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NEWS RELEASE

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[Photo attached: CPRE Chairman Peter Raynes congratulates Alan Shufflebotham.](#)

CPRE Award for Marton Farm that combines old and new

Cheshire's Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)[1] has recognised the value of excellent rural redevelopment by awarding a plaque to Church Farm, Marton. [2]

The countryside campaigners were highly impressed by the sensitive way Alan Shufflebotham, whose family has farmed here for generations, has converted the old farm buildings, creating attractive units which are rented by local businesses.

Located in the ancient village of Marton, home to Europe's oldest timbered church and the 1000 year old Great Oak, the converted buildings house a farm shop, cafe, blacksmith's workshop, kitchen and furniture showrooms and a holistic therapy suite, supporting traditional rural crafts and meeting 21st century needs at the same time.

Cheshire CPRE Chairman, Peter Raynes, said, 'CPRE is keen to see good quality development that genuinely meets local needs and helps our countryside thrive. Alan has not only redeveloped redundant farm buildings in way that respects their architecture and setting, but has also made a significant contribution to the future of the village and its community.'

'The development at Church Farm has provided employment and brought new life to the centre of Marton. Situated between the pub and the church, it represents a modern take on the traditional heart of a village, successfully combining old and new, and providing opportunities to shop locally and meet socially at a time when these are being lost in too many of our rural communities.'

Geoffrey Sparrow of CPRE's Macclesfield group, nominated Church Farm for the award. 'The successful farmyard conversion we see now is entirely due to Alan Shufflebotham, whose foresight and good taste has created this delightful little shopping complex which, along with projects such as the golf course and trout fishery created by other villagers, ensures that Marton continues to thrive,' he said.

In addition to protecting Cheshire's countryside, CPRE campaigns for local foods and rural services. The charity also operates a 'Buy Local' Award[3] scheme, to reward businesses offering top quality local foods - produced and processed within 30 miles of where they are sold[4]. To nominate a business for a local food award, see the CPRE website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk, or call the Cheshire Branch Office on 01606 835046.

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Notes for editors:

[1] The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. For more information and archive of press releases see the CPRE Cheshire website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk and the national CPRE website at www.cpre.org.uk

[2] Church Farm is located in the heart of Marton village. Mr Shufflebotham originally converted farm buildings to run his own farm shop, and produce his own ice-cream. The further development of the site into units for rental allows him to continue farming the land and offer units to local businesses.

[3] The scheme, which runs annually, asks customers to nominate businesses for 3 awards a year. The award is a specially-engraved brass "CPRE Mark" plaque (valued at c£70) to be mounted on a door or wall, and an accompanying framed certificate. CPRE is strongly committed to supporting local produce, which the charity sees as better for the environment, the consumer, and for rural and urban economies.

[4] CPRE's definition of local foods is that grown or produced and processed within 30 miles of the point of sale. Some food described as 'local' is actually transported great distances for processing / packing and distribution back into the local area, thereby deteriorating the nutritional value of the product, and contributing to food miles.

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