



Joan's Hill meadows
by Richard Lloyd

Richard Lloyd

His contribution to CPRE and environmental
conservation



The countryside charity
Gloucestershire

Obituary

CPRE Gloucestershire – and CPRE nationally, too – lost one of its most hard-working and committed members on 4 October 2025.

Richard Lloyd had joined CPRE many years ago, probably in the 1970s, but with work and a young family, he could offer his support (as we all do) in only a general way when it was needed. But when he retired from the Countryside Commission 25 years ago, Richard was able to devote his time to the CPRE cause with gusto: ‘devotion’ is the correct term; and his ‘time’ seemed inexhaustible.

Richard was a judge for the Bledisloe Cup in the 1990s and that’s where his CPRE involvement really started. On retirement, he was easily persuaded by the then Chairman, Sir John Adye, to become CPRE Gloucestershire Vice-Chairman, and it was this post that Richard made his own. In it, he involved himself in every aspect of our work with authority and humour.

The current Policy Sub-Committee was Richard’s: he created a broad group – a variety of opinions mattered – and enabled it to discuss all manner of topics relating to planning and environmental policy. Nationally, Richard was also a member of the CPRE Policy Committee for many years, and a keen supporter of our regional presence.

The CPRE Awards Scheme, taking over from the Bledisloe Cup for the Best Kept Village, was another of Richard’s successes, and the one closest to his heart. He designed a new Scheme that recognised the excellence of many projects designed to improve the county’s environment. For Richard, a highlight of the CPRE year was always the Awards Ceremony in the autumn. He ran the Scheme until a few weeks before his illness and death.

Richard Lloyd was born in Gloucester and attended the Crypt School there. After university, which included a First and two London M.Phils (M.Phil and Bar, he called them), he spent his whole career working for the environment, with his first post as an ecologist with the then Lindsey County Council.

A move to the Countryside Commission in London in the 1970s included policy and research work. Soon after the Commission’s move to Cheltenham – and still at a very young age – he was appointed as the Commission’s Regional Officer for the South West. A visit to Richard’s Bristol Office and his small, lively team was always a cheery experience. Later, back in the Cheltenham HQ, Richard energetically headed Countryside Commission policy units covering, variously, land-use planning, designated landscapes, and agriculture. From there it was a seamless move into CPRE.

In retirement, and by then with an MBE for his environmental work, he was appointed by the Secretary of State to the Board of the Cotswolds AONB. Again, he made an impact as one of the more active and supportive Board members.

Richard was a family man with rounded interests that included skills in music (he sang as a tenor), the railway network, walking, travel, astronomy and good beer.

In all that he did, Richard was a driving force, bringing energy, good humour, knowledge, and sheer hard work. Our thoughts will for long be with his family: Ann, Alison and Geoffrey.

We will miss you, Richard, all of us.