

Norfolk campaigner wins new national award

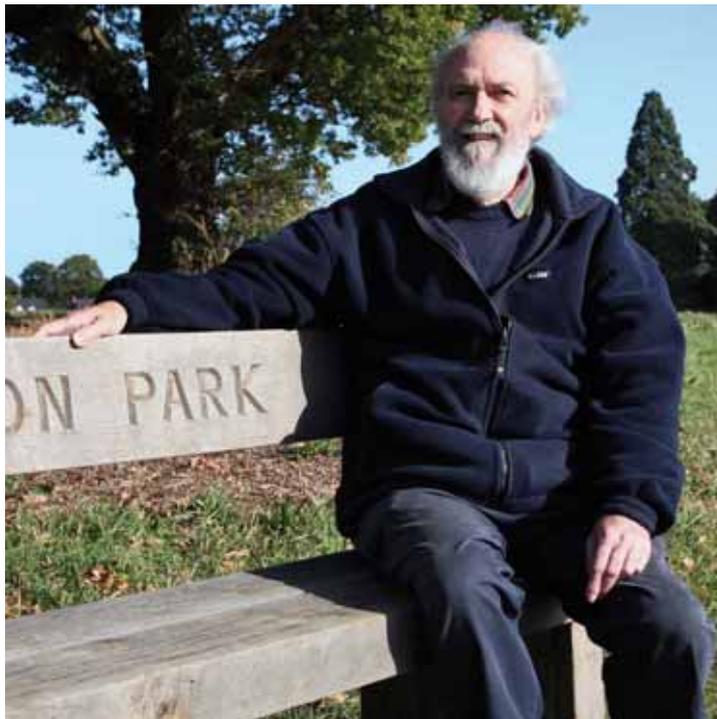
Long-standing CPRE Norfolk volunteer Martin Walton, is the first ever recipient of a new national volunteering award – the Marsh Award for the Benefit of Rural England. Run in conjunction with the CPRE national office, The Marsh Awards seeks to recognise unsung heroes who aim to improve the world in which we live.

Martin's award, which was presented to him at the Sharing Success Volunteers Conference in London, was given in recognition of the role he has played in setting up, and then running, the successful and innovative CPRE Norfolk Awards. The Marsh Awards, for CPRE groups and individual volunteers, will be presented on an annual basis, sitting alongside CPRE's existing Countryside Medal.

Commenting on winning the Award Martin Walton said: 'It's a great surprise and honour to accept this national Award. I volunteer for many different bodies out of a life-long passion for the countryside and its architecture, but it is my work with CPRE that has been most sustaining.

'It's tremendous that my work with the CPRE Norfolk Awards scheme has been recognised as I feel strongly that it is a way of showing the positive side of CPRE's message.

'As someone who has spent his working



Martin Walton at Catton Park, a CPRE Norfolk Award-winning project

life involved with the visual arts, my involvement with the CPRE Norfolk Awards scheme has been an extension of my appreciation for the landscape and its buildings. The countryside and its buildings are an integral part of what makes England such a beautiful country and deserve to be highlighted. It is also very important to encourage high quality ecological building for the future of the planet.'

Brian Marsh, Chairman of The Marsh Christian Trust and Chairman of the judges said: 'When we first looked at this Award we felt that voluntary rural protection was an unequal struggle between the thin red line of volunteers on the one hand and the armies of fully-paid

professionals who would happily cover the countryside with concrete on the other. We are delighted to be making a contribution to the continuing work of CPRE and their volunteers in all their efforts on behalf of our rural areas and in trying to tip the balance in favour of the thin red line!'

The individual prize for the Marsh Award is £500 and Martin has decided that he will be using the prize money to visit other award winning landscape and architectural projects outside Norfolk, to further his knowledge of exemplar schemes and keep abreast of current architectural trends.

Guest of honour, Bill Bryson, at the 2008 CPRE Norfolk Awards. For full story see pages 4-5.



Norfolk Voice



Norfolk Voice is the newsletter of the Norfolk branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Norfolk), registered charity number 210706.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

CPRE Norfolk is the Norfolk branch of CPRE and an independent charity in its own right. We promote the principles of CPRE at a local level and campaign to protect the beautiful Norfolk countryside and coastline.

Please note that opinions expressed in Norfolk Voice are those of individual contributors or of the Editor and do not necessarily represent the views of CPRE Norfolk.

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If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, please contact katyj@cprenorfolk.org.uk.

Please address any correspondence to the Branch Office.

CPRE Norfolk

42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NR

Tel: 01603 761660

info@cprenorfolk.org.uk

www.cprenorfolk.org.uk

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm

President: Tim O'Riordan

Chairman: Greg Peck

Vice-Chairman: James Parry

Honorary Treasurer: John Davies

Honorary Secretary: Robin Burkitt

Director: James Frost

Membership and Events Manager: Katy Jones

Finance and Administration Officer: Dinah Berry

Focus on... Fairhaven

One of the benefits of being a member of CPRE is discounted entry on many beautiful houses and gardens throughout England. In Norfolk alone, there are nine properties and gardens that offer a discount. It is good to be reminded just how special some of these places are, so in the first of a series of short features, Norfolk Voice focuses on Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden near South Walsham.

Fairhaven is a beautiful Broadland garden of over 130 acres, with ancient trees, private broad, sensory garden and children's nature trails, all of which are organically managed. This 'green' ethos extends throughout the management and operation of Fairhaven, and their new visitor centre was recently given a CPRE Norfolk Award for its strong environmental credentials. 90% of the 3.5 miles of paths are wheelchair accessible and, unusually, dogs on leads are welcome, for a small charge. The gardens are open throughout the year (except Christmas Day) and features special events and horticultural highlights with each season, including a stunning display of rhododendrons and azaleas in the spring. With tea rooms, gift shop and plant sales, it is well worth the £5.00 entrance fee, even without the '2 for the price



of 1 discount' offered to CPRE members.

So keep your CPRE membership card with you when you are out and about, and for a full list of properties that offer the discounted benefit, consult your Houses and Gardens booklet.

100 Club Winners

The December 100 Club winners were:

Mr P A Warnes £50

Mr R & Mrs J Palmer £25

Dr I F Keymer £25

Mrs C Joyce Smith £20

Mrs C Joyce Smith £20

Mr P A Warnes £20

Mr G T and Mrs M Lloyd £20

Mr R M & Mrs J Horner £20

The 100 Club is a fundraising venture for CPRE Norfolk. It works on the basis of a lottery, is a little bit of fun and costs just £12 a year. If you would like to join, contact Dinah Berry at the Branch Office, Tel: 01603 761660.

Chairman's view

Not a Nimby

When CPRE opposes a planning application, which we believe will be detrimental to the rural landscape, we are often accused by those supporting the application of being NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard). I personally find this offensive as, like most of our membership, I get upset about inappropriate development, wherever it is.

I find the despoilment of the West Country, the Lake District or any other rural area as unacceptable as I do that of Norfolk. I also get very angry about the destruction of the Scottish Highlands, which are currently under a huge threat, and that is not even my own country let alone my own 'back yard'!

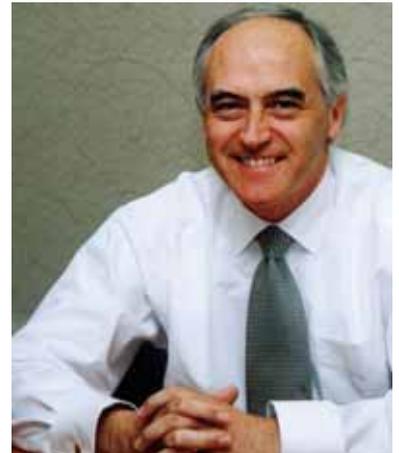
I feel passionately about the destruction of any part of our countryside, even if in the years left to me I may never visit some of those particular areas again. It is the legacy we leave future generations that concerns me. It is the desire for my grandchildren to be able to visit unspoilt English countryside that makes me support CPRE nationally, as well as here in Norfolk.

Should we be upset as being described as NIMBY's anyway? The term is always used in a derogatory sense but you could argue that there are positive aspects of Nimbyism. If we all defended our own small piece of England we would succeed in securing it all. Surely there is an argument that if everybody looked after their own "back yard", their own small part of this world, then the world would be a much better place.

This brings me to another criticism that has been levelled at us recently - that we are perceived as being The Campaign to Protect Rural 'Exclusivity' and we should also campaign on urban issues as well as the countryside. This is a bit like criticising the Wildlife Trust for 'only' campaigning on issues concerning wildlife, or the RSPB because they 'only' worry about the impact on birds. A charity such as ours, with our restricted resources and funds, has to prioritise and choose to campaign in areas where we have expertise and willing volunteers.

Our caseworkers are already overwhelmed with current and proposed planning applications. They have to contend with the governments' plan to cover significant areas of rural Norfolk in housing developments, doubling the size of towns like

Wymondham and introducing so-called 'Eco-towns', together with confronting the possibility of strip development and urban sprawl to the North of Norwich, which would follow the construction of the NDR. All of this is in addition to the many planning applications that would normally cross their desks. Our caseworkers and Planning Committee do an amazing job coping with all these threats - expecting them to do even more is not realistic.



We can rightly be proud of our achievements in the areas where we have made a difference. Without CPRE there would not be 'Green Belts', without CPRE more hedgerows would have been lost, without CPRE many areas of beautiful countryside would have disappeared under the bulldozer and without CPRE the Norfolk skies would have more light pollution. These are just a few of our successes, not an exhaustive list, but I believe they alone justify our focused approach.

Of course we have to continually review the campaigns we are running. As in previous issues I invite you to submit your views on our campaigns and also let us know if there are things you feel we should do differently. Personally, this year I would like us to do more on Food and Farming, and we hope to get involved in a national CPRE project researching Local Food Networks (see p7). If you have an interest or specialist knowledge in this area and would also like to get involved please contact the office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Greg Peck'.

Greg Peck, Chairman.
gregp@cprenorfolk.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Monday, April 27th - South Norfolk District AGM, preceded by talk *'The Landscape of South Norfolk'* by landscape historian, Tom Williamson.

Cheese and wine to follow. Hempnall Mill, 7pm for 7.30. Further details from John Capps on 01508 481746.

Sunday March 29th, 2-4pm – Visit to racehorse trainer Christine Dunnett's stables at Hingham. Call Maria Peck on 07789 938538 for further details/directions.

Thursday June 18th - Planning Conference, Swaffham Assembly Rooms (see p6 for details)

Thursday September 10th- Sunday September 13th - Green Buildings in Norfolk Open Days

CPRE Norfolk Awards 2008

Bill Bryson attends and applauds the Awards



CPRE national president and well-loved author Bill Bryson joined almost 200 people at Norwich's Assembly House in November to celebrate the CPRE Norfolk Awards 2008. His attendance caused understandable excitement and interest from all parties - the audience, the Branch Office staff, the judges as well as, of course the media, - with local radio and press keen to interview him before the ceremony. Although he lives in Norfolk, his busy diary has ensured that this was the first (but we very much hope not the last!) occasion that Bill Bryson has attended a CPRE Norfolk event.

After the ceremony Bill Bryson went on to praise the award winners, and the CPRE Norfolk Awards themselves, saying "Through the CPRE Norfolk Awards scheme we are able to recognise intelligent projects that champion the diversity of the county, encourage school children to participate in environmental learning and restore important areas of wildlife. We are also able to highlight brand new buildings, demonstrating what I have known for some time - that CPRE is not against development and not against the contemporary - we just insist on good design in the right location using the highest ecological standards."

He went on to thank the judges for their tireless work and to praise Martin Walton for winning the inaugural Volunteer of the Year award. He also commended Nancy Legg, fellow judge and Martin's partner, recognising that "behind every successful man, there is an even more talented

woman getting him to where he is today"! After presenting the judges with flowers and gifts, Bill Bryson circulated among the audience and agreeably posed for photos with the Award winners.

Twenty-five outstanding educational, environmental and architectural projects were recognised at the Awards, each of which represented examples of forward looking best practice. Awards are given on merit for environmental and architectural projects that have made a significant contribution to the quality of the landscape over the past year, and also to schools that engage children with the natural environment in the development of wildlife areas, gardening schemes and environmental policies.

Amongst the environmental projects, two - Cary's Meadow in Thorpe and Catton Park - were recognised for opening up important green spaces on the fringes of Norwich, providing excellent examples of how local organisations can work with volunteers to restore recreational areas for the benefit of local communities.

In the architectural category many entries reflected the importance of energy efficient buildings, including the new education and visitor centres at Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve and Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden which incorporate ground source heat pumps, wind turbines, rainwater harvesting and sheep's wool insulation.

Conversions and restorations of historic

buildings are also commonly featured in the CPRE Norfolk Awards and in 2008, Bayfield Brecks Barns near Holt were applauded for their sympathetic conversions of the tithe barn, bullock sheds, cart sheds and stables to create new workshop spaces for local traders and craftsmen.

In the area of education, Erpingham and Banham Primary Schools were given Awards for their approach to environmental issues, either as part of the curriculum or within the design and development of the school grounds.

The 2008 CPRE Norfolk Awards are kindly supported by Targetfollow, a development company that specialises in developing brownfield sites. Julian Wells, Development Director of Targetfollow said, "We believe that there is no shortage of brownfield development sites in Norwich. In the light of the anticipated growth agenda for the area of a further 35,000 homes, never before has the Norfolk CPRE faced such significant local challenges. It is vital for the future prosperity of this county that this expansion is not consumed within the countryside as some of the essential ingredients of Norfolk would be lost forever. CPRE will be playing an extremely important role in maintaining this very challenging equation - this is a huge responsibility to us all indeed."

CPRE Norfolk Awards 2009

CPRE Norfolk are now inviting applications for the 2009 Awards. The scheme welcomes applications from all sections of the community and from projects of all types - big and small. Restoration projects, building conversions, innovative new building design, landscape management projects, historical research and school's environmental work are all considered. The project must be outside of the City Council boundary lines and to have been completed within the last 3 years. Application forms will be available from mid-February from Katy Jones, Membership and Events Manager, katyj@cprenorfolk.org.uk, Tel: 01603 761660 and will also be on the CPRE Norfolk website www.cprenorfolk.org.uk.

Award winning projects

Architectural Projects

Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation, Little Walsingham

A contemporary design of a church using traditional Norfolk materials and renewable energy sources

Extension and restoration of Oddfellows Hall, Sheringham

A contemporary two-storey entrance to the refurbished Oddfellows Hall

GreenGauge Homes, Lingwood

A complex of 15 new social houses using alternative energy resources and sustainable materials, built for a housing association

Refurbishment of Daubeney Hall Farm

Restoration of a listed farmhouse with a sustainable contemporary extension

The Orangery at Burnley Hall

Conversion of an Edwardian billiard room to an orangery, with a glass vestibule link to the Grade II* listed Georgian house

New dental surgery and refurbishment of No 21 Red Lion Street, Aylsham

Repair and restoration of a former shop premises creating a new flat above and the relocation of a dental practice in the rear yard

Marshams Barn, Kenninghall

Conversion of a redundant barn to residential use, using traditional materials, ground source heating, a wind turbine and rainwater recovery

Straw Barn, Snetterton

A new barn-style residence created with straw bales and locally sourced materials

Fairhaven Garden Trust visitors centre and tearoom

Eeyore's Barn



New environmentally friendly visitor centre with covered veranda and events courtyard

Mill Hill Gardens, South Walsham

Comprehensive remodelling and extension of a small 1930s house

Bayfield Brecks Barns, Letheringsett

Restoration of an historic complex of barns and its conversion into workshops and offices

Sculthorpe Community Nature Reserve education centre

New education and visitor centre with ground source heat pump and wind turbine

Eeyore's Barn, Great Hockham

New workshop building created with recycled clay lump blocks, tiles and wood

Extension to Forncett St Peter C.E. V.A. Primary School

Contemporary extension to a Victorian school incorporating 2 new classrooms, a school hall, a staffroom and a main entrance

Environmental Projects

Catton Park, Norwich

Restoration of historic grade II* parkland to a community amenity

River Glaven Restoration Project

Community project of realignment and habitat restoration of the River Glaven



Cary's Meadow, Norwich

Management of a 22 acre meadow for community use and enjoyment

Acle, Burlingham, South Walsham and Lingwood Woodland Walks

Walks through newly planted woodlands, orchards and sculptures, located in five villages

Norfolk Biodiversity, Heritage and Health Walks

A series of countryside health walks based around Norfolk market towns

Millenium Woodland, Sprowston

Creation of a community woodland in Sprowston with native tree planting, wildflower meadow and access

Unicorn Yard, Aylsham

Landscaping improvements to a pedestrian right of way into Aylsham town centre

Forest Park Caravan Site

Holiday park set and managed sympathetically within mature woodland

Educational Projects

Roots & Shoots - Holt Hall

Restoration of a walled kitchen garden within school grounds as an educational project for children of diverse backgrounds

Banham Community Primary School

Development of school field and other grounds for environmental and gardening uses

Erpingham Primary School

Environmental development of school grounds with curriculum policy

Marsham's Barn



Norfolk's 21,000 new homes

The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) will next month agree on their proposals for the distribution of housing in the Greater Norwich Area between now and 2026.

The level of housing proposed by the GNDP amounts to 21,000 new dwellings, of which only 3,000 would be on previously developed land in Norwich. The remaining allocation is destined for greenfield sites in Broadland and South Norfolk.

The single largest block of housing planned is a 7,000 new dwelling settlement at Rackheath (with another 3,000 beyond 2026). The proposed status of Rackheath has moved recently from an 'ordinary' settlement to an 'eco-town'. Whichever it might be, the Councils making up the GNDP consider that a new dual carriageway road (the NDR) running from the A47 at Postwick in the east to meet the A1067 Fakenham Road in the north west is required.

CPRE Norfolk has argued for some three years that the NDR is unnecessary and costly (about £150m), and will encourage car dependency. What is truly needed to meet the development growth around Greater Norwich is a first class public transport system which links both new and existing settlements to Norwich town centre and the strategic employment growth sites, which are weighted to the south west quadrant.

The County Council has written the Business Case for the NDR, a formal requirement in seeking acceptance for entry into the national road building programme. The Norwich and Norfolk Transport Action Group and CPRE Norfolk commissioned an independent transport consultant to examine and report on the Business Case. A number of flaws and omissions were found in the consultant's report and a meeting was organised with the Department of Transport on the 18th December to present this evidence to officials. Dr. Ian Shepherd, Policy Co-ordinator for CPRE Norfolk and Ralph Smyth, Senior Transport Campaigner for CPRE National Office, attended the meeting to give CPRE's views. The report by the consultant will be published in full when the 'missing' information in the Business Case is supplied by the County Council.

On the wider front, CPRE Norfolk have both contested the housing numbers and planned rate of build, and the assumptions on which these are based, throughout the four year development of the East of England Plan. This was formally adopted last May. The strong case for down-scaling the level and rate of house building has been made all the more urgent in the current economic climate. We shall continue to argue this case when the GNDP submission document for the Secretary of State is put to a final public consultation; and through the local Councils individual Core Strategy consultations.

Planning Conference 2009

Housing provision in Norfolk will also be the keynote subject of this year's planning conference, organised in association with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (formerly Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Councils). Taking place on Thursday June 18th, 2009 at Swaffham Assembly Rooms, the subjects under discussion will also include Planning and Biodiversity and the government's new planning website The Planning Portal. Further details to be announced.

Marshland St James Wind Farm Update

Following objections from CPRE Norfolk and other organisations, the councillors on the Development Control Board of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council have followed the Planning Officer's recommendation and refused a planning application for nineteen 3MW turbines in this open fenland landscape. This is not the end of the process as the application will now be decided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, but it is an important step. It is also encouraging in that it shows - just as in the Sheringham Tesco situation - that small campaigning organisations such as CPRE Norfolk have a crucial role to play in standing up to the professional and well-resourced representatives of large companies.



Mapping Local Food Webs



Credit: Produced in Norfolk

Local food will be a hot topic for CPRE throughout 2009 with a new initiative led by CPRE national office, in partnership with Sustain – the alliance for better food and farming.

Mapping Local Food Webs is a 5-year research project that will involve volunteers in 24 locations across the country. Working under the guidance and direction of regional co-ordinators, the volunteers will research local food networks – the important and sometimes complex relationship between food producers, processors, retailers and consumers. Volunteers will be given full training in how to undertake the research, together with on-going support during the project itself.

The project draws upon the pioneering research done by Caroline Cranbrook, newly-elected vice-president of CPRE and panellist at last year's CPRE Norfolk AGM Debate, "Do we need another supermarket?" Concerned about the potential impact of a proposed supermarket on her local market town of Saxmundham, Caroline began to investigate the networks between retailers, producers and shoppers. She showed that the existing local food networks provided real consumer choice, sustained communities and safeguarded local landscapes and that these would all

be threatened by the building of the large supermarket. Her argument helped win the case and the supermarket was never built.

By establishing the extent and importance of existing food webs at other locations across the UK, the new research will provide similar evidence and case studies, which in turn will be used to help safeguard the networks which are vital for so many rural communities. They will also be used to identify local needs and opportunities, potentially expanding the webs for the benefit of all concerned.

The mapping process will be repeated in each area towards the end of the project, to see whether the situation has changed and why. The findings of the project will be widely circulated to policy and decision makers, and the local media, to draw attention to the importance of food webs.

The project has already been piloted at 6 locations across the UK and will shortly be extended across the country. A regional co-coordinator for the East of England will be in post by early March and will start recruiting volunteers in mid to late March. Anyone interested in supporting the project can contact the national Project Officer, Thea Platt, theap@cpre.org.uk (tel: 0207 981 2841.)

Case Study - Broad Beans from Broadland

One interesting example of a local food network that flies in the face of a typical supermarket system is that provided by the Horstead Farming Group Ltd (HFG). HFG is a group of 5 family farms in Broadland, who have been working co-operatively for several years. Collectively they farm 5,000 acres and, as well as providing contracting services to other Norfolk farmers, they have 3 farm shops at Beeston St Andrew, Blofield and Notcutts Garden Centre near Norwich. They also operate a Pick-Your-Own site in Blofield and a second PYO site in Sprowston (ironically within sight of a recently enlarged Tesco).

As much as possible of the fruit and vegetables sold in the farm shops are sourced from the group's own farm - others are sourced locally. They also stock meat, dairy, fish, bread, cakes and non-perishable produce from small, local producers and suppliers, which further supports local food networks. The popularity of all the shops is evidence of the increased importance to consumers of buying seasonal, traceable, local food.

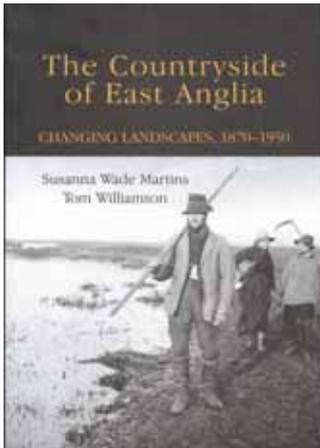
A Litter Pick at Lakenham

A well-used and litter-strewn footpath at Lakenham near Norwich is looking markedly better after 8 members of the CPRE Litter Picking Group, together with 2 local volunteers, removed 20 bags of rubbish. This now professional-looking squad is fully-equipped for a calendar of litter-picking. For further details contact Paul Wiley on 01263 713572 or by email pwiley7124@aol.com.



Publications

The Countryside of East Anglia - book offer for members



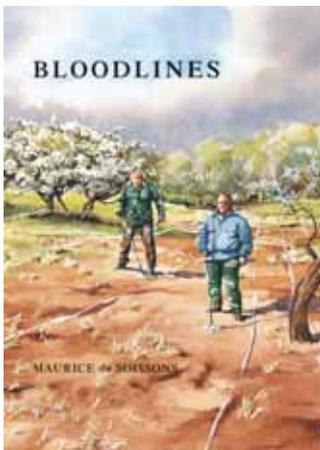
CPRE Norfolk members are being offered a generous discount on a new book by landscape historians Tom Williamson and Susanna-Wade Martins. *The Countryside of East Anglia: Changing Landscapes 1870-1950* is the first detailed study of the landscape history of this area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The authors consider how fields, farms, villages, gardens and landed estates were all affected by a period which was characterised by agricultural depression followed by wartime intensification. Changes to habitats - hedges, woods, wetlands and heaths - are also examined, together with an explanation of the emergence of new types of landscape, such as

vast conifer plantations and holiday resorts.

The full price of "The Countryside of East Anglia" is £25.00, but CPRE members can buy it at the discounted price of £18.75, plus £3.00 P&P. Orders can be placed by phone on 01394 610600 or email trading@boydell.co.uk or via the publishers' website at www.boydell.co.uk/souk.htm. Please quote the offer code 08422. The offer will end 31st March 2009.

Tom Williamson will be guest speaker at the South Norfolk District AGM on April 27th. See page three for further details.

Bloodlines



Bloodlines, is the seventh book and second novel by CPRE Norfolk Vice President Maurice de Soissons, and fittingly tackles the emotive subject of development in rural areas. Set in a corner of West Norfolk, the novel examines how a community comes to terms with modern and often unwelcome trends associated with such development.

Some country people are waging a spasmodic and rearguard action against invasion of every kind. There are locals protesting by illegal means, there are two gangs of metal detectorists intent on plundering the artefacts of the past; cattle-rustling and raves just add to the problems of the community.

Jem Borrow is a landowner and farmer, whose family, like that of many other villagers, have been here for centuries. Perhaps they all have the bloodlines peculiar to the county - Icen, Saxon, Danish, Flemish, Norman. As the farming year unrolls, much happens in this supposedly quiet country environment to weld the locals together in an attempt to keep alive what they perceive as country values, and maintain a viable community.

Bloodlines is available through good bookshops or directly from the publishers, Woodthorpe Publishing, 12 Branodunum, Brancaster, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 8AL. Tel: 01485 210470. Price £11.50 including postage.

News in brief

A Tree for Jocelyn

Jocelyn Rawlence, one of CPRE Norfolk's longest serving campaigners, has been recognised arboreally, in the form of a double almond tree, planted at the doctors' surgery in Pulham Market, where her late husband Patrick practiced for 50 years. The tree was bought with proceeds from the celebration party organised by South Norfolk District when Jocelyn was

presented with the CPRE Countryside medal. The tree was planted by the Loddon Society Tree Warden Eric Wilkinson, assisted by South Norfolk District chairman John Capps.

Sir Bernard Feilden

CPRE Norfolk would like to express sadness at the death of one of our charity's patrons, Sir Bernard Feilden. Sir Bernard was widely recognised as one of the country's most significant post-war

conservation architects, setting up the Feilden & Mawson architectural practice with CPRE's former president and executive committee member David Mawson. Sir Bernard was chair of the Norfolk Association of Amenity Societies when, in 1972, he successfully handled their politically-sensitive merger with the County Branch of CPRE to form The Norfolk Society, bringing with it new members and an added impetus for change.



CPRE Norfolk
42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NR
Telephone: 01603 761660
info@cprenorfolk.org.uk
www.cprenorfolk.org.uk