene



Martin Green explaining an excavated and restored round barrow. The cement roundels mark the locations of burials found during excavation, one of which is displayed in the museum by S. Keene.



One of two Neolithic henges which have been excavated and restored on Wyke Down. Neolithic henges such as these may have been used for gatherings of people perhaps from a nearby settlement by S. Keene.

¹ <http://www.digitaldigging.net/dorset-cursus-monument-map/>

² <http://www.digitaldigging.net/cranborne-chase-archaeology-fir-tree-field-shaft/>

DORSET CPRE MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS — Since April 2017

East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Ms Margaret Penwarden
Mr Colin Wilson

North Dorset:

Mr Nicholas van Eek
Fifehead Madgdalen Parish Meeting
Mrs Roma Taylor

Purbeck & Poole:

Community Action Lytchett Matravers
Mr Colin Morgan

The Sherborne and District Society:

Mr Bob Bowmer
Mrs Kathryn Ballisat
Mr Colin Hatchett

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

DECEASED MEMBERS

East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Mr John Eggington
Mr Eric Russell

Poole & Purbeck:

Mr John Dando

The Sherborne and District Society:

Miss S E Slaughter

West Dorset:

Mrs Susan Merkle
Mr Ian Bolton

DIARY DATES

18th November – 80th Anniversary AGM, 11 am at Cerne Abbas Village Hall. Please return enclosed booking form.

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. The following Dorset properties offer a discounted admission for CPRE Members:



- Athelhampton House & Gardens
- Dorset County Museum
- Edmonsham House
- Forde Abbey & Gardens
- Mapperton Gardens
- Serles House & Gardens
- Wolfeton House

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

Dorset CPRE Members also receive –

- Two Dorset CPRE reviews per 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

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DORSET BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 211974

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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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