



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
CHESHIRE

Victoria Buildings  
Lewin Street  
Middlewich  
Cheshire CW10 9AT

Tel/fax: 01606 835046  
Email: [info@cprecheshire.org.uk](mailto:info@cprecheshire.org.uk)  
Website: [www.cprecheshire.org.uk](http://www.cprecheshire.org.uk)

Cheshire President  
Lord Grey of Codnor

National President: Bill Bryson

Patron  
H.M. The Queen

Registered Charity no. 248304

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Embargo: For immediate release

Picture attached: CPRE's recent Harvest Heritage Walk at Old Chad, Tushingham

### **Countryside Campaigners keen to make Rural Heritage 'Walks' more accessible**

The Campaign to Protect Rural England's Crewe and Nantwich group wants to hear from walkers and non-walkers keen to join in its new programme of Rural Heritage Walks, visiting unusual churches and chapels in the Borough. But the group would like to include more people who are interested in visiting the sites, but are not able to walk – and this means they need to plan ahead.

The countryside campaigners ran two successful visits this year, to St Michael's Baddiley and Woodhey Chapel in the spring, and the Chapel at Cholmondeley Castle and Old Chad, Tushingham in October. Participants learn more about the history of the buildings and their rural settings, and rural traditions centred on the relationships between manor, church and farm.

Rev John Whitehead, Chairman of Crewe and Nantwich CPRE and the organiser of the walks, said: 'We are building up a core of regular attenders, and would like to hear from more people who would be interested in joining us on our Rural Heritage Walks next year, to help us to plan in advance.'

'We have already been able to include some people who want to visit the churches and hear the talks on their history and architecture, but are unable to make the walk. We are very keen to make future events as accessible as possible, and we can arrange coach travel and an additional escorted visit for people who are not walking if we are able to plan far enough ahead.'

Next year's events will be on a Saturday in Spring and in Autumn, or more often if there is greater demand, and will again take in two historic buildings, with a walk of around five miles (or coach travel), and lunch at an attractive venue along the way. The day usually ends with a short optional service at one of the churches, illustrating the religious aspect of rural seasonal tradition.

'These events meet CPRE's aim to encourage people to value their countryside,' said Rev Whitehead. 'At each location, we have a talk on the history of the building and its surroundings, and on present-day issues for the local countryside. The more we know about our environment, the more likely we are to appreciate and protect it.'

CPRE is also interested in hearing from people who have suggestions for sites to include in future events.

To discuss CPRE's Rural Heritage Walks in Crewe and Nantwich, or to add your contact details to the mailing list for next year's events, call Rev John Whitehead on 01270 812607.

-ENDS-

**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. Its Patron is HM The Queen and its National President is Bill Bryson. For more information see the CPRE Cheshire website at [www.cprecheshire.org.uk](http://www.cprecheshire.org.uk) and the national CPRE website at [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk). CPRE's Cheshire Branch was founded in 1928, two years after the National CPRE charity began. While it is a part of the National CPRE organisation, Cheshire CPRE is a registered charity in its own right.

[2] CPRE's 'Harvest Churches Walk' took place on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**Further information:****Crewe and Nantwich CPRE**

Rev John Whitehead (Chairman)

01270 812607.

**Cheshire CPRE Branch Office**

Debbie Janney (Branch Secretary)

01606 835046 (9-12, Mon – Fri)