

Round Robin

May 2015

Dear members

We have put together an e-Newsletter as a pilot project for those who have shared their email addresses with us. Please feel free to give us feedback on this edition. If you would like to receive these on a regular basis, you don't have to do anything, but if you would prefer not to, please reply with 'Unsubscribe' as the subject.

Show time

We are gearing up for the County show season and making sure we have all the equipment we need (sun block, flask of tea, umbrella, display stands etc). Please do come and say hello and bring your friends and family along to the CPRE stand at events. We would love to talk to you and find out more about your interests. And if you would like to volunteer to talk to people about why you support CPRE, the more the merrier! Dates for your diary are on our website:

<http://www.cpreglos.org.uk/events/forthcoming-events/item/2155-events-in-2015>

Poetic justice

Writers from the last century who drew their inspiration from the Gloucestershire countryside have left a lasting legacy if positive measures to protect landscapes with literary heritage continue.



Laurie Lee Wildlife Way

On the 100th anniversary of Laurie Lee's birth a new circular walk was established. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have way-marked a five-mile circular route through Lee's beloved Slad Valley which also links four of the Trust's finest nature reserves. The

circular walk incorporates ten "poetry posts" featuring Laurie Lee's poems, including one outside Lee's favourite pub - The Wool Pack in Slad. An eleventh post is located at the Museum in the Park in Stroud. This is a superb 4 mile walk but beware that it is fairly steep in places. Do try it if you can.

The CPRE Gloucestershire 2014 award citation read *"For an inspired project to celebrate the literature of Laurie Lee in the centenary year of his birth by creating a signed walkway through the landscape and natural environment of the Slad Valley"*

The AA have produced an online guide to the walk:

<http://www.theaa.com/walks/walking-with-rosie-in-the-slad-valley>

Poems and polytunnels

Future generations could still be inspired to write thanks to the Dymock Poets and their modern day champions. CPRE had objected to plans for huge polytunnels near Redmarley because of the landscape impact, and refusal of the planning application was supported by the government at a planning appeal.

The Guardian covered the story of the polytunnels at the end of March, with the heritage of the Dymock Poets being the deciding factor in safeguarding the countryside they used to walk. Could this set a precedent for other sites such as the Severn Estuary? This inspired 'Gloucestershire Laureate' FW Harvey (1888-1957), born in Hartpury (<http://www.hartpuryheritage.org.uk/places-to-visit/orchard-centre/poets-and-pears>) and his childhood friend Ivor Gurney (1890-1937), born in Gloucester. Read Catherine Shoard's article from 31st March 2015 online: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/31/landscape-saved-poets-robert-frost-thomas>

Housing

Campaigners in Alderton Village are jubilant after the Planning Inspector turned down an appeal by Freeman Homes for 60 new homes even though a five year supply of land for housing could not be demonstrated. The main reasoning was that it would impact on the Cotswolds AONB, that there would be harm to the social well-being of the village and that it was a disproportionate scheme. Read villagers' reactions on the village website, including an impassioned plea for her village by 18 year old local lass Holly Lock.

(<http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/freeman-homes.html>).

However, Alderton remains under siege from developers, with current appeals by Edward Ware (APP/G1630/W/15/300278) and Banner Homes (APP/G1630/W/14/3001584). You can see the battle lines drawn up if you download the map of earmarked sites from the villagers' website:

<http://www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/planning.html>.

The spade-work undertaken by our North Cotswolds district group bore fruit in Stow on the Wold as Bovis Homes' appeal for an application for 146 houses was dismissed by the Secretary of State on 27th March. This decision followed closely the Inquiry Inspector's Statement for refusal, with CPRE's evidence referred to many times. As in Alderton, this was largely on the damage caused to an AONB landscape and the town aspect.

Stroud district group are delighted to report that an application for 140 homes Baxter's Field will not now go ahead, as the developers, Gladman, withdrew from a judicial review at the 11th hour. This proposal would have impacted on the Slad Valley.

A Grand Design



Our Chairman, Charlie Watson, enjoyed a guided tour around the Applewood development at Cashes Green with Grand Design's Kevin McCloud recently as his company, HAB, founded on the guiding principles of Happiness, Architecture, Beauty was a CPRE

Gloucestershire award recipient in 2014 in partnership with Green Square. He was helping to launch the CPRE Gloucestershire 2015 awards.

<http://www.cpreglos.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2219-kevin-mccloud-helps-cpre-gloucestershire-launch-2015-awards>

Facebook and Twitter

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff - our Campaign's Manager, Rachel Reeves. Together with our Press Officer, Nicky Godding, Rachel is working hard on raising awareness of the valuable work undertaken by CPRE.

She has set up a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/cpreglos>, so please 'Like' the page and share it with your friends. If you have favourite photos of your particular corner of Gloucestershire this May, then please upload them as well. We'd love to see them.

To find us on Twitter, follow Nicky @CPREGlos and Rachel @CPREGlosRR