

Round Robin July 2016

A new President for CPRE



We are delighted to welcome ceramics designer, entrepreneur and guerilla gardener Emma Bridgewater, as our new national President as Sir Andrew Motion has stepped down this year.

After many years in rural Norfolk, Emma now lives in Oxfordshire, with her business based in traditional pottery heartland of Stoke-on-Trent. She loves the countryside and has raised awareness of CPRE's brownfield sites campaign. Read more about Emma and her vision for CPRE in this [National Office press release](#) and [article from the Daily Telegraph](#).

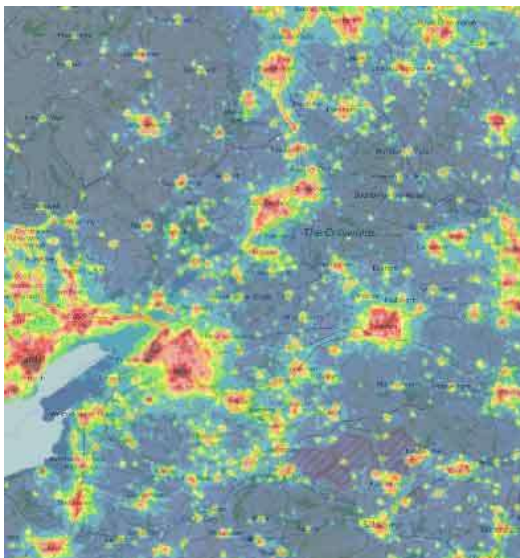
Book launch

Emma has also helped to launch the excellent new book by Senior Communications and Information Officer Oliver Hilliam and Peter Waine, former CPRE Chairman about the remarkable and historic contributions that CPRE has made in its 90 year history: '[22 Ideas That Saved the English Countryside](#).'

Tree Charter

Our Vice Chairman Richard Lloyd is representing CPRE on the Steering Group for the Tree Charter, a national initiative being led by the Woodland Trust. You can contribute to the Charter process by telling your stories of a favourite tree via the Tree Charter website and [events have been organized across the country this summer](#) including a stand at the 2016 Welsh National Eisteddfod on 29th July in Abergavenny (stand 509).

Light pollution



The most detailed ever satellite maps of England's light pollution and dark skies have been published online by CPRE. The maps, produced by Land Use Consultants, use satellite images captured at 1.30 am throughout September 2015. This data was gathered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in America using visible and infrared imagery to determine the levels of light spilling up into British skies. This research comes at a time of increasing awareness of the harmful effects light pollution can have on the health of people and wildlife. CPRE is sending lesson plans to primary schools in order to promote the enjoyment of dark skies and CPRE is calling on local authorities to use these maps to identify

areas with severe light pollution and target action to reduce it, as well as identifying existing dark skies that need protecting. Find out where the best places are in the UK with the [Light pollution map](#) and see our [statutory guide to light pollution](#).

Around the Districts

From Pippa Schwartz: CPRE Stroud would love to say hello to members who are going to the [Stroud Show](#) this weekend as they have a stand there. Please do stop by and meet the Stroud District team.

From Nick Dummett: Cotswold District Council has approved the Local Plan. Following a final limited consultation it goes to the Secretary of State and will then be subject to independent examination. The draft which went to councillors has taken on board many of the points we had made and offers much stronger protection for the smaller villages and the open countryside. However, the housing number has been increased again to 8,400 over the 20-year period to 2031; we have not seen the evidence supporting this but remain concerned.

The planning application for 2350 houses at the Chesterton site has been lodged but not yet determined. We supported the principle of this site for major urban extension but considered that there were too many houses and industrial buildings many out of scale to the site and its setting.

We had a very successful visit to Giffords Circus seeing them rehearsing and all the back stage facilities.

Joint Core Strategy (JCS) update

In her Interim Report the Inspector is proposing that the housing allocation at Leckhampton be reduced so that it is no longer classed as an 'Urban Extension'. However, the overall JCS housing requirement has been significantly raised from 31,830 to 35,175. This means that additional land allocations will have to be made. The Inspector is proposing that part of the increased housing requirement be met within Stroud and Wychavon districts. Action now lies with the three JCS authorities, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Gloucester, to negotiate with neighbouring authorities and to prepare amendments to the JCS. Once agreed, these will then undergo a final period of public consultation before the end of the year.

EU Referendum Statement

In recognition of the broad range of views held by our members, the Campaign to Protect Rural England did not take sides in the EU referendum debate.

Shaun Spiers: "We have endured a long and divisive referendum campaign, but throughout leading players on both sides emphasised their commitment to the countryside and to strong environmental protection. The country has now made the momentous decision to leave the European Union, but there is no mandate for environmental deregulation. Rather, if this really is Independence Day, we should expect to see a much greater emphasis on restoring nature, safeguarding our precious landscapes and supporting farmers to care for their land. The last point is crucial. For good or ill, the CAP has shaped land management for over 40 years. We now have the chance to develop a national agricultural support system that truly benefits farmers, the environment and rural communities."

New appointments to HM Government

Sajid Javid MP is the new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Andrea Leadsom MP has been appointed as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ([DEFRA website](#)). Securing an early meeting with the newly appointed Ministers will be a priority for CPRE nationally.

*The **Round Robin** is CPRE Gloucestershire's e-newsletter for members. If you know of someone who would like to read it, please do forward it to them with their permission. Previous editions are available from our website www.cpreqlos.org.uk. If you would like to stop receiving it, please reply to this e-mail with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject box. We greatly appreciate your support for CPRE Gloucestershire and hope that you enjoy the summer.*