



The countryside charity  
**Gloucestershire**

# Gloucestershire Views Autumn 2023

[www.cpreglos.org.uk](http://www.cpreglos.org.uk)



## Greetings from the Chair

More and more people are realising the importance of green spaces. We know that being in nature is good for mental health. We know that fresh air and exercise are important for physical health. And we know too, that at some deep, even more fundamental level, we need beauty in our lives. Tranquil rivers, verdant fields, ancient trees, even farm animals, help give us a sense of permanence, of reassurance that all is well in our rapidly changing and increasingly threatened world. The manifestation of changing seasons in the countryside suggests that at least nature continues as it always has.

And yet we know that this is now untrue. Our countryside is threatened as never before by climate change, by unsustainable farming practices that exhaust the soil, by a critical decline in insects, birds, wild animals, and native plants, and by the steady expansion of concrete and glass in place of green



Prof. Patricia Broadfoot CBE FAcSS,  
County Chair

fields. There are many things we could be doing as a nation to protect and enhance the beautiful rural landscapes valued by so many people. Sadly, those things are continually trumped by other imperatives that are perceived to be more important, more urgent, more economically desirable. Housing, solar farms, battery storage, roads, industrial units – all these and more, typically take precedence overlooking after the countryside that our society is so prone to take for granted.

But at CPRE Gloucestershire, as at other CPRE groups up and down the country, this is certainly not true. We exist to fight for our beautiful countryside to continue to exist. We want it to be there for our neighbours and friends, children, and grandchildren

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# Chair's Statement

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to enjoy as a place for solace and recreation. We want it to be there to grow the food we need; and we want the wild spaces that we need for wildlife to flourish. We want, as Orsolya Lelkes writes in her book *Sustainable Hedonism*, 'a thriving life that does not cost the earth.'<sup>1</sup>

Its time we learned to value the countryside. It gives us so much yet, like a naughty child, we just take and take and take. We can and must do better. We need to build the right homes in the right places – preferably on brown field sites. We need a land use strategy to decide priorities for the use of a precious amenity that everyone wants for different things – pleasure, food, energy, and nature.

Perhaps above all, we need to recognise the vital role that nature plays in combatting climate change and in supporting biodiversity. It is not quite too late. Together we can make the voice of our countryside heard from parish to Parliament. Together we can

<sup>1</sup>Orsolya Lelkes 'Sustainable Hedonism' Bristol University Press 2021

plead the cause of the beauty we all need. Together, we can follow the maxim of Mary Oliver, the American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, who followed a simple maxim she wrote in her poem 'Sometimes' over her nearly six-decade career.

*'Pay attention; be astonished; tell about it.'*

For me the last lines in that poem are just as powerful in their evocation of just what it is about nature that means so much to us all.

*'After the rain, I went back into the field of sunflowers.*

*It was cool, and I was anything but drowsy.  
I walked slowly, and listened  
to the crazy roots, in the drenched earth, laughing  
and growing.'*

Thank you for all that you do. Please continue to support CPRE and fight for the future of the crazy roots and the drenched earth.

Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE.  
Chair

## District Activity

### Berkeley Vale

Prue Vernon

We have had a busy time with applications for solar arrays and battery storage units. These tend to be sited close to the National Grid network so that power can be fed straight in. We were relieved that the application for solar arrays on the Arlingham peninsula was withdrawn as it would have been very damaging to that special area. The Berkeley Marsh is the site for three solar array planning applications, one at Hill, in South Gloucestershire, another next door to it at Worlds End Farm, which has been allowed, and one at Woodlands Farm, Clapton, which is undecided. This one would impact on the extensive views from Whitcliff Deer Park. There are other outline applications for solar arrays with battery storage for Denfurlong Farm, Frampton on Severn, and to the east of the M5 between Eastington and Cambridge. The proposed 100MW battery storage at Sanigar Lane, Berkeley, was refused due to unacceptable noise levels close to residential areas: a similar one at Slimbridge in a more isolated site was allowed.

The Examination of the Stroud Local Plan is on hold over concerns about the impacts on the M5 junctions

of the scale of development proposed in the Vale and plans to reopen the rail line to Sharpness to passenger traffic. This has not stopped the submission of outline planning applications for most of the large sites included in the Local Plan and others not in the Local Plan. These are complex and need to be considered as a whole to ensure there are enough primary and secondary school places immediately available within easy distance of each proposed development, not forgetting the need to expand sewage treatment capacity. These are all extremely expensive additions to any large development which require outside funding not usually covered by the community infrastructure levy paid by developers.

More positively, we had a stand at Frampton Country Fair which attracted considerable interest. It also gave CPRE Gloucestershire's new Hedgerow Heroes Project Officer, Millie Lawlor, a good opportunity to canvas support for hedge planting and laying. She will be looking for volunteers in February and March to help plant hedges. If you would enjoy a morning of fresh air in good company while being constructive, please let CPRE Gloucestershire know. All ages welcome.

## Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury

David Bayne

In our report in the Spring issue, we reported on the lack of progress with the Joint Core Strategy Review. In July, the three constituent councils voted to adopt a new 'Local Development Scheme and Timetable' for Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plans, in effect starting the review process afresh. The new scheme will see the creation of a new 'Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan' (CGTSLP) which will replace both the JCS and the local district plan for each of the three areas. Significantly, the strategic component – essentially the JCS Review – and the three individual local plans will be prepared in parallel and together be subject to a single examination in public. According to the new timetable, the first public consultations are to be in October 2023 with submission to the Secretary of State scheduled for April 2026.

As we have already pointed out, previous plans for the JCS Review have proved unachievable. It is far from clear whether the present proposed way forward has been adequately resourced and stands any better chance of being realised. It is however closer to the aspiration of the Government, in its recent public consultation, that the preparation and adoption of local plans should take place within 30 months.

In a related activity, following a thorough review commissioned in the Spring, Tewkesbury Borough Council has reaffirmed its commitment to its Garden Town programme but with increased community engagement, and improved collaboration with partners and developers. It remains to be seen what this will mean in practice and in particular how far this will go towards meeting future housing needs both for Tewkesbury and across the JCS area.

At a more detailed level, since late last year three further substantial planning applications have been submitted at Alderton, for 47, 56 and 26 houses respectively, the last for affordable homes in the AONB. The District has objected to all three. The first application was allowed at appeal while the other two remain to be decided. An appeal for 45 houses at Trumans Farm, Gotherington has also been allowed, even though two earlier applications to develop the site were unsuccessful. A major factor in both appeal decisions was the failure of Tewkesbury Borough to be able to demonstrate a five-year land supply.

The district has recently objected to a retrospective gypsy application at Southam in support of the Parish Council.



## Forest of Dean

Bob Brown

In the Spring edition of Gloucestershire Views, we highlighted concern about several applications for large scale field-based solar arrays and the adverse consequences for landscape. Such schemes also have the effect of drastically reducing the capacity for food production for decades, especially where high quality land is used. One of the schemes proposed was refused by the planning authority, substantially citing points which CPRE had raised in our formal representations. A planning appeal may have been lodged. Three other applications are still pending a decision. In the case of the Rodley scheme (referred to in the Spring newsletter) we understand the applicant is considering proposing a major reduction in scale.

Two recent appeal decisions, in north Yorkshire and south Derbyshire, have resulted in sharply different interpretations of policy by planning inspectors on the use of high-grade agricultural land for solar arrays. This highlights the need for clearer Government guidance.

Responding to land use planning matters – forward planning and individual planning applications – remains a core part of the District's work. Following a change in political control after the May 2023 elections, the District Council has not made any evident progress on the crucial review of the Local Plan and its consequences for housing and other planned development. This is a key issue for CPRE, and we shall maintain vigilance in preparation for making what we hope will be influential representations.

In July our District held a summer meeting at the Orchard Centre at Hartpury (Hartpury Heritage Trust). Despite the prospect of some adverse weather, the event attracted good attendance and talks by our District Chair (also CPRE National Chair) on CPRE and two experts on the work of the Trust were very well received.

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# District Activity

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## North Cotswolds

Steve Smith

The Planning Officers report for the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Planning Committee Meeting for the cluster of Quarries across the North Cotswolds was issued in September. Significant omissions regarding cumulative impacts were identified as well as an apparent lack of understanding as to what the applicant's environmental statement actually covered and confusion over the number of HGVs and routes the lorries are taking. We have continued to provide support to Temple Guiting Parish Council (TGPC) as they work hard to get the key points of concern across to GCC. We are also supporting TGPC with objections against individual quarry planning applications and have just submitted a number of comments to GCC on an application from Oathill Quarry that includes a proposal to double production in the next three years.

## Stroud

Pippa Schwartz

There have been some interesting developments with the Stroud District Local Plan Review. The Examination in Public for the Plan (started in May and originally set to continue into the Autumn) has been halted by the Inspectors. The Inspectors have written to Stroud District Council to say that they have serious concerns especially about transport matters in the Vale, notably impacts on M5 Junctions 12 and 14, but also other transport-related aspects of the Plan. The Council has responded to ask for a six-month break so that they can address some of these matters, and a response from the Inspectors is awaited.

CPRE Stroud's main concern – which they voiced during the hearings – was to remove a number of development sites in the Cotswolds National Landscape from the Plan. The Inspectors' letter did not refer to these sites so we have no idea what their ruling would have been.

There have been several planning applications that have elicited a response from the committee, mostly relating to proposed building in the Cotswolds National Landscape, which appears to be under increasing threat. In addition, there has been much discussion concerning the sale of land in Juniper Hill where there is a threat to this valuable grassland site from plans to break it up into a number of small plots. Over 90% of Gloucestershire limestone grassland has been lost since World War 1 and the committee is anxious that steps are taken to preserve what remains.



Other events for the summer didn't quite go as planned. The Stroud Show was cancelled due to bad weather, and the Sheepscombe walk didn't attract sufficient support, so it was postponed. We hope for more interest in the autumn.

## South Cotswolds and Tetbury

Max Thorneycroft

I am glad to be able to report that, while during the six months since our last report in the Spring we have continued as usual to monitor planning applications in our District, there have been relatively few applications about which we have felt it necessary to get involved. It is encouraging to note that in two cases where we did decide to object on the grounds that the proposed development was not in accordance with the policies contained in the Cotswold District Local Plan, the Council agreed with our view even before we could lodge our objection. It appears therefore that the Council is discharging its planning role both speedily and correctly in a number of cases.

On the other hand, the planning process relating to the major current planning issue in the District, the proposed truck stop on a site north of Cirencester off the A417- has continued more slowly than anticipated. The hearings of the appeal against the Council's refusal of the planning application took place before an inspector in the summer as planned (after some delays) and a decision was expected soon thereafter. However, the inspector then became ill, and a decision is not now expected until October. This will be an important decision regarding what will be allowed in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Another case where we were able in the past to assist local residents in persuading the Council to refuse a planning application was the expansion of a commercial business at Long Newton near Tetbury. Unfortunately, that decision has also been appealed so we will have to render what assistance we can to obtain the right outcome in that case as well.

The Cotswold District Council Local Plan 2021-2031 is undergoing its mid-term review and we are involved in that process.



Solar panels on roof of office buildings

## Solar on farmland

Bob Brown

CPRE is running a national campaign to encourage the use of solar on rooftops, whilst discouraging arrays on farmland, especially land with a high potential for food production.

Large scale solar arrays on agricultural land offer a relatively cheap way of generating renewable energy yet still providing an attractive commercial option for landowners who have holdings in a suitable location for connecting to the national grid. Decades long contracts can be available which offer gross margins significantly higher than probably any agricultural or horticultural crop without the risks posed by the UK's unpredictable weather or the vagaries of the markets. It is unreasonable to expect agricultural business operators to ignore those economic factors.

Done properly, the implementation of a solar array should not lead to permanent loss or loss of quality of the land and, in principle, it can be fairly easily returned to agricultural use. It can be argued that the soil could benefit from being under grass for a number of years rather than being under an arable regime. So, what is wrong with using farmland for solar power generation?

Firstly, there is a landscape aspect. Although 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder', most people are likely to find a sea of solar panels less than appealing and cumulatively there can be a major adverse impact on landscape and public enjoyment of it.

Secondly, installation of a solar array (at least of the design currently being offered in England) will exclude any substantial agricultural production from the site for the duration of the contract, commonly up to 40 years. The loss of productive capacity is especially significant on high quality land which has the potential to grow high yields of a wide range of crops, including field scale vegetable

and fruit production. This factor was brought into sharp focus by the recent decision to allow a planning appeal on land at Leeming, North Yorkshire. The inspector noted in her report that the development was reversible and would not lead to permanent loss of the high quality of the land involved. She pointed out that there was currently no Government policy indicating a presumption against allowing a solar array on grounds that the land would be taken 'temporarily' (albeit that could be 40 years) out of meaningful food production.

There is also a significant limitation to the contribution which solar can make in the UK. Although it is a relatively inexpensive and technically straightforward 'renewables' option it will not contribute to electricity generation when it is dark or at times of greatest demand – on cold, dull winter days. Compared with other renewable energy options solar also takes up a large area of land in relation to power output – thus excluding or limiting the use of that land for purposes which do require a soil based medium.

So, whilst CPRE strongly supports producing electricity by renewable and non-polluting means, that should not be at the cost of reducing the country's ability to produce food, especially of vegetables and fruit which require high grade land for viable operation. Hopefully the Government can be persuaded to recognise that and issue guidance which would avoid more decisions like the one at Leeming.

There is a strong case for the Government to show commitment to increasing, or at worst maintaining, our capacity for self-sufficiency in food which can be produced in the UK. That is surely as critical in security terms as energy generation. A significant proportion of England's highest-grade land is under threat from natural forces and from conventional agricultural cropping on lowland peat. To take away the food production potential of more 'best and most versatile' land for decades for solar power generation does not make good sense.



# Christmas Carol Concert 2023

Holy Trinity Church,  
Minchinhampton.

Tuesday 5th December at 6pm

Begin the festive season in joyful song at our annual carol concert, at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton. Join us for an evening of carols, readings, poems, and the amazing Cadenza Choir. The evening will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Tickets are now available to buy via our website: [www.cpreglos.org.uk/carolconcert/](http://www.cpreglos.org.uk/carolconcert/)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Alamy/ JA Photography

# Graduate work experience

## Investigating potential for solar on rooftops

Over the past months, three students have been working with CPRE Gloucestershire as part of work experience towards their degrees and further experience. They are helping to support CPRE's 'rooftop renewables' campaign by researching areas of available roof space for solar panels in three different sites in Gloucestershire. Here is a summary of the findings from each of the students:

### Laura investigating Tewkesbury (Ashchurch)...

"I investigated the solar panel potential in the industrial area of Ashchurch, located to the northeast of Tewkesbury. Although several buildings already feature solar panels, this only makes up 1% of the potential roofs that could be utilised. The total area of potential roofs for solar panels is over 310,000 m<sup>2</sup>. This provides an important opportunity whereby Gloucestershire can increase its renewable energy generation, whilst also maintaining and protecting natural habitats, green spaces, and agricultural land."

### Tegan investigating east Gloucester...

"I explored the solar panel potential primarily within the business districts of the east of the railway, along with Brockworth and Swindon Village. From the 544,938 m<sup>2</sup> available roof space across the three areas, only 5311m<sup>2</sup> accounts for existing solar panels, with the majority being within the area to the east of the railway. This could develop a potential for greater supply of renewable energy, in taking advantage of vacant roof space and bring significant advantage in terms of the broader participation of Gloucestershire in the energy transition to a low carbon future."

### Thea investigating west Gloucester...

"My research focused on the areas of Hardwicke, Quedgeley, and the city of Gloucester, situated to the west of the M5 motorway. Among the 177 industrial buildings I assessed using Google Earth, a striking finding emerged: a substantial 93% of them did not have existing solar panels installed. This equates to 544,938.8m<sup>2</sup> of untapped space within this locality that holds significant potential for solar panel installations. The industrial structures in the neighbouring areas of Hardwicke and Quedgeley, as well as within the city of Gloucester itself, present a remarkable opportunity to contribute to the environmental sustainability of this region in England."

We look forward to publishing the full report!





# CPRE Gloucestershire Awards 2023

Richard Lloyd

This year five projects received awards, all in some way reflecting the importance of nature recovery. They were presented by our new President, Madeleine Bunting, at Gambier Parry Hall in Highnam on 14th November. We have a new sponsor for the awards - Loxley Solicitors - and are most grateful for their support. The five projects were:

## Love your Cinderford Brook

Love your Cinderford Brook is a demonstration project by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust showcasing natural solutions to mitigating flood risk. Rain gardens have been installed at locations in the centre of Cinderford and hard paving has been replaced with soil and planting, storing water during storm events, slowing the flow of water, and reducing run off and contamination from pollutants. Wildlife has benefited too from habitat creation.

- **Citation:** For demonstrating to the residents of Cinderford small scale natural solutions to mitigate the risk of flooding using rain gardens and removing paving, encouraging similar actions in their own houses and work places







## Rewild Things at Elmore Court Estate

At Elmore Court a substantial tract of farmland is undergoing rewilding and six contemporary, stylish, and highly energy efficient treehouses have been built high in the canopy on the edge of woodland directly overlooking the rewilding to enable guests to become immersed in their environment. The rewilding is making a valuable contribution to nature recovery and is contributing to the viability of the estate through the innovative tree houses.

- **Citation:** For restoring biodiversity through rewilding and building stylish treehouses for staying guests, designed to the highest standards of sustainable construction, from which the rewilding can be supported and enjoyed



## The Nest

75 years ago, Sir Peter Scott founded the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust creating the centre at Slimbridge. 'The Nest' is a splendid sculpture on the A38 roundabout. It is a permanent reminder of the wealth of wildlife at Slimbridge and in the Severn Estuary, and the need for its conservation. Ideas were submitted by Slimbridge Primary School after a competition and worked up and implemented by award-winning metal sculptor Ian Gill.

- **Citation:** For the creation of an imaginative public sculpture on the approach to the Slimbridge Wetland Centre highlighting its vital role in wildlife conservation



## Stroud Landscape Project Conservation Grazing

20 years ago, the National Trust purchased six belted Galloway cattle to graze several of their sites. Now incorporated into the Stroud Landscape Project, last year the herd had grown to over 100 cattle enabling 284 hectares to be grazed across 22 sites, including five National Nature Reserves, nine SSSIs and five commons with two thirds managed by landowners other than the National Trust. The outcome is a notable improvement in biodiversity.

- **Citation:** In recognition of achievements to protect and increase the biodiversity of limestone grassland sites in the Stroud area through conservation grazing in partnerships with landowners and the support of local communities and volunteers



Wye and Usk Foundation

## Wye Invasive Species Project

In the Lower Wye Valley three invasive non-native plants – Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and American Skunk Cabbage – are spreading, damaging the area's biodiversity. Set up in 2020 by the Wye Valley AONB Unit, the Invasive Species project is encouraging landowners, community groups and contractors to work together at scale to tackle the problem. This is an ambitious project which is a national model of what can be achieved through collaboration.

- **Citation:** For providing a model for taking positive action in tackling the major problem of non-native species invasion in our countryside.



## Hedgerow campaign

In our Spring edition, we reported on our partnership with Cotswolds Canals Connected which helped to fund and plant 400m of native hedgerow. Going forward with the CPRE's hedgerow campaigning, we are now working with our new Hedgerow Heroes Project Officer, Millie Lawlor, to start a new hedgerow project.

The Hedgerow Heroes Project has officially started just in time for the hedgerow planting season. In partnership with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), CPRE Gloucestershire has committed to planting at least 1km of hedgerows across the district in the next 8 months. Hedgerows play an

important role in our natural world and support up to 80% of our woodland birds, they are also brilliant stores for carbon which will help to mitigate the impacts of climate change. There is a significant importance to preserving and correctly managing our hedgerow networks and CPRE Gloucestershire is committed to undertaking this work for this season and beyond.

There will be practical days to plant and restore our hedgerows and learn more about these incredible habitats. If you would like to come along and lend a hand and join us for our practical days, we want to encourage anyone to join us. Or if you would just like some more information on the project then please email Millie at [admin@cpreglos.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreglos.org.uk).

## Appreciation of Mike Mackey

Bob Brown

Mike chaired CPRE's Forest of Dean District and subsequently was County Chairman for a year before moving back to his native Scotland. He died suddenly and unexpectedly in June aged 71.

I first came to know Mike over 20 years ago through HAQ, a local group set up to contest proposals for a new aggregate quarry in the Wye Valley AONB. I was immediately impressed by Mike's ability to quickly assimilate subject matter of which he had no previous experience and then to rationally analyse key points for concentration of effort.

Mike was persuaded to get involved with CPRE and was heavily committed over many years to land use planning issues, in particular the production of a new Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire and the associated apportionment to counties of regional aggregate production 'targets'. His sharp mind was an invaluable asset in assembling arguments which CPRE and HAQ put forward during the extended planning process.

When Mike was persuaded to take over from Charlie Watson as County Chairman, he made clear that it could only be for one year as he was committed to returning to Scotland. Nevertheless, it was a very effective year in which his ability to 'sort the wheat from the chaff' was well deployed. Mike had a disarmingly mischievous streak - as our current Chair notes, he assured her that taking on the role would only involve chairing a few meetings!

Mike and Val, his wife, were very gregarious and for many years held Hogmanay parties for neighbours and friends, to which my wife and I were cordially invited. CPRE colleagues who knew and worked with Mike have said what good company he was.

I had visited Mike and Val since their return to Scotland and only last April had exchanged emails with him. He said he and Val were fine. It was a shock to learn that just two months later he had died. Mike will be greatly missed by many people who knew him.

# Introductions

## Madeleine Bunting

### President

CPRE Gloucestershire are delighted to announce that our new President will be Madeleine Bunting, noted author and former Guardian journalist, who lives near Painswick. Madeleine Clare J.

Bunting is an English writer. She was formerly an associate editor and columnist for The Guardian newspaper.

Madeleine has a profound interest in nature and the countryside. 'The Plot' celebrates the countryside in her native Yorkshire where she grew up. 'Love of Country: a Hebridean Journey' is a beautiful evocation of this special landscape. Madeleine is also a regular broadcaster for the BBC. To find out more about our new President, please visit [www.madeleinebunting.com/about](http://www.madeleinebunting.com/about).



## Louise Chandler-Mullins

### Business Manager

Louise joins us on a part-time basis managing the business and team at CPRE Gloucestershire. For the past eight years, Louise has managed a Cotswold-based charity with a focus on heritage and conservation. Before moving in to the third sector, Louise worked in marketing and project management in the technology sector and uses these skills now to help charities to grow and thrive in a demanding environment.

Louise was born in Gloucestershire and moved back to the county 15 years ago. She is looking forward to supporting the wonderful team of members, volunteers, staff, and trustees to continue the work of promoting, enhancing, and protecting a thriving countryside across the county.



## Millie Lawlor

### Hedgerow Heroes Project Officer

Having studied Countryside Management, Millie has a keen interest in the environment and natural spaces. Her professional background includes working within the equestrian and farming field and most recently working as a 'Clean and Green/Environmental Officer' for Cotswold District Council which facilitated and funded many litter picking syndicates across the district.

Her new role at CPRE Gloucestershire has been created to deliver the Hedgerow Heroes Project, in partnership with FWAG, to support the government's target to increase UK hedgerow cover by 40% by 2050. CPRE Gloucestershire and FWAG have committed to planting and regenerating at least 1km of hedgerow locally within the next 8 months.

She is looking forward to kickstarting the role, engaging with partner organisations and volunteers to make positive changes to our beautiful countryside in Gloucestershire.

If you would like to get involved in the project or just get some more information, then please contact Millie at [admin@cpreglos.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreglos.org.uk).



## Is your council a member of CPRE?

Many of Gloucestershire's Parish & Town Councils are members of CPRE Gloucestershire. We have a shared interest of promoting vibrant, rural communities, in ensuring that new development is appropriate and well planned and protecting and enhancing the rural landscape and biodiversity. There are many benefits of CPRE membership including...

- Support from CPRE's planning expertise in responding to significant planning applications
- Support from our expertise in responding to consultations on new & revised local plan policies
- Discounted rates to our training seminars
- Access to resources, such as position statements, on a variety of issues
- Access to our campaigning expertise & resources

Your membership would help strengthen our charity which is dedicated to securing the best future for our Gloucestershire countryside. Find out more about Parish & Town council membership by visiting [www.cpreglos.org.uk/parish-and-town-councils](http://www.cpreglos.org.uk/parish-and-town-councils) or by emailing: [info@cpreglos.org.uk](mailto:info@cpreglos.org.uk).

## AGM and Annual Lecture report

In May, we hosted our AGM and Annual Lecture at the Royal Agricultural University. This year, our Annual Lecture was by Professor Paul Bates titled '*Flooding & climate change: what can the UK expect?*' Thank you to Paul for delivering

such an interesting and important lecture. For those who couldn't join us on the day, the lecture and the AGM are live on CPRE Gloucestershire's YouTube channel.

Thank you to everyone who came along!

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