

# SHROPSHIRE VOICE

## *Newsletter*

*Campaign to Protect Rural England*

### Welcome to the Summer 2013 edition of Shropshire Voice!

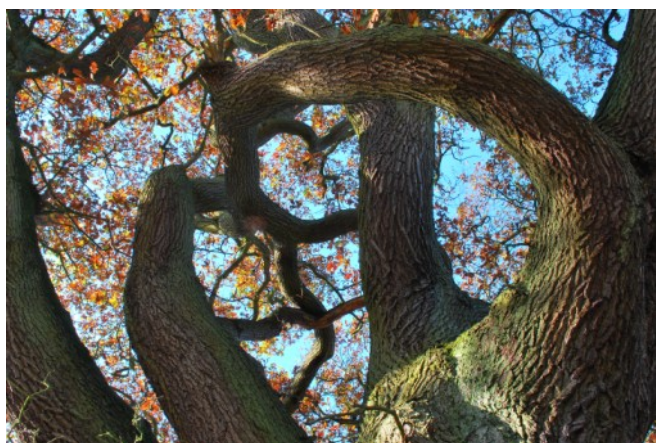


The CPRE President, Sir Andrew Motion, in his article in the summer edition of *Countryside Voice*, refers to the English countryside as “our great communal masterpiece.” The countryside is to a great extent the result of many centuries of intense agricultural activity. Even where things appear to run wild, this is usually a deliberate and conscious choice in a carefully-managed landscape. “The Making of the English Landscape” by WG Hoskins is an essential read for anyone attempting to understand why things are as they are.

Among the most important elements of this ‘masterpiece’ are the trees. These are, more often than not, sited deliberately, whether as part of a landscaped estate, a managed woodland, or the location of a field boundary or trackway, which may have since vanished. Churchyards often have pre-Christian origins, and contain equally ancient trees.

The Veteran Tree Day (see enclosed flyer) which CPRE Shropshire is holding in October is an opportunity to study the Shropshire landscape through the trees at Millichope, some of which are very long-lived. There will also be demonstrations of hedgelaying, a craft which cleverly adapts trees for a specific purpose.

The Severn Tree Trust is active within Shropshire and always in need of volunteers to plant trees, and suggest places where tree planting could enhance the landscape. John Tuer’s article explains how you too could be involved with this worthwhile venture.



*Veteran Oak trees, Bucknell, Shropshire*  
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*Nigel Conner*  
*Editor*

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# Shropshire's Blue Remembered Hills under threat

Housman looked out from Bredon Hill in Worcestershire to "those blue remembered hills" of Shropshire. They were the Clee Hills, still a view provoking affection amongst visitors from all over the world as they travel from the West Midland conurbations towards the Shropshire Hills and Wales. Most of the Clee hills and Houseman's beloved Wenlock Edge are within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and thus are hopefully protected from unsightly development. The ridges below a certain height are unfortunately outside the AONB and have recently been the target of wind turbine applications. Typically these turbines are c.60-80m and the applications are for one or two turbines.

Local communities and CPRE are fighting the applications for turbines at Meadowley and the Downs and we believe there are more in the pipeline. The government under pressure from MPs in rural constituencies and mindful of their localism agenda to consult with local communities have recently drawn back from their policy of renewable energy at any cost. A recent letter to Local Authorities from Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (June 6th) does redress the balance to direct Planning Authorities to take due account of the Environment and the concerns of Local Communities:

- "We need to ensure that protecting the local environment is properly considered alongside the broader issues of protecting the global environment."
- "Meeting our energy goals should not be used to justify the wrong development in the wrong location"
- "The need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and planning concerns of local communities."
- "Great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to the setting."

Perhaps there is some hope that turbines which threaten the landscape of the Shropshire Hills whether they be inside or just outside the AONB will be refused. Members wishing to oppose applications should cite Mr Pickles' letter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-planning-and-onshore-wind>.

**Sarah Bury**  
Chair, CPRE Shropshire

## *All change: New Chair and two Vice Chairs for CPRE Shropshire!*

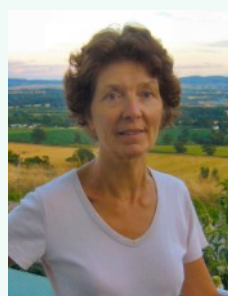
At our AGM in May, CPRE Shropshire was delighted to welcome two new faces to the Executive Committee in Keith Ridland and Judy Crabb, who are now co-Vice Chairs. Sarah Bury, former Branch President, was welcomed as our much-needed Chair.



**Sarah** has lived in the Corvedale in South Shropshire for 40 years. She says: "I am a passionate lover of the English countryside and determined to preserve what is best in it, whilst maintaining the rural communities which are so vital". Sarah's family own Millichope Estate, which her son now runs.

Sarah looks after the Home Farm, with its herd of Welsh Black cows, while her husband Lindsay runs the woodland enterprise. Sarah has wide experience of the planning system: on the planning committee of South Shropshire District Council and with the Shropshire Hills AONB. Sarah represented Shropshire CLA (Country Land and Business Association) and chaired the Community Council of Shropshire for five years before becoming its president. Sarah was president of CPRE Shropshire for the five years until May 2013.

**Keith** was a career officer in the Royal Navy and subsequently Chief Executive of a London-based charity. He lives in Weston-under-Redcastle. "As a keen mountain walker, I believe very strongly in the preservation of our country landscapes. I believe that a planning system should be truly open and democratic, should clearly reflect the prioritisation of brown field sites and at the same time deliver affordable housing where it is most needed. I see no reason why our beautiful Shropshire landscape should be desecrated to achieve this."



**Judy** started her professional career as a qualified town planner and has spent nearly 25 years working in the voluntary and community sector. She says: "I am a passionate supporter of the unique British landscape and joined CPRE in order to support ways of conserving it. I bring my experience of working with and engaging communities to participate and have a voice."



# Severn Tree Trust—planting trees for Shropshire

Following the move to independent status from the International Tree Foundation four years ago, the Severn Tree Trust has gone from strength to strength.

With a membership of over eighty tree enthusiasts, the Trust has a monthly programme of events - talks in the autumn and winter months and visits to gardens with trees during the spring and summer. Tree planting sessions take place during the period November to March. Members are mainly from the Shropshire-Mid Wales area but also from much further afield.

Tree planting is considered in areas where large numbers of the public are likely to enjoy and benefit from the trees. In the past we have planted in public parks, with children in their school grounds, around hospitals and hospices and on some private land where public footpaths pass through so that the public can enjoy the trees.

We planted black poplars along the River Severn in Bridgnorth in an effort to return this species to the Severn Valley. We have planted along the River Clun to provide shade for the habitats of the fresh-water pearl mussels. We have planted a hedge to separate the cemetery from the allotments in Much Wenlock, a hedge for a school in Market Drayton and started an

orchard for Severndale School in Shrewsbury. These are just some of our plantings and we are always on the lookout for more!

Our tree planters and women are now very experienced and in fact, three years ago we contributed to a national attempt to plant the most trees in the UK in one hour. Our efforts

*“We plant trees in any part of Shropshire and even into mid-Wales and we are always on the lookout for new planting*

led to four hundred trees being planted in one hour at Fitz near Montford Bridge. Ten people were involved, so an average of forty trees each in the hour took some doing since each required a cane and a rabbit guard.

We plant trees in any part of Shropshire and even into mid-Wales and we are always on the lookout for new planting sites. More trees in the ground means that the benefits of trees are able to reach more people and these benefits are huge. Many readers will be well aware of these benefits but, perhaps, that is the subject of a future article!

If any CPRE member would like the Severn Tree Trust to consider planting trees in their parish council area, please contact the Trust's tree planting organiser, John Tuer, on 01952 727642. Do remember that we are more likely to consider planting trees if they are on public land.

John Tuer, Severn Tree Trust

*“Trees Need YOU Need Trees”*

*The Severn Tree Trust aims to promote an awareness of the value of trees and the value of planting and protecting them, to plant more trees ourselves and to educate, encourage and support others in the planting of trees.*



## **AGM NOTICE**

**The Bridgnorth CPRE District Branch AGM will be held at 30 Daddlebrook Road, Alveley  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 at 10.30am**

# Shropshire Quiz

Test your knowledge of the county of Shropshire by answering the following questions set by CPRE Shropshire Bridgnorth officer, David Voysey (answers on below):

- 1) Name the column in Shrewsbury that is 133 feet 6 inches tall and is in the Doric style, as used by the ancient Greeks.
- 2) Who was the famous boxer who served as a US Army PT Instructor in North Shropshire during the Second World War?
- 3) What is the bridleway called that starts at one end on the northern edge of the Wyre Forest, passes by Highley, and finishes up on the Shropshire/Powys border?
- 4) What was the society started in 1982, by Major Adrian Coles, who was a Chairman of Shropshire County Council?
- 5) The fake grave of Ebenezer Scrooge was left in the churchyard of which Church in Shrewsbury after it was used in the 1984 film "A Christmas Carol"?
- 6) The modern Olympic Games have their roots in which Shropshire Town?
- 7) How many Shropshire Councillor seats were won uncontested in the Local Elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013?
- 8) Name the Victorian British Prime Minister who was MP for Shrewsbury from 1841 to 1847.
- 9) Who wrote the poem "On Wenlock Edge the Wood's in Trouble"?
- 10) Which town is reputedly the oldest continuously inhabited town in Shropshire, originally founded by the Romans in the first century AD?

Many thanks to Stella & David Voysey for providing the quiz questions!

- 6) Much Wenlock
  - 7) Seven
  - 8) Benjamin Disraeli
  - 9) A E Houseman
  - 10) Whitchurch
- (The Romans called it Mediolanum)

## CPRE Shropshire: Contacts

### Officers

**President** (Vacancy)

**Vice President**

Selby Martin

01743 343784 / [selbymartin@btinternet.com](mailto:selbymartin@btinternet.com)

**Chair**

Sarah Bury D.L. / [sarah@millichope.com](mailto:sarah@millichope.com)

**Co Vice Chairs**

Keith Ridland / [keithridland@hotmail.com](mailto:keithridland@hotmail.com)

Judy Crabb / [Judy@bjf.org.uk](mailto:Judy@bjf.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary/Administrator**

Sarah Jameson

01547 528546 / [admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk)

**Honorary Treasurer** (Vacancy)

**Web address:** [www.cpreshropshire.org.uk](http://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk)

### National Office

The Campaign to Protect Rural England

Registered Office,

5-11 Lavington Street, London, SE1 0NZ

Tel: 020 7981 2800 / Fax: 020 7981 2899

Email: [info@cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@cpre.org.uk) / [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

## CPRE Shropshire Districts

### Bridgnorth

Stella & David Voysey

01746 780356 / [david.voysey@jacd.co.uk](mailto:david.voysey@jacd.co.uk)

**North Shropshire** (Vacancy)

### Oswestry

Mike Bullen / [hilarybullen1@gmail.com](mailto:hilarybullen1@gmail.com)

### Shrewsbury and Atcham

Roger Carlyle / [cye@cardeston.zx3.net](mailto:cye@cardeston.zx3.net)

### South Shropshire

Claire Cox

(contact via [admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk))

**Telford & Wrekin (& Newsletter Editor)**

Nigel Conner / 01952 592224

[nigel.conner@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nigel.conner@tiscali.co.uk)

## Quiz Answers:

- 1) Lord Hill's Column
- 2) Joe Louise (The Brown Bomber)
- 3) Jack Mytton Way
- 4) British Hedgheog Preservation Society
- 5) St Chad's Church