



The countryside charity
Gloucestershire

2024

Annual Review



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Chair's Report



Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE FAcSS

I am pleased to present this report on another productive and successful year for CPRE Gloucestershire.

Throughout 2024, we have maintained our core activities, including the systematic review of planning applications and the submission of considered responses where appropriate, active engagement in Local Plan consultations, and the delivery of a diverse programme of projects and events for our members and the wider community.

Notable highlights include our annual Awards Ceremony, a successful fundraising event at Stanway House, and the continued progress of our Hedgerow Heroes Project, further details of which are provided later in this report.

The Board convened on five occasions during the year. Its responsibilities included monitoring progress against our branch business plan, setting our strategy, ensuring the continued soundness of our financial position, and providing strategic oversight of the organisation's operations, staff and charitable activities.



Our Team

Board

During 2024, our Trustees were:

- Professor Patricia Broadfoot CBE FAcSS - Chair
- Steve Smith - Vice Chair
- Julian Oxley - Treasurer (to May 2024)
- Claire Feehily - Treasurer (from May 2024)
- Bob Brown • Miranda Chalk • David Crofts
- Colin Evers • Heather Mackenzie • Richard Tyson

Alongside our Trustees, Richard Lloyd MBE continued his excellent service as Vice Chair (alongside Trustee, Steve Smith) whilst also leading as Chair of our Policy Sub-Committee and leading our annual CPRE Gloucestershire Awards scheme.

The board also continued to benefit from the presence of long-standing volunteer, Prue Vernon, who also continues to Chair our Berkeley Vale District Committee.

Farewells

In 2024, we bid a fond farewell to two longstanding Trustees, Julian Oxley and Miranda Chalk. Our Treasurer, Julian Oxley, completed his constitutional term after many years of dedicated service. We are immensely grateful to Julian for his commitment to CPRE Gloucestershire and his careful stewardship of our finances.

Miranda stepped down from the Board to pursue an exciting new role. We are pleased that she remains connected to Gloucestershire and continues to engage with our staff team.

In addition, we said farewell to our long-serving volunteer and previous Secretary, David Bayne in 2024. David also chaired our Cheltenham, Gloucester & Tewkesbury District Committee for a number of years, and we extend our sincere thanks for his invaluable contribution and commitment to our charity.

Welcomes

As we bid farewell to some of our longstanding colleagues, we were delighted to welcome two new Trustees in 2024; Claire Feehily and Aimee Malcolm. Claire succeeds Julian as our Treasurer and brings a wealth of financial expertise as a qualified accountant, with experience supporting NHS Trusts and other charitable organisations.

Aimee Malcom has already made a valuable contribution since being co-opted in 2024, ahead of her formal election at our 2025 AGM. She brings extensive experience across the public, charitable, and voluntary sectors, including her work with the Cotswold Canals Trust. We are delighted to benefit from her insight and expertise as part of our team.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome back our former Director, David Brooke, in a voluntary capacity as Minutes Secretary. David brings with him a deep knowledge of the organisation and provides invaluable support to both the Board and staff team. He is also leading the development of a publication chronicling the history of CPRE Gloucestershire over the years.



Business Manager: Louise Chandler-Mullins

Hedgerow Heroes Project Officer: Millie Lawlor

Communications & Engagement Executive: Matilda Jones

We were pleased to continue working with Gill Raikes in 2024 in her freelance role as Fundraising Consultant, supporting our events, corporate partnerships, and donor engagement efforts.

President & Vice Presidents

President: Madeleine Bunting

Vice Presidents:

- Professor Adrian Phillips
- Dame Fiona Reynolds
- The Earl of Harrowby
- The Earl of Wemyss & March



Committees

Policy Sub-Committee

Many of our volunteers from the Board and District Committees also contribute to our other working groups, including our Policy Sub-Committee, led by our Vice Chair, Richard Lloyd. This Sub-Committee plays a key role in shaping our policy work both within Gloucestershire and through engagement with our national CPRE team on matters of public affairs, such as government policy, major development proposals, and broader planning and countryside issues.

District Committees

In addition to our active Board members, we continue to benefit from the invaluable dedication and expertise of the members of our six District Committees:

- Cheltenham, Gloucester & Tewkesbury
- Berkeley Vale
- South Cotswolds & Tetbury
- Forest of Dean
- Stroud
- North Cotswolds



Our District Committee volunteers work tirelessly across Gloucestershire, responding to and scrutinising relevant land-use planning matters, engaging with local MPs, organising local events, and contributing valuable policy insight.

Their knowledge of and dedication to Gloucestershire's countryside play a vital role in our efforts to protect and enhance it.

We thank the following individuals who served in our six District Committees this year:

David Bayne · Kevin Bell · Bob Brown · Miranda Chalk · Alison Clifton Barnard · Janie Clifford · David Crofts · Arthur Cunygnhame · Rachel Cunygnhame · Martin Dence · Nick Dummett · Colin Evers · Martin Hillier · Joanna Jones · Heather Mackenzie · Inky Macdonald · Chris Mansfield · Lucy Martin · William Moseley · Simon Murray · Celia Page · Simon Phelps · Amanda Preston · Paul Radcliffe · Susie Robinson · Pippa Schwartz · Elisabeth Skinner · Michael St John · Jean Stanton · Max Thorneycroft · Richard Tyson · Prue Vernon · Peter Wilson



National CPRE

As always, 2024 saw us working closely and collaboratively with our national charity, CPRE. Our strong, symbiotic relationship continued to grow, enabling us to contribute effectively to policy development, draft key responses, and engage with government consultations on vital countryside issues, both locally and nationally.

A particular highlight this year was our input to the 'OneCPRE' collective response to the government's NPPF consultation, which you can find detailed on page 10 of this report.

We also benefited greatly from the involvement of our cross-organisational colleagues in 2024. Our Chair, Patricia Broadfoot, continued to serve as Vice Chair of CPRE's National Board, while Simon Murray, Chair of our Forest of Dean District Committee, continued to hold the role of Chair of the CPRE Board.

CPRE South West (regional group)

In addition to our collaboration with our National office, we continued to contribute actively to CPRE's South West group, which brings together local branches from across the region. Throughout 2024, we came together to discuss pressing countryside issues affecting the South West and to collaborate on wider initiatives both within our local groups and across the National CPRE network.

We also maintained strong working relationships with other CPRE groups beyond our region in 2024.



Our work

Land use planning

Locally

We reviewed and responded to planning applications that had potential to impact our charitable objectives, focusing primarily on major housing developments and solar farm proposals amongst other potential threats to the countryside. These applications were considered amongst our coordinated District Committees locally and at a county-wide level. This approach ensured that local insights informed our responses across all areas of Gloucestershire.

Our six District Committees participated in consultations of Local Plans across the county’s seven planning authorities. Notable contributions in the year included a submission from our Forest of Dean District Committee to the draft Forest of Dean Local Plan and our South Cotswolds & Tetbury District Committee providing feedback on proposed changes to Cotswold District Council’s Local Plan. Other District Committees also made contributions, ensuring our charity’s voice was represented across Gloucestershire.



Highlights of our land use planning work from the past year are featured in the 2024 edition of our magazine, [Gloucestershire Views](#).

Our District Committees also collaborated on responses to proposed developments. In 2024, this included supporting Arlingham’s objections to EDF’s proposals to impose saltmarsh creation, as mitigation for fish losses arising from the operation of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset across a large area of the peninsula and along the River Severn. We also met with Cotswold Canals Connected and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to explore how our charity can support proposed wetland projects at Fromebridge and the Missing Mile.

Nationally

As with all our work, we collaborated with our National CPRE team and wider network of local CPRE groups to contribute to planning policy at the national level in 2024.



The pinnacle of this work in 2024 was our response to the government’s consultation on proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), following the general election. CPRE submitted a unified response after extensive consultation across the CPRE network, expressing support for a plan-led system and strategic planning, whilst also making several key recommendations to improve the draft policy.



The full consultation response is available on [CPRE’s website](#) and in the 2024 edition of our magazine, [Gloucestershire Views](#), where we also explore the local implications for Gloucestershire.



Hedgerows

CPRE's commitment to protecting, restoring, and raising awareness on the importance of hedgerows for our countryside remained at the forefront of our campaigning work over the past year.

Hedgerow Heroes Project

Following a successful application for the next phase of CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes Project, we embarked on a second hedgerow season alongside other local CPRE groups.

We were pleased to welcome back Millie Lawlor as our Hedgerow Heroes Project Officer for a second term. Millie built on the strong foundations of her first season, further expanding our community outreach, practical conservation work, and educational engagement to champion the vital role of hedgerows in Gloucestershire.

We were delighted to have reached our goal of planting and laying 2.2km of hedgerow in this season. To celebrate, we released a season video going behind the scenes at one of our volunteering days which can be watched on our [YouTube channel](#).

As part of this year's project, we also launched our 'Sponsor a Hedge' campaign, inviting supporters to fund metres of hedge in Gloucestershire. The campaign successfully generated both funding and community engagement.





Rooftop Revolution

Championing the use of solar on rooftops continued to be our key campaign theme. Across 2024, we continued to spread the word for our ‘rooftop revolution’ to reduce the need for ground-mounted solar farms to protect green spaces. Solar panels on rooftops offer a cleaner energy solution while preserving the countryside for future generations.

In 2024, our campaign saw us encouraging our supporters to sign CPRE’s petition to persuade the government to prioritise rooftop solar alongside encouraging signatures of support for the ‘Sunshine Bill’ (‘New Homes (Solar Generation) Bill’) – see below.

Working with MPs

In addition to supporting our National team’s advocacy work, we focused locally on creating and strengthening relationships with Gloucestershire MPs.

Two key highlights from 2024 were our support for the Climate and Nature Bill and the Sunshine Bill (‘New Homes (Solar Generation) Bill’), championed by local MPs Roz Savage and Max Wilkinson.

We worked with Roz Savage and the Zero Hour team to mobilise constituents in support of the Climate and Nature Bill. We also proudly backed Max Wilkinson MP’s Sunshine Bill, which promotes mandatory solar panels on new homes, in line with CPRE’s rooftop solar campaign.

Awards



CPRE Gloucestershire Awards 2024

2024 marked a special year for CPRE Gloucestershire's annual Awards scheme, as we proudly celebrated our milestone 100th Award; recognising projects that make exceptional contributions to both the environment and their local communities. This landmark achievement followed the presentation of Awards to six outstanding projects:



- Amberley Shop & Café
- Arlingham Pound Restoration
- Arundel Mill Pond Eel Pass
- Churnbridge Row
- Restoring Gloucestershire's Scarce Heathlands for Wildlife & People (100th Award)
- The Rising Sun Woodcroft Community Pub Project

Our 2024 Award recipients are featured in a special celebratory publication, available to [read on our website](#). The publication also charts the full journey of our Awards scheme to date, showcasing every project recognised and the impact each has had across Gloucestershire.

To mark this milestone, we hosted a celebratory Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 10th October at the wonderful Elmore Court; itself a double-Award recipient. Our thanks to Anselm Guise and the Elmore Court team for hosting us and helping make the event so memorable.

Photography Competition

We were also delighted to welcome Sue Wadham and Owen Inglis, winners of our 2024 Photography Competition (see photos below), to our ceremony to receive their prizes. Our thanks go to Clifton Cameras for their kind support of the competition this year.



'Cow on the Common'
by Owen Inglis



'Autumn Morning in
Hinchwick Woods' by
Sue Wadham

Communications & Publications

We continued to keep our members and supporters informed and engaged through regular communications, including postal mailings, our bi-monthly e-newsletters, social media updates, website content, and more throughout the year. We were also pleased to publish our annual magazine, Gloucestershire Views, offering a printed roundup for our charity.

We also released several publications throughout the year, such as our Affordable Housing Position Statement and our manifesto for the next government, among others. All are available to view under 'Resources' on our website.

Events

In 2024, we hosted a varied programme of events to celebrate the countryside we champion, strengthen our community of supporters, and raise vital funds for our work. These events provided a chance to connect with members, thank them for their continued support, and bring together like-minded countryside advocates. They also offered a platform to showcase some of Gloucestershire's most beautiful and valued landscapes.

Highlights from the year included:

Hedgerow Volunteering Days

Throughout the 2024 hedgerow season, we ran free volunteering days across our project sites, welcoming individuals and corporate groups. Volunteers got hands-on with hedge laying, planting, and maintenance, making a real impact on our local environment. We were thrilled by the strong turnout and enthusiasm for our Hedgerow Heroes Project - read more about the project in page 11 of this report.



Annual General Meeting – 28th May

We began the year by bringing together our board, volunteers, staff, members, and supporters for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), held online. The event was an opportunity to reflect on the charity's achievements over the past year, re-elect Trustees, and share plans for the year ahead. This year's AGM featured a special guest talk from Simon Murray, Chair of our national charity, CPRE. Simon delivered an engaging presentation on CPRE's history, current work, and future plans.

An Evening at Stanway House with the Cadenza Choir – 6th June

Next in the calendar was our flagship summer fundraiser, held at Stanway House, by kind permission of the Earl of Wemyss & March, one of our Vice Presidents. Guests were treated to a tour of the magnificent gardens and the estate's famous fountain, the tallest in Britain, and enjoyed a wonderful performance by the Cadenza Choir, whose kind support added something truly special to the day.

The event raised funds for our charity through ticket sales and generous contributions to our raffle. Our sincere thanks go to our event sponsors, Savills and Baylis, and organisations who donated to our raffle and event catering.



District Events

In addition to our events organised at a county-level, our District Committees also hosted several events, including two visits to the A417 Missing Link project site (24th September and 30th October) and a tour of Bywell Garden (23rd July).

Another highlight of our year was our Awards Ceremony, held at the beautiful Elmore Court. You can read more about it in the 'Awards' section on page 13 of this report.



Our support

As ever, in 2024 we worked alongside a range of organisations that share our mission to protect and enhance Gloucestershire’s countryside. These valued partnerships took many forms; from collaborating on policy and environmental issues to offering vital support for our events, campaigns, and projects. Working with other organisations strengthens our impact, broadens our reach, and helps us champion Gloucestershire more effectively.

We are deeply grateful for the dedication, collaboration, and support shown by a number of kindred organisations who worked with us throughout the year. Their contributions, whether through shared expertise, advocacy, or practical assistance, have been essential in helping us deliver meaningful outcomes for our countryside.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to you, our members. Your continued support provides the foundation for everything we do. Whether renewing your CPRE membership, attending our events, volunteering your time, or helping to raise awareness of our work, you are at the heart of our organisation.



Your membership supports our work to protect and enhance Gloucestershire’s countryside for everyone’s benefit.



Treasurer's Report



Dr Claire Feehily

I am pleased to present my first set of annual accounts, which are summarised at between pages 19 and 21.

The charity made a small net deficit of £6,746 on its operational activities in 2024. However, this was more than offset by an increase of £8,500 in the value of its investments. The charity's total reserves have increased to £252,834 as at 31 December 2024. The reported CIO accounts include a small number of transactions that relate to the predecessor organisation as follows: Income £1,574 and Expenditure of £313.

The financial context remains challenging, and the Board is keenly aware of the importance of maintaining the charity's longer-term financial resilience. To that end, the team are developing proposals for extending project activity to attract further grant funding and sponsorship.

Further efforts were made during 2024 to improve the financial position by achieving some savings in running costs and by recovering Gift Aid on donations. A range of improvements have also been made to our income collection and accounting systems.

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2024

	2024 (£)		2023 (£)	
INCOME				
Share of National Subscriptions	20,385		22,984	
Hedgerow Heroes 4 Project (HH4)	17,458		-	
Investment Income & Interest	7,479		5,754	
Donations & Events	11,373		5,692	
Legacy	1,000		64,000	
Total Income		57,695		98,430
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs	40,801		52,652	
Recruitment & Training	-		210	
Postage & Telephone	1,257		1,536	
Office Rent	3,332		3,467	
Public Relations & Fundraising	700		1,928	
Publishing	3,133		2,746	
Reporting Accountant & AGM	1,018		2,171	
Professional Charges	1,685		1,794	
Insurance	630		605	
Travel & Meetings	1,041		1,997	

Summarised statement continued on following page...

continued...

	2024 (£)		2023 (£)	
Awards Scheme	2,021		1,623	
Bank Charges & Interest	84		241	
Partnerships & Projects	2,625		2,625	
Hedgerow Heroes Project 4	17,458		-	
Contribution to Overheads HH3 & 4	(11,344)		-	
Total Expenditure		64,441		73,595
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)				
		(6,746)		24,835
Gain / (Loss) on Investments		8,500		7,610
FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD				
		251,080		218,635
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER		252,834		251,080



Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
NET ASSETS		
Investments	273,354	264,854
Debtors	5,066	5,500
Bank Accounts	42,015	55,640
Total Assets	320,435	325,994
Less Current Liabilities	(67,601)	(74,914)
NET ASSETS	252,834	251,080
FINANCED BY		
General Fund	70,334	68,580
Fighting Fund	92,500	92,500
Partnership Fund	30,000	30,000
Development Fund	30,000	30,000
Districts' Funds	20,000	20,000
Training Funds	10,000	10,000
TOTAL FUNDS	252,834	251,080





CPRE Gloucestershire's Annual Review 2024

RCN: 1187143

www.cpreglos.org.uk

info@cpreglos.org.uk



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Gloucestershire

Photo Credits - entries from our 2024 photo competition:

Amy Gatley (cover), Nigel Musgrove (contents), David Bayne (p5), Arthur Cunyghame (p9), Elizabeth Oakley (p10), Gary Cox (p11), Owen Inglis (p14), Sue Wadham (p14), Florie Chandler-Mullins (p17), Jane Leckebusch (p21) Marion Janner (back)