

KENT VOICE

Protecting Kent's Countryside
AUTUMN 2014

**Food security - the
growing challenge**

www.cprekent.org.uk





Free Biomass Boiler

including installation & servicing for 7 years

The most cost effective renewable energy proposition in the market place today

Sprint Fuels

Sprint Fuels is a well established, well respected local company that has been supplying renewable energy solutions to clients in both the domestic sector and the commercial arena for a number of years. Having recently partnered with an investment group, Sprint Fuels is now able to offer domestic homeowners not only a free biomass boiler with free installation by a fully skilled engineer, but also free servicing and maintenance for the first 7 years.

Will my home qualify?

The key to eligibility for this offer is that the boiler must only be heating a single property, have had the Green Deal Assessment (GDA) carried out and been provided with an Energy Performance Certificate - an EPC. Along with this your property needs to have a minimum of 250mm of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation (where possible), and have a minimum energy demand of 20,000kwh/a.

What's next?

Not sure if your home qualifies? Then simply contact us and we can talk you through the requirements in more detail. If your home qualifies a member of the team will arrange to visit your home to discuss with you possible sites for the boiler and pellet storage. They will also be able to offer you a clear explanation of the potential fuel savings, along with answering any questions you may have.

5 reasons why you should consider biomass energy

1 Biomass boilers offer one of the best ways for domestic property owners to significantly reduce their carbon footprint.

2 Wood pellets are significantly cheaper than other, traditional forms of energy. In some instances homeowners have saved up to 50% of their annual fuel costs - on average most properties can c. £400 pa.

3 There are a growing number of sellers of wood pellets; sourcing them from your local area will enable you to boost not only the environmental benefits of your energy choice but also to support your local economy.

4 The installation of a biomass boiler will cause minimal disruption to your home, the boilers are easy to use and require minimal management.

5 Biomass energy is a clean fuel - the ash that is generated can be used as garden fertiliser and the smoke is difficult to see or smell.

Director's Introduction



Hilary Newport

Food for thought, and thought for food

Welcome to the autumn edition of Kent Voice 2014. Alongside our usual round-up of news and campaigns from around the county, we have decided this time to focus on the complex and important issues of land use and planning from the perspective of food security.

There are many different facets to this subject and we have made our selection of articles with the aim of getting people thinking and talking about the importance of the natural capital that supports us all.

We see at local level the tensions between conflicting roles for land; we need green space to produce food, for flood resilience, for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, for protecting and cleaning our air and our water, and for the benefit of our psychological and physical health. We also need land for homes, employment, transport and all the rest of the infrastructure associated with twenty-first century life. And if we are to be assured that our land-use practices are to be sustainable, we need to be confident that in the centuries to come, those who follow us will also have their needs met.

Beyond the local level, an increasing (and increasingly affluent) global population will bring another level of pressure, as demand

for protein from meat will continue to grow. And overlying this degree of pressure are the increasing global uncertainties of climate instability, with its own effects on global population shifts, as well as intensifying competition for resources such as water. But back to our part of the globe; what can we do here, in the Garden of England, to address these issues? Kent's countryside has been shaped over millennia by the influence of farmers and growers; from the earliest subsistence farmers to the fruit belts of the Swale, which supplied Henry VIII's court with its huge demand for fresh cherries, to today's polytunnels which feed the hungry crowds of Wimbledon their strawberries. Food security is not the same as food self-sufficiency; an unforeseen catastrophic event (flooding or animal disease) could wipe out domestic production and thus a resilient global food market will always be important. Perhaps what we can do is help raise awareness of the significance of food security, the problems of food wastage, the importance of supporting and championing local produce and producers, and the satisfaction of helping people reconnect with the delights of seasonal produce at its best, most nutritious and cheapest. We'd love to know what you think.

Contents

- Page 4-5 Update from the Chairman
- Page 6-7 Hidden Treasures: the Rural Economy
- Page 8 Piracy and Lieutenancy – book reviews
- Page 9 Just a Waste of Space?
- Page 10-11 Headlines from the Campaigns Front Line
- Page 13 Our 5,000 historic buildings need urgent protection
- Page 14-15 COVER STORY – solving the waste food crisis
- Page 16 Why we should all buy local
- Page 18-21 Still lots to worry about – Local Plan Roundup
- Page 22-25 Around Kent's Districts
- Page 26 Britain is running out of land
- Page 28-29 A Windy Warning from the West
- Page 29 We are vulnerable – fears of a water crisis
- Page 30-31 News round-up



Tel: 01233 714540 info@cprekent.org.uk



www.cprekent.org.uk

CPRE Kent is grateful for support from Headley Brothers



Photo Credits: Thank you to our members who have given the photos used in this issue.

Cover picture - The Gleaning Network Photographs throughout the magazine unless otherwise stated: Vicky Ellis.

Chairman's Update

Christine Drury



It is said that nothing much happens in summer. But that's certainly not true of the busy world of planning and development, and the threats they could pose to Kent's countryside. CPRE Kent chairman **CHRISTINE DRURY** reflects on the latest news and projects that will affect us here in the Garden of England.

LET'S MAKE IT A REAL GARDEN

So we are to have an Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

That news, announced in August, follows Chancellor George Osborne's widely-publicised statement that the first garden city in generations is to be created in our county.

The EDC, to be chaired by Michael Cassidy, the former City of London Corporation planning chief, will help local authorities drive development of this new community of 15,000 homes.

Interestingly, the EDC's boundary encompasses the proposed Paramount Park film-themed project – or London Paramount as it is now called for international marketing reasons.

Rather than see both projects as a negative, we should regard them as potential exemplars of great design. We will challenge developers and planners to ensure the design is the best it can be.

Paramount Park will be the first development proposal to be handled by the Major Projects Planning Unit

set up for national infrastructure projects. It will be a good test of the Government's commitment to community engagement and our "Fair Say for Communities" campaign.

North Kent is going to be a hot area for development. We shall be looking for good practice. Is the new town going to look like a garden? Will it respect the countryside and Green Belt?

That's why we are seeking more volunteers in Gravesham and Dartford. We want to be able to say that CPRE Kent made a difference in making them better than they would have been without us.

PYLON PRESSURE

Other National Infrastructure projects are the Richborough National Grid Connection (intriguingly named Nemo, because the connection goes under the sea to Belgium) and Junction 10A of the M20.

The grid line goes through an iconic area of Kent landscape from the Lower Stour between Sandwich and Canterbury. The new connection will involve taller pylons. We want as much as possible to go underground, with pylon design as sympathetic to the landscape as it possibly can be.

As for J10A, when the Highways Agency publishes the plans, we will be watching out for potential impact on rural roads and footpaths to ensure they are not damaged, and non-motorised access is improved. This idea has been around for a long time and will enable existing housing permissions in Ashford including brownfield sites to be built upon.

SAVE THE DATE

We are delighted to welcome the new national chairman of CPRE, Su Sayer, to our AGM on November 21 (see enclosed papers). Su founded the disability charity United Response in 1973, and was its CEO for over 40 years. Awarded a CBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours for services to disabled people, she has also won several charity awards. She has a lifelong passion for the countryside having spent much of her life living at the foot of the South Downs.



ELECTION LOOMS

It's soon going to be Manifesto Time with the looming General Election in May. We will be campaigning for Brownfield First, working with national CPRE to persuade each party to make commitments to protecting the countryside. However, the new Lobbying Act imposes certain restrictions on what we are allowed to do.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank volunteer Cally Ware and media consultant Trevor Sturgess for helping to produce this edition of Kent Voice following the departure of Jamie Weir. We extend a warm welcome to his successor Susannah Richter (see page 26).

WHY WE DO IT

I was reminded of the beauty of the Kent countryside on a recent rail journey on the Marsh Line. Scudding clouds and expansive landscapes were truly awe-inspiring and so worthy of all our hard work to protect it. Thank you for your efforts to do just that.

LOCAL PLANS

Local plans continue to dominate our work. As we go to press, we face very challenging plans from Maidstone and Canterbury. Early in 2015 we may see the draft plan for Ashford which must include Strategic Housing Market Assessments as the evidence base for housing targets. And the duty to co-operate with other authorities is not a duty to agree.

Co-operation is ill-defined and difficult to operate. Instead of putting housing in the right place across Kent, we're getting large amounts of development proposed in almost every district with the result that in total we're probably getting a lot more development being proposed than is justified, needed or could possibly be built or actually sold. It is highly likely that many of these development plans will feed into developers' land banking assets, but not provide the homes that people need.



FAREWELL TO SIR DONALD

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our patron and superlative actor Sir Donald Sinden at the age of 90.

Distinguished by his resonant voice, he made two memorable appearances for us. There was his bravura after-dinner performance at CPRE Kent's 80th birthday celebration hosted by CPRE Kent's Vice President Amanda Cottrell.

And few will forget his stellar performances on film screened before the CPRE-sponsored open air cinema feature Life of Brian at Leeds Castle. Our thoughts are with his family. Thank you Sir Donald for all you did for CPRE Kent.



LOGO CHANGE

You may note a change in logo. We are using the national CPRE logo and Protect is now our strapline "Protecting Kent's Countryside." We remain CPRE Protect Kent, and there is no let-up in our determination to protect Kent from inappropriate development.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES

I would like to end with a tribute to one of our former chairmen Charles Oliver who did so much to build the Kent branch. His thanksgiving service at Hothfield in July was a fitting tribute to his many voluntary activities over a lifetime of service.



Chartered Accountants, Tax and Business Advisers

Our priority is to protect your interests, individually as well as in business.

We make sure you get the best out of the world you create. Our approach is always personal and in a changing world, our support is a constant – and enables our clients to achieve their goals.

For more information contact Michael Moore on 01227 464 991 or email michael.moore@mhlhp.co.uk

www.macintyreHUDSON.co.uk



MHA MacIntyre Hudson is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership, registered in England with registered number OC312313 and MHA MacIntyre Hudson (Kent) LLP, a limited liability partnership, registered in England with registered number OC385090. MHA MacIntyre Hudson (Kent) LLP is controlled by MacIntyre Hudson LLP. A list of partners' names for both LLPs are open for inspection at their respective registered offices, 201 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 1LZ and Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone ME14 1NH. MacIntyre Hudson LLP is an independent member of MHA, a national association of UK accountancy firms and UK member of Morison International with independent member firms worldwide. Please note that when we refer to "a partner" or "partners" of MHA MacIntyre Hudson or MHA MacIntyre Hudson (Kent) LLP the person (or persons) in question is (or are) a member(s) of MacIntyre Hudson LLP or MHA MacIntyre Hudson (Kent) LLP or an employee or consultant of MacIntyre Hudson LLP's affiliated businesses with equivalent standing and qualifications. The word "partner" should not be construed as indicating that the members of MacIntyre Hudson LLP or of MHA MacIntyre Hudson (Kent) LLP are carrying on a business in partnership for the purpose of the Partnership Act 1890. Partners and directors of MacIntyre Hudson LLP acting as administrators or administrative receivers or receivers contract as agents and without personal liability. Further information and links to the respective regulators and appointed individuals' qualifications can be found via our website www.macintyreHUDSON.co.uk/information.html. Both LLPs are registered to carry on audit work in the United Kingdom and Ireland and are regulated for a range of investment business activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.



by Pat Crawford

The word rural conjures up favourable images. But, as PAT CRAWFORD explains, it can sometimes give the wrong impression.

Words like idyllic, green, sylvan, picturesque, pastoral, peaceful, romantic spring to mind when you mention the R adjective.

But refer to “rural industries” and there tends to be a lack of understanding and appreciation, or an assumption that “industry” refers to dirty, grim occupations in unattractive surroundings.

Lack of awareness of the real value of “rural” and the associated industries doesn’t just apply to people living in urban areas – it is commonplace in the countryside.

A Hidden Treasure - The Rural Economy

Those living in rural areas may love the countryside – and be passionate about its preservation - but do they stop to consider what defines “rural”? Could they, for example, list more than a couple of rural industries?

Farming would feature on the list – although those in the industry would prefer it more correctly divided into agriculture and horticulture.

Farming - meaning food production in all its many forms - is increasingly important. Demand for local and regional produce is growing exponentially – and concerns for future food security are helping to put farming higher on the agenda. Forestry might get a look-in on the list; forests afford a multiplicity of benefits – but how many people recognise that they support important industries? Horse lovers will be keen to add the contributions made by the equestrian industry; certainly the popularity of equines in terms of competition and recreation is growing – but does Joe Public know how many people are employed within the wider equestrian business sector?

What about terms like “green business” - do we comprehend what that description embraces? Are we aware of the economic value of rural tourism and the way it overlaps and links into many other sectors? Is it generally recognised that our hotels, guest houses,

restaurants, pubs and tearooms are increasingly focusing their menus on Kent produce?

The numbers of celebrity and award-winning chefs in the county who promote “Kent-grown” and “Kent produced” are on the increase. And looking back 10 years or so, who would have thought Kent would be producing award-winning cheeses, ice cream and wines? And now olives, apricots and kiwis are in limited commercial production within the county.

Perhaps some industries would benefit from a re-name? A few years ago, a group at a National Youth Round Table suggested that the name agriculture should be changed to agribusiness. Despite not being adopted officially, use of the term has grown and it is one that is helpful when describing the many businesses that are associated or serving agriculture such as agronomy, processing and producing added value products, transport, marketing, press and PR, agri-tourism, production of animal feed, forage and bedding, veterinary services, energy production – and a great deal more.

Rural Plc (Kent) provides a focal point to promote and profile the rural economy – most specifically in relation to the sector’s investment potential.

The seven directors – Mike Bax (chair), Mark Lumsdon-Taylor (human capital), Charles Tassell

(farming and economics), Nick Holmes (finance), Judith Norris (resources and planning), Jon Regan (horticulture) and Professor Peter Gregory (research and development) – give their time on a voluntary basis. Rural Plc has produced two annual reports (2012 and 2013) that clearly identify the business and financial aspects of the rural sector.

They say it is vitally important to “rebrand how we present the food sector. For years it has been called the food chain or the supply chain. Yes, all the steps from farm to fork – and beyond – are connected but, without the farmer, the rest of the chain doesn’t exist.” A sobering thought.



The contribution of Kent’s rural industries to the county’s economy is substantial – but finance isn’t the only benefit.



The contribution of Kent’s rural industries to the county’s economy is substantial – but finance isn’t the only benefit.

Consider what many of the sector’s industries contribute in environmental terms and to recreation. We cannot dismiss the multiple benefits we derive in terms of health and wellbeing.



THINK ‘RURAL’ AND RECOGNISE THAT....

Kent is such a busy county that it is sometimes difficult to remember that 85% of it is designated rural. More than a third of Kent’s businesses are based in rural areas.

Self-employment, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship, diversification, value-added and innovation are increasingly represented. The productivity and success of the economy depend on the skills and flexibility of the workforce. Agriculture and horticulture are technologically driven and the skill sets employed demonstrate exemplar standards.

Focus on managing land more sustainably is increasing. Rural Plc (Kent) says that “land, like gold, is seen as a safe haven but, unlike gold, it sustains life, produces an income and is a trading asset.” It adds that “farmland in the UK is still one of the most sought after asset classes in the world.”

Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development at Kent County Council, estimates that Kent’s rural industries’ annual turnover is in the region of £6.5 billion. “This is significant and very impressive,” he says. “The rural industries deserve our respect for the excellent work undertaken within the sector.”

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, finance director at the Hadlow College Group, said: “Despite many uncertainties related to the Common Agricultural Policy, concerns about population growth and land shortages, we are very fortunate that our county’s rural industries are vibrant, focused and well-managed. Their contribution, in economic and social terms, is exemplary.”

It’s certainly a fact that if we removed “rural” from the equation, our lives would change for the worse.

Rural is a treasure – arguably one to which we should attach far greater value.

Wraith's

TREE SURGERY • HEDGE CUTTING
TREE STUMP REMOVAL

Tree Surgery

- felling & sectional dismantles
- crown reductions
- damaged and dangerous trees
- conifers reduced & removed

Hedge cutting services

- all to a very high standard
- waste can be removed from site

Tree stump removal (grinding)

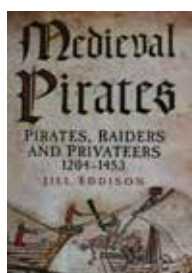
- tree stumps removed with minimal impact to the surrounding area



Call: 01303 840254 or 07814 379639
ben@wraiths.co.uk • www.wraiths.com



- Fully insured
- NPTC qualified
- Waste carriers licence



PERILS OFF THE KENT COAST - PIRACY IN MEDIEVAL TIMES

Christine Drury reviews a new book about 13th century intrigue

Jill Eddison, who lives on Romney Marsh, has brought the medieval world to life in this fascinating book.

She describes beautifully a time we know a little about from Shakespeare. She gives a marvellous account of Kent's medieval trade with France and how the Cinque Ports came into being. They were set up to prevent warring between the many privateers.

Jill brings the insights of an archaeologist to the landscape of Kent six or seven centuries ago. It's great to hear about the old trading routes and Kent's old shoreline.

I can highly recommend this book. It's a very good read.

Medieval Pirates: Pirates, Raiders and Privateers 1204 – 1453, by Jill Eddison. The History Press, £14.99.
(ISBN978-0-7524-8103-6)

FASCINATING KENT LIEUTENANCY STORY

The first in-depth history of a County and its Lieutenancy traces the dramatic 500-year story of the office from Tudor times to the present day.

Unconquered tells how the Lieutenancy ran our Frontline County's defence from pre-Armada days and kept alive the indomitable Spirit of Kent that has carried its people through good times and bad.

David McDine, a retired Deputy Lieutenant (DL), has produced a lively read linking the reigns of Queens Elizabeth I and II. A fascinating cast of characters including soldiers, statesmen, rakes and celebrities like Jools Holland, a DL, enliven this fully illustrated book.

It is published by the Allan Willett Foundation, set up by the former Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, and printed and bound by 133-year old Ashford firm Headley Brothers, the printer of Kent Voice. Unconquered gives a valuable insight into an office – held today by Viscount De L'Isle of Penshurst Place – that deserves to be better known for its inspiring work down the ages and continues to this day.

*Unconquered: The story of Kent and its Lieutenancy, by David McDine, 276pp £35. Orders to Jan Powell, The Allan Willett Foundation, Cumberland Cottage, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 8BX (jan@allanwillett.org - 01227 738800).





Brownfield Land in Kent - Just a Waste of Space?

Cally Ware, Trustee

In June, Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government commented: "There is enough previously-developed, brownfield land to deliver up to 200,000 planning permissions for new homes across the country... We're determined to work in partnership with local planning authorities and private sector development partners to seize the opportunity this provides to create much needed housing while protecting England's valued countryside... We therefore expect to see permissions for homes in place on more than 90% of this land by 2020."

In response to this, CPRE has launched a national campaign: **'Waste of Space.'** This initiative aims to identify local brownfield sites and disused buildings throughout England which can be used by CPRE branches such as Kent to put pressure on developers and local councils to 'put brownfield first' when considering housing needs. It will compile a national database of sites which will better estimate just how much brownfield land is being wasted while developers continue to rip up our countryside instead.

In Kent, we are raising awareness about the potential of these disused brownfield sites and we need you

to help us identify and nominate sites that could be used for housing.

Examples include the old gasometer site in Elwick Road in the centre of Ashford, opposite the new Debenhams. It needs to be developed to complete the new 'Shared Space'. It has been in the core strategy since 2008 and, despite many attempts to persuade developers to use it, no one has come forward with a sustainable plan.

*There is enough
previously-developed,
brownfield land to deliver
up to 200,000 planning
permissions for new
homes across the country*

Near Sittingbourne town centre, north of the railway, there is a large plot of disused land that was cleared about three years ago. Originally intended for a grocery superstore, the site, close to the town centre and railway station, still lies unused.

Wincheap Industrial Estate in Canterbury is owned by the Council which published a regeneration scheme which included provision for a good number of houses. However, this site does not now appear in the latest draft of the Local Plan.

Across the whole of Kent we are seeing more and more examples of housing and other development being permitted on greenfield sites while previously-developed land, often in or near town centres which are desperately in need of regeneration, lies unused. Please help us to identify those sites that could, and should, be brought back to constructive use by:

- sending a picture of the site in an email to wasteofspace@cpre.org.uk
- tweeting @CPRE with the hashtag #WasteOfSpace
- ...or by getting in touch with us at the Kent Branch, so we can make sure your suggestions are passed on to the national database of brownfield opportunities.

This is a unique opportunity to help create an important national database of brownfield sites that could be used for development of all sorts instead of concreting over another piece of our precious countryside. Please help if you can.

headlines

from the campaigns frontline

This summer has been dominated by intensive work on local plans (thank you to Brian - see his update on pages 18-21) with both Maidstone and Canterbury districts putting their draft plans out to consultation. Both districts have put forward targets significantly higher than the numbers that were contained in the original South East Plan.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the planning reforms, which promised housing delivery and the protection of green spaces, are delivering neither. Brownfield sites are lying unused while more and more greenfield land is being allocated and not enough affordable homes are being built.

Lower Thames Crossing

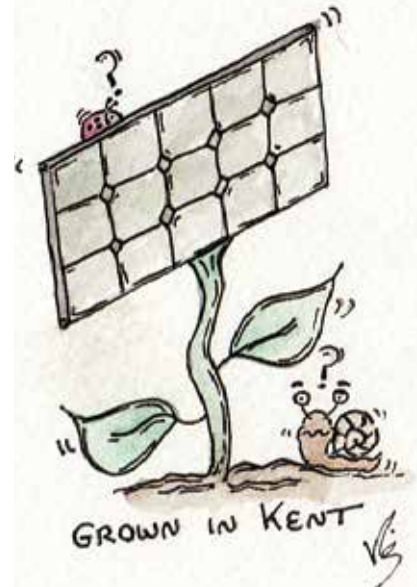
The Transport Secretary announced that further work would be undertaken on the two options which remain on the table (Dartford or east of Gravesham). We are pleased at the deferral of the announcement of the preferred route: this means that any decision will be deferred until after the effects of free-flow-tolling can be assessed. With sustainable transport planning, there may not be a need for additional, damaging road capacity to cross the Thames.

Fracking

The British Geological Survey has reported that oil, rather than gas, is present in significant quantities within the shale deposits underlying the Wealden basin (stretching from Ashford to West Sussex). Its exploitation would still require the shale to be fractured, and we remain to be convinced that this could be done safely in an area so heavily dispersed with underground faults: the risk of re-activating a dormant fault line, and potential contamination of water deposits, is too great.



Solar farms



The Department of Energy and Climate Change recently consulted on proposals to direct preferential feed-in tariffs to smaller solar panel arrays with effect from next April. This means that we should see an end to applications for large-scale ground-mounted solar generation on good quality agricultural land and, hopefully, should spearhead the development of solar technologies that can be built easily and cost-effectively into the urban environment.

Garden Cities

Ebbsfleet has been revealed as the site for a Garden City of 15,000 homes. The Government has just opened a consultation into how the Urban Development Corporation, which will undertake delivery of these homes, should be constituted. We hope that this will be an opportunity to embed some really high quality design standards with sustainable water and energy efficient housing.

Flooding

We need to learn the harsh lessons of last winter's extreme weather and promote a planning system that recognises the importance of resilience in design and effective management of land to limit the impacts of too much (or too little) water. We hope to be organising a conference early next year – look out for details on www.cprekent.org.uk.



Pylons

National Grid has announced its preferred option for the Richborough Line, which will connect the Nemo undersea power link with Belgium to the grid in Canterbury, and has been consulting on the detailed route. The line will travel from Richborough towards Sarre, then north of Broadoak to join the existing substation in Canterbury North. We want to see the landscape impacts of this kept to an absolute minimum, and the settings of the world heritage sites in Canterbury respected.

Aviation

Four reports released by the Airports Commission in July have identified the huge environmental and economic costs of an Estuary Airport, and it seems likely that this option has now finally been recognised as a non-starter. Meanwhile, debate rages over where additional runway capacity in the south east should be located. While Manston Airport is now officially closed, we would be happy to see the facilities take on a role as part of the south east's runway capacity, provided it was done within a properly managed planning regime.

Housing Numbers

More and more local planning authorities are setting highly elevated targets for delivery of new homes, in the fear that any local plan with too few homes will be deemed non-compliant with the NPPF and found 'unsound'. This could lead to unconstrained growth as major speculative developments in inappropriate places come forward. We want local authorities to be able to identify limits such as water scarcity to temper the projections for unconstrained household growth.

Brownfield First

Pressure to identify a deliverable five-year supply of land for house building, as required by the NPPF, means that planning authorities are becoming obliged to allocate more and more greenfield land. Join the #wasteofspace movement (see page 9) to help CPRE document brownfield sites in need of regeneration and help save greenfield sites. Please keep on taking those pictures!

CPRE charter :

CPRE is asking for 3 simple things:

- 1** don't sacrifice our countryside
- 2** a fair say for communities
- 3** more housing – in the right places.

Please help us by encouraging everyone you know who cares for their countryside to sign the charter at www.cprekent.org.uk/chartercard.



Helping country people through the worst of Britain's weather

The winter storms left farms and rural properties across Kent battered and flooded. TIM PRICE reports on how NFU Mutual helped farmers and country people through Britain's wettest winter

By the end of July, NFU Mutual was dealing with 15,000 claims from the storms and floods that battered Britain from early December, over Christmas and on into February.

The first storms had brought ferocious winds to the north. Then a tidal surge flooded properties along the East coast of England. After Christmas the focus of the storms switched to the south, causing devastating damage to coastal areas, severe flooding across the country and leaving thousands of acres of farmland on the Somerset Levels under water up to 10 feet deep.

Then the huge accumulation of water that had saturated farmland burst river banks through central and South Eastern England leaving thousands of properties under water.

At NFU Mutual, which insures more than 70% of the UK's farmers, together with thousands of rural homes and businesses, the claims bill for the winter storms is expected to top £70m.

When Britain's unpredictable weather is forecast to threaten damage to property, NFU Mutual's Emergency Claims Plan swings into action. This brings a team of experts together to assess the likely impact of the event, be it gales, floods or heavy snow, identify the areas which will be worst affected and makes extra staff available to help people whose homes, farms and businesses have been damaged.

The emergency claim team's priority is to get help very quickly to people whose farms, homes and businesses have been so severely damaged that they are uninhabitable. They offer emergency payments of £500 - or more if necessary - to weather victims and where homes are uninhabitable, arrange emergency

accommodation for families, and help farmers make arrangements for livestock to be moved and looked after elsewhere.

NFU Mutual's network of more than 300 local branch offices - including six in Kent - comes into its own when severe weather strikes. Their staff's local knowledge means they can immediately get help to the worst-affected policyholders and get to the scene to offer help when power cuts and downed phone lines cut communities off from the outside world.

The scale of damage from last winter's storms and floods can be gauged by the fact that NFU Mutual paid out more than £500,000 to help customers in the immediate aftermath of the incidents. For some people, local hotels and rented accommodation worked well, but for farmers and other homeowners who needed to keep a close eye on their property, mobile homes were brought on site once flood waters receded.

After the longest series of severe weather events NFU Mutual has experienced in over 100 years providing insurance to farmers and the rural community, restoration companies and builders have been hard at work drying our homes, farm buildings and commercial properties and replacing ruined floors, plaster, skirting boards, electrics and fittings.

When properties have suffered deep flooding, drying out is unfortunately a long process even with the best will in the world and the aid of the latest drying equipment. To help families and owners get their lives back on track, claims handlers have kept in close touch with policyholders to make sure their homes and businesses repairs are being carried out correctly - and as fast as possible.

The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited
nfumutual.co.uk



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS



Photo: Graham Horner

5,000 KENT BUILDINGS NEED PROTECTION

Report from the Historic Buildings Committee

We continue to pursue the idea of identifying and recording historic buildings that do not currently benefit from statutory protection.

While important locally or regionally, they are not deemed significant enough for the national list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Many, however, once featured as Grade III and other lesser designations that have since been excluded from national Listing.

We estimate that about 5,000 such buildings exist in Kent. As matters stand they are at great risk of demolition or mutilation. Government policy supports protection of the built heritage, and it encourages district authorities to produce or re-activate a local list of such buildings.

Few authorities, however, possess a local list. We feel that the volunteers who constitute amenity societies, parish councils and other groups could well be interested in helping to find and describe such buildings in their area.

Many candidate buildings are briefly described in the Kent Historic Buildings Index compiled by our eminent ex-chairman, the late Kenneth Gravett.

Committee secretary Graham Horner has transferred the relevant information, by district, to computer disk. We plan a seminar/workshop on how volunteers can help to draw up a list of heritage buildings in their area. Please email khbc@cprekent.org.uk for further information.

Sadly we have to report the deaths of Lady Anne Warren and Peter Marsh, both active district representatives, and ex-member Jean Christopherson.

Despite our depleted ranks, we continue to monitor at least the more important development cases that affect historic buildings. But, with a lack of planning list scrutineers, we are increasingly helping with cases identified by district committees or CPRE members.

Recent examples are Blue Boys and Mascall's Manor in Tunbridge Wells, and developments in Lenham, Maidstone. The ex-magistrates' court/police station/fire station in Sittingbourne, which we attempted, but failed, to get listed, has been sold for re-use. Thus an imposing mid-19th century building has been saved from demolition, and hopefully will remain a landmark in the town, a prime candidate for local listing.

On May 30, I presented the annual Gravett Prize for excellence in graphic work on historic buildings at the School of Architecture, University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury.

Competition was intense, and our judges split the £300 prize equally between Allison Franks for her fine work on the 19th century Boat Store at Sheerness Dockyard, and Robin Spencer for his interpretation of the Corona at Canterbury Cathedral.

Our visits to historic buildings not normally open to the public continued at Radfield House, Tonge, a timber-framed hall-house on a grand scale, with Georgian extensions, and Ludgate, Lynsted, another fine timber-framed structure, with evidence of an earlier building attached to the rear of the 17th century house.

Grateful thanks are due to owners Oliver Doubleday, Ed Duncombe and Dylan Winder for access to their properties, and to Michael Peters for arranging the visits.

Bob Baxter



Gleaning Up on waste food

Food waste is often in the headlines, with consumers and supermarkets getting the blame. But, as GAVIN MCGREGOR, Kent Co-ordinator for the Gleaning Network UK explains, a lot of good fruit and veg is lost on the farm.

When food waste is in the news, it's often about the amount of food wasted in supermarkets or by people at home, with government ministers or campaigners urging less wasteful habits and policies.

Much less talked about is a problem very well known to farmers but rarely talked about by government or the general public: the amount of edible, fresh fruit and veg that is wasted at the field and farm level.

Rarely is this something within farmers' control. The reasons can include strict supermarket cosmetic standards, the weather, difficulty finding a buyer and the price of a particular product plummeting, making it more economical to plough it back in than to harvest and attempt to sell it.

The amounts going to waste are vast: an estimated 20-40% of UK fruit and veg doesn't reach the shops at all.

The amounts going to waste are vast: an estimated 20-40% of UK fruit and veg doesn't reach the shops at all. With the food system's big impact on climate change, that's a large and unnecessary contribution to global warming. It means much land under cultivation

is wasted. And at a time when food banks are feeding people in crisis in record numbers, it feels perverse.

This is where the Gleaning Network comes in. As part of "Feeding the 5000", we recently won the BBC's Food Initiative of the Year, and our commonsense idea has caught the imagination of Farming Today, the Food Programme, The Guardian, ITV News and other media in recent months.

With hubs across England, including our longest-standing hub in Kent, we form partnerships with farmers who alert us when they have significant amounts of edible but un-harvestable produce. We can make use of between one and two tonnes - or less for soft fruit.



We form partnerships with farmers who alert us when they have significant amounts of edible but un-harvestable produce.

We then organise a 'gleaning day', bringing volunteer harvesters in to do the labour, and we organise the redistribution of the food to good causes such as food poverty charities and homeless shelters.

The farmers we've worked with – ranging from brassica specialists to fruit growers – have been delighted to see the crop they've tended all season reach people's bellies.

Many relish the experience of talking to the diverse team of volunteers about the realities and challenges of farming.

We are always looking for more farmers to work with, and I'm happy to answer questions about how it works.



Contact Gavin at gavin@feeding5k.org.uk, or visit www.feeding5k.org/gleaning.php.



Photos: The Gleaning Network

The Importance of us



From our Farm to your Home
A Selection of Throws, Cushions & Gifts

01233 721800
www.romneymarshwools.co.uk

KENT “The Garden of England” as it is widely known, has the most amazing array of fresh produce and in particular top fruit and soft fruit which is in abundance between April and October. However I’m sure those of us who are fortunate enough to live in this beautiful county, have a tendency to take it for granted as well as the countryside in which it sits. Like lots of things, we often do not notice what is on our own doorstep.

**the
norse
baker**

...find me at
Faversham Market

traditional baking with a modern flavour

email: rune@thenorsebaker.com
www.thenorsebaker.com

Have you tried my Macarunes™ yet?

Buying local produce has a different meaning depending to whom you speak; to some it means within 10 miles and yet to others it may mean produce from England or the UK. Whatever your own interpretation, buying local is immensely important as it supports independent businesses, sometimes small ones, who rely on our custom and support. This ensures employment, often in rural areas as well as urban, but it also ensures the links back to the farmers and also by its very nature, to our countryside.

If we don't buy local as much as we can then the worst case scenario will be that the vistas we all enjoy will change or in some cases, over time, disappear altogether.

- Vintage Tea Rooms -

• Rosebud •

42 The High Street, Charing TN27 0HX
01233 714171
ROSEBUDVINTAGE.CO.UK

How can you do this ?

All you need to do as an individual or as a business, is spend 10% of your regular food shop on something from the local area.

- Look for the Produced in Kent logo
- Use the Produced in Kent online directory www.producedinkent.co.uk
- Ask for a copy of Kent's Finest, a publication listing lots of Kent's best food and drink
- Check out your local farmers' market or visit www.kfma.org.uk
- Use a local veg box delivery
- Use your local butcher / green grocer or bakery
- Check the menus when you are eating out and ask for local

ing Local Produce



IT'S A QUESTION OF USE IT OR LOSE IT!

To do your bit for locally produced food and drink businesses, why not support the 10% Kent Campaign promoted by Produced in Kent.

How the statistics stack up:

Every £1 spent locally generates £1.76 for the local economy compared to just 36p when spent in a major retailer*.

The average family spends £54.80 on food and non-alcoholic drinks **.

If an average family spent £55 a week on food & drink and they switched just 10% of this to local suppliers, that would lead to an estimated extra £175M a year being spent in Kent ***.

* New Economics Foundation

** Office for National Statistics 2012 Household Expenditure

*** based on Kent's 2011 census figures 1,466,500 population, average household of 2.37 persons equates to 618,776 households.



In 2012, CPRE published a ground-breaking report entitled 'From Field to Fork', funded by the Big Lottery, mapping the importance of local food webs in Faversham. Limited numbers are still available – please contact the office if you would like a copy.

www.producedinkent.co.uk

WILD BREAD

Real • Artisan • Sourdough

Handmade in Faversham

Email: james@wildbread.org

Tel: 07738 161565

[facebook.com/wildbread](https://www.facebook.com/wildbread)

[@wildbreadhead](https://www.instagram.com/wildbreadhead)

Web: www.wildbread.org



Open 8:30 to 6
Monday to Friday
9 to 5 Sundays

CHILHAM SHOP
FARM SHOP & PLANT CENTRE
CANTERBURY ROAD CHILHAM
&
CHILHAM POST OFFICE
Tel: 01227 730348
www.chilhamshop.com.uk

Blue Bell Hill Apiaries



Wide range of beekeeping equipment in stock. Help always available.

Kent honey required - top prices paid - buckets exchanged.

Ambrosia Bee Food for a quality winter feed always in stock.

Contact us
for opening
hours

07979 528898/01634 200388
Ivy Farm, Lidsing Road, Lidsing
nr Gillingham, Kent ME7 3NL
bbha@supanet.com

www.bbha.biz



The
FOUNDRY
Brew Pub

*A Unique Craft Brewery,
Restaurant & bar located in the
heart of Canterbury City Centre.*

[@FOUNDRYBREW PUB](https://www.instagram.com/FOUNDRYBREW PUB)

CANTERBURY
BREWERS

THE
CITY ARMS
INN

*The City Arms traditional 15th
Century Pub situated in the
heart of Canterbury. Real Ale,
Real food, Real Pub.*

[@CITYARMS CANTERBURY](https://www.instagram.com/CITYARMS CANTERBURY)

Local Plan

round-up



Protect Kent's senior planner, Brian Lloyd, reviews the latest local plans in Kent and identifies some contentious issues.

STILL A LOT TO WORRY US

Maidstone “excessive” housing proposals on hold

In March, the draft Maidstone Local Plan was published for consultation. The Plan, covering the period to 2031, promotes an increased housing target of 19,600 dwellings, up from 10,080 in previous consultations. However, it only identifies sites for 17,100 dwellings, although this comprises significant scales of greenfield development.

The plan was accompanied by a “call for sites” inviting landowners to put forward additional land to make up the shortfall. Previous major employment proposals around Junction 8 of the M20 are no longer included in the Plan, although major commercial and retail development continues to be proposed at Junction 7.

With our Maidstone District Committee, we submitted a detailed response to the draft Plan, in particular specifying our concerns with the high housing target and many of the greenfield sites identified for development.

We advocated a lower target of circa 14,000 dwellings, a windfall allowance to help meet the target, and an increase in the use of brownfield land. Others have challenged the high growth target. Kent County Council agreed with us by suggesting a revised target of around 14,000 dwellings. Following the Maidstone Borough Council elections in May, the Conservative Group lost overall control and Chris Garland, the leader who had overseen the preparation of the Plan, stood down.

We understand that the Plan will now be fundamentally reviewed by the new administration before further consultation is undertaken, which is likely to be next year.

Undeliverable – our verdict on Canterbury Plan

In June, Canterbury City Council published the pre-submission draft of the Canterbury District Local Plan covering the period to 2031. Alongside the Plan the Council also consulted on a draft Transport Strategy. Despite significant objections made during the previous consultation last year, the Local Plan continues to promote a strategy based on the delivery of 15,600 new dwellings focused on a handful of large, almost entirely greenfield, strategic sites.

The Plan also promotes significant new road infrastructure that will be necessary to enable the sites to be developed. In fact, few substantial changes have been made, leading many to question the point of the earlier consultation.

The proposals continue to include 4,000 dwellings at south Canterbury where it is intended to relocate Kent and Canterbury Hospital. The existing hospital site and land to the south at Ridlands Farm would be redeveloped for 810 dwellings.

Dogged rejection of brownfield land

At Herne Bay (including the village of Herne) 3,000 dwellings are proposed on four large sites, whilst at Sturry, 1,000 are proposed. Five hundred are slated for greenfield land on the northern side of Hersden, scaled back from the 800 previously proposed. The council continues to doggedly reject brownfield land on the southern side of the village that could accommodate around 400 dwellings.



New road proposals include an interchange on the A2 at Bridge, a Sturry Relief Road, a Herne Relief Road and an A28/A257 Barracks Link Road. All these major road schemes are to be primarily funded by the proposed developments. Working with our Canterbury District Committee, we have made a series of detailed representations on the Plan that we will pursue at the Examination in Public, expected in the early part of next year.

Too much housing

We have challenged the housing target of 15,600 dwellings and argued that a target nearer to 12,000 dwellings will meet identified needs yet still deliver the Council's economic objectives. We have challenged many of the large greenfield sites proposed for development, especially those at south Canterbury, Sturry, Hillborough, Strode Farm and north of Hersden. We have also challenged the general distribution of the proposed new housing, which we do not consider is sustainable or properly reflects the settlement hierarchy defined in the Plan. It also fails to acknowledge the need to address the housing needs of the rural areas.

Above all, though, we consider that the Plan is undeliverable because of the reliance it places on the development sites to fund the extensive and costly new road building proposed.

Unhelpful

Unhelpfully, the Plan does not include an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to demonstrate how funding would be achieved and how the infrastructure would be provided. Advice we have received from an independent transport consultant suggests the bill for the proposed new infrastructure would be more than £100 million. We are concerned that even if the proposed developments could meet such an eye-watering price tag that would amount to at least £10,000 per dwelling - it would be at the cost of providing other essential community infrastructure such as affordable housing, open space, social and community facilities, not to mention good quality design and landscaping. It is also likely to further increase the price of new houses in the district. We continue to work with other local groups to persuade the Council to change the Plan.

Cautious backing for revised Minerals and Waste Plan

In July, Kent County Council published the pre-submission draft of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP). This sets out the overall strategy in Kent (excluding Medway) for dealing with mineral and waste developments over the period to 2030, including targets for new provisions. It also includes detailed development management policies for relevant planning applications. Consultation ended in September and the Council will now submit the Plan for examination, probably early next year. We are generally content with the proposed strategy, but have made a number of detailed representations on the Plan. Further plans dealing with proposed sites for mineral and waste developments will be progressed after the MWLP has been adopted.

Gravesham Plan “sound” - but concerns remain

Following consideration of Plan modifications at reconvened hearings of the examination in April, the Inspector notified Gravesham Borough Council in July that the Gravesham Core Strategy was sound. It was formally adopted on 30

September meaning that the Council now has an up-to-date Plan for future development that is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Gravesham is only the second local authority in Kent – after Shepway - to have an up-to-date Plan. However, the Inspector continued to have concerns about the Gravesham Plan and only accepted it as sound “on an interim basis pending an early review of new housing needs (or a new Plan).”

Dover and Sevenoaks told to think again

For both the Dover Land Allocations Plan and the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan, the respective Examination Inspectors have advised both Councils that modifications need to be made to the plans to make them sound and legally compliant.

Both local authorities published proposed modifications in August. A schedule of 64 modifications has been published for Dover, and 13 for Sevenoaks.

We have not identified any serious issues with the proposed Dover modifications. But for Sevenoaks, we are particularly concerned that the District Council is proposing to allow 450 dwellings at the Fort Halstead employment site, which is located in the Green Belt and the Kent Downs AONB.

Whilst the Inspector concluded that some housing would be acceptable, he did not offer guidance on numbers and the District Council has simply accepted the quantity of development sought by the landowner. We have strongly challenged this proposal in our representation.

Where the plans are

Our list gives the latest situation at the time of going to press.

In addition to the plans listed, each local authority has an old-style Local Plan that, to varying degrees, has “saved” policies still relevant when considering planning applications. These policies will gradually be replaced as new plans are adopted. Details of currently “saved” policies are on local authority websites.



Charing, Ashford

Ashford

- Core Strategy adopted July 2008
- Town Centre Plan adopted February 2010
- Tenterden and Rural Sites Plan adopted October 2010
- Urban Sites and Infrastructure Plan adopted October 2012
- Chilmington Green Area Action Plan adopted July 2013
- The Council is at an early stage of reviewing the Core Strategy which will be presented as a Local Plan covering the period to 2030. No details are currently available on the timing of any proposed consultations.

Canterbury

- Herne Bay Area Action Plan adopted April 2010
- Consultation on the pre-submission Canterbury Local Plan was undertaken in June/July 2014 and we are advised that it will be submitted for Examination in November. The Examination is likely to take place in the early part of next year.

Dartford

- Core Strategy adopted September 2011
- Consultation on the scope of the Site Allocations and Development Management Plan was undertaken in May 2013 and consultation on a draft Plan is expected in the autumn of 2014.

Dover

- Core Strategy adopted February 2010
- The Land Allocations Plan was submitted for examination in August 2013 and the Examination was held in January 2014. In his preliminary findings, the Inspector indicated to the Council that a number of Modifications to the plan will be required and these were published for consultation by the Council in August. Subject to the comments submitted on the Modifications, the Examination hearings may be reconvened before the Inspector submits his formal report to the Council.

Gravesham

- The Core Strategy was formally submitted for examination in May 2013 and the Examination opened in September. In response to the Inspector's preliminary report, the Council published for consultation a series of Modifications to the Core Strategy in December 2013. Reconvened Examination hearings were held on 8 and 9 April to consider the Modifications. The Inspector's report was submitted to the Council in July, endorsing the Modifications and finding the Plan sound. The Core Strategy will be formally adopted by the Council in the autumn.



The Creek, Graveney

Maidstone

- Affordable Housing Plan adopted December 2006
- Open Space Plan adopted December 2006
- A draft new Local Plan was published for consultation in March 2014. It is unclear when the pre-submission Plan will be published for formal consultation, but we do not expect this to be until next year.

Sevenoaks

- Core Strategy adopted February 2011
- The Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan was submitted for Examination in November 2013 and the Examination was held in March. In his preliminary findings, the Inspector indicated to the Council that a number of Modifications to the plan will be required and these were published for consultation by the Council in August. Subject to the comments submitted on the Modifications, the Examination hearings may be reconvened before the Inspector submits his formal report to the Council.
- Initial consultation on a Gypsy and Traveller Plan was undertaken over the summer 2014, and further consultation is expected before the end of the year.

Shepway

- Core Strategy adopted September 2013
- Initial consultation on an Allocations and Development Management Plan is expected in the autumn 2014.

Swale

- Consultation on a draft Local Plan was undertaken in September 2013 and formal consultation on the pre-submission Plan is expected in the autumn 2014.
- Consultation on issues and options for a Gypsy and Traveller Site Plan commenced in February 2014 and further consultation on preferred site options is expected in the autumn.

Thanet

- Cliftonville Plan adopted February 2010
- Consultation on strategy options for the Thanet Local Plan was undertaken in the summer of 2013, and consultation on a draft Local Plan is expected during the summer of 2014.

Tonbridge and Malling

- Core Strategy adopted September 2007
- Development Land Allocations Plan adopted April 2008
- Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan adopted April 2008
- Managing Development and the Environment Plan adopted April 2010
- The Borough Council has decided to start a review of the adopted plans, and initial consultation on issues and options is expected in the autumn of 2014.

Tunbridge Wells

- Core Strategy adopted June 2010
- Consultation on the pre-submission draft of the Site Allocations Plan, which will also include town centre proposals, is expected in the autumn of 2014.
- Initial consultation on a Travellers Plan is expected at the end of 2014.
- The Council also propose to prepare a Development Management Policies Plan, but no timing details for this are currently available.

Medway

- The proposed Medway Core Strategy was formally withdrawn by the Council in November 2013. In June 2014 the Council agreed a timetable for preparing a new whole Local Plan, which would see a first stage consultation during the summer of 2015. The Council has also agreed an updated an interim housing needs target of 1,000 dwellings per year as a basis for planning in Medway, pending the completion of a comprehensive assessment of housing and economic needs in 2015. This is an increase from 815 dwellings per year as included in the abandoned Core Strategy.

KCC

- Consultation on a draft Waste and Minerals Core Strategy was undertaken between January and March 2014 and the proposed submission Plan was published for formal consultation in July. It is likely that the Plan will be submitted for examination before the end of the year with the examination following early next year.
- There will be no further consultation on the Mineral and Waste Sites Plans until after the Core Strategy is adopted.



Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks



Around *the districts*

Ashford

- **Chilmington Green** application has been approved.
- **Cheeseman’s Green** site is well underway, and many houses built.
- **M20 J10a:** Government funding means much of the eastern side of Ashford will be released for development including site U19 at Sevington. This includes a large area of farmland that will be almost entirely covered by a huge distribution centre. We will be carefully scrutinising the proposals.
- Mersham is fighting a proposed site nearer the village from being designated in the next review of the Local Plan.
- **Local Plan Review.** At the core strategy examination in 2008 the Inspector decreed that a review must be held in 2014. This is now underway. Landowners were asked for sites, each of which must be assessed for suitability for development up to 2031. We will fight to get as much as possible on brownfield land and reduce housing numbers from 31,000 currently planned.
- **Tenterden:** The first application for 100 houses has been submitted for the TENT 1 site behind the recreation centre, designated ultimately for 400 homes.
- **Solar farms.** There are a large number of applications, although some have been refused and one has gone to appeal. CPRE supports renewable energy but is concerned that valuable food- producing land will be rendered sterile.
- **Permitted Development.** For the next three years, this allows anyone to build an extension to the back of their house up to eight metres deep - or six metres if semi-detached. Only immediate neighbours - not parish councils - can object. If no neighbour objects, the extension can go ahead. Hilary Moorby

Canterbury

- **Draft Local Plan.** There is much concern about the evidential base for housing provision and lack of genuine local consultation.
- **Draft Transport Strategy.** We are concerned about the decision to include this within the same consultation period prescribed for the Local Plan, possibly linked to the application for infrastructure money via the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to support proposals for a large housing site at Sturry. SELEP is an unelected body and has no public representation. The public has no means by which to consult with Government over such matters. We asked the council to allow more than the six weeks allowed for consultation on the draft Local Plan and transport strategy but our request was ignored.
- **Solar Arrays.** The council has granted consent for a large site near Littlebourne, and another is threatened at Nackington, Lower Hardres. We will draw the council’s attention to two appeal decisions on sites near Sandwich and Faversham relevant to all such applications on agricultural land. We are campaigning for sites on roofs of commercial buildings, other brownfield sites and alongside motorways to be used before productive farmland is even considered. Barrie Gore



Dartford

- **Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.** Dartford and Gravesham share the EDC boundaries that include Eastern Quarry – with planning permission for up to 6,250 homes - the extended site that surrounds the railway and will accommodate the rest of the homes designated for Ebbsfleet Garden City of up to 15,000 homes; and Swanscombe Peninsula, site of Paramount Park, designated a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project to be determined by the Secretary of State rather than local authorities. Hilary Newport

Dover

- **Dover Land Document.** Being processed by the Inspector with several large sites approved and started. Problems highlighted by residents during consultation are down to the mix of housing types, school places, healthcare and transport issues.
- **Wind turbines.** Two applications have been refused, one of them 100 metres high and visible from large swathes of the countryside.
- **Solar Farms.** Applications being considered. We hope those on high grade agricultural land will be turned down.
- **St James Development.** Slowly progressing
- **Western Heights and Farthingloe (AONB).** No further news
- **Walmer.** Consultation on a further 220-house development that concerns both nearby and outer community residents. We foresee similar infrastructure problems to those of other large developments already approved. Derek Wanstall



Gravesham

- **Housing targets.** Evidence from Gravesham shows the Government is imposing targets on local authorities. More houses are going to be built than are needed for local demand to accommodate people from London and elsewhere. The council is using this as an excuse to trigger a Green Belt boundary review that is now our main focus. Our position is clear: HANDS OFF OUR GREEN BELT!
- **Ebbsfleet Garden City and Paramount Park.** Our approach is one of positive dialogue to ensure they go ahead with minimum impact on local residents and the environment. There are a lot of potential positives for the area providing the transport infrastructure is well planned.
- **Crossrail extension to Gravesend.** This is key to making it possible as HSI goes to the “wrong” part of London.
- **Volunteers needed.** If you can spare a few hours to help protect the community where you live, please contact us. We have achieved much but with your help we could do so much more. Alex Hills

Maidstone

- **Draft Local Plan.** Now issued for consultation, it includes a housing target of 17,100 by 2031, a number resulting from a Strategic Housing Market Assessment that is almost meaningless. It represents a large increase in the current number of dwellings in the whole of the borough – a ridiculous number. There is no explanation as to why Maidstone should require 60% more than the current build rate. We have proposed alternatives. The council has come under ferocious attack from developers. Applications for at least 2,000 dwellings have been put forward in the last few months.
- **Marden.** 270 houses already approved, with several hundred more in the pipeline, effectively destroying a long-settled community. Gary Thomas

Medway

- **Lodge Hill.** Medway Council voted to approve the outline planning application for 5,000 homes at a nationally important wildlife site, home to the largest breeding population of nightingales in Britain. We believe this decision is entirely at odds with the National Planning Policy Framework which states that protected



River Stour, Canterbury. Photo: Caroline Butterfield

sites such as this can only be developed in exceptional circumstances. The independent inspector said "... I am not convinced that the social and economic benefits ... would outweigh the harm to a site of national importance." Modifications needed to prevent damage to the SSSI were "...so significant as to amount to the Plan being re-written." The decision will have to be referred to the Secretary of State who we hope will give it the scrutiny it deserves.



- **Airports Commission.** Good news as it dismisses the option of a huge hub airport in the Thames Estuary, citing enormously negative environmental, ecological, social and financial harm. Hilary Newport

Sevenoaks

- **Gypsy and Traveller Plan.** The District Council put out a consultation on the site options following a consultants' assessment showing a need for 72 pitches. The sites that the council regarded as suitable to accommodate up to 15 pitches drew considerable press and public comment. All are in the Green Belt, two in the Kent Downs AONB - Fort Halstead and Shoreham (both council-owned). These are our red line. We argued that the Council should not have included them. We criticised the Council's failure to do anything more than invite offers of sites that could be used instead of proactively approaching landowners of less sensitive locations, thereby putting our best landscapes at risk unnecessarily. Officers have now recommended the withdrawal of the AONB sites but nothing can save further loss of Green Belt to approved sites.
- **Landscape policy.** We have succeeded in getting this added to an important part of the Local Plan to give our countryside greater protection. Nigel Britten

Shepway

- **Postling.** An application for sand extraction has been received. Sand is split into two types; sharp and soft. Sharp is in short supply whilst soft is plentiful. Postling contains soft and the application will be contested on the premise that there are more suitable sites than a rural community adjacent to AONB.
- **Lympne.** Shepway Council turned down a proposed 250-house development not in the core strategy. The developer appealed and a subsequent enquiry took place; various complaints were made that the hearing was truncated. A decision is awaited.
- **Snave and Lower Agney.** Wind turbine applications are awaited
- **Shorncliffe Barracks.** A major development of 920 houses and primary school will not be opposed. Paul Smallwood

Swale

- **Merger of Swale, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells planning departments.** Mid Kent Planning Service created. Officers and committees remain in Swale. Savings expected in administration and technical services now based in Maidstone. A new website should be easier to use.
- **Barn conversions.** Two applications that may be the start of a "fashion" are for the conversion of agricultural barns into dwellings. They take advantage of new permitted development rights but it is unclear how far-reaching these rights will be. They state that barns may be "partially" demolished to allow for windows, roofs and exterior walls to be installed or replaced. They make no mention of permission to rebuild foundations. It seems that the rights do not extend to a total rebuild on the site of a barn but it is likely that this will, in effect, be what the owners desire. How these new rights are put into practice needs careful watching. Peter Blandon

Thanet

- **Manston Airport.** The closure leaves uncertainty over the future of the site, although owner Ann Gloag has now sold it to the owners of Discovery Park, Sandwich, for the creation of a business park. The promises of employment and regeneration made over the years have not been fulfilled. While debate still rages over the provision of new runway capacity on the south east (with the search now focused on Gatwick and Heathrow, as the Thames Estuary Airport hub ideas have finally been dropped) it might seem perverse to mothball a 2.75 km runway. Hilary Newport

Tonbridge and Malling

As Tonbridge and Malling has an adequate supply of housing land in place in the Local Plan (shortly to be reviewed), we have generally not had the large-scale, often speculative, housing development proposals seen in other districts. However, a large number of applications seek to demolish houses in historic villages and replace them with a larger number of new dwellings.



Tonbridge Castle

- **Bell Orchard, Platt.** Demolition of a house and garage in the heart of a village with Conservation Area status, removal of trees and hedging, and erection of three detached dwellings with garaging.
- **Cedar Cottage, Trottscliffe.** Demolition of dwelling and erection of an 'urban-style' terrace of three in AONB and Conservation Area. Following our objection, this was re-submitted as two larger semi-detached houses.
- **The Paddock, Crouch.** Removal of house, hedges and trees and replacement with three new dwellings. We negotiated a TPO on a unique walnut tree.
- **Crickets Farm, Ightham.** Restoration of a listed building and conversion of redundant outbuildings to a start-up business park was welcomed, subject to a small number of amendments. It has the potential to revitalise the area and restores a valuable listed building.
- **Kings Hill Phase 3.** The original agreed commercial development is being changed to 635 houses, a primary school and amenities.
- **Solar Farm.** Proposal for 111-acre project on agricultural land between Kemsing, Wrotham and Borough Green in Green Belt and AONB. It would seem to contradict government policy guidelines for large scale solar development. The site is partly in Tonbridge and Malling and partly in Sevenoaks, and we will liaise with our Sevenoaks colleagues to agree an appropriate response.
- **Isles Quarry, Borough Green.** 171 houses, 40% affordable, approved. The first phase of 15 must be occupied by March or developer will lose a DCLG grant. There are concerns about contamination remediation for the whole site. Harry Rayner

Tunbridge Wells

- **Blue Boys, Kippings Cross, Matfield.** We are angry at the demolition by Rexton Investments Ltd of the most historic parts of the pub just two days before English Heritage listed the building Grade II. Fearing this might happen, we had pressed the council to issue a Building Preservation Notice until a listing decision was reached but it refused for fear of having costs awarded against it if EH did not list the building. Demolition was stopped and the council served a notice requiring the owners to make the building weatherproof. The owner's appeal against listing was rejected. Meanwhile, an application to demolish the building and build a McDonald's restaurant, and for 23 signs - 16 illuminated - has been withdrawn.
- **Solar Farms.** Decisions are awaited on two applications to build near Five Oak Green. We objected because they would use some "best and most versatile" agricultural land in the metropolitan Green Belt. An application for a proposed solar farm at Paddock Wood is expected. Applications for Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinions for solar farms in the Hawkhurst-Cranbrook area have been withdrawn and we hope these proposals in the AONB will not be renewed. Liz Akenhead





WELCOME SUSANNAH

Our New Campaigns and PR Manager

Former journalist Susannah Richter, who lives in Folkestone, was chosen from a number of good candidates to join CPRE Kent. She is helping with PR, campaigns and Kent Voice. She introduces herself.

“Having lived in Kent for 15 years, many of them working for regional television, I am delighted to join such a worthwhile and dynamic campaigning charity dedicated to protecting the county I love.

“I originally trained as a journalist on newspapers in Sussex and Devon and then worked in public relations for a local authority, a hospital trust and the Royal Mail.

“I then went into television journalism, firstly at Meridian, where I became Production Editor, and then at BBC South East. My role was varied and included producing the news programmes, forward planning and news editing. It also involved training and managing the bulletin journalists.

“I also did a stint for the national network programmes as a producer in Kent and the South East. After having children, my family moved from Tunbridge Wells to Folkestone and I retrained as a wedding registrar and celebrant.

“I am delighted to be back in a media and communications role, working with the staff and volunteers to raise the profile of the CPRE Kent, and putting across strong and highly regarded messages.”

STRONG WINDS CAN'T BLOW VICKY OFF COURSE

CPRE Kent was represented again this year at the annual Biddenden Tractor Fest, a celebration of all things rural – but it was not without incident.

Vicky Ellis, Marketing and Office Manager, stoically defied some blustery conditions to promote the branch and our various campaigns.

Exhibitors faced their greatest challenge on the first day. Vicky said: “It was a gusty day and the wind blew over the table being used to display our brochures and broke it. It also bent a couple of the display panels. Thankfully the next day was much calmer.”

Vicky, together with volunteers persuaded 135 people to sign up to the CPRE Charter, and also achieved some worthwhile donations and sales.

She added: “It was a little hard to persuade people to commit to membership although they are more than eager to complain about planning decisions in their area. That said, I think several people will definitely be joining us.” If you would like to spend an enjoyable day in the countryside helping out at one of the shows that we attend, please get in touch with Vicky to find out more.



BRITAIN IS RUNNING OUT OF LAND!

by Richard Knox-Johnston

A recent report by the University of Cambridge suggests that up to seven million hectares of land will be needed for food, energy security, homes, industry, transport and environmental protection for a growing population. This supply-demand gap should be a significant concern, argues former CPRE Kent chairman RICHARD KNOX-JOHNSTON

There is no government strategy for land use with a clear vision for agricultural land. The total UK land-mass is more than 24 million hectares with 75% used for farming. We are self-sufficient in barley, wheat, milk, lamb and mutton but we still import large amounts of fruit and vegetables and other products such as pork. Overall the UK runs a food deficit of £18.6bn.

The analysis carried out by the University of Cambridge produced some startling findings. The potential seven million hectare requirement is more than 35% of our existing agricultural land.

Researchers then found that if some of this need can be ameliorated by a reduction in food waste and changing diets, together with more intensive and efficient farming methods, it may have the effect of reducing the requirement by five million hectares.

Concern

This will still leave a gap of two million hectares which is a supply-demand gap of considerable concern.

With this in mind, the industry group developed a land use vision:

“By 2030 UK agricultural land will be optimised to support the multiple needs of a 70 million population and deliver an improved and sustainable natural environment.”

This report acknowledges the importance of agriculture, not only now but also into the future, with growing demand and the continuing concern over food provision from abroad.

Chaotic

However, there is a lack of a coherent strategy for land use in the UK. At the moment there appears to be a chaotic land grab for housing, industry, renewable energy, such as solar farms, energy sites, such as those drilling for oil and gas, nature conservation, forestry and recreation.

The report suggests that any strategy should include a set of principles to ensure that:

- the full range of market and public goods and services delivered by land are understood and valued
- opportunities to deliver multiple benefits from the same land are identified
- cost-benefit analysis is undertaken to aid trade off decisions
- landscape, recreational, climate change and future generation impacts are taken into account in land use decisions.

Shortfall

The report author Andrew Montague-Fuller said: “We may find that there’s a large amount of the land growing biofuels, has solar panels and wind farms on it, when actually we need more land put aside for the food needs of our growing population.”

He added: “We may get the balance wrong if we don’t face up to this shortfall.”

Government is invited to endorse this vision and accept the principles in order to create a clear decision-making framework with the industry for the optimisation of agricultural land.

In addition, there needs to be a clear action plan across all key government departments in order to consolidate and improve policies and actions.

The report’s aim is to kick start a debate on UK agricultural land. This is essential but needs to include all land use.

We urgently need a proper UK-wide land strategy that protects our good quality agricultural land and preserves it for the food production which we will need in the future.



Hop Garden, Boughton.



A warning from the West

The go-ahead for so many commercial wind and solar projects in North West Devon in the wrong places is blighting this lovely part of the country, argues PENNY MILLS, chairman of CPRE Devon.

It is crystal clear to all of us here in Devon, particularly in the north west of the County - West Devon, North Devon and Torridge District - that there has been a huge increase in the number of commercial renewable energy schemes.

The reason, plain and simple, is money - and vast quantities of it! For example, a landowner with a single commercial wind turbine can earn £1 m over its lifetime with the financial outlay paid for by the developer. A developer can expect to earn approaching £8m from the same turbine.

The “official” reason is the UK’s need for renewable energy. But should it be renewable energy at any cost? And why should this particular area with its beautiful and peaceful countryside, making it a popular holiday destination, bear the brunt?

This is at a time when many people in our area are struggling financially, jobs are few and far between, and those jobs are mostly low paid.

Torridge is one of the lowest waged areas in the country.

What’s more, one in four households here are already in fuel poverty, spending 10% or more of their income on energy. So additional green subsidies on top of the current energy cost will inevitably result in further hardship.

There also appears to be a complete lack of democracy in their imposition. There are numerous examples of large numbers of local people objecting to a scheme in their community, only to be ignored and approval given.

One local example that comes to mind is where hundreds of objections were lodged with the Local Planning Authority against a large wind turbine, without any in support, yet this overwhelming local opinion was dismissed and permission granted.

At the time of writing, taking the north west districts of the County alone (the South Hams is also currently being targeted), there are 156 large single wind turbines approved/operational; another 65 currently in planning; 22 at appeal and dozens in scoping and screening.

For Devon as a whole, the figures equate to 313 wind turbines either already permitted or in the planning process.

More than 3,500 acres of agricultural land have either been permitted as solar farms or are in the planning system, and therefore will no longer be producing food for our growing population.

The figures are alarming. We keep running totals of numbers of turbines and acres of solar farms on our website - www.cpredevon.org.uk - which is proving an invaluable tool to help not only our branch and our members, but journalists, local residents, and house hunters alike.

We’ve received more than a dozen enquiries recently from people looking to move to North Devon, but concerned whether the property they are interested in buying may become blighted by one of these commercial renewable energy schemes. Needless-to-say when they learn that there is a scheme nearby, they choose to look elsewhere.

Many of the approved wind turbines have not yet been built. So what you see here now is the tip of the iceberg, compared to how many there will be. Increasing numbers of local residents see these “get rich quick” renewable schemes as fundamentally changing the nature of our area, from a tranquil rural farmscape which attracts visitors who spend their money here, to one of a brutally invasive industrialisation which will be here for at least the next 20/25 years.

They look to us at the Devon branch for help. There is no doubt about it that the landscape is now a wind turbine landscape. Not only is our landscape being blighted, but our ancient heritage is also suffering from the impact of inappropriately sited schemes – as our photograph clearly shows.





Photos: Penny Mills

There is a fear that the majority of listed buildings in north Devon outside the towns and cities will soon fall within the settings of the inexorable march of these huge wind turbines and massive solar farms, and so much will be lost.

It is fair to say that this topic has dominated our workload in the last few years at the Devon Branch and we are all kept extremely busy. But we will continue to work hard to try to protect this beautiful part of the countryside from any further damage. We know, however, that we are fighting a constant rear-guard action and nothing concrete will change until the subsidies are ended.

Web: www.cpredevon.org.uk



Help protect the future of Kent's countryside by helping us today

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

If you are thinking of writing a Will or have already had a Will written, please think about leaving a gift to CPRE Kent.

Kent law firm Whitehead Monckton is delighted to support CPRE Kent by donating £50 for every Will, or for a couple a pair of Wills, made on behalf of CPRE Kent supporters.

You can find out more about CPRE Kent and how you can support us by visiting www.cprekent.org.uk

To talk to someone about leaving a gift to CPRE Kent please contact Vicky Ellis 01233 714540 or email info@cprekent.org.uk



WE ARE VULNERABLE

thoughts from the environmental group

Graham Warren

“We’re going to run out of water before we run out of oil.”

That’s not another attempt to drum up more recruits, but a quote from the chief executive of a large multinational food corporation.

It is facing up to the fact that many of the hotter and drier parts of the world now use a substantial proportion of their annual rainfall - as much as three quarters in some cases - irrigating crops that we import to sustain our demand for year-round out-of-season produce.

A combination of population growth, climate change and the rising global cost of food production will sooner or later show itself in our supermarket grocery bills – if it hasn’t already.

This could provide the incentive to intensify the use of our own farmland. What price then for solar panels? Bernard Woods’ timely review is one important outcome of numerous lively debates. Management of the world’s water resources and food potential is no longer someone else’s problem. Even the Garden of England could be heading for a makeover.

This is not all we worry about at our two-monthly brain-strainings – with exotic coffees and assorted biscuits provided.

There is always fracking. Kent branch is working with local village groups looking at concerns and bringing common sense and knowledge of the hazards of shale gas development and its impact on our increasingly vulnerable and precious groundwater resources.

We support and share our experiences with other CPRE Branches and local anti-fracking groups in Sussex and Surrey. As to whether we make a difference, we think we can.

News Round Up

There is a lot that's happened since the last Kent Voice.

Events: CPRE Kent has had a busy few months attending various events around the county including Agri Expo, Equi Expo, various ploughing matches, Biddenden Tractor Fest, Kent Association of Local Council events and the Kent Show. I would like to say a special thank you to Karen Wheeler who organises the Agri Expo and Equi Expo and to the organisers of Biddenden Tractor Fest for allowing CPRE Kent free space at their events; it's very much appreciated.

Well done Heather: Many congratulations to Heather James, from Ashford, for winning a £25 M&S gift card in the NFU Mutual prize draw promoted in the last issue of Kent Voice.

NFU Mutual: We are also running a short survey alongside NFU Mutual and will be emailing the link to those members for whom we have email addresses; you may also take part by putting the following link into your address bar: www.surveymonkey.com/s/CPREProtectKent

Ways you can help CPRE Kent: There are many ways you can show your support for CPRE Kent and help us to raise valuable funds.

- **Giving Tuesday** (2nd December) is a relatively new initiative in the UK and is a global day for giving to charity. You can participate by holding a coffee morning, cake stall at a local market or just donating via our donation tab on our website or simply offer your time to help in some way. More information can be found by searching for Giving Tuesday UK or popping the following link into your address bar www.givingtuesday.org.uk
- **Easyfundraising** helps charities like us to raise funds every time you shop on line. It is supported by many high street brands such as John Lewis, M&S, Amazon and Sainsbury's, which donate various amounts of money if you shop with them through Easyfundraising. It also has a search engine that you can save as your home page and every time you search online a small sum will be donated to the cause of your choice... hopefully us. You can register your support for us using this link www.easyfundraising.org.uk/?v=a

- **Payroll Giving in Action** now supports CPRE Kent and if you wish you can now donate a small amount each month or a one-off payment through payroll giving to CPRE Kent. Payroll Giving is a flexible scheme which allows anyone who pays UK income tax to give regularly on a tax free basis. Donations are deducted before tax so each £1 you give will only cost you 80p and if you are a higher rate tax payer it will only cost you 60p. It is cheaper because it's tax free so a donation of £5 per month costs the basic rate tax payer £4 with the taxman paying the rest. You save as you are taxed after the deductions reducing the tax you pay. You can contact PGA through this link www.payrollgiving.co.uk/

- **Charity Christmas Cards.com** now has CPRE Kent listed. We have included in the mailing of this edition of Kent Voice a brochure with a selection of designs, and there are many more to choose from online. So, when you come to buy your Christmas cards this year, please consider buying them from Charity Christmas Cards.com which will donate up to 50p to CPRE Kent from each card sold.

- **Leaving a legacy** is probably the most precious and lasting gift someone can make to a charity. It's a way of helping to secure the longevity of the charity and the work it does. Kent law firm Whitehead Monckton have partnered with CPRE Kent and offered to donate £50 for every will made, or if you are a couple, a pair of wills. Please see our advert in this Kent Voice for more details.

- **The 2015 Lottery or 400 club** is open for both new and existing members and we have included an application form with this issue. Our lottery is open to everyone, not just CPRE Kent members, and makes a great gift idea for Christmas or birthdays that lasts all year. At just £12 per share, it offers excellent value.

Merchandise: We have a small range of merchandise still for sale, details of which can be found on the back of the Lottery form included in this edition of Kent Voice. So you can join the lottery and buy a little something at the same time!

Boardroom hire: Here at our offices in Charing we have a lovely modern boardroom which can comfortably seat up to fifteen delegates. Please contact the office for more details.

Facebook: CPRE Kent often posts updates on its Facebook page so to keep up with relevant issues affecting towns and villages near you please 'like' our page.

Our sponsors: You will have noticed an increasing number of advertisements appearing in this edition. All our sponsors aid CPRE Kent in offsetting some of the costs of producing the Kent Voice, so please support them and remember to quote Kent Voice or CPRE Kent when you do so. CPRE Kent would like to thank our sponsors for their support.

If you or anyone you know has a business that shares the values of CPRE Kent and may be interested in being a sponsor, please contact Vicky, here at our offices in Charing on 01233 714540. She would be delighted to hear from you for a chat.



contact us



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

Office Contacts

Director

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

Marketing & Office Manager

Vicky Ellis Vicky.ellis@cprekent.org.uk

Senior Planner

Brian Lloyd Brian.lloyd@cprekent.org.uk

Campaigns and PR Manager

Susannah Richter Susannah.richter@cprekent.org.uk

400 CLUB



Here are the winners since the Autumn/Winter edition of Kent Voice:

April 14

Mrs G Collins	£40.00	(47)
Mr G Thomas	£30.00	(325)
Mr R Stickland	£25.00	(344)
Rev'd P Fenton	£15.00	(93)
Mr J Gandon	£15.00	(103)
Mrs A Bucknall	£15.00	(341)

May

Mr D Cornwell	£40.00	(287)
Mr D Barham	£30.00	(281)
Mrs S Filmer	£25.00	(98)
Mrs M Davies	£15.00	(72)
Mr M Loveday	£15.00	(167)
Mr P Whitestone	£15.00	(320)

Jun

Mr & Mrs Bartley	£100.00	(3)
Miss A Farley	£50.00	(87)
Mrs S Dunn	£25.00	(80)
Mrs D Armstrong	£20.00	(328)
Mrs A Moreton	£15.00	(299)

July-14

Mrs A Hope	£40.00	(127)
Mr A Thorpe	£30.00	(254)
Mrs P Pollock	£25.00	(222)
Mr L Holt	£15.00	(122)
Mr G Meaden	£15.00	(330)
Mr M Loveday	£15.00	(165)

August-14

Mrs P Hollington	£40.00	(117)
Mr Mrs I Bartley	£30.00	(3)
Mr M Loveday	£25.00	(155)
Mr D Humphreys	£15.00	(138)
Mr P Whitestone	£15.00	(279)
Mr J Bunton	£15.00	(19)

Sept 14

Mr N Pearson	£40.00	(205)
Mr P Whitestone	£30.00	(320)
Mr C Catt	£25.00	(39)
Mrs D Armstrong	£15.00	(327)
Mr C Mackinlay	£15.00	(179)
Mr G Meaden	£15.00	(329)



A greener printer...headley brothers be amazed

It's fashionable these days to be eco-friendly, but at Headley Brothers, taking our environmental responsibilities seriously comes as second nature.

- We hold the international standard ISO 14001.
- We hold both FSC and PEFC 'Chain of Custody' certifications.
- 96% of our solid waste is recycled.
- We use vegetable-based inks for all of our sheet-fed printing, except that which requires special or metallic colours.
- We use mineral oil-based inks for our web presses, enabling us to condense and filter emissions and use them as fuel for the presses' ovens.

Headley Brothers offers complete print solutions: web, sheet-fed and digital printing services, web-to-print and online file delivery systems, design and web design, finishing and fulfilment services, mailing and subscriptions.