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Registered Charity no. 248304

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PRESS RELEASE

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Photo attached:

Evie and Melissa receive their certificates from Peter Raynes, Chairman of Cheshire CPRE

Bickerton schoolchildren win CPRE / Cheshire Life writing competition

Two pupils from Bickerton Holy Trinity Primary School [1] have just become award-winning writers! The work of Evie Butler and Melissa Bellman was highly commended in the Campaign to Protect Rural England's [2] annual writing competition, sponsored by Cheshire Life [3], and their articles were published in the April edition of Cheshire Life magazine.

The competition, run by the Cheshire Branch of the countryside campaigners, asked entrants to write about their favourite Cheshire landscape, and how they would feel if it was ever under threat. Class teacher Mr Leech used the competition as an opportunity to challenge his pupils' descriptive powers, and the articles by Melissa And Evie really impressed the judges, - Lord Grey of Codnor, President of Cheshire CPRE, Andrew Miller MP, and Cheshire Life editor Patrick O'Neill.

The girls took inspiration from their surroundings. Melissa wrote about Bickerton Hill, 'the place where peacock feathers are found', and Evie described the delights of the landscape beyond Bickerton school.

Headteacher at Holy Trinity, Paul Sweetnam said, 'Melissa and Evie have captured the feel of this beautiful part of Cheshire in their writing, painting a picture with their words. We are all very proud of them here at Bickerton.'

Peter Raynes, Chairman of Cheshire CPRE, attended a school assembly last week to present the girls and the school with certificates marking their achievement. 'We are really pleased to see that children as young Melissa and Evie care so much about the special landscapes of Cheshire, and understand that we need to protect them for the children of the future to enjoy,' he said.

CPRE is now seeking entries from budding writers for this year's competition. 'In view of the splitting of Cheshire county and CPRE's project looking at a vision for the countryside in 2026, our centenary year, we want to know what Cheshire means to you. Which locations or activities sum up

our county? What's your vision for your favourite part of Cheshire in 2026? Or do you fear a place that has great importance to you may have become something less wonderful by then?'

If you'd like to enter, turn your thoughts into an article of no more than 250 words, and send it to Cheshire CPRE by 31st October 2008 with an entry form, available from the charity's Branch Office (call 01606 835046) or their website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk. The competition is open to all ages, and school entries are very welcome. The winning articles will be published in Cheshire Life magazine in Spring 2009.

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Notes for editors:

[1] Bickerton Holy Trinity CE Primary School is at Long Lane, Bickerton, Near Malpas. The school aims to: treat every child as an individual; provide the highest standard of education to each child; nurture high standards of behaviour and politeness; foster mutual respect throughout the school; promote a Christian ethos and an understanding of other religions and cultures; encourage parental and community involvement.

[2] 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

[3] The Cheshire Life-sponsored competition, now in its fifth successful year, is launched each summer, and aims to encourage Cheshire residents of all ages to value their countryside.

NB: Parental and school permission has been obtained for publication of the children's names and photographs, and the school's name.

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