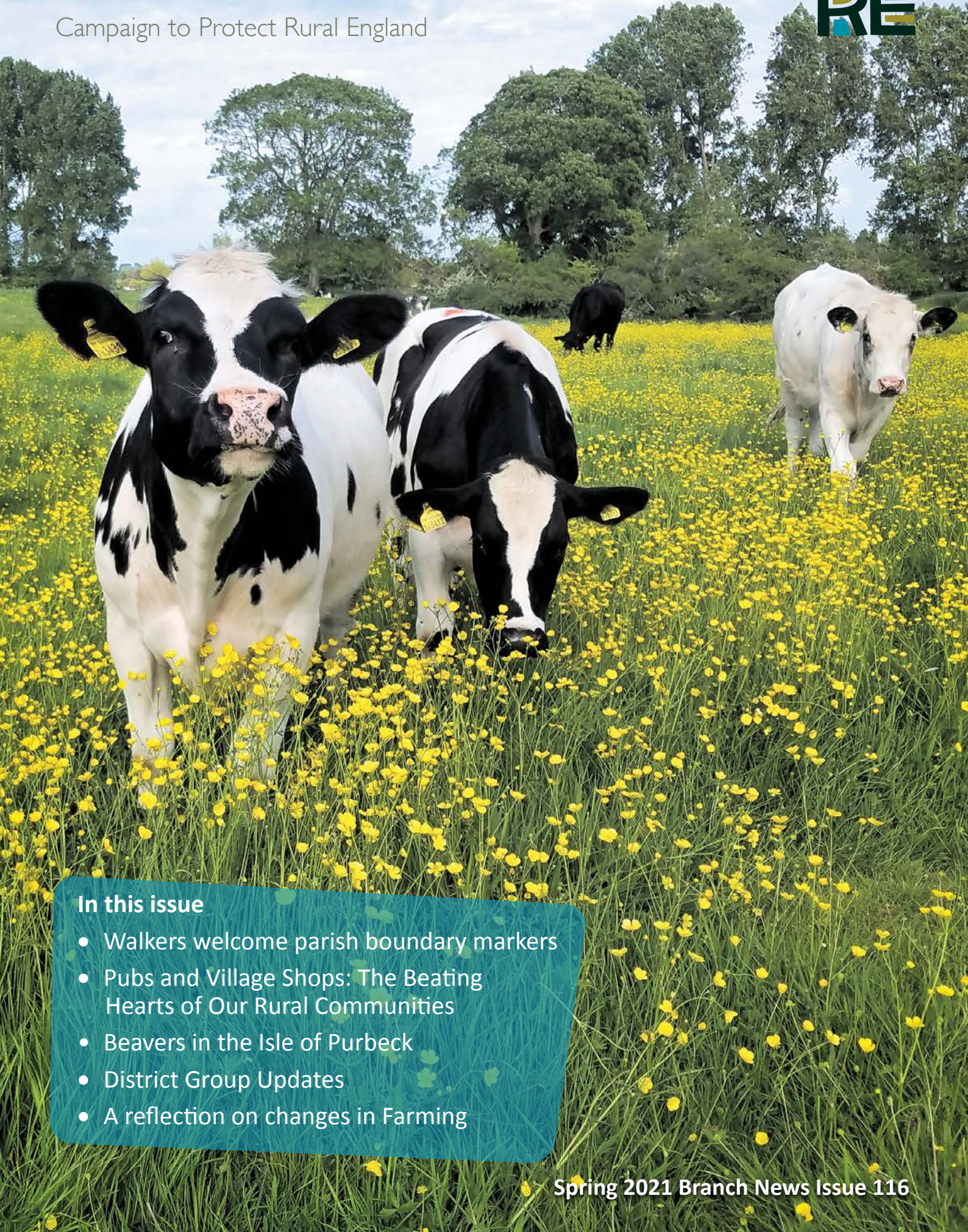


The Dorset Review

Campaign to Protect Rural England



In this issue

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- Pubs and Village Shops: The Beating Hearts of Our Rural Communities
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Spring 2021 Branch News Issue 116

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The contents of this publication are intended as guidance and general interest. It does not constitute legal advice and can be no substitute for considered advice on specific problems. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this publication, Campaign to Protect Rural England cannot accept liability for errors and omissions. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of CPRE.



Front Cover image — Cows munching buttercups at Winterborne Tomson, taken by Rupert Hardy

Chair's Report



Chair's Report

Research from Vitality, a life insurer, shows that if every Briton walked 22 minutes per day the economy would be £6.2 billion larger -longer lives, less time off work, higher productivity. Such a simple activity as a daily walk will contribute to business productivity. However many would say that the value of a daily walk in the countryside is in excess of the price that is put in terms of productivity.

In the 2020 Reith Lectures Mark Carney made a plea to revisit the understanding between the measurement by price and the nature of value. His stance was that there is more to consider than the market pricing of goods and services. What is the value of the countryside in Dorset and can we measure this value? The concept of Natural Capital as set out by Dieter Helm is at the core of the growing interest in the environment, and the nature of economic activity.

The Dasgupta Review

Even more recent is the publication of 'The Economics of Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review' for the government whereby the imperative of acting on the climate and ecological emergency is set out. The Review for the Treasury, led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, argues for a broader concept of wealth to include human capital, productive goods and services plus natural capital. The Review recommends increasing the stock of nature. This work has radical implications for us all and questions much of conventional thinking on the economy and in particular rural areas characterised by nature. To carry on as we are will result in further losses of habitats and the decline of species. How do we

price a place other than its market price? sell the fresh air, splendid views, tranquil places yet these are of significant and increasing value since the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Build, Build, Build

It will be interesting to see how the tension between "Build, Build, Build" and increases in nature is resolved. If the ideas suggested in late 2020 for a new Planning White Paper are put into legislation, then developers and their powerful lobby will rule the planning system. Most of local democratic input into the planning process will be lost. How will developers then enhance nature unless they change their ways and values within the constraints of viability?

Dorset Council Local Plan

The Dorset Local Plan may give an example of how the issue of value and price will evolve in a manner that has irreversible consequences. Once the green fields are concreted over there will be no easy way to bring them back. The 39,000 houses set out by Dorset Council for its plan will change the nature of Dorset forever; the county will become less rural and more urban. The absence of any critique from any of the Dorset MPs and the members of Dorset Council of the national figure of 300,000 houses per year is both disappointing and damaging to representative democracy in Dorset. Rest assured Dorset CPRE will continue its fight for revisions to the emerging Dorset Local Plan and to support the case for a National Park for Dorset.

Do enjoy the articles in this edition.

Peter Bowyer

Chair of Trustees



Dorset Local Nature Partnership

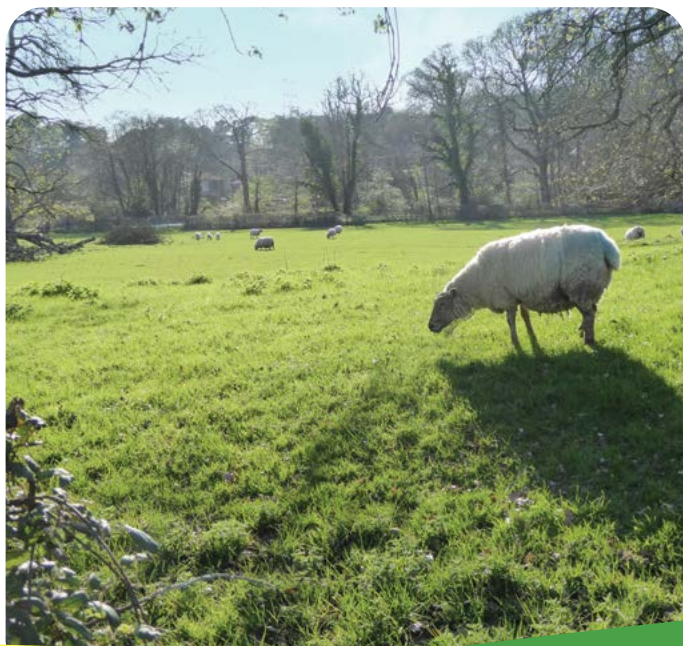


BCP Council will plant 10,000 trees in open spaces around the conurbation including Upton Country Park

I attended the Annual Forum virtual event on 4th March. Luke Rake, Chairman DLNP, asked what is Natural Capital worth? The environment is a major part of the Dorset economy and the Climate and Ecological Emergency will lead to the fourth agricultural revolution. The Dasgupta Review, see pages 2 and 10 for more details, discusses the economics of biodiversity and symbiotic relationships. Imogen Davenport, Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT), spoke about the Lawton report and the need to make space for nature with bigger nature reserves to increase bioabundance and diversity and to reconnect everyone with nature.

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Michael Rowland, BCP Council, spoke about the corporate strategy for the Climate and Ecological Emergency. They will plant 10,000 native trees and much else in Council parks and open spaces. This will help to engage people with nature and improve their mental health. Electric BBQs will also be provided to avoid heathland and other fires.



Ian Rees, Dorset AONB, spoke about farming for the Nation. He said that 60% of the country is used for farming to supply the people with food. All the rest, including heathland, wetland, grassland and woodland, needs to be looked after and restored to reduce the impact of the Climate and Ecological Emergency. We also need proper flood protection and a clean and plentiful supply of water.

Biodiversity Audit

Brian Edwards, Dorset Environmental Records Centre, described a Biodiversity Audit of threatened species which are declining or rare in Dorset and gave numerous examples. Peter Tinsley, DWT, spoke about a Marine Biodiversity Audit of Dorset Marine Protected Areas. Volunteer divers have produced habitat maps of the sea bed in tidal and intertidal waters.

Nature Recovery Network

Chris Davis, Natural England, spoke about the Nature Recovery Network which fits with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan to develop existing sites and new wildlife sites in Purbeck and elsewhere. The new Environment Act will be implemented in 2022 to mitigate the Climate and Ecological Emergency as proposed in the Dasgupta report.

Dr John Larkin

Dorset CPRE Representative at Dorset Local Nature Partnership

Dorset CPRE's response to Dorset Council Local Plan

Our report was prepared by Jo Witherden, Dorset Planning Consultant, and summarises the basis for Dorset CPRE's objections to the draft Dorset Council Local Plan. It includes suggestions for key changes and actions that we believe Dorset Council should consider, in order to produce a truly sustainable and inspiring Local Plan that has the community's interests and the environment at its heart.

Key areas we focused on included:

1. Dorset's Key Characteristics
2. Housing numbers and the Spatial Strategy
3. The importance of Dorset's Environment
4. Involving Local Communities in Plan-Making
5. Creating a Clearer Plan supported by an Adequate Evidence Base

We also submitted two additional reports regarding Renewable Energy issues and Flood Risk. The closing date for responses was 15th March. Please visit our website to download the [Local Plan responses](#) including those submitted by our District Groups.



Local Plan

Like all groups the main activity at the beginning of this year has almost entirely been taken up with work on the Dorset Council Local Plan. The West Dorset group has been closely involved with STAND – the campaign to prevent the huge proposed development north of Dorchester – with frequent virtual meetings. There were three open meetings including with Chris Loder MP to whom we are very grateful for giving up so much of his time. Cllr David Walsh finally attended the third one. The opposition to this plan is very strong and we wait to see what Dorset Council's response will be. Dorset CPRE has frequently supported STAND with grants towards costs of printing leaflets and more recently two half page advertisements in the Dorset Evening Echo.

It is vital that all concerned people continue to make our opinions heard loud and clear. This is a very worrying time with poorly considered plans for huge developments being proposed in green field sites. The very existence of our traditional Dorset with its beautiful countryside is at grave risk. Naturally I think that is particularly true of West Dorset but in truth the whole county is unique, precious and needs all who live here (and others) to speak out. Once it is done, it is too late.

Planning Applications

Meanwhile there have been other applications we have opposed. There is one to convert the Whitcombe stables to a holiday park. That part of the Dorset AONB would be damaged with the building of holiday accommodation, restaurants and other facilities. There would be a significant increase of traffic. That part of the AONB is a particularly tranquil one which is also extremely important for people's general and mental health. It has strong associations with Hardy and Barnes.

We are keeping an eye on developments at Halstock where buildings and other facilities tend to suddenly appear for a horse training outfit before planning permission!

We objected to a plan to develop Waterside Holiday Park which was in the setting of the World Heritage Jurassic Coastline.

The Portland Incinerator campaign is in a relatively quiescent phase at

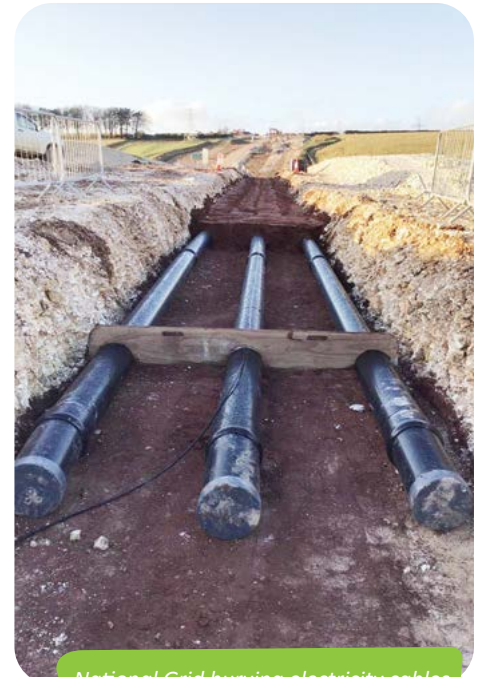
the moment but with a very efficient campaigning group visit www.stoppportlandwasteincinerator.co.uk for latest news.

Vearse Farm, Bridport, has been sold

We learnt in March that Barratt Developments plc and Vistry Partnerships secured a contract for the Vearse Farm site to bring forward the open market and affordable homes, associated infrastructure and all S106 obligations as contained within the outline planning consent (750+ homes proposed on land in AONB). We await more details.

Dorset National Grid

I recently visited the site where National Grid is burying electricity cables in order to transform the landscape by removing 22 of the existing pylons in the Dorset AONB. National CPRE are on the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Visual Impact Provision project. The project aims to transform the stunning landscape by reducing the visual impact of National Grid's overhead line near the villages of Martinstown and Winterbourne Abbas. It is all very professional and impressive. The archaeological work has been on a huge scale with more than 5,500 archaeologist days worked to date. The oldest artefact found is around 6000 years old. This section of line was



National Grid burying electricity cables

identified by an independent landscape study as having landscape impacts of high importance particularly where the line crosses through a small valley close to Winterbourne Abbas. I also attended a meeting with the National Grid team with councillors and others. Visit <http://dorset.nationalgrid.co.uk/> for more details.

Dr Guy Dickinson

Group Chairman



Area will be grassed over and pylons will be removed

Dorset's Best Muesli and Granola Makers

Marvellous Dorset Muesli and Gorgeous Granola: What is Your Fibre Fix?

We have reviewed many wonderful Dorset food and drink producers in our articles in this Review, so it is now time to look at producers of muesli and granola. Dorset Cereals has been a real success story, carving out a strong niche in the competitive British cereals market, but have you heard of Primrose's Kitchen? Anyway both are doing well thanks to moves to healthier cereals and the vegan trend.

Primrose's Kitchen



Primrose Matheson started Primrose's Kitchen in 2013, having studied Homeopathy and Naturopathic Medicine, and struggled with glandular fever and chronic fatigue, so she was motivated to look at her diet. Seeing no cereals that answered her needs, she

created her own. She set out to make organic, gluten-free muesli and granolas that offered proper nutrition, unlike the mass-produced boxes of cereals found on most supermarket shelves. She was determined to air-dry her raw materials, thus protecting the enzymes and natural colour. The idea is to minimize the amount of manufacturing so the goodness and flavours sing out.

Primrose does it "for the health of the people eating them, as well as for the health of the soil".

She is keen to support British farmers wherever possible, with oats being sourced from two different family farms which are both certified gluten free. Their oats are milled the same way they have been since the 1800s using a flat-bed kiln and water powered mill. However a lot of the nuts and fruit need to be imported too.

She started off in a small way trying out her products at farmers' markets, inspired by her family who are all entrepreneurs. She won some Great Taste awards and soon managed to interest up-market supermarkets in her distinctive products, so her cereals are found now in Waitrose, Ocado and Booths. About half her sales go there but she has not forgotten independent shops and wholesalers who account for 40%, with the rest exported. Her closest competitor is Rude Health but they do not manufacture. Some of her more special quirky cereal combinations include Raw Beetroot and Ginger Muesli, as well as Turmeric and Banana Granola, and Pear and Apricot Bircher. All her products come in 100% home compostable packaging, ready for the compost heap.

Based in Buckland Newton she has a team of nine. Sadly she has had to furlough some of them during Lockdown, as stores are focusing on more essential items and as wholesale distributors have had difficulty getting out on the roads. However Primrose is optimistic about the future and plans new cereal launches once things return to normal.



Dorset Cereals

It is highly likely that you have tried a Muesli made by Dorset Cereals, and they get excellent reviews for their cereals and I have enjoyed many a breakfast thanks to their delicious muesli. When approached, however, they suggested they were too busy to deal with a few simple questions from us about their success. The comments below are therefore taken from their website or articles published online. Though they may manufacture in Dorset, since 2012 they have been part of Associated British Foods (ABF), the UK food conglomerate. Maybe ABF do not believe in the power of positive PR, or perhaps they rely on advertising to promote their products?

Dorset Cereals was started by Terry Crabb as an alternative to the "rabbit-food" options on supermarket shelves. They focused on the domestic market selling their muesli and granola, which was made in Poundbury. They had 130 employees making 10 tonnes of cereal a day, with most supplied from UK raw materials, before the move to Poole in 2019 as they grew bigger. Much of their recent success has been overseas, trying to persuade breakfast eaters to switch from congee in China or lavash bread and feta in the Middle East to granola, muesli or cereal bars.



Organic and Gluten-free varieties

They have diversified into organic and gluten-free varieties of their products. They are well aware of the importance of having a green agenda, so they support the Woodland Trust, sponsoring the planting of 45,000 trees in the UK, including 1,000 in Poundbury. They are no slouch when it comes to recycling too. Their website is full of the virtues of rural Dorset.

We wish them both good luck, but remember we like to support most the local artisan food producers, who really need the promotion!

Rupert Hardy

The Sherborne and District Society

As you will see in our report there is much to concern us in the Sherborne area as we recover (hopefully) from the Pandemic. As previously advised, we face a massive building programme to the west of the Town, the Town Centre is becoming bleak, with closed shops boarded up and empty premises multiplying weekly, and our lovely farmlands that surround and grace our town are increasingly threatened by negative forces from various sources. You will be pleased to hear that our group are active across all three areas of concern. We have recently welcomed to our committee new colleagues who will add energy and expertise to our campaigns. We send regular e-newsletters to our members and I will ensure the next newsletter includes their CVs, and will outline how we intend to exploit their various talents. I will also brief you on my plans for a revised sub-committee structure, better to address the immediate challenges we face, and how we intend to be an even more proactive force for good to preserve the precious spaces in which we work, live and play.

We are now looking at dates for our AGM/Members' Reception, Farm Visit, and Annual Dinner; more to come in our next Newsletter, by which time we hope to have a clearer view of any remaining restrictions on freedom of movement.

Safeguarding the Western Edge of the Town

The western side of the town is where Dorset Council envisages the vast majority of future development occurring. At present much of the land there is pleasant arable farmland. Access to Lenthay Common is through that land and enables local residents to walk out into the countryside.



If the current Dorset Council housing plan goes ahead this wide grass path leading from Lenthay Common back to the town would be sandwiched between rows of houses. Whilst retention of the hedge to the south would somewhat mitigate the adverse visual impact once the houses are built the plan envisages them abutting the path from the north. This is a good example of where proper landscaping of the future developments is absolutely crucial. **A belt of mixed woodland to the north would shield both path walkers and local residents from one another, and the tree planting would both absorb carbon and enhance the landscape.**

Sherborne residents are very fortunate in having Lenthay Common accessible from the town, and it is popular with walkers and dog owners. In the Dorset Council plan new housing would extend right up to the entrance to the common. Generally the common has been well respected by the vast majority of those who use it, and the fact that it is a reasonable distance from the town centre may well have contributed



to that. Under the Council plan it would be about the new development, and be far more vulnerable to all the problems associated with the urban fringe. **Any detailed plan needs to set out how the common would be adequately protected from progressive deterioration through over-use and anti-social behaviour.**

Lanes, Tracks and Paths

Sherborne is a beautiful town, but it is doubly fortunate in having such a wonderful setting in the Dorset countryside. Most of that countryside is farmed, but a good network of tracks, lanes, and paths such as the path down to Castle Farm (below) enable us to access much of it.



Path taking walkers from the Sandford Orcas Lane in the direction of Lower Clatcombe Farm.

This report features some of those – all of which have seen far greater footfall since the Covid epidemic when local residents have made more use of them than previously. They are an important component of our local landscape, and Sherborne and District Society CPRE is committed to protecting them.

Of those with a hard surface this track – giving access from the Marston Road to the Sandford Orcas Lane – is a good example of the sort of feature that must be preserved into the future.

The same goes for this popular path (on left) taking walkers from the Sandford Orcas Lane in the direction of Lower Clatcombe Farm and the edge of the Quarr Nature Reserve.

A short walk up the Bristol Road and then along Red Hole Lane takes one to the golf course, and heading downhill from there one can join the very attractive farm track that leads to Coombe Farm. Before going into the defile (shown below) it provides great views out over Sherborne.

From the Coombe Farm entrance various options are available. One is crossing the Marston Road and walking down Trent Path Lane. **But if the Dorset Council plan takes effect this will in future lead one into residential development on both sides of the path before you get back to the town.**



On the East side of the town Underdown Lane offers a great walk out to Osborne church which is itself worth a visit. From there one can cut down to the A30 and St Cuthbert's Chapel. Walking alongside the A30 is a limited pleasure, but a longer option of crossing the road at the Chapel, going under the railway line, and taking the field path to Crackmore Wood is worth considering.



From there (with a good view back towards the town) one goes through the splendid gate posts above Pinford Farm, into the Deer Park, and back to town. It is a walk like this that makes one realise how fortunate we are to have such great countryside on our doorstep and how important it is to keep it that way. **Sherborne and District Society CPRE is committed to doing just that !**



Heritage at Risk?

Along the north side of the A30 on Kitt Hill there are old houses (some thatched) which appear to be boarded up and have not been in use during recent years. They seem to be Sherborne Castle Estate properties – thought to



have been vacated coincidentally with the large scale development of Barton Farm. How can this be justified when we are supposed to have a housing shortage in Dorset?



One wonders what representations have been made to the owners of these Grade II listed buildings? We will be asking some questions.

... and what about the splendid barn that backs on to these houses and will like all disused buildings be vulnerable to vandalism and general decay if it is not properly secured and then re-purposed? There is a vision to convert these lovely buildings into an 'Art Farm', with artists' studios and a café. But this will not happen overnight if it happens at all in these days of financial constraints.



These are but a few examples of the sorry state of hitherto splendid buildings that is becoming all too common in our town. We highlighted these and many other issues in our 'Critical Review' pamphlet, and we intend to keep the pot boiling to ensure the problems are neither forgotten nor just swept under the carpet. **That is our mission, and with your support, we are determined to prevail.**

Sir Christopher Coville
Chairman

North Dorset Group



Local Plan Consultation

We have been busy in recent months responding to the Dorset Council (DC) Local Plan consultation. Please do read the full article on the Dorset CPRE response, but North Dorset CPRE also submitted one relating just to specifics, on the Dorset CPRE website. You may have read some of our criticism in our regular column in the digital monthly, The Blackmore Vale (www.theblackmorevale.co.uk). Looking at housing allocations we were particularly unhappy with that for Stalbridge, as we cannot see how it can support 610 further new homes. This is a town with no doctor, no secondary school, no public transport, scant local employment and few shops. Our other major concern relates to Blandford and many of its surrounding villages being included in the South Eastern Functional Area. Blandford was the administrative seat of North Dorset for many decades, and is geographically and culturally linked to the Blackmore Vale. We do not want it to become a dormitory town for Poole!

The Fight Against Wyatt Homes 600 Home Development in North Blandford

We actively contested this application, along with Pimperne PC and the Cranborne Chase AONB. Our objections centred on lack of genuine housing need; the inclusion of 200 homes within Pimperne parish as it was contrary to their made Neighbourhood Plan; adverse visual impact on the Cranborne Chase AONB; lack of sustainability as the site is beyond the bypass; developer's failure to address climate change; concern regarding

access and road safety, as well as massive congestion on the bypass, as three new pedestrian crossings have been proposed (developer is too mean to consider bridges). The greatest irony is that the new school, which Blandford does need, will not be built until **phase 2** while 167 new homes, housing lots of children, will be in **phase 1** putting more pressure on existing overcrowded schools.

We helped sway Blandford Town Council to vote against the proposal, which was some feat, as the development site was the key feature of the unmade Blandford +Neighbourhood Plan (NP). There were over 200 written objections, and the campaign gathered a lot of local media coverage.

Very recent changes to the Blandford+ NP mean it is now likely to go to referendum. Some, but not all, of the contentious clauses over Pimperne parish land being part of the key preferred North Blandford housing allocation site, have now been removed.

Other Planning Applications

An application for 144 houses in Stalbridge, to which we had objected, was rejected at a planning hearing in February. Sadly it is also subject to an appeal, so the result is unclear. We objected also to a 30 home development at Cann Common, as well as to a 85 home proposal at Common Mead Lane, Gillingham. An application for a huge 188 acre solar farm at Pulham was expected soon at the time of writing. We are likely to oppose it, and there is a well organised action group in place. Advice is being given too to an action group opposing a 100+ homes proposal at the pre-application stage near Milton-on-Stour.



Proposed site for 70 houses in Charlton Marshall

Appeals: Success at Charlton Marshall

We are pleased to report that an Appeal to build 70 homes at Charlton Marshall has been rejected on grounds of transport and heritage issues. Dorset CPRE supported financially the Charlton Marshall Action Group so their Transport Consultant could appear at the Hearing, while North Dorset CPRE spent two years actively advising the action group. It is good for once to be on the same side as DC with both of us winning!

There has been considerable concern about the number of major housing applications going to appeal on grounds of non-determination, where a Local Planning Authority has failed to give notice of its planning decision within the relevant statutory period. There have been five recently in North Dorset, including that above, but we should also highlight one we are fighting at Shaftesbury for 135 homes that the much criticised Persimmon wish to build. We are aware that the DC planning team have been sorely stretched by the need to work at home during COVID-19, but hope some new hires will reduce the problem. The cost for DC losing such appeals can be high.

Simon Hoare MP Meeting

We had a useful meeting with Simon in March, exchanging views. We may not always see eye to eye on planning issues, but he has promised to help us on a Neighbourhood Plan matter.

AGM and Talk by Jo Witherden on "Rebuilding Trust in Dorset's Planning Systems"

On Tuesday 1st June at 5.30pm we are holding a virtual Zoom AGM and talk by Jo Witherden, the Planning Consultant. We hope to see many of North Dorset's volunteers and members there, but am sorry we will have to save the wine to another time!

Rupert Hardy
Group Chairman



Proposed site for Wyatt Homes 600 Home Development in North Blandford

Pubs and Village Shops: The Beating Hearts of our Rural Communities

Dorset rural communities are lucky to have a pub or a village shop, but many have neither. With the Lockdown gradually easing it is time to take stock. Village shops have universally boomed in the last year and COVID-19 has taught us all to appreciate how lucky we are to be able to shop locally and buy local produce, but pubs have suffered badly. However we support both as they are the beating hearts of our rural communities. With climate change an ever increasing concern, we also support them as their success can reduce car dependency. Dorset Council claims that reducing car dependency is a key objective in their draft Local Plan, not that their fine words were matched by much actionable strategy.

The number of pubs has shrunk

Our current concern is for pubs. The number has shrunk, falling by about 2% p.a. nationally since 2010, hit particularly by fierce supermarket price-cutting of drinks, tighter drink-driving laws and reduced alcohol consumption. Pubs have had to adapt, with wet-led pubs having to become food-led. The declining trend had been worst in the towns, such as Weymouth, but less severe in rural Dorset. However COVID-19 hit all pubs drastically, so that nationally the number fell by about 5% in 2020. Many have been surviving by offering take-aways, which may pay some of the staff but no more, as the profits are made on drink sales.

Help in the Budget

Most pubs were praying for help in the Budget, which offered some support. However most UK pub bosses were “disappointed”. They questioned the restarting of business rates from the end of June, and only a six month extension of the full reduction of the VAT rate to 5%. Many rural pubs do not have the large gardens needed to erect the marquees that were a feature last summer, so cannot fully benefit from the resumption of outdoor service from 12th April. Even so the majority will probably open from this date. Steve Dunk from the Milton Arms in Winterborne Whitechurch, which serves delicious simple pub grub, says “we have been just hanging on” and was hoping to reopen from the 12th even though he cannot protect clients fully from the elements outside. Indoor service will only resume from the 17th May.

Community Ownership

One trend we fully approve has been the opening of village shops by pubs during Lockdown, although a number tried initially but found them unviable. The Greyhound in Winterborne Kingston opened an



Steve Dunk from the Milton Arms in Winterborne Whitechurch

attractive one, as did the Rose & Crown in Longburton. Both intend keeping them going. If any pubs do not reopen this spring, we hope that communities will take advantage of the £150m provision in the Budget for Community Ownership. A past example has been the Drovers Arms in Gussage All Saints. We judge the Best Dorset Village Shop competition, but sadly it will not be taking place this year due to COVID-19.

Please revisit our pubs, as they really need you, but do not desert village shops once Lockdown is over. Remember both are the beating hearts of our rural communities.

Rupert Hardy



Becky, Kai and John Gibbons in front of The Larder, their new shop behind The Rose & Crown at Longburton.

Purbeck and Poole Group



Persistent Planning for Local Needs

Members in Purbeck and Poole remain keen to see truly affordable housing provided in the right places for local working families as a matter of priority. This goal will remain just a frustrated wish if those preparing proposed local plans do not prioritise such overdue affordability for local people. It is significant to note that, at the time of writing this article, one web-site is advertising at least 1500 dwellings for sale in the Purbeck and Poole area – two with a price tag of nearly £12 million each.

This year we have another opportunity to ensure that the Local Plans being prepared by both Unitary Councils in Dorset will be helpful in securing appropriate housing and irrespective of:

- 1) the extant plans,
- 2) flawed algorithms (relating to housing projections) produced by central government and
- 3) the state of flux in planning law: a branch of law needing to adjust to modern post-pandemic circumstances and to serve local democratic priorities.

It seems important to stress that serving local needs is a key element

in local government and our organisation has felt the need to emphasise the matter by disagreeing strongly with central government planning proposals (to weaken local and democratic influence on our built environment) and by supporting a *Vision for planning* produced by 18 organisations including the Town and Country Planning Association, the Campaign for National Parks, the Green Alliance and the Open Spaces Society, as well as our own.

Inappropriate housing targets

Having experienced the protracted rigours of the proposed Local Plan (produced by Purbeck District Council and still under review), we are expressing concerns about the apparent unabated drive to require developers (interested in building



dwellings that most locals cannot afford from earned income) to build excessive numbers of such dwellings. They create infrastructure imbalances for our communities and can increase harbour pollution. *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review* (submitted to HM Treasury by Professor Dasgupta) is a welcome move – it advances a simple truth: **“our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it”**.

It is trusted that you share the view that Local Government should not abandon its implicit duty to interpret matters in the local context.

In Purbeck (and the Green Belt Zone of Poole) we have much to lose and are probably more vulnerable to any such loss (and at a faster rate) than other parts of Dorset. Inappropriate housing targets, hoarding of under-utilised brownfield sites and ineffective coordination with the plans and resources of numerous other organisations (e.g. adjacent Unitary Authorities, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and **all** Parish & Town Councils) are all matters requiring to be addressed and resolved satisfactorily to produce a suitable plan. It is therefore obvious that much has to be done by the Unitary Councils – they cannot rely on regurgitating old ideas based upon complacency.

Naturally, we are always pleased to hear from anyone wishing to share opinions or help us more positively, since, as Milton Friedman suggested - “A government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem”. Perhaps you may prefer to support our local efforts to encourage the idea expressed by Theodore Roosevelt - **“A nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”** We consider such behaviour will suit the prospects of Dorset with its protected areas and settings as well as its heritage of otherwise valued habitats and landscapes together with its vulnerable flora and fauna.

Our planning must not allow pollution, dereliction and under-utilised brownfield urban land to accumulate. Planning must remove existing public transport deserts (both rural and urban) and certainly avoid creating any new ones. Also, planning without attention to timing of delivery seems pointless if controlling the built environment to suit the ‘public interest’ is to be realised.

If any of these chimes with you, do **share your thoughts / concerns with me**. Such sharing will help our persistent effort (of marathon proportions) to secure real and relevant plans for the rural and urban needs of Dorset in time.

Gerald Rigler

Group Chairman

Beavers in The Isle of Purbeck



Little Sea

Beavers have been reintroduced, or have reintroduced themselves, in several small rivers across the Country and have recently been released by Dorset Wildlife Trust on one of the chalk streams in west Dorset. They are entirely vegetarian and rarely stray more than a few yards from the river. Their presence improves the biodiversity and they do not damage farmland or anything else.

Isle of Purbeck

Phase 1. It is proposed to introduce two or three pairs of beavers in the autumn of 2021 into the catchment area of Little Sea at Studland which is bordered by the Ferry Road, the Piple Stream and woodland. The beavers will not be allowed to establish themselves anywhere beyond these boundaries and any individual migrating out will be identified, trapped and relocated back in the chosen site.

This naturally contained catchment is bordered by the sea and by unsuitable habitat for beavers so they are unlikely to spread easily. There are few potential conflicts here and the presence of the beavers will create space in wet woodland and improve the biodiversity and carbon storage.

Improved fencing will be necessary at the Studland sewage works and protection of trees at Knoll House Hotel will be required. Public engagement and land user signage will be organised. Habitat impacts and beaver territory will be carefully monitored, and animal welfare will always be a priority.

Phase 2. There are fairly high hopes that Phase 1 will turn out to be successful and consideration will then be given to extending this experiment to the other parts of the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve and the lower reaches of the Corfe River below Castle View.

Phase 3. Beavers may eventually be allowed to return to the wider Dorset landscape, dependent on government policy, and transition to be part of our local wildlife. Beavers do not venture on to bigger rivers like the Frome or the Stour.

For further details about beavers in the Isle of Purbeck contact gen. crisford@nationaltrust.org.uk

The Beaver Trust, a new society, has a website at <https://beavertrust.org> which explains how beavers prevent floods, purify and store water, and bring back other wildlife.

Dr John Larkin



The beavers will make themselves at home in the Piple Stream and other small streams which flow into Little Sea

The Need for an Objective Assessment of Housing Need in East Dorset



Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish household data and projections for East Dorset by age group and household type. This note examines how the data have been changing over the 17 years from 2004 to 2021, and how they are projected to change over the next 17 years from 2021 to 2038.

Table 1: Households in East Dorset by Age of the Oldest Economically Active Member

age	2004	2021	2038
16-74	29231	28847	28578
75+	7432	10600	14478
total	36663	39447	43056

(source: ONS Household Projections Analysis Tool, Principal Projection 2018-based)

1. This simple table is revealing. It shows total households in East Dorset growing by 9.1% over 2021-38 (about half the rate given by the Standard Method for Dorset overall).
2. That growth is not uniform by age group. Household numbers where the oldest economically-active member is aged under 75 are not growing at all, they are **shrinking** slightly. These households reasonably can be expected to share the same housing pool in terms of car-ownership, ability to travel to reach services and employment, propensity to use and tend gardens, climbing stairs, ability to undertake or arrange maintenance and so on. In fact they are collectively the pool of buyers for houses on the large new developments seen in East Dorset built by the major developers.
3. Table 1 shows also that the **past and projected growth in households is all in the aged 75 and over population**.
4. From Table 2 it is clear that this age group have a growing need for suitable housing. They will not be served well by conventional two-storey three or four bedroom housing estates remote from town facilities and public transport. In particular their housing needs are less likely to be met by houses built on Green Belt land because, by definition, such sites are on the edge of settlements and conurbations.

Table 2: Growth in East Dorset Households Aged 75 years and over*

Growth in households aged 75+	2004-21	2021-38
1 person households	882	1784
2 or more person households	2274	2088
Total households aged 75+	3156	3872

(source: ibid) (*measured by oldest economically active member, excluding very small numbers of households with children)

5. The Standard Method of determining housing need sets targets for house building in excess of ONS household projections. However, there is a lack of detailed analysis of what type of housing to build and where. The data above suggest that building dwellings suitable for later retirement couples and singles, in places where car ownership is unnecessary, would meet a growing need, and release housing into the market for younger occupants. Such dwellings promise higher density and less harm to local heathlands. There is no evidence in the Local Plan that market forces alone are capable of addressing an issue that has been evident for the last 17 years.
6. Unless this issue is addressed more directly, the cohorts of people moving into the 75 and over age group will continue to live where they are. Of course they are free to do so, but attracting them into more suitable accommodation in places sustainable for the age group would serve the multiple purposes of releasing homes into the market for others, addressing obvious mobility and health needs, and even releasing equity (in some cases) for care costs or younger generations. What is planning if it isn't addressing issues of this ilk?
7. The next iteration of the Local Plan should consult on options for meeting the significant and growing housing needs of the 75 plus age group specifically and ambitiously.

Mike Allen
Dorset CPRE Member

Arne Moors Intertidal Nature Reserve



I attended a virtual meeting of the Stakeholder Liaison Group on 24 February. Neil Watson, Environment Agency (EA) showed an updated map of the Site and said that almost all the ground would be intertidal and that the necessary protective banks would be built with materials which had been identified on the site. The next meeting will give more details of parking, traffic and public access routes. A pre-Planning Application exhibition open to the public is scheduled for May of this year.

Greg Chuter, Senior Archaeologist with EA, gave a detailed account of the archaeological work and of the prehistory and history of Arne Moors and adjacent areas. This is a very wet site and a desk-based assessment, the study of 147 geoarchaeological cores, GACs, magnetometer surveys, electromagnetic conductivity surveys, 234 trial trenches and the use of carbon dating has given a good picture of environmental changes and human interactions since the end of the last Ice Age.

In the **Paleolithic**, 500,000 to 10,000 BC, sea level was about 22 metres below the present Ordnance Datum (OD) and hunter-gatherers have left hand axes and cave paintings (perhaps used for training purposes). GAC cross sections show an early Holocene braided river, Mesolithic carr woodland, Bronze Age reed marsh and post Medieval grazed marshland.

In the **Mesolithic**, 10,000 to 4,000 BC, sea level was nine to five metres below OD. Microliths and flint tools equipped with multiple microliths were found here but leather, wood and hide all decayed long ago. Flint knapping sites have been found elsewhere but not here.

In the **Neolithic**, 4,000 to 1,500 BC, sea level was four metres below OD and there were several islands here at Arne Moors. This period shows the birth of farming and man management of some of the landscape. There was tribal warfare and the Neolithic society built long barrows and other monuments. The adjacent Bestwall Quarry showed a variety of Mesolithic and Neolithic remains.

In the **Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman times** the sea level was three to one metres below OD. Metals are found for the first time, and burial mounds and round buildings (Bestwall). Salt was produced for the storage of food. Sand and clay from the northeast corner of the site was used for pottery, for briquetage, and for black burnished ware with a surface that looks like iron.

In **Medieval times** the sea level was within one Metre of OD. This area was owned by Shaftesbury Abbey who carried out drainage works so that the fields could be used for grazing and there were salt workings near the present oil well.

The Wareham Sword was found in the River Frome, the northern embankment at Arne Moors is probably Victorian, there signs of bomb craters from World War II and the remains of a gun battery at RSPB Arne.

This history will all be written up in due course and published in the Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society.

Dr John Larkin

Dorset CPRE Representative on the Arne Moors Stakeholder Liaison Group

Walkers Welcome Parish Boundary Markers



Symondsbury to Bridport – Remembering the “Wildcats of Bridport” a group of women netmakers who downed tools, went on strike and marched in protest of a pay cut and secured the support of Bridport. **Artist Alice Blogg.**

The Dorset Coast path is enjoyed by local people and visitors as a key way to experience and enjoy the stunning coastal landscape, sea views and numerous coastal communities through which it passes.

Parish to Parish – bounding along the Dorset Coast Path

On each parish boundary along the Dorset coast path from Ware, on the Dorset/Devon boundary, all the way to Abbotsbury can now be found a parish boundary marker letting the walker know when they have passed from one parish to the next.



Pucknowle to Abbotsbury – spiral tassleweed, common mouse ear, toothed medick ...this boundary marker celebrates the fascinating names of the remarkable plants supported by The fleet and Chesil. **Artist Andrew Whittle.**

History of the People and Landscape

The inspiration for the parish boundaries marker project stems from growing up in the heart of West Dorset. As a child I often accompanied my grandad, a local builder, in his little blue truck as he'd visit villages to price up work. He would often point out to me various features in the landscape – obviously hand crafted – where my Grandad could often ‘read’ their unique style and could therefore tell me who had made them.

Each feature provided clues about the history of the people and landscape that have created this wonderful part of the world in which we are so lucky to live. It was fascinating.



Devon into Dorset, Ware – To celebrate the iconic 19th Century women of Lyme Regis pivotal in Lyme Regis’ reputation as the cradle of modern palaeontology – Mary Anning, Mary Buckland, & Sarah Woodruff, **Artists Alex Brooks and Emma Molony.**

Collectively these artefacts provided details creating a rich cultural patina of local interest and character. However sadly and increasingly today, many are overlooked, obscured, no longer practised and therefore often lost in understanding and memory. One such feature is the Parish Boundary marker. Also, today, due to economics – hand crafted – locally unique – features are often replaced by mass produced



Charmouth to Stanton St Gabriel – To commemorate the alleged 836 Danish Viking landings on Charmouth beach. As you approach the gate the Viking landskip warships align with the sea horizon to take you back in time and witness the Viking fleet advancing towards the shore. **Artists Alex Brooks, Emma Molony & Tara Hansford.**



Chideock to Symondsburry – From the distance the walker can see the form suggesting the shape of a barrel which when reached invites the walker to stop and consider the coasts rich smuggling history. **Artist Delphine Jones**

The Dorset Coast Path Parish Boundary project has brought people together to create artefacts to celebrate special locations. It's a collaboration between local people, landowners, local artists and craftspeople in response to their local landscape and its rich cultural history. Eight local artists were commissioned in 2019 to develop 11 contemporary parish boundary artwork pieces. These artefacts are not interpretation or information panels – they are practical, hand crafted 'signposts' informing the walker when they pass from one parish to another as they travel along the coast path.

monotonous, un-remarkable ones. Combining my experience in both the arts and countryside access this project provided the opportunity to reintroduce more of the 'local' and 'distinctive' interest back into our surroundings.



Burton Bradstock to Swyre – Echoing how this landscape changes from winter into summer with smooth, bleached to dark jagged elements. An Oak tree protected by them will grow and distort because of this exposed landscape but provide a permanent boundary marker for future generations. **Artist Alice Blogg.**



Bridport to Burton Bradstock – recollecting the "spotters" who stood up along the iconic west bay cliff top and when they saw a shoal of fish would shout out to the fishermen below "Mackerel Straying" This prompted the fishermen to launch their boats and fish! **Artist Brendon Murless.**



Swyre to Puncknowle – In 1667 a white house stood on Chesil beach providing refuge for shipwrecked sailors washed up along the beach. Long since lost but remembered by a boundary marker that will help walkers brace themselves in windy weather! **Artists Sarah Hough, Will Pinder Metal worker/forged & Jake Reilly Carpenter.**

"This project hopes to also encourage the walker to look inland and gain a better awareness about the landscape they are walking through and curiosity to explore and learn more about the Dorset parishes along the coast path"

The team behind this project are – Local landowners (Lyme Regis Golf Course, The Loosemore family, The Cook family, The Extons of Downhouse Farm, The Yeates family, Tamarisk Farm and National Trust), local artists and craftspeople (see image captions), Tara Hansford, Countryside Access Development Officer & Bran Acres, Coastal Ranger both Dorset Council and Cleo Evans Arts & Environment Lead from the Arts Development Company. It couldn't have been achieved without the input and support of the local landowners and grant funding from the Coastal Communities Fund coordinated by the Dorset Coast Forum.

Tara Hansford

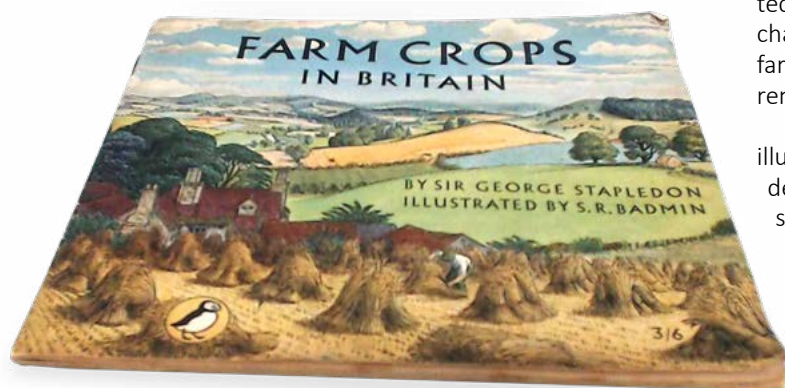
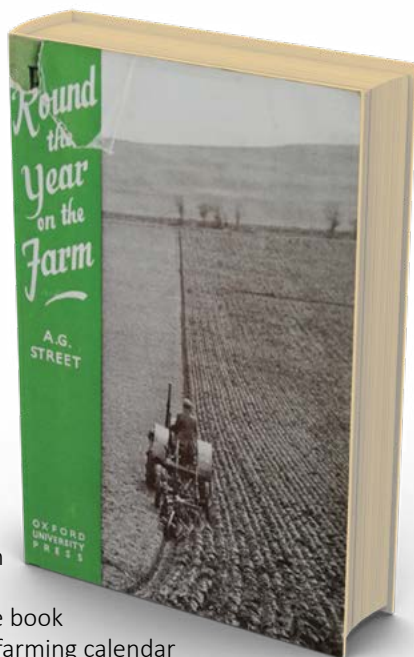
Countryside Access
Development Officer

A Reflection on changes in Farming over the last eighty years

2021 is the 80th anniversary of the publication of A. G. Street's 1941 book *Round the Year on the Farm* (Oxford University Press). Reading it today is a very useful reminder of the vast changes in farming that have occurred in subsequent decades. It is also salutary to be reminded of the eternal verities which should still apply to good livestock and crop husbandry as much today as they did then.

In his Foreword to the book Street writes about the farming calendar and contrasts it with the printed version: "The farming calendar is printed on the country fields, not by a machine but by the weather". In his chapter about the month of June Street writes that "Sheep must be tended and fed each day", and in 1941 much of the feeding would have been done by folding them on root crops or stubble turnips. What was done then with hurdles would within a few years be done by an electric fence.

Street is a great believer in the importance of improving soil fertility by maintaining a majority of land in livestock production. Writing in the early years of the war he argues that the country could not produce the yields from cereal crops that it so desperately needed in war if the land had not benefitted from the manurial residues that resulted from the dominance of sheep and cattle production. Perhaps that was a bit ingenuous as the trend towards livestock had been partly driven by a move away from self-sufficiency in cereals due to the government's policy of "imperial preference" introduced most forcefully from 1932. There may be some lessons there for our present times.



Farm Crops in Britain

By 1955 when Sir George Stapledon wrote *Farm Crops in Britain* a great change was in progress throughout the farming industry of the United Kingdom. The book is beautifully illustrated by S.R. Badmin, and perhaps for artistic reasons

farm horses feature slightly more than might have been expected although it is worth remembering that in 1955 there were still 161,000 "Horses for Agricultural use" on farms in the UK according to the Ministry of Agriculture records - compared with 545,000 ten years earlier (i.e. at the end of the war).

Like A.G. Street Sir George spells out some key principles including the importance of arable farmers having a wide variety of cereal varieties from which to choose: "The fact that such varieties were available during wars . . . made just all the difference to the amount of cereals we were able to grow and successfully to harvest". As a scientist he would attribute this to the crucial need for a country to invest in research and development and for farmers "to test every new invention and discovery". By then the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food were funding the National Agricultural Advisory Service and farmers were offered support through deficiency payments - which had reduced by £6.7M in 1954 only to be vastly increased again in 1955.

The Core Function of Farming

So in an age where 're-wilding' is so much in vogue, and farming faces new support systems as a consequence of Brexit, and consequent departure from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, are we in danger of forgetting the eternal verities about successful farming – and even the rationale for having a farming industry? I fear there are those who seem to be oblivious of both the core function of farming – which has to be food production – and the need for technological change if our farming is to remain commercially viable.

A recent Farmers' Weekly front cover illustrates the point. The operation is not dissimilar to that depicted on the cover of A.G. Street's 1941 book which showed the cutting edge of farming at that time. For those who hope that farming can remain as it is now – or even as it was in 1941 or 1955 – I fear the response has to be "dream on"!



Shaun Leavey OBE FRAGS

Milk direct from the Farm: Sherborne Castle Farm



Castle Farm Cows

We have all grown used to pick-your-own systems and farm shops, but direct sales of milk from farms have only really taken off as the technology required to manufacture efficient and robust vending machines has developed. In recent years they have been located at strategic points such as pub forecourts and increasingly in farmyards.

Castle Farm, Sherborne, has recently installed such a machine that sells milk from the dairy herd just across the farmyard. Easy to use, and involving zero food miles, this has proved a popular attraction locally – not least as during the COVID-19 pandemic it provides an excellent rationale for walking out to the edge of the town. But once tried this fresh

pasteurised (but not homogenised) milk is not likely to lose any customers after the end of lockdown. Because the milk is not homogenised it retains its cream at the top of the bottle – as milk always used to do.

The vending machine is available **Seven Days a week 8 am to 6 pm**. There are litre and half litre options. Either bring your own bottle or buy one of the farm's customised glass litre bottles. Cheese, butter, and eggs can also be bought there.



Vending machine

CPRE members who wish to see their local countryside still being farmed are urged to locate and support outlets such as this which cut out the supermarket, achieve zero food miles, and ensure that small family farms can survive into the future.

Shaun Leavey

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



New fences and cattle grids will enclose 1370 hectares to form a single grazing unit for cattle, ponies and pigs on the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve



This fund was heavily oversubscribed but DEFRA allocated money for two Dorset projects:

On the Isle of Purbeck

A grant of £549,900 from the Fund brings to a total sum of £840,041 available to build on the work of Wild Purbeck. This will enable the Dorset AONB, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Dorset Environmental Record Centre, Dorset Council, and numerous farmers to work together to establish a large 1,370 hectare single grazing unit on the Purbeck Heaths Super - National Nature Reserve at Arne, Hartland, Middlebere and Stoborough Heaths. The landscape will be managed more naturally with cattle, ponies and pigs to reintroduce lost ecological processes and create a more dynamic, complex and better-connected suite of habitats. A Sustainable Tourism Plan with local businesses will provide an Ancient Technology Centre, a digital hub and a Purbeck Heaths Week with delivery between January 2021 and March 2022.

In West Dorset

The Dorset AONB with the National Trust and others will use a grant from the Fund of £214,000 and a project total of £237,419 to conserve and restore valuable landscapes. The project will include stretches of river, lowland meadow, traditional orchards and hedgerows, and nine ponds which support great crested newts. Other work will expand the flood management capacity of the River Asker and control invasive species such as Himalayan balsam which have been adversely dominating some habitats.

Communities will be supported to improve their local water environments in Marshwood Vale, Eggardon, Winterbourne and Broadmayne, Littlemoor and Preston, Radipole, and Bridport.

Dr John Larkin

CPRE Annual Report & Accounts for Year Ending 31st August 2020

Objectives

The objects of the Branch shall be seek to improve, protect and preserve for the benefit of the public, the countryside and the market towns and rural villages of the County of Dorset. To meet this objective the charity seeks charitable donations and subscriptions from the public.

Grants totalling £28,380 were paid out for the following projects:

Dorset CPRE

STAND – Contribution towards printing leaflets	£ 500
ADVEARSE – Judicial review	£ 4,000
DEED – Education resources	£ 500
Trees for Dorset – Tree planting project	£ 200
BCP Development Project – admin to create a contact database of local groups	£ 120
Fingerposts refurbishment	£ 2,450
Roger Gosney Highways Report	£ 990
ORS Housing Needs Evidence Report	£15,000
Homestead Farm objection legal advice	£ 500
Stop the Portland Waste Incinerator – contribution towards professional report	£ 2,500

Poole & Purbeck Group

North of Merley Air Quality Report	£ 500
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The Sherborne and District Society

Sherborne Critical Review Report printing costs	£ 1,120
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Dorset CPRE has given money to support tree planting and fingerpost refurbishment and will happily contribute to causes other than campaigns that oppose something.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies		518,977	518,977
Activities for generating funds		3,890	3,890
Investment income	4	7,473	7,473
Total Income		530,340	530,340
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds		(26,903)	(26,903)
Other expenditure	5	(35,379)	(35,379)
Total Expenditure		(62,282)	(62,282)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(470)	(470)
Net movement in funds		467,588	467,588
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		274,863	274,863
Total funds carried forward	11	742,451	742,451

We are very grateful to Mrs Barbara Vance, Co. Cork, Ireland, for leaving us a very large legacy in her will. A detailed set of accounts including the Trustees Report can be found on the Charity Commission website and are also available on application to Linda Williams or Richard Norman.

Barbara Vance's Life

1921 – 2018

Mrs Barbara Vance loved Dorset. Her parents moved to Bournemouth in the late 1930s and she remembered with affection the many trips to the surrounding countryside.

Dorset CPRE are so grateful for Barbara's very generous legacies, totaling €670,000, and are exploring specific projects that her legacy may in future be associated with. We plan to launch a School Award's Scheme the 'Barbara Vance Countryside Prize' in the Autumn 2021 term.

Extract of tribute by her god daughter and read out at Barbara's funeral service

Barbara was born Barbara Ridsdale in Buxton, Derbyshire, England, and was an only child. Her grandfather owned a shop and other properties in Blackburn and he bought Barbara's father a cotton mill when he left the army after WW1. Perhaps unsurprising with this background, her grandmother expressed the wish at Barbara's birth: "let her be good at mathematics".

But it was bad timing for the mill. The English cotton industry was at its peak in 1912 but because of Ghandi's efforts to activate India's own cotton industry, India started producing its own cotton, boycotting UK cotton goods. Between the two world wars 800 mills closed. In Blackburn 70 mills closed in 4 years.

Barbara was sent to Howells – a good girls' boarding school in Wales which she enjoyed and where she made a lifelong friend, Mercy Bing. When Mercy had her first child, Barbara was invited to be godmother.

From Howells, Barbara got an Exhibition – a kind of scholarship - to study English at Somerville College, Oxford and started there in 1939, the first year of World War 2. Mercy was at the same college. Sadly Barbara did not thrive at Oxford and never felt well. It was a strange time too, with many of the male students away at war, and other students like Mercy, stopping her studies to join the war effort.



Barbara's doctor said she should work outside and so the College Head suggested Waterperry. This was a gardening school, but it was producing food for the war effort, and suited Barbara very well. This was a great piece of good luck as she would never have thought of gardening as a possible occupation. Indeed she remembered the garden of her childhood in Manchester as 'not very interesting' with lawn, trees and a flowerbed. The best thing

seems to have been a large stone from which she jumped daily, hoping to fly.

After a year at Waterperry, Somerville College invited her to return. But she declined as she felt much better working on the land. World War 2 was still ongoing, so she took a driving test for the army. She was set to go out to El Alamein but her mother stopped her from going.

There followed a period working for Lord and Lady Brunner at Grays Court, now a National Trust property. Again this involved gardening and



food growing. And then she moved to the milk Marketing Board, working with cows even though she was scared of them.

She met Douglas Vance, who was Manager of the Metropole Hotel in Cork, around 1947. She was staying at the Metropole and asked a member of staff "What does one do in Cork apart from kiss the Blarney Stone?" She was advised to "Ask Mr Vance". He then offered to show her round himself. ...They were married in 1950 and had over 50 years of happy married life until Douglas's death in 2004.

Douglas was not keen for her to have a career. But she became involved with the start of the Cork Samaritans under Father Jim Condon, and did this for 10 years. She also took part in the Cork film festival, previewing shorts and documentaries in the summer evenings, entertaining festival VIPs.

Barbara and Douglas were both actively involved in the life of the church. After Douglas's death Barbara sometimes wondered whether she should go back to the North of England, where she had cousins. In a dark mood she used to say that any visitors who came were only interested in Douglas. In reality she lived to see that this was not the case, and in her old age was visited and supported by an exceptional and dedicated band of friends and helpers, both at home and when she moved into St Joseph's Hospital Mount Desert, Cork, in August 2017.



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.

I have been in touch with the various Stakeholder Groups where I represent CPRE Dorset. All have been highly active during the difficult times of the past year or so and have held virtual meetings to keep everyone up to date with what has been going on.

Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Minerals Sites Plan 2019

We can do nothing about the various proposed Minerals Sites until a planning application is submitted for one of them.

Imerys Ball Clay Operations Dorset – Community Liaison Group

I attended a Google Meet virtual meeting of this Group on 15 February. Narender Dhayal, Senior Manager, said that Imerys has 250 commercial sites across the world. The total sales of ball clay and of sand and gravel from the Dorset open-cast mines amounted to 23,000 tonnes. This went largely to the E U and was 20 % up on last year. The Company has recruited four more engineers and other professional staff.

Excavation has recently been started at the Trigon West extension. Exploratory drilling at Bridewells Plantation with 23 bore holes is presently being analysed but the location of several mature birches has been noted and they will not be disturbed. A planning application with an Environmental Impact Assessment at Povington Northeast will mitigate the impact on views from the escarpment and will not interfere with the registered parks and gardens at Creech Grange. At Furzeyground the five-year management and aftercare plan will finish this year and the site will be handed over to the Amphibian and Reptile Trust on a twenty year lease.

Toll Bar Stream

Stuart Knott, site manager, told us that Bournemouth University had monitored this river for two years now. The remedial river works had improved the water quality and direct stocking together with natural recruitment had led to substantially increased species and numbers of fish. The University will continue with their surveys for at least another two years to monitor the continued ecological recovery of the Toll Bar Stream.

Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative Committee

The extraction of oil and gas from the oilfield continues and I will prepare a report for the Forum when the next meeting of this Committee is convened.

Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey, by the Polish company Geofizyka Torun, of Perenco's Wytch Farm oilfield was recently completed but the analysis of the results will take some while.

Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan 2019

We can do nothing about the various proposed Waste Sites until a planning application is submitted for one of them.

Litter Free Dorset

See article on Litter Campaigns on page 25 for latest news.

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

I attended a virtual Zoom meeting of the Group on 27 January. Barry Quinn, Chairman, had attended several virtual meetings with the National Decommissioning Authority (NDA). He also said that Magnox Covid support funds had been used by Dorset Council for foodbanks, for volunteer PPE, and for the Lulworth and Winfrith School swimming pool repairs.

Andy Munro, Site director, said that the Site was fully Covid-secure compliant and had been in full operations since September but some staff are working from home. Funding for next year had been received and the work will be delivered as planned. Several apprentices have recently started work on the site.

Jonathan Jenkin, NDA, said that UKAEA is looking for a site of at least 100 hectares and access to cooling water for the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production, STEP, fusion reactor. Winfrith is smaller than 100 hectares and is not equipped with cooling water. It will thus not be a suitable place for the new fusion reactor.

Adam Davis, Environment Agency, discussed the detailed plans for decommissioning the Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) and the sea pipeline. Kevin McIntyre told us about preparations for the remotely controlled dismantling and decommissioning of the highly radioactive SGHWR core and that of the Dragon reactor.

Geological Disposal Facility

The NDA have formed working groups to begin discussions about the potential for hosting a deep Geological Disposal Facility in Allerdale or in Copeland both in Cumbria. The facility would be up to twenty square kilometres in size for the safe and secure disposal of 750,000 cubic metres of radioactive waste deep underground. This will replace the smaller temporary surface stores in various parts of the Country presently in use.

Dorset Innovation Park Enterprise Zone (DIPEZ)

Some 651 people presently work at the DIPEZ. The Dorset Council, The Dorset LEP and the Home Communities Agency continue to advertise widely to attract new technological businesses to the Site.

Renewable Energy in Purbeck

There is no further news of the Alaska wind turbines.

Mass Extinction Memorial Observatory (MEMO) at Portland

Sir Ghilleen Prance, former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, is Chair of the MEMO Trust who plan to use some of the artificial rectangular caves of the worked-out Portland Stone Mines as a monument to interpret biodiversity and extinction.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has called for evidence about the better safeguarding of the marine habitats of the South Dorset MCZ and the Studland Bay MCZ. They will enable sustainable marine activities such as fisheries and renewable energy to co-exist with the marine environment for seahorses, sea-grass beds, fish and other marine life.

Ospreys in Poole Harbour

The ospreys which were recently relocated to Poole Harbour will soon be returning from southern Africa. Do remember to watch them on the web cameras at www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk.

Dr John Larkin

Minerals and Waste Adviser
to Dorset CPRE

A Dorset National Park – for People and Nature



River Frome at Ridge taken by Vicky Barnes December 2020

Did you watch Sir David Attenborough's TV programmes on "A Perfect Planet?" These remind us that nature does so much for us, in ways we can see and feel – fresh air, clean water, healthy soils to grow nourishing food, not to mention the mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment, which we've all appreciated more than ever during the past year. Other important ways in which nature helps and supports us include natural flood prevention, the contribution of biodiversity to successful medicine, and absorbing much of the carbon that mankind's activities produce.

Climate Change

Nature can continue to support us, but it needs our help – for example, caring for and planting woodlands and hedgerows, ensuring soils are healthy and land use sustainable, and using energy and water carefully so we don't overload nature's ecosystems. Many organisations here in Dorset and nationally are understandably concerned about climate change and the decline in nature. The Government and local councils have declared climate and ecological emergencies.

We in Dorset are fortunate in our lovely environment and outstanding heritage. Research for the Dorset County Council (now known as Dorset Council since April 2019) showed that Dorset's natural environment and heritage are our greatest economic asset, worth well over a billion pounds a year to the local economy¹. But we can sometimes take nature for granted. Wildlife in Dorset has suffered serious decline over many years. We need to help our natural environment and wildlife to recover.

Green Economic Recovery

The Government has called for a green economic recovery and sees National Parks as part of a successful, thriving greener economy of the future. In November 2020, the Government reaffirmed its manifesto commitment to create new National Parks for England. The proposed Dorset National Park should be part of this future. Evidence suggests it would bring great opportunities, benefit all of Dorset, bring additional resources and help ensure a thriving, healthy future for our communities, economy and environment. It would help people to thrive and help nature recover. It would support and contribute to the delivery of local services such as sustainable transport, education, health and social care. It would work in partnership with Dorset Council and communities in a new partnership

approach to planning for all rural Dorset. National Parks have a duty to respond to local housing needs, including for truly affordable homes.

Independent Survey of the Evidence for a National Park for Rural Dorset

Dorset CPRE and the Dorset National Park Team want a National Park to include as much as possible of rural Dorset. An independent report by respected Dorset planner, Jo Witherden, points to the exceptional interest, qualities and attributes of all rural Dorset – see her report "The case for Rural Dorset" on the Dorset CPRE website.



View North from Lyscombe Hill near Melcombe Bingham taken by Rupert Hardy

A National Park would work in close and supportive partnership with the Dorset Council, communities, businesses, farmers and other stakeholders, to help secure a thriving, prosperous, successful and sustainable future for Dorset's communities, economy, environment and heritage. For more information, see: www.dorsetnationalpark.com

¹ Dorset's Environmental Economy, a report for Dorset County Council and the Jurassic Coast Partnership, by Ash Futures Ltd, published November 2015

Sandra Brown

Lawrence in Arabia and After

As a boy I remember vividly that scene in David Lean's epic film, *Lawrence of Arabia*, when Omar Sharif, portraying Sherif Ali, rides out on his camel from the shimmering distant desert horizon towards the camera. I was entranced. Many of us living in Dorset are glad that TE Lawrence lived for some years at Clouds Hill, close to Bovington, prior to his early demise in a motorbike accident, and can be counted a Dorset hero. He was both a legend and an extraordinary man, but given the plethora of books written on him before and after his death, one might have thought little more could be discovered about this very enigmatic figure. However three important books have been published on him in the last six years, providing new light, and there was an excellent Channel 5 profile of him last autumn. It was arguably one of the best programmes that Channel 5 have produced! The books are Scott Anderson's *Lawrence in Arabia*, Michael Korda's *Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia* and Rob Johnson's *Lawrence of Arabia on War*. These tomes try to avoid the debunkings and hagiographies that appeared too much before. There is also a new film due out, *Lawrence: After Arabia* which is mostly a work of fiction, suggesting he was murdered.

Lawrence The Man

He was the illegitimate son of an Irish landowner who had run off with the family governess. He was small, only 5ft 5in high, blonde with piercing blue eyes. He was a rebellious child and was frequently beaten by his mother for his misdemeanours. Determined to make up for his ignoble birth he challenged himself mentally and physically to the limit. Oxford followed where he studied history, and he wrote his dissertation on Crusader castles in Syria, undergoing a dangerous and solitary journey there. After graduation he returned to the Middle East as an archaeologist. With the outbreak of WW1 he got a posting as an intelligence officer in Cairo. The initial failure of the Arab revolt to take on the Ottoman army conventionally demanded a new approach, and Lawrence was lucky to be selected as the liaison officer attached to the rebels. Korda is clearly an admirer and describes his "physical courage, hardiness, cool judgement under fire", "an outstanding shot, absolutely fearless, gentle in manner". Yet he does not shy away from observing the darker side of this ascetic and depressive man, who clearly had masochistic tendencies, maybe first developed in childhood. In common with many other soldiers, he suffered after WW1 from post-traumatic stress disorder. He certainly had strong relationships with men, but there is little evidence of actual physical ones.



T E Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia, dressed in traditional Arab costume on the balcony of the Victoria Hotel in Damascus on 3 October 1918 © IWM (Q 73534)



Lieutenant-Colonel T.E. Lawrence, CB, DSO, 1918 © IWM (Art.IWM ART 2473)

Lawrence and the Arab Revolt

In 1916 he was sent to liaise with the Arab rebels, who were an unconventional force of fierce, unruly tribesmen, prone to loot and feud. He built them into a capable guerrilla army using British guns and bags of gold sovereigns, with him as the military tactician. He developed the tactics of hit and run, employing a small force engaged in asymmetrical warfare. He endured the privations of this life stoically. He was lucky to have General Allenby commanding the Middle East, who could see his value even if he was unconventional. He frequently disappeared for weeks without communicating to Cairo. His capture of Aqaba using a small commando force, raising the local tribes, and crossing an extremely inhospitable desert is now the stuff of legends. Did the Arab revolt help turn the tide against the Ottomans?

It certainly helped but it was probably not critical, as Allenby's army was powerful enough and well led, with many saying he was the one of the best British Generals of the war, so the advance on Damascus would have happened anyway. But Lawrence and the Arabs' success was a potent propaganda success for the Allies.

Lawrence was always aware that the British and French intended to carve up the Middle East after the war, leaving the Arabs on the sidelines.



Lawrence in Arab dress seated on the ground in 1918. © IWM Q 73535



Colonel T.E. Lawrence (left) with King Feisal (centre), talking to the American journalist Lowell Thomas (with back to camera). Lawrence and Thomas met in Jerusalem in 1918. © IWM (Q 67236)

He felt extraordinary guilt at his own perceived betrayal of his Arab friends, which lingered for years after the war, even if his Hashemite friend Faisal, the key Arab leader, did get the throne in Iraq.

Scott Anderson, a seasoned war correspondent, throws fresh light from the big picture perspective. He is good at explaining the roots of the region as it emerged from the wreckage of the war, and the making of the modern Middle East. Scott points out so well how astute Lawrence was in suggesting the exposed port of Alexandretta as a better invasion point for the Gallipoli campaign. Historians later agreed but Lawrence's views were not acted on. It is a fine work of military history too, but must bow down, on this aspect, to Rob Johnson's book which came out only last year.

Lawrence on War

It is appropriate that Rob Johnson, the Director of the Oxford Changing Character of War Centre, has written his book focusing on Lawrence's campaigns and his thinking on irregular warfare. He explains how this Oxford historian and archaeologist emerged as a major strategic tactician and original military thinker. Lawrence stressed the importance of working with tribal groups and winning their loyalty, through cultural awareness and language skills, rather than relying on outsiders. One of his innovations was blowing up rail bridges leaving them "scientifically shattered"—ruined but still standing. Turkish crews then faced the time-consuming task of dismantling the wreckage before repairs could begin. He was arguably the most important early C20 figure to influence the development of guerrilla warfare and covert ops, especially in the desert, so very pertinent to the rise and destruction of ISIS, and other recent Middle East wars.

Lt-General Lamb, a former director of Britain's special forces said "What you need is people who can put themselves in harm's way, understand the different cultures and think fast enough to adapt to events.....there are enough out there who have read Lawrence, dealt with people like Sunni insurgents and are comfortable in that kind of environment". The Seven Pillars of Wisdom, written in 1922, is not just a great emotional depiction of war, but is required reading at Sandhurst and West Point equally. It would be fascinating to know if ISIS's Al-Baghdadi or General Giap, the North Vietnamese military leader, read it too!

Lawrence The Legend

A remarkable US journalist and filmmaker, Lowell Thomas, was asked by his government to produce images that might persuade reluctant farmhands and city workers to sign up as GIs to fight with the allies in 1917. Images of the muddy murder

on the Western Front were rejected and Lowell found himself in Jerusalem, when he caught sight of a strange blonde Bedouin in flowing robes who fitted the bill. Lowell did more than anyone to transform him into Lawrence of Arabia, a glittering global celebrity.

One story you may not know but might guess at from the Lawrence in Arabia film, is why the action focuses on the camel charge towards the Turkish lines at Aqaba, rather than the capture of the port. Lawrence was used to cavalry charges on horseback, but not on a camel. He managed to shoot his camel in the head as he charged and thus he missed out on the capture of the port.

Lawrence in Dorset

After the war he had become disillusioned and tried to disguise himself. The cult of celebrity did not rest easily on the shoulders of one who thought he had betrayed his friends. He became John Ross, an RAF airman, and later TE Shaw of the Royal Tank Corps, based in Bovington. He started letting Clouds Hill in 1923, although for much of the next decade he was posted elsewhere, but came here as a retreat. With no running water or electricity the small cottage was perfect for an ascetic. His friends from London would come to visit, yet rarely stayed. He also was friends with Dorset literary figures, such as Thomas Hardy. Thomas's widow described him as one of his "most valued friends".

Was Lawrence Murdered?

He could also indulge his other passion, motorcycles. However it was riding his Brough at speed returning from Bovington camp one May morning in 1935, that he tried to avoid two boys on cycles, but crashed fatally. This is the coroner's version. And there is an enscribed stone marking the fatal spot off a path by Bovington.

A new film, *Lawrence: After Arabia*, is due to be released in late May. It suggests an assassination by the British Secret Service. The film tells the story of the last years of his life, when he was good friends with Winston Churchill. It suggests he still had strong ties with his Arab friends, was building bridges with Mosely and the Blackshirts, and was also being prepared for a leadership position in the Secret Service. His uncompromising beliefs created many powerful enemies. Balderdash! The last surviving brother of one of the two boys involved in the crash that killed T E Lawrence, Dennis Fletcher, aged 87 who lives in Wareham, says the new film is there just to make money and that he was genuinely killed in a road accident. However the film has won some awards and will certainly help Dorset tourism.

He was buried at Moreton with many of the great and the good attending, such as Churchill, but curiously few now visit the church where his splendid marble effigy lies. It was originally intended for Westminster Abbey. The effigy shows him dressed in Arab robes and clutching his famous curved dagger, and is well worth seeing and is in the Saxon church, St Martin's, in Wareham. To get the key you have first to go to Joys, the men's outfitters, in North St, who keep it. There is also a Lawrence room at the Wareham town museum with exhibits and photographs. Do visit both, but always remember the myth surrounding Lawrence will never die!

Rupert Hardy

A303 Stonehenge roadworks update: some numbers



BASELINE (SUMMER)

Photomontage of the western cutting looking west towards Stonehenge from green bridge no. 4. The top image shows the view as now, the bottom one, after the tunnels are constructed.



PROPOSED (SUMMER YEAR 15)

The scheme would have a staggering cost, £1.5 – £2.4bn (2017 costs). The benefit would be a mere 15p for every £1 spent – even if the costs remained as predicted. When did that last happen on a major road scheme? Highways England tell me that a fresh cost benefit analysis will be undertaken towards the end of this year. A bit late when many contracts will already have been let. The project is estimated to take 5 years to complete, from 2022-23 completing in 2025-2030. Really - will the tunnel still be needed 9 years from now?

There are many serious accidents on smart motorways, because they lack a hard shoulder on which to pull off if a vehicle breaks down. The A303 Expressway past Stonehenge will not have these. What will happen if there is a breakdown or an accident inside the tunnel? There were fires in the Mont Blanc tunnel in 1999 and the St Gotthard tunnel in 2001.

The tunnels are planned to run within 1200m of Stonehenge under the ground. The effects of vibration from construction and use are poorly understood.

What about the spoil from the tunnel?

There will be about 900,000 cubic metres, largely chalk. That's around three times the volume of Silbury Hill in Wiltshire. The



Silbury Hill is a monumental Neolithic mound, the largest in Europe. It was constructed around the same time as the earliest features of Stonehenge. It is around 39m high and 168m in diameter. By Photograph by Greg O' Beirne <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2578699>

plan would be to deposit this to the west of Winterbourne Stoke, half of it dumped on part of the Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Several prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeological areas would be covered over as well. Up to 78 trucks an hour would transport the spoil past Winterbourne Stoke, via an entire temporary road and bridge that would be constructed from the Longbarrow Junction, and destroyed afterwards in order to construct the new A303 and viaduct.

The cuttings to take traffic into the tunnels would be wide and deep enough to swallow the whole of Stonehenge. The western cutting would be approximately 7m – 10m deep and 1.1 km long: the tallest trilithon sarsen stone is 7m high. The cutting will destroy almost 6 hectares (14.5 acres) of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS), where the many barrows and other features are carefully spaced to form a ritual landscape. Structures on this scale will diminish the perception of Stonehenge as a gigantic and awe-inspiring monument.

Judicial Review

The Stonehenge Alliance awaits the judicial review that their sister company, **Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site Ltd** is seeking. The judge has ordered three days in court from 23rd – 25th June, to challenge the Secretary of State's decision that the scheme should go ahead. The independent Examination enquiry advised against it: the scheme's benefits "would not outweigh the harm arising from the excavation of a deep, wide cutting and other engineering works, within the WHS and its setting, of a scale unseen in this unique 'landscape without parallel'."

For more information, please see www.stonehengealliance.org.uk.

Dr Suzanne Keene

Litter Campaigns

We participate in the Litter Free Working Group meetings, hosted jointly by Litter Free Dorset and Litter Free Coast and Sea, and contribute to discussions on a number of topics and campaigns.

Have you seen the Love Your Verge signs?

Dorset Council's fight against roadside litter is continuing – with the annual spring clean of verges along some of the county's busiest roads. In March there has been overnight litter-picking along the A338, with support from BCP Council. Dorset Council's Love Your Verge campaign was launched before the Easter break, a countywide collaboration between the council's Coast and Greenspace Service and [Litter Free Dorset](#). 289 signs featuring four fun and friendly wildlife characters (a hedgehog, mouse, bee and grass snake) are displayed on the verges around Dorset.



If you spot a bumblebee, this is an area where Dorset Council are leaving verges long to encourage wildflowers.

The verges in Dorset host a wide range of wildlife and need protecting. The Council have also been sowing wildflower seeds. The campaign aims to encourage residents and visitors of Dorset to value verges and open spaces and raise awareness of how open spaces are individually managed due to the specific local habitat, and their contribution towards tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Litter in Lockdown report 2020

During the coronavirus pandemic, litter rates have risen in many areas across England. Ever-present wrappers, cartons, bottles and cups have been joined by plastic gloves and facemasks, all building up in our countryside. Litter has been a major problem for decades, but lockdown has shone a light on our throwaway culture and has led to new types and unprecedented levels in different places. A summary of the findings of a report that CPRE commissioned is available on our website.

The deposit return recycling scheme is delayed .. again

Government sources have said that the long-awaited deposit return scheme (DRS) announced by ministers in 2018 has once again been pushed back. A DRS of the sort already in use and seeing huge recycling rates in other countries should have formed a key cornerstone of a green recovery following the pandemic, creating jobs and helping out struggling local councils.



Instead, we've heard that the government plans to delay the scheme until 2024 – pushing the responsibility onto a new government.

CPRE has been asking for the introduction of an all-in DRS (one that accepts containers of all types and sizes) for years – but it's not just us making this demand. CPRE surveys have shown that people across England are keen to see much more being done to tackle waste. Over three-quarters of the English public (78%) agreed that the government should be taking more action on litter.

CPRE will keep campaigning, including continuing partnership work with Greenpeace, Surfers Against Sewage, Keep Britain Tidy and The Marine Conservation Society.

Disposable BBQ campaign

The Litter Free Dorset (LFD) have been busy contacting supermarkets and are waiting for confirmation from Waitrose and Co-op as to which of their supermarkets across Dorset will be banning disposable BBQs. Alongside supermarkets, LFD have begun contacting independent shops and businesses.

Greening West Dorset's Hills and Vales (see also page 17)

The first three of five projects as part of the overarching Greening West Dorset's Hills and Vales project have been chosen. Following two successful workshops with the Bridport and Lyme Regis/Charmouth communities, LFD are now beginning to plan litter initiatives for these two areas.

Lulworth litter action group

A Lulworth litter collaboration group has been set up by Litter Free Coast and Sea to co-ordinate action between community members and the Lulworth Estate. The group includes Cllr Laura Miller, the Lulworth Litter Scouts Group and community members from local parishes. Litter Free Coast and Sea have also co-designed some new signage to be deployed to set the tone for responsible behaviour and highlight the location of the toilets and bins, including where the last facilities are before getting to the beach.

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:

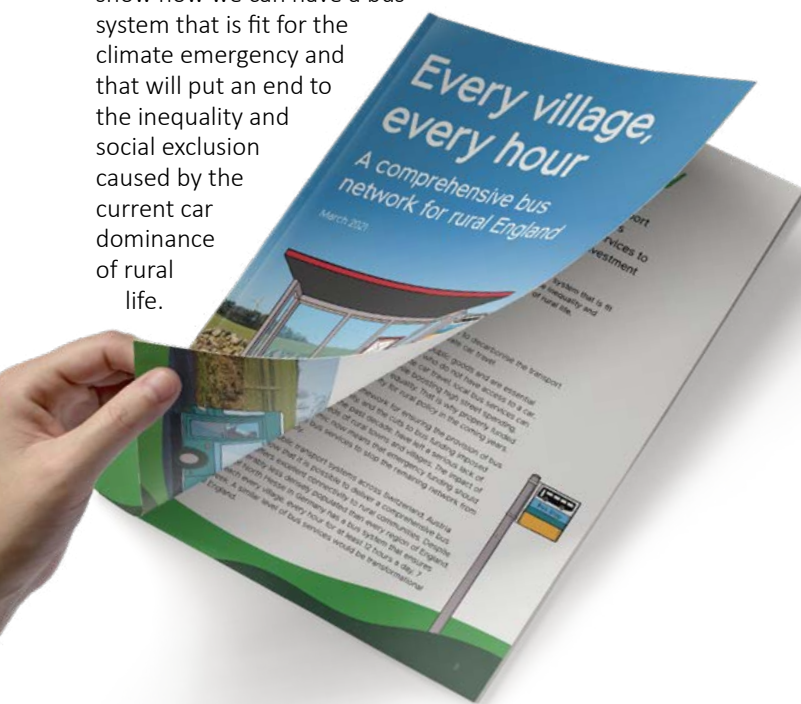
Beauty still betrayed: The state of our AONBs 2021

Threats to England's 34 AONBs from development are increasing at an alarming rate – The report reveals a 129% increase in the amount of greenfield land planned to be built over. The research, conducted by Glennigan Consultancy on behalf of CPRE, has found that high housing pressure is also being applied to land around AONBs, with the number of homes built in the setting (within 500 meters of the boundary) increasing by 135% since 2012.

Every village, every hour 2021 buses report

This report builds upon previous research from CPRE, into rural 'transport deserts' to set out what a comprehensive bus network for England would look like, with services to every village every hour, and the scale of investment we need to make this vision a reality.

The aim of this report is to show how we can have a bus system that is fit for the climate emergency and that will put an end to the inequality and social exclusion caused by the current car dominance of rural life.



State of the Green Belt 2021

The latest edition of CPRE's regular report on the Green Belt shows that pressures that put it at risk have quadrupled since 2013 – just as CPRE's new poll shows how much we value these local treasures.

CPRE's 2021 State of the Green Belt report shows that right now, there are a quarter of a million homes planned to be built on Green Belt land – a rise of 475% since 2013.

In an article we sent to the local press, Peter Bowyer said: "The housing targets proposed in the Dorset Local Plan are way in excess of any sensible forecast of local housing need.

The Local Plan approach gives insufficient recognition of or respect for Dorset's exceptional landscapes, wildlife and heritage, including but not only the many protected areas and designations, including Green Belts in East Dorset. Meeting housing need appears to be the main 'exceptional circumstance' asserted by Dorset Council to justify building in the Green Belt."

However, in a 16th December 2020 statement, following earlier consultation on proposed 'Changes to the current planning system', the government states:

"Within the current planning system, the standard method does not present a 'target' in plan-making, but instead provides a starting point for determining the level of need for the area, and it is only after consideration of this, alongside what constraints areas face, such as the Green Belt, and the land that is actually available for development, that the decision on how many homes should be planned for is made. It does not override other planning policies, including the protections set out in Paragraph 11b of the NPPF or our strong protections for the Green Belt. It is for local authorities to determine precisely how many homes to plan for and where those homes most appropriately located. In doing this they should take into account their local circumstances and constraints."

The Government response also states:

"More broadly, we heard suggestions in the consultation that in some places the numbers produced by the standard method pose a risk to protected landscapes and Green Belt. We should be clear that meeting housing need is never a reason to cause unacceptable harm to such places."

Vision for Planning 2021

The government should rethink major elements of its controversial planning proposals and work with stakeholders to deliver a planning system that puts people, climate and nature at its heart. A broad range of housing, planning, transport, environmental, heritage, built environment and public health organisations have come together to set out a shared vision for planning and our suggestions for how the government can maximise the fantastic potential of planning.



Dorset CPRE Membership

Thank you for being one of our valued members. Your membership makes a real difference to what we can achieve, and with your generous support we will continue our work towards our vision of a thriving, beautiful countryside for everyone.

Not already a member? Stuck for a gift idea?

Joining CPRE is the single most effective way to stand up for the countryside. Once farmland and green spaces are built on, they are lost forever. The more you can give, the more we can do to keep our countryside safe. You can join online via our website www.dorset-cpre.org.uk or contact our office on 0333 577 0360 to receive a copy of our membership form. Individual £3 per month and £5 for Household membership. We also provide membership for Town and Parish Councils.

As a member you'll receive our regular Countryside Voice magazine, and enjoy discounted entry to houses, gardens and other attractions around England.



- Edmonsham House & Garden
- Mapperton 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.

Don't forget to take your membership card with you. All houses and gardens' opening dates and times are subject to coronavirus restrictions and may be updated throughout the year so please call, email, or check entries' websites.



Mapperton Gardens



10% off at Cotswold Outdoor

Dorset CPRE Members also receive –

- The Dorset Review magazine in the spring & autumn
- Membership of your local county branch
- Access to our Planning Hotline for advice from CPRE Staff
- They can also join our Planning Group meetings

You'll save money on outdoor kit for the whole family with 10% off most full priced products at Cotswold Outdoor. Full T&Cs apply.

Diary Dates

A number of events have been postponed / cancelled due to COVID-19, please visit our website www.dorset-cpre.org.uk for details on re-scheduled dates as they become available. We are constantly reviewing the situation in line with advice from government.

1st June – North Dorset Group AGM, 5.30pm, virtual meeting. Talk by Jo Witherden on “Rebuilding Trust in Dorset’s Planning Systems”.

21st November – 84th Anniversary AGM, 11 am, Cerne Abbas Village Hall. Guest speaker is Crispin Truman OBE, CEO at CPRE.

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