



Summer / Autumn
Magazine 2019
Cornwall

PROTECTING RURAL CORNWALL

Caring about today, and the future



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Fabulous AONB Picture - [pages 6 and 7](#)

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Chairman's Message



Dear Members and Supporters,

Amongst the political turbulence that is consuming many of our decision makers at the moment, we might see a reason why the interests of the countryside, nature and the environment might take second place.

However, the tide of feeling to protect our core values, nationally and in Cornwall, is going from a trickle to a flood. We have received many messages of support and pleas for help, from an increasingly broad section of the public who see the Cornish way of life being threatened and destroyed, mainly by indiscriminate development.

It is clear also that CPRE Cornwall has begun to have some influence. Both membership and volunteer numbers are rising. With your much appreciated support, we will continue and expand our activities as a champion of rural Cornwall.

We also see a great value in putting something back, such as tree planting, marine clean ups and organising trips for our members and others, to enjoy the countryside.

This magazine is intended to give you a further insight into what we are doing to protect the character and beauty of Cornwall. Your involvement, whether it be letters of support, practical help or financial, will bring a real benefit to protecting our unique County.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Stubbs
Chairman - CPRE Cornwall

CPRE Cornwall is an independent charity and the Cornish branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

To contact us, please phone 01872 480127 or email admin@cprecornwall.org

www.cprecornwall.org
Registered charity number 218344

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in February this year at the Headland Hotel Newquay. Its purpose was to elect the Management Committee, and to report on our progress and future plans.

CPRE Cornwall President, Sir John Banham began by welcoming those present and remarked on the bigger than expected attendance – standing room only. He commented “Many more of our members are becoming actively involved which greatly helps both our committee and our cause.”

Elections/re-elections to the committee were then held on a show of hands.

For 2019 therefore and until the next AGM, the committee will comprise:

Richard Stubbs	Chairman
Guy Waller	Treasurer
Mark Pasterfield	Trustee
Emma McNulty	Trustee
Peter Watson	Committee member
Tri Watson	Committee member
Jackie Jarvis	Committee member
Liz Knowles	Committee member
Rowena Castillo-Nicholls	Committee member



Several co-opted additions are anticipated during the year, in particular to assist with Planning and Publicity.

Sir John Banham was re-elected as President but announced that for health reasons this will be his final year. We are now open for nominations for the Presidency for the year 2020 and would welcome your input on this.

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Feedback

What local issues concern you?

We'd love to hear from you with your comments on our magazine, on the work of the CPRE generally or reports of what is – or isn't - taking place local to you on issues that affect your community. **Email** admin@cprecornwall.org

Member and Guest Events 2019

For up to date details of events please go to our web site <http://www.cprecornwall.org/>

For bookings and/or further information, call 01872 480127.

Many thanks to Rowena Castillo-Nicholls who organised our Tin Coast Field Trip near St Just. We saw awesome scenery, some of Cornwall's tin mining history and Choughs!

Thanks also to Jackie and several members who rallied round to help us with staffing of the Spring Flower Show in April.

6th to 8th June

Please visit us on stand 432 at the Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge.

July / August

A talk on Dark Skies, the implications for nocturnal wildlife and stargazing. There's a rather fun interactive map on the events page of our website.

Saturday 13th July

Please visit us at the Liskeard Show.

Memo to self

Must join the CPRE or recommend a friend

They will help us save the beauty of Cornwall!

Monday 15th July

Please visit us at the Stithians Show.

Saturday 20th July

Please visit us at the Camborne Show.

2.30pm, Friday 6th September

A tour and samples at Camel Valley Winery. There are lunch facilities at the vineyard and an optional walk too. Booking must be in advance and the charge is £10.00 per head. Why not have the afternoon off and come along... (see page 8)

Saturday morning, 21st September

A woodland walk of about two miles, starting at the creek-side village of Helford, to the historic farmstead of Kestle Barton where there is an art gallery and a beautiful garden. The visit will start on the Helford Passage side with a ferry ride across to the village, and end with lunch at the waterside pub.

Booking for these events is essential as numbers will be limited.

Money to burn
Solar farms get millions more in taxpayer handouts than they make selling electricity

Shell to plant forests to offset greenhouse gas emissions
By Jillian Ambrose
9/4/19

Holiday homes dodge £80m council tax

Polluters must pay
An Oxford economist's radical plan to revitalise our country
FARMING
Simon Barnes

Pristine areas at risk under new rules, conservationists warn

Buyers in despair at badly built new homes

Growing up near green spaces is linked to better mental health

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent
likely to develop disorders such as cognitive development.

'Underhand' Bovis delaying essential repairs
TIMES INVESTIGATION
Andrew Ellison Consumer Affairs Correspondent
Sam Blanchard

Developers 'gobbling up green belt for unaffordable housing'

Building free-for-all puts rural West at risk
BY MARTIN FREEMAN
Vague planning laws 'will see homes on protected sites'

Councils 'killing high street with £1.6bn stealth tax on parking'

Village up in arms at homes plan
BY RICHARD WHITEHOUSE LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The reputation of Planning in Cornwall is at a low ebb. The creeping destruction of our arable land and countryside is beginning to take its toll of our County, where all around us there is crude evidence that nature is losing. Some new houses are obviously necessary but what is happening here is nothing to do with need, it is about greed. We have no problem with making a profit but not the sort that enables Jeff Fairburn, Chief Executive of Persimmon Homes to receive a bonus of £75,000,000 (Yes, that is the correct figure) based on his company's house building performance.

"Economic growth is the single most destructive force for wildlife and the environment, stripping us of our finite resources until simply, there is nothing left" - UN Report

So let's start with the price we as local people are having to pay for the gross behaviour of the house building industry. With a few special exceptions, every house built causes additional CO2 to be emitted into the atmosphere due to its construction, its everyday use and subsequent street lighting. Then we take away the oxygen that is lost because most of them are built on green field rather than brown field sites. Now we add in the extra traffic generated which emits more CO2, some poisonous nitrates and a whole load of carbon particulates. That is the price we are paying just for the damage to the climate and to our health. We haven't even got round to the affect on our landscapes, our wildlife, water extraction, water pollution and plastic litter...

The extent of the need for 52,500 new houses in Cornwall by year 2030 is bogus. It was based on Government predictions for household growth made in 2009 which have since been revised sharply downwards. The housing crisis so often referred to is in fact genuine but is mostly about homelessness and young people starting out who can't find or afford a home. None of which is being solved by current policies of big scale building of mainly three, four and five bedroomed homes. Sorry everyone but what is being done to Cornwall is purely about money for others and nothing to do with the people who live in Cornwall.

So perhaps it's about time there was a re-assessment.

Now, there is a new public awareness about climate change, the environment and the value of nature. The recent UN report on climate change does not pull its punches. It identifies economic growth as being the single most destructive force for wildlife and the environment, stripping us of our finite resources until simply, there is nothing left. The trouble is that economic growth is a sacred cow, so we're not going to change that in a hurry.

Don't believe for one moment that Cornwall is an exception to the rule, just look around you for the evidence. But we do need to make a start and perhaps rather urgently. Being environmentally selective on any new development is probably the best way to begin and first on the list is unnecessary housebuilding, which is a massive culprit.

Cornwall Council is at the sharp end of the current building frenzy, driven by the Local Plan but they are to some extent between a rock and a hard place. National Government policy has since the sixties, used stimulus of the construction industry to help drive the economy. Westminster policy needs to change for good and that means by all political parties. Building homes tends to be a vote winner, although frequently not for the local people affected, whose lives are blighted by sterile urbanisation, overcrowding and the destruction of their natural environment. Even the people who live in the new houses have cause to complain. Shoddy building is acknowledged as commonplace, with developers often reluctant to improve standards or fix faults. (See opposite page)

Whilst our Council is compelled to comply with Government policy and targets, they do seem to be going into it with a bit too much relish. We have a number of serious concerns and reservations about local planning policy.

Consequently, CPRE Cornwall is committed to a programme of lobbying, advising and persuading Local Government and also National Government (via our six Cornish MPs) regarding the need to listen to local opinion and to effect a local planning policy that is much more in sympathy with the rural environment, the natural world and the Cornish way of life. Some time ago we were promised a certain degree of devolution. For Planning, we need that now.

Just as applicable to Cornwall and indeed everywhere, in a world context, the closing words by Sir David Attenborough in Blue Planet II were, "We all have a responsibility to care for our planet. The future of all life on earth now depends on us".





Picture courtesy of Andy Burton

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

This breathtaking view of Porthcurno is typical of the 12 Areas designated within the AONB organisation in Cornwall. They make up some of Cornwall's finest and most important landscapes that are safeguarded in the public interest.

From green rolling hills and wild heartlands to ancient forests, moorland and exquisite beaches, these are exceptional areas of our countryside that have nurtured and inspired us for generations. The status of the Cornwall AONB, as a nationally and internationally important protected landscape, is equal to that of a National Park such as Exmoor or Dartmoor. However, unlike national parks, the AONB organisation does not have its own planning powers. Cornwall Council has the responsibility for Planning in all the County's AONB areas.

Now, alarming evidence shows that these Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are under threat from housing developments that will change the historic character of villages and compromise landscapes.

Despite being part funded by DEFRA and part by Cornwall Council, the AONB in Cornwall is a legally established independent organisation. They will frequently present considered and detailed objections to inappropriate planning applications. This, however, is not proving enough to hold back a powerful tide of planning acceptances.

So just when we all thought AONBs were safe, it seems they're not. CPRE Cornwall now has three planning challenges within an AONB where we are seeking to stop highly damaging proposals or stop

an important planning precedent being set. (See our Campaign Update on page 10).

CPRE data for the last five years:

- Applications to build multiple houses on AONBs have shot up 105%
- Number of houses proposed within applications to build on AONBs has gone up 162%
- Almost 15,500 houses have been approved in AONBs – an 82% increase.
- This has led to a fivefold increase in the amount of land lost to development within AONBs.

CPRE Cornwall will be campaigning for planning control to be given directly to the Cornwall AONB.





In each issue of 'Protecting Rural Cornwall' we shine the spotlight on a Cornish business, assess its impact on our local economy and look into how it works to protect our fragile ecology. In this issue, we went along to meet Bob Lindo, proprietor of the Camel Valley Vineyard in North Cornwall.

What do The Ritz, Nathan Outlaw's restaurant in Dubai and the Royal Household have in common? The answer is of course, they all serve Camel Valley's award-winning wines.

When ex-RAF pilot Bob Lindo and his wife Annie bought a sheep farm on the outskirts of Nanstallon, North Cornwall back in 1982 their frustration at seeing their grass turn brown year after year in the heat of the sun soon transformed into the very inspiration they needed to plant their first vines.

In 1989 Bob and Annie converted two barns and built a winery, equipping it with the best equipment they could afford at the time. Their grape of choice is the Bacchus, which is perfectly suited to the soil and climate of the valley. This grape, along with a respect for traditional vineyard practices, a modern approach to wine making and a passion for creating wines that provide pure perfection, has been the secret of Camel Valley's success.

The early years were not easy and harvesting the grapes was down to just the two of them with the generous help of a few good friends. But they rose to the challenge and thirty years on and now with their son Sam at the helm – still with a little help from dad, - their workforce has expanded to 20 local full-time employees, many of whom live in the village.

Bob's finest moment came in 2005 with an International Wine Challenge Gold Medal for Camel Valley 'Cornwall' sparkling wine.

"I was so proud to have won this as our wine was up against the finest in the world and was the first ever International Wine Challenge gold medal awarded to

an English sparkling wine. I really felt that I had set the standard for generations to come."

In the on-site tasting room, which also hosts a formidable array of local, national and international awards and trophies, you can purchase a glass or four of your favourite from their range of sparkling and still wines. Amongst the qualifiers might be the 2015 Camel Valley 'Cornwall' Brut, or a 2016 Camel Valley Pinot Noir Rose Brut, their 2014 Chardonnay Brut or a very tasty 2017 Camel Valley sparkling cider. If you're more inclined towards a still wine then you will love their 2017 Camel Valley Bacchus Dry or their 2018 Rose. The entire Camel Valley range is available to order online – see below for details.

Last year Camel Valley received the Royal Warrant and became the first UK wine producer to receive 'Protected Designated Origin' (PDO) status by the European Union.

Part of Camel Valley's ethos has always been to support and contribute to the local Cornish economy but to do so causing minimal impact on its ecology. This meant, amongst other things, addressing the issue of energy supply. Large but inconspicuous solar panels meet the vineyard's entire annual energy requirements, with excess power being sent to the national grid. And no plastic is used in any part of the wine production or packing process with any plastic arriving at the vineyard from suppliers being promptly and responsibly recycled.

If the litmus test of what makes a successful Cornish business is building a profitable, sustainable, ecologically sound business which employs local skills all year round and inspires the local school children on work experience to use their imagination and prepare for the rewards of honest hard work, then Bob, Annie, Sam and their entire workforce are certainly doing a 'proper job' of it.

CAMEL VALLEY VINEYARD
 Nanstallon, Cornwall PL30 5LG
 Tel: 01208 77959 www.camelvalley.com

Anything green and growing soaks up CO2 and generates oxygen for us to breathe. Trees are in fact the single most effective counter to CO2 and climate change. They also bring a huge range of other benefits to wildlife, insects, birds and even our mental health.

Here at CPRE Cornwall we are doing our bit to help plant them (and to stop them being cut down). With our assistance and working with the Woodland Trust, the first wood has been planted at Constantine near Falmouth. Our thanks go to landowners Sue and Lynda Bentley,



Newly planted trees at Constantine

who have provided nearly two acres of land. Species planted were sessile oak, beech, downy birch, alder, rowan, crab apple, hawthorn and hazel.

We have received a very good response to our appeal for land to plant trees. One of our projects is in Camelford where the first batch of planting is due to go in this winter. We did manage to sneak in a lime tree just in time at the end of this spring, just as a tester! Hopefully the prelude of many more to come.

If you have land that you would like to turn into a wood or would like advice, please contact us.



The Lime Tree at Camelford.
 Lime trees reach a height of 50 to 150 feet and can have a life span between 300 and 400 years

Making a Donation

CPRE Cornwall is an independent charity which relies on donations to continue its campaigning and environmental work. Our registered charity number is 218344.

To donate please phone **01872 480127** or make contact via admin@cprecornwall.org or www.cprecornwall.org

Your money can work even harder - paying by Gift Aid is easy

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Joining CPRE Cornwall

You can become a member by paying a monthly or annual subscription. To find out more, please call us on 0800 163 680, email us on admin@cprecornwall.org, or visit our website at www.cprecornwall.org.

You can also use the form printed on the back page of this magazine.

It greatly helps CPRE Cornwall to exert its influence locally or nationally, when it has the weight of its membership behind it.

The more members we have, the more effective our voice in standing up for our countryside or resisting a particularly destructive planning application.

HALGAVOR MOOR South Bodmin – Some useful progress The Planning Inspector’s Report has been released which has acknowledged that Halgavor Moor is unsuitable for the original plan to allocate 770 houses. So their proposal now, is to reduce this by 40%, due to substantial areas of the Moor being wetland. A full hydrological report is now required.

It is not clear why it has taken thousands of protestors and a major campaign to determine a simple scientific fact that should have been properly identified by the Council at the outset. We believe the entire Halgavor Moor is unsuitable as a building site and on the Inspector’s own admission ‘there is an over-provision’ at Bodmin. We will continue to campaign for it to be removed completely from the County wide allocation plans for building land.

ST MAWGAN near Newquay We have been working closely with a local landowner to overturn the granting of planning permission for a series of tourist attractions in a prominent and completely unspoilt AGLV location, including a miniature railway and car parking. We supported his application for a Judicial Review which was granted. Here is an extract of our submissions:

“It is CPRE’s view that this tourist attraction, together with its car parking and other development, will cause inevitable harm to the landscape qualities of the AGLV at this point. It must further be the case that any such development would not normally be allowed in a level 3 flood-plain unless there are exceptional reasons, which in this case have not been demonstrated. On both these grounds the application seems fatally flawed.”

Fatally flawed it was. CPRE Cornwall is delighted to advise that the judgement now handed down was in our favour. The Planning Application has been quashed as in breach of the Local Plan and for the failure of the Council to follow correct procedure.

GORRAN near St Austell We are liaising with the AONB to resist the building of 15 houses in this village which would be entirely inappropriate for the community and create dramatic damage to a pristine landscape

MEVAGISSEY South Cornwall Another AONB case! We oppose the application for 26 houses on a sensitive and highly visible site at the top of the Heligan valley.

BREAGE near Helston The CPRE is working with and supporting the concerns of residents at Breage near Helston, regarding attempts to install holiday chalets and development of the green village area next to the church. This would be completely inappropriate and ruin the character of the village. Shown on the right, the villager’s banner.



FIRST HOUR FREE (parking) There have been changes by the Council involving some free car parking which benefits rural towns, which we fully intend to take some credit for! Pay on exit barriers are being installed at certain locations instead of fixed term parking. Some free 30 minute parking bays have been installed in several towns. We are not all the way there yet and this campaign continues.

THE SCANDAL OF EMPTY HOMES In our last edition we identified four empty double flats above the old Post office in Penzance. Well, they are still empty. When will our Council impose punitive council tax on these properties? These owners are denying people a home and dragging down our High Streets. The campaign continues...

SAVE OUR POST OFFICES

All around Cornwall local post offices are under threat of closure. They bring an important social and business activity to village life and to many people they are a lifeline.

At CPRE Cornwall we want the Government to recognise this, by improving the range of services offered and paying a fair price for them. Post Office Ltd has one shareholder – HM Government. So we are lobbying all of Cornwall’s MPs, as well as the Post Office direct, to help bring this about.



Got something to say? We feature letters from our readers in each edition. You can write to us at admin@cprecornwall.org

Dear Sir,

I collected your magazine Protecting Rural Cornwall from our farm shop near Looe recently. I was very impressed that something is being done to stop the present “evil” that is spreading everywhere in our countryside, in so many ways. Indiscriminate development is probably the worst! We moved away from Looe twenty years ago as it was becoming noisier and busier, to the peace of the countryside. Unfortunately our haven has changed, becoming more urbanised and noisy. Our lovely far reaching countryside views have gone, due to a housing development the other side of the road. In addition, a protected oak tree has been wantonly cut down.

And now, after all that, there is to be a further development alongside where there are many more trees which will be felled no doubt. If they would only consider that by leaving as many trees as possible, a tree will absorb 200 gallons of water a day, take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen. I can see ongoing trouble with the scheme.

In Liskeard, there is development everywhere and recently Liverpool City Council have purchased a good many properties, no doubt for their council tenants. I can see this will be the pattern with other city councils.

This is what is really behind the massive building plan.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Cawthorne

Dear Editor,

CPRE CORNWALL - AN APPRECIATION

From afar I have enjoyed reading CPRE Cornwall’s recent magazines. It is good that such a magazine is being produced and that CPRE Cornwall continues to be an active campaigner against over development, whether it’s housing, roads or solar farms. Cornwall is a delightful county that has a fantastic rural and coastal beauty. I am writing this as a former Secretary of CPRE Cornwall, a post I held from July 2009 to August 2012, when I retired to the North of Scotland.

It is gratifying to read that so many members are actively involved with the CPRE mission and that so much is happening to safeguard Cornwall’s natural environment. It is most welcome that in addition to campaigns aimed

at protecting Cornwall from unwanted and inappropriate development there are activities being organised to encourage members to engage with the countryside, support agriculture and wildlife, appreciate local crafts and rural industries, and promote the work of CPRE Cornwall. The constant requirement that governments place on local authorities to build more and more houses is changing the face of the countryside. Rural areas are being swallowed up and the over development is changing the character of the natural environment to that of an urban environment. And this is especially true in Cornwall.

During my period as Secretary to CPRE Cornwall, it was stressed time and time again to Cornwall Council that derelict homes should be brought back into use before new houses were built. Some of the developments were in remote areas well away from the main towns and this resulted in an increase in traffic and more roads as people had to travel long distances to get to work. I’m sure that this is still very much the case. CPRE Cornwall’s efforts to revitalise town centres, with some free parking are to be applauded, as is the drive to save rural post offices. Communities need to be living communities, not just dormitories.

In my time with CPRE Cornwall the proliferation of wind farms and solar farms was a great concern. Although “green” energy is to be welcomed, more thought should be given to the impact on the natural environment. Up here in Scotland, the construction of wind farms continues apace with the result that the natural beauty of the landscape has been ruined. One of the negative effects that so many wind turbines are having in Scotland is a decrease in tourism.

I wish CPRE Cornwall and its members well in all that they do to protect the beauty and serenity of Cornwall. I still have many fond memories of the county.

Ted Venn

Tain, Ross-shire

Editor’s note – I hope some of you will remember Ted, he made a major contribution to the Cornwall Branch.

Title: _____ Full name: _____
 Organisation (if relevant): _____
 Address: _____

 _____ Postcode: _____

We would like to write to you to keep you updated on what we are doing to protect the countryside, including our campaigns and fundraising. If you would prefer not to receive certain communications from us, please call our Supporter Services Team on 0800 163680 or email supporterservices@cpre.org.uk.

If you are happy for us to contact you by phone or email, please complete below:

Phone: _____
 Email: _____

We will never sell or share your contact details with anyone outside of CPRE. We will hold and manage your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Please indicate how you'd like to pay:

- I have enclosed a cheque made payable to **CPRE**
- Direct Debit (please complete form below)
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Card type: Visa / Mastercard / Amex (*please circle*)

Card number

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Start Date (*where applicable*) Expiry Date Security Code

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Name on card _____
 Signature _____

If you are joining as a private individual, you can boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Simply tick the box and complete the declaration below. Thank you!

giftaid it

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 Date _____

The individual annual subscription is £36.00. £36.00

To include up to two further names at the same address, add £24.00. Please list name/s below.

Name/s	Total:

Membership of CPRE Cornwall includes membership of CPRE National. If you would like to belong to a different branch, please amend below:

CORNWALL

You can also join by phone 0800 163680, or online at www.cprecornwall.org.

If you would prefer to make a donation, our details are: CPRE Cornwall, charity no. 218344, Barclays 20-87-94 10292745. Or please contact us on admin@cprecornwall.org or 01872 480127



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Bank/Building Society account number	

Service User Number

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 Please pay CPRE Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction will remain with CPRE and, if so, my details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

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