



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE

# News and Events

APRIL 2006

## A time to take stock and look forward

Spring is traditionally a time for taking stock, making new beginnings and facing fresh challenges. And there are plenty of opportunities for all of this as we look around the county now.

What have we achieved? I think you'll agree that our efforts in Cheshire to end distracting and unsightly motorway advertising (which featured on BBC TV in the South East as an example of successful action), have reduced the number of cases. But we cannot rest on our laurels: write to your councillors urging them to take action on the rest.

The Government has taken up one of the recommendations of our Night Blight campaign, as certain forms of light pollution became a statutory nuisance on 6th April 2006.

Planning a fresh start, Cheshire volunteers met in January to plan the coming year, and decided all our work this year will be underpinned by encouraging people to value the countryside: if we take its assets for granted, we realise too late that we have squandered our heritage.

The M6 issue brings new challenges each year, it seems, and we await the outcomes of the consultation and feasibility studies into the three options proposed by the DfT. In the meantime, you can read CPRE's position on the matter on page 5.

It's also a time for personal new beginnings. We say goodbye to our wonderful President, Lady Baker Wilbraham, who moves on after four years of tireless support for Cheshire CPRE. And Christine and I have recently begun a new life in Surrey. We are now settled in, and looking forward to meeting all of you at our evening with Sir Max Hastings in May (see back page for more details).

I have very much enjoyed my term of office as Chairman of Cheshire CPRE, and wish the Branch every success under its new leadership, to be selected in May.

Richard Bass, Chairman

## Hungry giant to gobble waste at Ince Marshes

CPRE groups in Cheshire have recently been studying two applications for a 'waste recovery park' and power station on a 240 acre site on the Ince Marshes, put forward by developer, Peel Holdings.

The proposed waste recovery park includes all the processes needed to receive, store, recycle and treat waste. The decision on this application will be made by Cheshire County Council. The power station would burn refuse-derived fuel, and the decision here is taken outside the ordinary planning procedure, by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Right now there is growing recognition that waste reduction and recycling are



The controversial site

vital, and the Government's own figures show that the growth in municipal waste has slowed from 3.5% per year in 2000 to 1.5% per year. Yet measures that are successfully reducing the volume of waste requiring landfill or incineration will be thwarted by this very hungry giant whose huge appetite demands to be fed just to keep it going.

(Continued on page 4)

## Enrich your life: Volunteer with CPRE!

Cheshire CPRE offers many opportunities to volunteer your time and skills for a cause you believe in - from stuffing envelopes to composing CPRE's response to a complex planning consultation. We simply could not function without our volunteers, but have you thought about it from the other angle? What can you get out of it?

Apart from meeting people with similar interests, and using skills and experience you already have, working with us allows you to gain new skills and expertise if you choose to. This can give you tremendous personal satisfaction, and you can apply your newly-developed talents to enrich other aspects of your life. If you are currently employed, considering a return to work, or about to begin your working life, we can provide valuable opportunities for personal and professional development to help in your career.

See our item on page 5 to find out what you can get out of working with us.

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# Branch and regional news

## Cheshire CPRE bids farewell to a marvelous President

Lady Baker Wilbraham has come to the end of her four-year term as our Branch President, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute a lady whose dedication, boundless energy and commitment can truly be described as marvelous.

During her presidency, she has been of tremendous help in every respect, and Branch Officers, staff and members have found her a delight to work with.

Although she leads a very busy life outside CPRE, with many demands on her time, Lady Baker Wilbraham has always been keen to involve herself in new projects, for example, judging our Great Landscapes Writing Competition from its beginnings.

She has opened her home at Rode Hall to us for fundraising events featuring her own splendid catering, welcomed new and existing members into the fold, and taken a genuine interest in furthering our aims.

In the past few months alone, we have received £1,300 from the beautiful Christmas celebration she and Sir William hosted, and an amazing £4,000 from the Snowdrop Walks event at Rode Hall in February.

Although she will be greatly missed by all of us at Cheshire CPRE, the value of her work on our behalf will be felt for many years to come,

However, our loss is the family's gain, and we hope that she and Sir Richard will now be able to enjoy spending a little more time with each other, and their friends and family.

**Richard Bass**

## Strong Support for Chester Green Belt

Our Lottery-funded mailing to over 12,000 homes in the Chester area, alerting residents to the threats to their Green Belt uncovered overwhelming support for the Green Belt as residents sent in postcards urging Government to halt its erosion.

The majority of the mailing was delivered by Royal Mail, but to get every penny of value from the funding we received for the project, the last thousand or so were hand-delivered by volunteers.

Many of the responses came from parents of young children, who value the open space on their doorstep for family recreation; others wrote about the loss of open countryside they have witnessed over many years as Chester residents. Responses are still coming in, and we are now making arrangements to present the views of the people of Chester to Government.



**Volunteers deliver CPRE's message**

A total of £800 was received from Chester residents and trusts towards the fight to protect the countryside. We are extremely grateful to all those who made donations.

We extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined CPRE as a result of the mailing, and offer our thanks to the volunteers who helped deliver it.

**(More on this campaign on page 5)**

## New Policy Officer Joins CPRE North West

Andy is based in Lancaster, and has previously worked for Crisis, Citizens Advice, and Lancaster University.

Our new RPO has been forging links with Cheshire Branch right from the start, attending our January Special Meeting in his first week in the job.

The CPRE North West Regional Group has a new Regional Policy Officer (RPO), Andy Yuille, to represent our views at the regional level.

With more powers to influence local planning and development being concentrated in the Regional Assemblies and Development Agencies, it will be increasingly important for us to be heard at this level to ensure that protection for our countryside is built into developing plans and policies.

He will be working on issues of regional significance across the North West, and this year will mainly be focusing on Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which is currently out for public consultation and which will be subject to an Examination in Public this autumn / winter. Andy assesses the pros and cons of the RSS on page 3.

If you would like to know more about getting involved in regional campaigns or shaping regional policy, contact Andy at andyy@cpre.org.uk, or on **01524 840 937**.

# Branch and regional news

## The good, the bad ... and the RSS

The big priority for the North West Regional Group at the moment is the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The North West Regional Assembly published this 'masterplan' for the region on March 20th, and the formal public consultation will run until June 12th.

This strategy will have a huge impact on all development throughout the region for the next 15 years. It will set a regional framework that addresses the 'spatial' implications of broad issues like housing, investment, transport, the economy and environment. This is all about 'how much', 'how big' and 'where' in the region. For example, it determines how many new houses will be built every year in each district in the region; sets out the broad locations for large-scale economic development, and the amounts of land to be made available for employment uses; sets targets for renewable energy generation and waste management; and lays down the principles that all local authorities will have to follow in drawing up local plans and considering applications for planning permission. Getting CPRE's views included in it is therefore vital to protecting the environment and rural communities!

There are some good points in the RSS: it has a commitment to using brownfield land before greenfield for all new development, and to concentrating most new development in existing urban centres. However, there are very worrying elements as well. It

strongly encourages increasing airport growth and road-building, with no regard for greenhouse gas emissions, and its treatment of climate change in general is inadequate – in the Yorkshire & Humber region, RSS has a whole chapter dedicated to climate change; the North West doesn't even have a dedicated policy!

It breaks its own 'rules' on greenfield development and reducing the need to travel with many of its sites for large-scale economic development. It is based on giant City Regions that cover most of the North West's Green Belt and many rural areas, but it is very unclear about how urban sprawl will be prevented and how development in these City Regions will be controlled, especially as it also weakens Green Belt policy for the region. Policy SD4 has been removed: this policy protected the 'hotspot' of North Cheshire from further development in order to maintain quality of life there and drive investment into areas in need of regeneration

There is overall an insufficient emphasis on the wider countryside, environmental protection, sustainability and quality of life, and too great a focus on high economic growth per se, rather than targeted urban and rural regeneration

CPRE will be developing its response over the next few weeks. All CPRE Branches and District groups in the region were contacted in March to let you know how you can give us your views; a working group of staff and volunteers will be meeting in mid-April; and in May we'll circulate a draft response to Districts so that you can add your comments. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments about the RSS, please contact me.

**INFO: Andy Yuille 01524 840937**

## Holiday winners opt for Andalucia

Anne and Peter Barnard, of Church Minshull, who signed up to CPRE at the Tatton RHS Flower Show in July, were delighted to hear they'd won our fabulous £1000 holiday draw. The holiday was donated by Northwich-based firm, Headwater, as the prize in our draw open to new members joining CPRE by Direct Debit at last year's summer shows.

The couple selected a tour of Andalucia, combining historic Seville with walks through the scented orange groves and white villages of the surrounding countryside. Richard Bass, our Cheshire CPRE Chairman, who founded the holiday company back in the 1980s, came up with the idea of approaching his former firm to ask them to donate the prize. He thought it was the perfect partnership – CPRE seeks members who love the English countryside and want to make sure we can all go on enjoying it, and Headwater offers holidays that enable people to enjoy the countryside abroad.

We hope Mrs & Mrs Barnard have a wonderful holiday, and many happy years as members of Cheshire CPRE. Once again we extend our thanks to Headwater for their generous support.



The Barnards get some travel tips from Richard Bass and Headwater's Rachel Goldrick

# Branch news

Valuing the countryside!

## CPRE / Cheshire Life Writing Competition 2006

## Wax lyrical about Cheshire

Passionate about the Cheshire countryside? Want a chance to have your work published in Cheshire Life magazine? Then get out your pen - or polish your keyboard - and enter this year's CPRE / Cheshire Life Great Landscapes Writing Competition.

Just think of your favourite Cheshire landscape: what makes it special to you? Now imagine how you would feel if it were ever under threat. Then turn your thoughts and feelings into an article of no more than 250 words, and send it to the Branch Office before 31st October 2006, with an entry form. The winning articles will be published in Cheshire Life the following spring.

The competition is free and is open to all ages. We are especially keen to encourage young people and children to enter. They are the countryside custodians of the future, and it's never too early for them to develop an appreciation of the landscapes all around them. If you have children or young people in your family, let them know.

If you are a teacher, why not get the whole class involved? Some schools have used the competition task as an opportunity to develop planning and other writing skills, or for younger children to reflect on school visits.

This is the fourth year we have run the competition, publicising it in June each year to encourage the public to value and cherish our countryside during CPRE's national Great Landscapes Week at the end of the month.

Join in and tell us what you think makes your special place in Cheshire worth protecting.

For an entry form, ring Debbie Janney at the Branch Office 01606 835046, or download one from our website: [www.cprecheshire.org.uk](http://www.cprecheshire.org.uk)

(Last year's winners are listed on back page)

## Cheshire CPRE marks Weaverham achievement



In February, Cheshire CPRE marked the achievement of the community of Weaverham (Vale Royal) and its advisors, in being the first village in the country to produce the 'complete set' of Parish Plan, Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment. Sir Iain Glidewell presented an engraved brass 'CPRE Mark' plaque, on the evening the plans were formally presented to the Borough and County Councils. The CPRE Mark is now displayed in the Community Centre.

Pictured are John Gittins of the Cheshire Landscape Trust, which worked closely on the project, with John Wilson, Chairman of Weaverham Parish Council, Sir Iain, and Mrs Helen Carey, DL OBE, Chair of Cheshire Landscape Trust.

## Hungry giant at Ince Marshes

(Continued from page 1)

CPRE believes the proposed greenfield site, a section of the Mersey floodplain rich in wildlife and with several nature and landscape designations, is a highly inappropriate choice. For several years, CPRE's was one of the many voices calling for Ince Marshes to be given the additional protection of Green Belt designation.

Quality of life for people living nearby, especially in the villages of Ince and Elton, would suffer from the increased noise, traffic and pollution, and the height, mass and bulk of the proposed buildings would have an unacceptable visual impact on this important landscape.

The scale of the plant is enormous, and it seems that, to feed its giant appetite, waste will have to be brought in from much further afield, as measures to reduce waste continue to work.

Even though the applicant, Peel Holdings, aims to use rail and canal to transport some of this waste, a measure CPRE applauds, it will still result in additional heavy road traffic in and out of the plant, and the importation of other people's waste into Cheshire.

**INFO:** Ann Jones (Chester) 01244 390314

Jacqui Johnson (Warrington) 01925 763435

# Branch news

## CPRE states its case on increasing M6 capacity

Cheshire CPRE was taken by surprise at last summer's announcement by Stephen Ladyman, Minister for Transport, that although 9,528 respondents opposed the proposed tolled M6 Expressway, with only 121 in favour, there was 'no clear consensus' and further work was required.

Since then, the Highways Agency has outlined 3 options for providing additional capacity between Junction 11a and Junction 19: a separate tolled Expressway; symmetrical widening (adding a lane each side); or parallel widening (building 2 lanes parallel to the existing motorway).

The maps available for the different widening options currently being considered are only indicative, and without further detail, CPRE is unable to assess which option would cause the least harm to the environment and landscape.

Though Branches have responded in their own right, our National Chief Executive, Shaun Spiers, recently issued CPRE's definitive statement on the matter to Mr Ladyman, after consulting with CPRE in the affected counties.

The following is a summary of that statement. The facts on capacity and emissions are taken from the Government's Midman Study (2002), which looked 30 years ahead.

CPRE is opposed to any work on this stretch of the M6 because:

- Traffic is within capacity, and likely to remain so for at least 30 years.
- It will do nothing to reduce the need to travel.
- It would increase CO2 emissions, contrary to the UK's climate change commitments.
- It would encourage further development in the country side, at the expense of urban regeneration.

### The Expressway Concept

- A tolled Expressway would be enormously damaging to the countryside
- It could lead to a policy of building unsustainable parallel toll motorways in England which would lead to massive environmental degradation and rises in CO2 emissions.
- The Expressway was overwhelmingly rejected during the consultation last year and should have been removed from further consideration then.

### CPRE's alternative

CPRE proposes a package of measures to manage demand on the M6 and to provide a better alternative by investing in public transport, as recommended by the Midman study.

- Make more effort to reduce the need to travel
- Invest in public transport
- Introduce demand and traffic management strategies to reduce congestion and inefficient use of road space.

**INFO: Shaun Spiers CPRE National Office**

## What can YOU get out of volunteering with us?

Cheshire CPRE's work is mostly carried out by volunteers, so there's no end to the variety of experiences we can offer you if you choose to get involved. You will also meet new people who share your interests and concerns, and have the opportunity to learn something different in the process.

You could exercise and hone your communication skills as secretary to a district group, or develop your organisational and leadership skills as Chair. (See our 'News from the Districts' pages for details). Becoming a trained planning volunteer gives you a wealth of new knowledge and skills that can be transferred to other situations.

If you're a creative person, you could use your flair helping the Branch design displays, exhibitions or posters, writing articles or taking photographs for this newsletter. You could gain valuable research skills by helping us investigate the background for new projects and campaigns.

We can help you develop public speaking skills, beginning with one-to-one chats as a summer shows volunteer, and building up to telling to schoolchildren about our work, or presenting CPRE's case at formal public gatherings

If you enjoy getting out and about, you could learn about the desirable qualities of a good hedge from our Hedgerow Awards judges, or interview and photograph nominees for our Buy Local Awards.

Get more out of your membership of CPRE. Ring Debbie or Clare and take the plunge! We won't throw you in at the deep end: you will be supported by experienced volunteers and by the Branch until you find your feet.

**INFO: Debbie Janney 01606 835046 Clare Lewis 07731 659 786**

# News from our Districts

## CREWE AND NANTWICH

### No new village at Combermere

CPRE aims to make sure development in rural areas meets local needs and takes place in areas close to the transport and other facilities we all need for modern life. This prevents wasting countryside and creating additional traffic and further building to provide local amenities. The idea of planting a new community in open countryside is the opposite of all we stand for.

So when a plan to build 100 new houses on 14 acres of open countryside on the Combermere Abbey estate was proposed, Crewe and Nantwich CPRE became involved immediately, lodging our objection, and following it up by making our case at the appeal hearing, which upheld the borough council's initial decision to refuse planning permission.

## A COMMUNITY LEARNING TO TRANSFORM ITSELF

In October 2005 St Oswald's Church of England Primary School at Worleston, near Nantwich, found itself targeted in a proposed programme of closure as part of a County-wide initiative Transforming Learning Communities (TLC). This was not to be confused with Tender Loving Care, as the local community was to discover! TLC sought to address the problem of a declining county-wide child population and consequent falling rolls and surplus places.

As St. Oswald's has the capacity for only 49 places and a current roll 15 below that figure, the TLC programme sought to rationalise resources by the transfer of St. Oswald's children to neighbouring schools.

The people of Worleston were not prepared to give up an institution at the heart of their community, although the outlook seemed bleak. However, new bonding among concerned younger families, urged on by older residents, has demonstrated a 'community learning to transform itself' in the changing circumstances of the 21st century.

A group of parents organised Action meetings in the school hall. They sought outside support, and Crewe and Nantwich CPRE was approached. John Whitehead, already close to the issue as a retired priest conducting occasional services at the church, joined the

The application here was for enabling development – that is, a development to raise the necessary funds to enable restoration work on the Abbey to take place. While we sympathise with the owner's position, the proposal was an unjustified sacrifice of open countryside and was not in the public interest. It would have involved building 100 houses for which there was no demonstrable need, on good agricultural land away from existing towns and villages.

At the appeal, Sir Iain Glidewell argued CPRE's case that the disbenefits of allowing these breaches of planning policy outweighed the very limited benefits the proposal offered, and the Inspector's conclusion agreed with this.

**INFO: Jean Stainthorpe** 01270 811043

Worleston Action Group (WAG) as CPRE's representative.

The National Association for Small Schools (NASS) gave crucial advice on conducting the campaign, which entailed networking effectively with many players in today's rural community: Parish Council, Parish Plan committee, the local Church, the Anglican bishop and diocese, NASS, a friendly solicitor (and ex-rural school governor), local Councillors, Member of Parliament Stephen O'Brien, and of course CPRE – created a momentum which proved decisive.

Until the last minute, the TLC proposals, with their well-rehearsed but crucially inaccurate population and financial statistics and cursory regard for community aspects, could, it was feared, sway the Council. In the event, the Executive reversed its position, and members voted to take no further action against St. Oswald's.

We all realise that in many ways the work to enlarge the school population starts now, but this successful campaign has demonstrated that communal relationships in rural England not only lead to effective action for CPRE values, but also result in them being forged anew for this and succeeding generations.

**INFO: Rev. John Whitehead** 01270 812607

## CHESTER

### Green Belt Campaign

Our successful campaign to highlight the plight of Chester's Green belt has not only brought us welcome new members, but many generous donations including £500 from the Marjory Boddy Charitable Trust, based in Chester. We are most grateful for all of these donations, amounting to around £800 in total.

**INFO: Roger Parkin** 01244 300671

## VALE ROYAL

### Marina Development

Two developers have made planning applications to construct large commercial marinas along a short stretch of the Trent and Mersey Canal, in the Davenham area, close to Northwich, for the mooring and servicing of narrow-boats.

Both applications are for large marinas with jetties to accommodate 70 feet long narrowboats with associated services, restaurants, shops and car parking.

One marina would provide moorings for 300 and the other for 250 narrowboats, and CPRE understand that additional marina developments are being considered along this section of the canal.

CPRE are in favour of opening up the countryside for access, leisure and enjoyment, and therefore do not object in principle to well considered developments that further this cause, providing they do not dominate the local landscape, are compatible with their surroundings, are well designed, are sympathetic to the local landscape, and are well maintained.

The developments are separated from each other only by the canal and Davenham Road, which is a narrow country lane in an unspoilt Cheshire location, and the proposed capacity is extremely intensive for such a location.

**INFO: Ken Parker** 01829 732188

# News from our Districts

## WARRINGTON

### The UDP – We're Almost There!

The Warrington Unitary Development Plan was formally adopted by our Borough Council in January, but we had to wait 6 weeks to see if there were any legal challenges. There were two, one of which has since been withdrawn.

Manchester City Council objected to Omega, the strategic employment site on the old Burtonwood base, because they believe it will affect regeneration in the cities. They withdrew the challenge when site owner English Partnerships agreed to review the impacts of Omega on city centres for future stages of development.

The second challenge concerned Peel Hall, one of the areas returned to the Green Belt by the Borough Council at the Revised Draft stage. This issue was addressed by the UDP Inquiry Inspector, who agreed it should be Green Belt. We are now waiting for the new map of Warrington showing the Adopted Green Belt Boundaries.

### A new project

Now that we have a Green Belt, we have decided to take part in CPRE's campaign for Landscape Character Assessment – making a change from our usual subject of planning policy!

**INFO: Jacqui Johnson 01925 763435**

### Get more out of your membership

Landscape Character Assessment is an interesting and innovative project which gets people involved in valuing their environment and shaping its future.

If you would like to get involved in this new project in Warrington District, have your say in local issues at District meetings, or contribute to our work in any way, let us know – we would be very delighted to welcome you.

**Ring Jacqui on the number above.**

## TRAFFORD

### Get more out of your membership

Trafford CPRE needs a new Chairman and Secretary, and would welcome any members in the district who would like to join their committee to contribute fresh ideas.

**Call Mike Rose on 0161 973 2612 to find out what's involved.**

### Final Word on Trafford Interchange

Years of campaigning and uncertainty have come to an end as Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council finally removed the Trafford road-rail interchange from its unitary development plan.

We have sympathy with what the proposal was trying to achieve, but it was simply in the wrong place. The site is essential Green Belt providing fresh air and a buffer zone between the Shell chemical works and Sale / Broadheath. A new road would have had to be built through the Green Belt for what was essentially a huge road transport operation. The 20,000 vehicle movements plus extra traffic over the proposed new bridge from Irlam would have effectively and seriously damaged the quality of life of the people of Partington, Sale, Broadheath, Urmston and Flixton. It was proved at the enquiry that the rail connection is not good enough to provide the rail component of the proposed interchange.

Better sites are available. An excellent interchange is planned at Port Salford right next to the businesses of Trafford Park with excellent road / rail / canal facilities. Work will soon start on this. Then there are the huge possibilities within Trafford Park which we are sure will be developed now this flawed scheme has been abandoned.

Over the years, Trafford CPRE has helped local people to become involved, and this has been important throughout the process, much aided by publicity in the local print and television media, which had the added benefit of raising CPRE's profile, as well as successfully sustaining the long campaign.

**INFO: Arthur Jurgens 0161 928 8402**

## MACCLESFIELD

### Less-affordable homes!

We have noticed a trend in Macclesfield for the demolition of sound, if unexciting, homes and their replacement with new, 'desirable properties', sometimes exceeding the footprint of the original building.

While we are becoming frustrated at the lack of action to provide affordable homes for local people, these palatial abodes are meeting market demand rather than actual need. This seems to be the developers' answer to the moratorium on new building imposed by the borough council in an effort to keep new building within its planned allocation.

**INFO: Geoffrey Sparrow 01625 861269**

## STOCKPORT

### Protecting open space in town

In our Metropolitan Borough, we often face quite different issues from our colleagues in the more rural parts of Cheshire. We have recently supported local efforts to retain an open space in central Stockport, as green spaces are important in helping improve and regenerate urban areas. The plot is on Wellington Road North, behind the Plaza cinema.

**INFO: Michael Blank 0161 491 0452**

### Get more out of your membership

We are currently having a relatively quiet time in Congleton, but are of course still looking out for anything that warrants our attention.

In the meantime, we need a new Chairman and Secretary! We are a very friendly group and you would be well-supported if you decide to give it a try.

**Ring Mike or Jean Bond on 01270 664003. for more information.**

# Cheshire events

## CPRE / Cheshire Life Writing Competition Winners 2005

Congratulations to the winners of last year's CPRE / Cheshire Life Great Landscapes Writing Competition! The first three in each category have had their work published in the April edition of Cheshire Life, and all certificate winners' articles have been published on our website.

### Adults

Winner: **James Sweatman**, Wirral

Highly Commended:

**David Eastwood**, Altrincham;

**Theresa Carrier**, Davenham

Certificate of Merit: **Beryl Wells**, Poynton

**Children** from Green Lane Community Special School, Padgate, Warrington

Winner: **Ryan Buckley**

Highly Commended:

**Mark Adamson; Sean Davies**

Certificate of Merit:

**Robert Taylor; Patrick Nicholson; Ben**

**Stringer; Gemma Eatough; Lauren**

**Jeavons**

## Contact details

(See District pages for local contacts)

### CPRE Cheshire Branch Office

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)

### Branch Secretary

Debbie Janney is in the office 9 - 12.

Answering machine at all other times.

### Press & Membership Officer

Clare Lewis: Tel: 07731 659 786

email: [clareandlewis@hotmail.com](mailto:clareandlewis@hotmail.com)

### CPRE National Office

128 Southwark Street

London SE1 0SW

Tel: 020 7981 2800

email: [info@cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@cpre.org.uk)

website: [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Spend an Evening with Sir Max Hastings TUESDAY 16th MAY 2006

In CPRE's 80th year, Cheshire Branch is delighted to invite members and their guests to spend an evening in the company of our national President, the journalist and military historian, Sir Max Hastings, who will speak on 'The Future of the Countryside', a topic of great interest to all of us.

By kind permission of Their Graces, The Duke and Duchess of Westminster, the event will be held in the in the spectacular surroundings of the Long Room suite at Eaton Park, and will be preceded by a brief Annual General Meeting. This is a rare opportunity to attend an event in this beautiful suite of rooms, which is never open to the public, reserved instead for the use of Cheshire charities for their own events.

The evening will begin with a delicious buffet, provided by Barretts Event Caterers Ltd, whose proprietor, award-winning chef Matthew Barrett, has cooked for members of the Royal Family and high profile celebrities. His distinguished career has included periods as Head Chef at the Stanneylands Hotel, Wilmslow, and Mere Golf and Country Club - both highly regarded Cheshire establishments.

During the evening, you will have the opportunity to explore the Long Room Suite, and if we are granted a balmy evening, stroll in the attractive courtyard. A pay-bar will be available for drinks, including plenty of soft drinks for drivers. As usual, our annual luxury raffle will be held to raise much-needed funds and add to the enjoyment.

This will definitely be an occasion to remember, so please do extend this invitation to your friends and families. The event is strictly for CPRE members and their guests only, and for security reasons, no interior photography is permitted.

We anticipate a very pleasant evening and look forward to sharing it with you and your guests. Tickets priced at £15 each are available from Debbie at the Branch Office, using the form you have been sent. Please apply as soon as you can, as we expect this to be a very popular event and numbers are limited.

### Value your countryside! Cheshire CPRE

### Great Landscapes Farm Walk 10.30 am WEDNESDAY 5th JULY 2006

Farmers are the custodians of most of our great landscapes, their farms a rich and diverse blend of wildlife habitats and commercial production, but we don't often get the chance to tramp around and inspect one for our selves.

Chris Shaw of Macclesfield CPRE invites you to a Farm Walk at Fingerpost Farm, two miles south of Knutsford, guided by a naturalist from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, who will make sure you miss none of the fascinating detail to be encountered.

The walk is around two miles in total, over uneven ground in places. The fresh air and exercise will work up a hearty appetite, so please join us for lunch at a local pub. Places are limited, and a modest charge will be made for the walk.

**Ring Debbie on 01606 835046 as soon as you can for further information and to reserve your place.**