

Round Robin February 2017

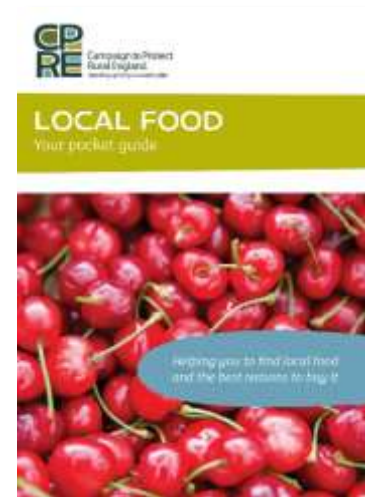


Last year, we celebrated the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, and also [the founding of the Campaign to Protect Rural England](#) in the same year she was born. CPRE published a book to mark this very special occasion, written by Peter Waine and Oliver Hilliam: [22 ideas that saved the English Countryside](#). Do consider buying a copy if you have not done so already. It's an excellent read and a portion of the sale helps fund CPRE's work.

Edibles

Have you just put seed potatoes out on windowsills to chit or ordered veggie seeds for growing at home? As the growing season gets into gear once more (despite the freezing temperatures), CPRE is taking a look at food and farming. At the Oxford Real Farming Conference early in January, the national team helped to facilitate [debate on the post-Brexit future of farming](#).

Here in Gloucestershire, we are blessed with many local food outlets and produce unique to the County. We have heritage orchards, community orchards (including a new one at Berry Hill in the Forest of Dean), farm shops, farmers' markets, pick-your-own and community farms, food co-operatives in Stroud and the Forest of Dean besides many of our local supermarkets stocking local produce. CPRE has always supported local food producers for the value that they add to the local economy, the vitality and variety that they bring to communities and the obvious benefit in terms of low food miles. To help you access local food, defined by being sourced within a 30 mile radius, CPRE has produced this new booklet: [Local food – your pocket guide](#).



An important part of our work as an environmental charity is to produce up-to-date and relevant information. CPRE Gloucestershire has supported national office to produce much needed advice on improving the visual aspects of photo-voltaic installations on buildings. Detailed guidance for

designers, manufactures and installers has been produced, together with a handy pocket-sized booklet aimed at home owners – Solar Design Tips: your 10 point guide. You can view both documents on the national office website: [in-depth guide for designers](#). More detail on this project will be included in the Spring 2017 Branch Newsletter.

Our Gloucestershire [CPRE Awards](#) have included local community food ventures in previous years, but also a huge variety of innovative and good solutions in housing, infrastructure projects and even a railway station restoration (on the Dean Forest Railway). If you know of a really great project that ticks all the boxes for you and fits our criteria, please tell us about it. An independent panel of judges will review the projects nominated, based on three broad categories:

1. well considered buildings – new, restored or converted;
2. innovative use of natural resources, including land and water;
3. projects developed by or for the local community.

The CPRE Gloucestershire Annual General Meeting will take place on the 30th May this year at the Boutflour Hall of the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester. The speaker will be Shaun Spiers, CPRE's Chief Executive nationally. Please put the date in your diaries.

This is the last time you will hear from me in my capacity as Campaigns Manager as my contract has come to its conclusion, so this is a chance for me to say thank you to you all for supporting our work and especially to colleagues Lisa and Vanessa, who both work incredibly hard for you and have been an inspiration to me.