



## “My Shropshire”

Enter your favourite landscape photographs into our 70th anniversary photo competition and win £150! (See pages 8-11 for more details)

*© CPRE Shropshire. Splashes, Partridge, © Sarah Jackson*

*Inside: News about our exciting AGM at Ironbridge Gorge Museum in July!*



# President's report

Looking back over the last two years the word **BREXIT** has not been far from anyone's lips. I am writing this on the supposed eve of BREXIT, and we are none the wiser.

What is important now is that we have all the correct checks and balances in place that will safeguard our environment, landscape and countryside, whatever the future holds.

So much has happened and indeed is happening in the CPRE world, apart from the obvious ongoing conundrums produced by the planning system. Charles Green has reviewed not only planning applications across the county, but also commented on the Local Plan, which has been a Herculean task for one man. It has still yet to be completed! Thank you!

Turning to our wider activities in Shropshire; the lack of affordable housing is still a major issue and is exercising the minds of our management team. The provision of some affordable housing in our villages is still one of the great problems facing the countryside if our villages are to thrive and not just become somewhere that people retire to, or commute from. It will need younger people to become well established in a community. It is so often they who provide the energy and vision to allow a community to continue to thrive and of course help sustain the village school and other community facilities. The provision of a modest

number of well-designed homes, aimed at an affordable market, often makes a dramatic difference to any community.

Connor Furnival has been leading our war on litter, as part of CPRE's nationwide "Green Clean". This should be seen in the context of 35 million plastic bottles and 20 million aluminium cans sold nationally every day. We introduced a deposit return system to demonstrate to the drinks industry how it would work. The mobile reverse vending machine returned 10p for every drink container deposited.

There are many challenges and some uncertainty in the political world ahead. We are fortunate to have a passionate and knowledgeable management team, who are well able to be unofficial guardians of rural Shropshire, its landscape and communities. However, it is not just rural Shropshire that is under threat since urban green spaces, need nurturing and monitoring too.

Finally, a huge thank you to Sarah Bury, the management team at CPRE Shropshire and Sarah Jameson our dedicated administrator. They do so very much in their own time for the benefit of us all. Thank you!

**Robin Thompson**  
**President, CPRE Shropshire**



# AGM NOTICE

CPRE Shropshire Annual General Meeting

## Wednesday 10th July 2019

The Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale

Ironbridge—from 4pm

followed by a talk by Sir Neil Cossens entitled

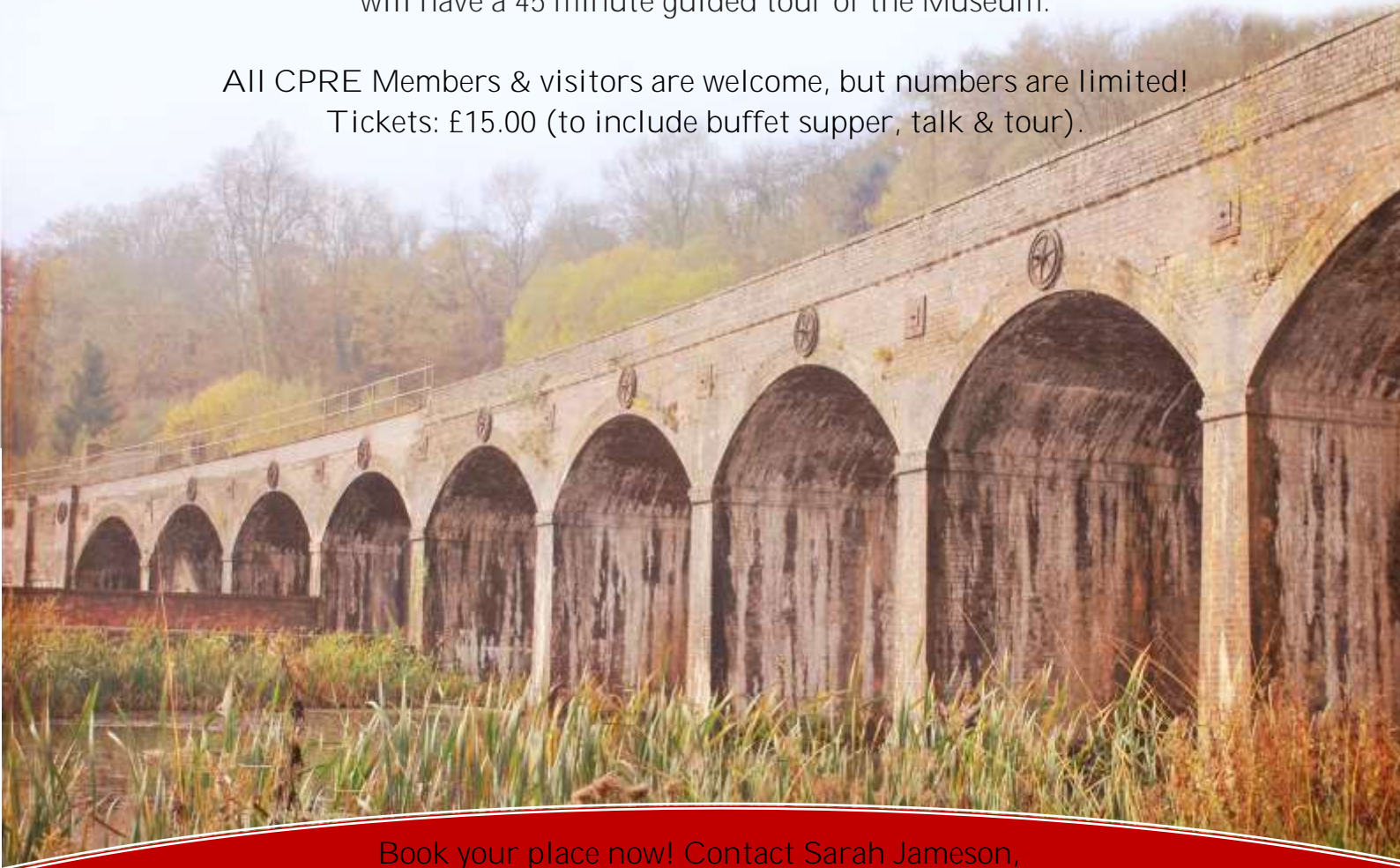
**“The Most Extraordinary District in the World”**

Buffet refreshments & Museum tour included

CPRE Shropshire is excited to be holding its AGM at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum for the first time.

Following the AGM business, our speaker is Sir Neil Cossens, first director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, who went on to become Chair of English Heritage and a leading authority on industrial heritage. After a buffet supper, we will have a 45 minute guided tour of the Museum.

All CPRE Members & visitors are welcome, but numbers are limited!  
Tickets: £15.00 (to include buffet supper, talk & tour).



Book your place now! Contact Sarah Jameson,  
Administrator (01547 528546/admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk)  
or complete the tear-off slip on the back page of this newsletter.



# Chair's Report

**C**PRE has always worked to protect our countryside for the enjoyment and health of all the population not just for those living in the rural areas and today with so many threats and pressures for more housing and the loss of Green Belt, this message is even more important than ever. We need to encourage green spaces within our towns and improve access for all to the wider countryside. This is the message that we are getting from National Office and I like to think that we in CPRE Shropshire are doing our bit.

We have many partners with whom we work in Shropshire to promote these aspirations including the Shropshire Hills AONB, The Wildlife Trust and many Parish Councils. Visitors to Shropshire who support **our local economy visit because we are still "unspoilt."** We have to work to make sure that we continue to draw in these visitors. We need to promote our market towns and villages with their wealth of listed buildings as well as the hills, meres and woodland. We are not against all development but we must fight to retain what is so unique in our built environment as well as our countryside and the part that it plays in giving the County its unique character.

Housing numbers always play a prominent part in our work and this year the threats to the Green Belt in the east of the county have been high on our agenda with proposals to build a Garden Village at Tong and a large increase in housing in Bridgnorth. These are proposals in the local plan which has just finished the first Consultation phase. We have also seen a proliferation in applications for industrial-sized poultry sheds, mostly in the South of the County. Not only can these

be inappropriate developments in the open countryside, but also they bring increased emissions from ammonia both from the buildings themselves and from the manure which is spread on the fields.

This year we have sadly said good bye to Roger Carlyle, our Vice President who with his wife Betty have been pillars of CPRE Shropshire for so many years. We are also losing Emma Jones, our Treasurer who recently married a farmer and as well as helping on the farm and having a full time job is now expecting a baby in July. Very many thanks to Emma for her commitment to CPRES over the last few years and the very best of luck with your new baby!

We have welcomed several new volunteers, some of whom have joined us on the Management Committee: Elizabeth Jones who comes from CPRE Kent and Susan Lockwood who has an interest in affordable housing and has represented us at National Office events. Greg Sinclair assists Connor in the Telford & Wrekin district and attends our management meetings. Linda Charais has just volunteered to take over the job of Treasurer. Hattie Thorpe-Gunner has recently joined the team for the photo competition and brings much-needed skills of PR and social media! We are very lucky to have such a strong team with so many varying skills as well as experience and wisdom.

I would like to thank my Vice Chairs, Cally Ware and Connor Furnival for all their support and Sarah Jameson, our Administrator for keeping us all together and sifting through reams of information to be passed on. Sarah is the major instigator of our new photo competition (see pages 8-11) and a keen photographer in her own right as can be witnessed in her continuous contributions to the website and to Shropshire Voice.

Finally I would like to thank Charles Green whose huge dedication to the detail of planning in the county is absolutely central to our work and, although not always agreed with, held in respect by those developing the Planning policies.

Sarah Bury  
Chair, CPRE Shropshire



Wren © Natasha Clark



Our sun-soaked AGM guided walk in the grounds of Attingham Park last July © Sarah Jameson

## Treasurer's report

**C**PRE Shropshire has had another very encouraging year in terms of financial fundraising, membership, and good use of our resources.

We increased our overall income position by £750 or so, although part of this was due to the increased revenue from AGM ticket sales this year, which is reflected in the higher AGM costs. It is very heartening to see that our income from membership has increased by around £370 or so, which reflects that CPRE membership is still seen as a way of protecting our landscape and county.

A precedent was set last year in 2017 to spend some of our reserves on expert consultants, and this was continued in 2018. This saw us spending £3,500 on consultants, which greatly bolstered our ability to put pressure on Shropshire Council and publicise this work in the media and press.

I hope that many of you enjoyed last year's AGM which was held on a glorious July evening at Attingham Park. It was a lovely event, allowing many members to enjoy a pleasant and informative evening. The costs of our AGM evenings has increased year on year since 2016, but this has been partially offset by successful ticket sales.

Overall, we spent £15,500 in 2018, reflecting a busy, but productive year. This left a deficit of £1,500, as originally agreed by the management committee at the start of the year. The same approach is also being taken in 2019 - with the same aim of using our resources to best effect to protect our wonderful Shropshire landscape.

Emma Jones  
CPRE Shropshire Hon Treasurer

(CPRE Accounts to December 2018 are included with the AGM mailing)



# CPRE Shropshire Planning Update



## Local Plan Review

Those of you who responded to our call to submit responses will know that the consultation on the latest round of the Shropshire Council Local Plan review (on Preferred Sites) was extended by a week to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019, because some of the necessary information was published late.

Our CPRE Shropshire response ran to 106 pages and argued that the housing targets should be reduced by at least 10%, the employment land requirement was grossly over-estimated and that half the proposed hub villages did not meet the Council's own sustainability requirements. We also continued to criticise the Council's approach to consultation and to sustainability issues. It is such a shame that it all seems to fall on deaf ears. We are told that there were several thousand responses this time, many from people who are particularly disgruntled by the Council's plans to build in the Green Belt.

It is the people around Bridgnorth, Shifnal and Tong who are chiefly affected by these plans to build in the Green Belt, which is supposed to be sacrosanct. There are the plans already on the table for 850 houses and other development at Stanmore, outside Bridgnorth.

And then there are the revised plans by the Bradford Estate to build something like 3,000 houses and 50Ha of employment sites near Junction 3 of the M54 to take

some of the unmet need from the Black Country and to assist RAF Cosford's expansion plans. These Junction 3 plans are not yet in the open, and are due to be consulted on in the summer, along with those at the Ironbridge Power Station site and at Tern Hill Barracks. But that hasn't stopped Shropshire Council from advertising all these sites on their *Invest in Shropshire* website, or from hawking them at an international property fair in Cannes.

There are meant to be "exceptional circumstances" before building occurs in the Green Belt, but these have yet to be put forward. The national rules require brownfield sites to get preference but these are obviously more costly to develop, so developers cry "viability". When one tries to get behind these viability reports "commercial confidentiality" is brandished as a means of preventing any meaningful checking of the figures. Readers may remember that we have had previous reason to doubt the Council's mathematical competence.

After this summer's consultation on the "strategic sites" the next and last stage of the Local Plan Review will be the "deposit" of the draft final plan, followed by six weeks of consultation before it gets "Examined in Public" under a Government Planning Inspector. That will be our last chance to show whether the Plan might be "unsound", before it gets adopted.

## Ongoing planning matters

As well as keeping up with the Local Plan Review, we keep our eye on all the planning applications on a weekly basis. There is a weekly press notice in the Shropshire Star of certain applications, but we also trawl through the Council's planning website and produce an edited list of the more important or interesting applications and decisions on a weekly basis. If you would like to be added to the circulation list for these weekly lists, please let Sarah Jameson know ([admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk)).

There are also the other ongoing planning campaigns to keep abreast of, including these:

### *Intensive poultry units*

We have recently teamed up again with colleagues in Powys and Herefordshire, and with other campaigners around Shropshire to see what can be done to stem the tide of poultry units which threaten wildlife and the public with cumulative ammonia emissions. We are taking forward a more comprehensive mapping project which should help to show the full extent of the situation.

### *Shrewsbury Growing Forward*

This group of councillors and local bodies sprang up because of the general cry from around the county (and indeed the country) that housing estates are plonked down without the proper infrastructure to create a "place" worth living in.

Shropshire Council is holding a series of "Place Plan" meetings which are ostensibly meant to address infrastructure issues but they are for only Town and Parish Councillors. Since 2012, over £26m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been collected from house building, but not much of it has yet been spent on actual infrastructure. Shropshire Council do not seem to have fully grasped the potential of these CIL funds.

Charles Green  
CPRE Shropshire Planning Officer



*River Severn at Atcham on a cloudy May afternoon © Sarah Jameson*



# “My Shropshire” photo competition

*We all know the Shropshire countryside is beautiful and needs protecting. To celebrate our 70th birthday, CPRE Shropshire invites you to enter our free photo competition. Show us your favourite Shropshire rural view, and tell us why it is special to you. Be in for the chance to win the top prize of £150!*

Enter our landscape photo competition and show us what *you* love about the Shropshire countryside. It could be a field on the outskirts of your village or town, a winding country lane, or a wide panoramic vista of hills or woods. The choice is yours.

There is a top prize of £150 for the overall winner; two runner up prizes of £50 and a special vineyard tour & tasting prize for the photograph chosen by our Vice President, Selby Martin supplied by Kerry Vale Vineyard.

The winning and highly commended images will be showcased on social media, on our website, in our newsletter/s and will also feature in the Shropshire Star newspaper and Shropshire Life Magazine and elsewhere.

There will be a display of the winning work in the Stables Courtyard at Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury (National Trust) at the end of October and also in Telford Town Centre, amongst other venues, to be confirmed.

## Categories

There are three categories. There will be a prize winner chosen from each category and an overall prizewinner chosen from these top three.

- 1) The Shropshire Countryside: your favourite Shropshire view. This could be a patchwork of fields and hedgerows, a favourite wood, a meandering country lane or the sweep of a river.
- 2) Shropshire Heritage: **Shropshire’s older rural landmarks**, to include hillforts, standing stones, **ancient ruins or our county’s industrial remains**, historic houses, castles etc.
- 3) Shropshire Towns and Villages: We have a wealth of distinctive villages and market towns with regional styles – let us see your favourite!





## How to Enter

Entries should be submitted via email to [photos.cpreshtropshire@gmail.com](mailto:photos.cpreshtropshire@gmail.com)

The closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 6th September 2019.

Each entry must be labelled with the entrant's name, category number (1, 2, or 3) and location of the photograph (eg jones\_3\_river severn at shrewsbury).

Entrants should complete a short entry form and include their contact details, the number, title/s and category/ies of work submitted, plus a short sentence about how their image/s represent/s their passion for Shropshire or Telford & Wrekin.

Entry forms may be downloaded from our website here: [www.cpreshtropshire.org.uk/photo-competition](http://www.cpreshtropshire.org.uk/photo-competition) or contact us at [admin@cpreshtropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshtropshire.org.uk) / 01547 528546.

Applicants may enter a maximum of 4 images in total.

See the Small Print overleaf for the full Terms & Conditions and guidance! These will also be posted on our website.

## Our Sponsors

CPRE Shropshire is extremely grateful to the following Shropshire businesses and organisations for their generous sponsorship and support of our competition. Please do visit their websites to find out more!

Sansaw Estate  
<http://sansaw.co.uk>

Kaleidoscope Framing  
[www.kaleidoscope-framing.co.uk](http://www.kaleidoscope-framing.co.uk)

SJF Design & Print  
[www.sjfdesignandprint.co.uk](http://www.sjfdesignandprint.co.uk)

Kerry Vale Vineyard  
[www.kerryvalevineyard.co.uk](http://www.kerryvalevineyard.co.uk)

Attingham Park (National Trust)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/attingham-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/attingham-park)

*Entry forms, full rules and information about our sponsors is available on our website at [www.cpreshtropshire.org.uk/photo-competition](http://www.cpreshtropshire.org.uk/photo-competition)*







*Evening light on the Lawley seen from Caer Caradoc, near Church Stretton © John Hayward, Shropshire and Beyond*

*CPRE Shropshire is extremely grateful to John Hayward and Tina Corfield, our judges, for their time and expertise!*

*Judge: John Hayward*

[www.shropshireandbeyond.com](http://www.shropshireandbeyond.com)



*A peaceful scene on the Llangollen Canal at Ellesmere  
© John Hayward, Shropshire and Beyond*

John is one half of fine art photography team Shropshire and Beyond, the other being his father Mike. Their book, *A Year in Shropshire*, showcases the county in more than 160 stunning images.

Based in the beautiful county of Shropshire, they supply imagery for editorial and commercial clients, including advertising and design agencies, newspapers and magazines. Their range of Shropshire calendars and greetings cards are well-known throughout the county.

*Judge: Tina Corfield*

[www.tinacorfieldphotography.com](http://www.tinacorfieldphotography.com)

Tina is a local photographer who is inspired by the beauty of the Shropshire, Telford and North Wales landscapes. As well as traditional photography, Tina experiments with creative effects and her images are available as prints, canvasses, cards and other gifts.

Since taking up photography more seriously, she has had several of her photographs published by the Shropshire Star and more recently the BBC news website. Tina has exhibited throughout Shropshire and one of her images was shortlisted for the prestigious Qube Open Arts Competition 2018.



*Bluebell Woodland Walk, The Wrekin © Tina Corfield*



# The small print!

## Please follow the How to Enter instructions on p 9.

These terms and conditions govern the CPRE Shropshire photo competition 2019. The competition organisers are CPRE Shropshire. By accepting these Terms & Conditions of the competition and subsequently submitting your photographs, you have entered into an agreement with the organisers. The organisers reserve the right to modify these terms and conditions without notice.

1) The competition closes on 6th September 2019. Entries submitted after this date will not be accepted. Late, illegible, incomplete, defaced or corrupt entries will not be accepted. No responsibility can be accepted for lost entries and proof of transmission will not be accepted as proof of receipt.

2) Photos should be of rural landscapes within the boundaries of Shropshire, including Telford & Wrekin.

3) Image files should be in jpeg format and at a resolution of 300dpi (max file size of 15MB/image). Images may be taken with smartphones/ipads, but please ensure you have the camera set at the highest resolution for best quality. Email your images to: [photos.cpreshropshire@gmail.com](mailto:photos.cpreshropshire@gmail.com)

4) All images submitted must be the work of the individual submitting them and must not have been published elsewhere or have won a prize in any other photo competition.

5) It is the responsibility of each entrant to ensure that any images they submit have been taken with the permission of the subject and do not infringe the copyright of any third party or any laws.

6) Entrants must warrant that the photograph they are submitting is their own work and that they own the copyright for it.

7) Copyright for all images submitted for this competition remains with the respective entrants. However, each entrant grants a worldwide, irrevocable, perpetual licence to CPRE Shropshire to feature any or all of the submitted images in any of their publications, social media, websites and/or in any promotional material connected to this competition.

8) Photos submitted must be your own work, must not be copied, must not contain any third-party materials and/or content that you do not have permission to use and must not otherwise be obscene, defamatory or in breach of any applicable legislation or regulations.

9) We are looking for natural photographs that have not been heavily manipulated. Some light editing is acceptable.

## *Eligibility*

10) The competition is open to anyone of any age with the following exceptions: a) individuals directly involved in organising or judging the competition, b) individuals that work for CPRE Shropshire, c) professional photographers,

defined for the purposes of this competition as those who earn more than half their income through photography.

11) Those in doubt as to their eligibility must contact the **organisers for clarification before entering**. The organiser's decision on eligibility is final.

12) If you are under the age of 18 you must have permission to enter from your parent or guardian. By submitting an entry for the competition, your parent or guardian is deemed to have given such consent and to agree to the use of the entry as described in these terms and conditions.

## *Judging*

13) The winner and runners up will be notified by Monday 30th September by phone or email.

14) The judges include Shropshire landscape photographers, John Hayward, Shropshire and Beyond and Tina Corfield and members of the CPRE management team.

15) The judges will select images based upon technical skill, diversity, originality and creativity. Entries will be assessed against the brief. The decision of the organisers is final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the competition's judging and organisation.

16) You agree that if you are a winner/runner up you will take part in/cooperate fully with reasonable publicity and to the use of your name in such publicity.

17) Prizes are as stated and no cash or other alternative can be offered.

18) By submitting photos you are accepting these rules.

## *Prizes*

19) The first prize winner will receive a cheque for £150; the two runners up a cheque for £50. The winner of the Selby Martin award will receive a ticket for 2 people for a free tour of the Kerry Vale Vineyard, including wine tasting.

20) Up to 12 highly commended entries will be printed, and exhibited alongside the winning works at venues to include Attingham Park (National Trust) and others TBC.

## *Your Privacy*

*We will only store your information on our database for CPRE Shropshire's photo competition purposes. We will never sell this information to others. Our Privacy Policy is available on our website. [www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/privacy-policy)*

*Any queries?* Contact Sarah Jameson, Administrator, CPRE Shropshire: [admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk) / 01547 528546



# Please welcome our new volunteers...

*CPRE Shropshire, like all CPRE branches, is dependent on its volunteers for much of its work. We have been extremely lucky in Shropshire in the last twelve months to have gained several new volunteers with an array of great skills and interests—see below! If you would like to join us, do let Sarah know (admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk) or 01547 528546.*

SUSAN  
LOCKWOOD



I joined CPRE two years ago, having attended a presentation they gave at the Shrewsbury Town Football ground and been impressed with the work being done in Shropshire. I moved to Shropshire in 2014 and became a parish councillor in 2017 partly because I feel Rea Valley may be over developed and because this AONB is outstanding and I want to keep it so. I championed the funding now being provided by Pontesbury Parish Council to maintain Poles Coppice, which the County Council decided to cease providing in 2017. As soon as I joined CPRE Shrewsbury District I volunteered to take the secretarial role, which I enjoy. I appreciate the expertise of the district members and volunteers.

GREG  
SINCLAIR

I had been very concerned about the over development in Telford and the complete lack of "Green Corridors" within the larger developments. Telford planning committee had no major organisation to assist local opposition, and this is where I feel CPRE fills a much-needed position.

Besides the obvious advantages of working with the CPRE organisation, I am enjoying the extended community connection helping to organise our 2019 photography competition and 2019 AGM.



HATTIE  
THORPE-GUNNER



I decided to volunteer for CPRE Shropshire as I am passionate about protecting our natural environment, especially at a time when our beautiful and vital green spaces are under greater pressure than ever before. With a degree in Geography, along with my current role as a PR Officer at a national charity, I'm looking forward to putting by skills and knowledge to use by supporting CPRE with upcoming projects and campaigns.

*CPRE Shropshire is always in need of new volunteers, especially people willing to help us keep an eye on, and fight, planning applications in their local areas. If this sounds like you, or you have other skills to offer, please let us know!*

# District reports

## SHREWSBURY

The Shrewsbury Group has met five times since **CPRE Shropshire's AGM in June 2018** and matters of interest have included:

A meeting with Daniel Kawczynski MP for **Shrewsbury & Atcham with CPRE Shropshire's** Charles Green and Roger Carlyle, was convened to discuss the ramifications of the Shropshire Local Plan Review document, with a specific mention that the number of new homes suggested for Shrewsbury is considered too high.

North West Relief Road – although Daniel Kawczynski is claiming the Government's pledge of £51M towards this project a success, doubt remains that Shropshire Council will be able to provide the finance needed to complete the project. The main objections are air quality, noise and traffic chaos around the major road junctions.

Poultry farm applications are monitored.

CIL – the Community Infrastructure Levy – **Shropshire Council's response to concerns raised via SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils)** will be monitored.

The over-riding concern regarding developments in rural areas are potential flooding and stress on local infrastructure, as well as transport, schools and GP surgery provision. Monitoring applications when they occur will continue.

Susan Lockwood attended a first-of-its-kind Network Event at CPRE National Office in London in March, entitled Affordable Housing in Rural Areas. There was a well-informed and examples of successful campaigns in the South of England and Cumbria. Robin Thompson, President, CPRE Shropshire, described how South Shropshire Housing Association came into being. The next step is to convene every group involved in creating affordable homes, in one place to explore how this goal could be achieved. For the Shrewsbury District the need is to recruit volunteers to carry this forward.

Susan Lockwood  
Secretary, CPRE Shrewsbury District

## TELFORD & WREKIN

The last 12 months for the Telford & Wrekin district have been mainly focused on growing our volunteer base and sending a positive message to the community about our organisation and its work and investing in the growth of the organisation locally.

**In September 2018, we ran a very successful "Green Clean" in Telford Town Park which reached regional media channels and saw a variety of new groups work with us who we have never previously worked with.** We collected nearly 1,000 recyclable items in the local nature reserve of the Town Park while we campaigned for a reverse vending machine system to be implemented nationwide. Particular thanks go to the Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley and the Friends of Telford Town Park and Telford & Wrekin Council staff for their help.

Our district AGM in December 2018 was a great success with guest speakers John Box a local ecologist and Tina Corfield a Shropshire photographer. The AGM was well attended and the speakers were of a very high standard and shared their passions for our beautiful countryside and green urban spaces. From the success of the event we gained two new Parish Councils as members and a few new individual members. Connor Furnival was re-elected as Chair for 2019, with Greg Sinclair and Pauline Soulsby returned as Vice Chair and Secretary respectively.

We are currently planning for more events through 2019 and are looking at positive ways to work with Telford & Wrekin Council and other partners to give a holistic approach to better planning for future developments in the Borough.

I feel that Telford, while in the ceremonial county of Shropshire is a very different beast to the rest of the county. It is split down the middle with a half rural and half urban Borough but with positive planning I believe we can capture and seize this unique image for tomorrow's generation. But we need our message to grow and our aspirations to turn into action, it is this reason I am a part of CPRE and I look forward to our charity's future.

Connor Furnival  
Chair, CPRE Telford & Wrekin District



# District reports—continued



Pre-Reformation oak and pre-Civil War house near Oswestry © Charles Green

## OSWESTRY

As reported in earlier editions of Shropshire Voice we held a well-attended District AGM and talk in September last year. An AGM and Garden evening is being planned for late August this year.

Oswestry members, like others around the County, have been engaging with the effects of Shropshire Council's Local Plan review in our area. The Council are planning a mini-garden village at Park Hall in the name of the local Civic Society's ideas for "Oswestry 2050" but have missed the point of those ideas, which was for an overall Masterplan for the area.

Campaigns sometimes have to rumble on for years, of course. We still support the Oswestry Hillfort group in their long-running efforts to keep up awareness of the national importance of this "*Maiden Castle*" of the midlands, and of preserving its setting. At least there are no more plans currently to build around it, but the contentious site on Whittington Road will become visibly active soon.

Meanwhile the cranes have arrived at the Oswestry livestock market site to begin building the Morrisons store and petrol station, even as petrol cars are on the way out, and even after two other supermarkets have sprung up between that site and the Town centre. So much for protecting the high street.

And we still don't have the final result of the battle to keep giant pylons from marching across our patch. The Public Inquiry finished some five years ago, but its aftermath has definitely been kicked into the long grass whilst Government lawyers wrestle with Brexit issues.

As always, we welcome the views of all who are touched by any of the items in this newsletter, and who might want to help. Contact details are on the back page.

Charles & Sally Green  
Joint Chairs, CPRE Oswestry district

## BRIDGNORTH

This has been a very active year for the Committee, mainly in challenging controversial planning applications that have taken a great deal of time to consider.

The planning lists supplied by the management committee have been most helpful in alerting us to those problematic applications that need investigation to ensure our local countryside is satisfactorily protected.

While the increase in poultry farms is still a going concern, the major problem in recent times has been the proliferation of proposals for holiday lets, and glamping sites, including caravans, pods, and shepherd huts. Following opposition some have been refused but quite a number have been permitted causing harm to our countryside. The places for them have been widespread over the Bridgnorth area including at Alveley, Astbury, Broseley, Bridgnorth (Knowle Sands), Broseley, Claverley, Eardington, Hampton Loade, Highley, Ludstone and Worfield. The one causing the greatest opprobrium was Astbury Hall, where the creation of over 350 holiday flatlets was allowed.

Another bitter disappointment earlier last year was the granting of permission for excavation at Shipley Quarry, which we consider was contrary to Shropshire Council's own planning policies. It lays open the valid charge that commercial interests come first and care of our countryside a poor second. An ongoing major issue is deciding on the future use of the former Ironbridge Power Station site. It is important to keep an eye when any development proposals are presented and to comment as and when needed.

The Local Plan Review is still underway and creating great local consternation because of the desire of Shropshire Council to build on Green Belt land in quite a number of places, without the 'very special circumstances' justifying the developments.

Garden Villages are proposed at Stanmore and Tong and other large housing developments at Albrighton and Shifnal. They are all hotly disputed at local level. Even the village of Alveley is affected where two fields in the Green Belt are proposed for housing development. These proposals make a mockery of the statements in the revised NPPF issued in July 2018, where it is claimed that it should be more difficult to erode Green Belt boundaries during Local Plan development and that they should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified. Our committee has been represented at local meetings regarding the Review and Place Plan meetings for Albrighton and Bridgnorth.

Our committee has been approached by individuals and pressure groups for help and advice on how to challenge planning applications or the Local Plan proposals. It has been a year of a high number of controversial planning issues and the main difficulty has been dealing with them all satisfactorily.

My grateful thanks go to all committee members for their contributions in pursuing the aims and objectives of CPRE.

David Voysey  
Chairman, CPRE Bridgnorth District

## SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

Apart from poultry farms which Bill Ware covers on this page, elsewhere, the big story has been the success of stopping holiday chalets in Mortimer Forest. Although Mortimer Forest is in Herefordshire, it is greatly enjoyed by the residents of Ludlow and many others living in South Shropshire as well as tourists who visit us. Our countryside is particularly appreciated for its beauty and tranquillity and a great destination for walkers.

The local community raised a very effective campaign to stop Forest Holidays building luxury cabins as they have done in many other parts of the country owned by the Forestry Commission. The application was withdrawn and in March a service of thanksgiving was held in St Laurence's in Ludlow to celebrate our beautiful woodlands. CPRE have supported this campaign and are thrilled with the outcome.

Sarah Bury  
Chair, CPRE Shropshire

## Poultry Shed update

The uncertainty of Brexit, farm payments and the government's drive to encourage landowners and farmers to diversify will inevitably lead to continuing and increasing numbers of applications for large agricultural units and also for holiday sites.

In April 2018, Shropshire Council issued guidance notes on assessing the impact of ammonia and nitrogen on designated sites and Natural Assets from new and expanding livestock units. The Council are still granting planning permission for poultry units, but with increased attention to the environmental impact. Shropshire Council granted planning permission for the erection of four poultry buildings at Footbridge Farm, Tasley. As a result of this, the Tasley Chicken Farm Action Group were formed and appealed against this decision. The campaign group stated that it was taking the appeal to the Court of Appeal to ensure that councils across the country do not turn a blind eye to the risk of environmental impact when they consider new applications. The case has been heard and the decision is awaited.

In September 2018, the Council gave approval to four poultry sheds at Hopton Heath, subject to a 106 agreement to remove manure from the Clun catchment area and ensure that the scrubber system remains throughout the lifetime of the development, but as yet no notice has come through. The status of the application is awaiting decision.

In February 2019, the Council granted planning permission for the erection of two poultry sheds to the North East of Aston Munslow subject to certain conditions. As a result, campaigners have decided to look at cross county border implications of all these decisions. Maps will be produced which include all the relevant data pertaining to large chicken farms. The existing CPR Wales maps are being used as a model and it was agreed that it would be effective to combine these maps to include Wales, Shropshire and Herefordshire.

The moral of the story relating to large chicken farms and Shropshire Council would seem to be "if you are against the endless proliferation of these units, contact your local Councillors to make your views known and lobby for a change in policy."

Bill Ware  
Poultry Farm Planning Officer  
CPRE Shropshire



# Did you know? Investigating forgotten paths

There are 130,000 miles of paths across England and Wales, according to the Ramblers' website.

In 2026, as a result of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, the law will change. Bridleways and footpaths that existed in 1949 but are neither recorded on a local authority's Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way nor the subject of a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application to be recorded, will be extinguished and lost forever.

The Ramblers, British Horse Society and other outdoor groups are therefore urging everyone who values our rights of way to research forgotten paths on maps and documents in their local area: "The more people out there scouring libraries and public records offices for documentation, the more paths we can save before the 2026 deadline."

There is a dedicated page to claiming unrecorded rights of way on the Ramblers' website and we will provide a link to this information on the "Issues" page of our own website at [www.cpreshropshire.org.uk](http://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk). More information is available from the Ramblers direct: [jack.cornish@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:jack.cornish@ramblers.org.uk)



Beech-lined track, near Cwm © Sarah Jameson

## AGM Booking form *(see p3 of this newsletter)*

To book your place at our AGM on Wednesday 10th July at Ironbridge Gorge Museum (4pm start), please complete this form and send to Sarah Jameson (address below).

Tickets for the AGM are £15.00 per person, to include evening talk, buffet supper, and guided tour.

I would like to book \_\_\_\_ place/s at the CPRE AGM at Ironbridge Gorge Museum on Wednesday 10th July.

☐ I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (made out to "CPRE Shropshire")

☐ I wish to pay by bank transfer £\_\_\_\_\_

Bank details: Sort Code: 30-97-62 / A/c no: 00106789 / A/c name: "CPRE SHROPS COUNTY BR"



Full Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*On the night, there will be a fund-raising Raffle for CPRE Shropshire—please do bring some loose change to buy a ticket, or perhaps bring a raffle prize?*

**Contact CPRE Shropshire Administrator, Sarah Jameson**  
**Stags Head, New Invention, Bucknell, Shropshire SY7 0BS**  
**Tel: 01547 528546 / [admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk)**  
**[www.cpreshropshire.org.uk](http://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk)**