



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
CHESHIRE

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Registered Charity no. 248304

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PRESS RELEASE

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Walton Lea Project is a winner!

The Campaign to Protect Rural England's Cheshire Branch [1] were delighted to give a 'Buy Local' [2] award to Warrington's Walton Lea Project [3] in recognition of the fantastic service they provide to the local community. The award was presented by CPRE's North-West regional chair, Nick Thompson, at a local food celebration event in Knutsford last week.

CPRE Cheshire's Buy Local Awards are designed to reward businesses that provide their customers with the opportunity to buy good quality, locally-produced goods. The charity's Press and Membership Officer, Becca Nelson, commented "Supporting local producers and retailers is a real priority for us at CPRE Cheshire. We thought the innovation at Walton Lea was inspiring - especially the fruit and vegetable van, which visits sheltered housing units and day care centres, making seasonal and local food truly accessible".

The Walton Lea Project opened in 1998 to train and employ adults with learning difficulties in horticulture, and is based at a traditional one-acre Victorian walled garden owned by Warrington Borough Council which was unused and overgrown before the project took over. If you would like to visit, the group are holding a garden party at their Walton Lea site on 5th July - see their website (www.waltonlea.org.uk) for more information.

Lymm-based CPRE Volunteer Charlotte Burton, who organised the awards, said "We were delighted with the response to the 'Buy Local' Food Awards - we received nominations for over 50 Cheshire businesses and producers who were clearly passionate about providing the people of Cheshire with locally grown produce and products. It is really nice that the award winners cover a range of local food businesses: as well as the Walton Lea project, we have a butcher who's sourced locally for the last 80 years, a farm that are growing and chipping their own potatoes for sale to local pubs, an organic farm shop active in educating children on links between farming and food and a deli that is dedicated to increasing the profile of small producers and sourcing locally."

In addition to the Buy Local awards, CPRE Cheshire also maintains a database of local food suppliers on our website to help people who want to cut down their food miles - www.cprecheshire.org.uk/farmshops - and are planning to put together some micro-scale local food maps in Cheshire towns. If you care about local foods and would like to get involved, they would love to hear from you - either by phone (01606 835046) or email (press.membership@cprecheshire.org.uk).

-ENDS-

Notes for editors:

[1] The Cheshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is a membership-based registered charity which 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.

[2] CPRE's Buy Local Awards were launched at the RHS Show, Tatton Park, 20th July 2005. The scheme has been run annually since this date.

[3] Contact details for the Walton Lea Project:

The Walton Lea Project, off Chester Road, Higher Walton, Warrington, WA4 6TB

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