



The countryside charity  
Hampshire

# Hampshire Views

Issue 21 | Autumn/Winter 2021



Ruth Davey



Trevor Bumfrey

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# Welcome to this edition of Hampshire Views!



As our summer days come to an end and the autumnal nights draw in, our countryside landscape undertakes huge and beautiful changes. Keeping fingers crossed for some dry, crisp and clear weather, it's a fabulous time of year to get outdoors and appreciate the wonderful countryside we have all around us.

At CPRE Hampshire we have continued to work hard, as always, to protect and cherish all we hold dear, and I'm pleased that this issue of Hampshire Views reflects some of this work and the successes we have achieved. It's been an Olympic year after all – celebrating success has been a theme worth taking on!

We have launched an exciting new initiative around the hedgerows of Hampshire with a project in the South West of the county to regenerate existing hedgerows and to replant ancient boundaries. Working with local schools, Young Farmers and volunteers, our

aim is to raise awareness of the important role hedgerows play in a sustainable future for our countryside and in mitigating climate change. Read more about this initiative on page 7.


Work on planning and development in Hampshire continues to be at the heart of much of what we do. With continued progress on the Planning White Paper, we have recently lobbied MPs, detailing our concerns around methods of calculation for housing projections. We included a call to action that includes an appeal for early release of the 2021 Census data which would provide up-to-date information on household data. See the updates from our CPRE Hampshire district groups, from page 4, to find out more about what's been going on in your area.

As always, this work and these achievements could not be achieved without you, our valued members and supporters. Without your input, these things just simply would not happen. To our volunteers we are immensely grateful. Litter picks, wildlife surveys, hedge planting, events, meetings and research could not take place. And, of course, our district group Chairs and members, and our Board of Trustees. These are all people who take their own time to make things happen to protect the Hampshire Countryside. Thank you all.

On a personal note, this will be the last Hampshire Views 'Welcome' from me as I step down from my tenure as CPRE Hampshire Chair. I have completed the full term and it's now time for someone new to take up the reins. I will still be very

much involved with CPRE Hampshire and in particular championing our forthcoming campaign to protect the North Hampshire Down with a designation that would strengthen protection for the chalk landscapes. "The Big Chalk" would stretch across the county from the North Wessex Downs AONB to the South Downs National Park. Watch this space!

**Dee Haas,**  
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Charity number: 1164410

## Brownfield toolkit How you can help

I think we all agree that when it comes to building and development, looking at brownfield sites first is definitely best. Local authorities have a register of these sites but there are always challenges around whether all potential sites have been identified and that sites registered are appropriate for development in all the ways they need to be. Smaller brownfield sites may be fragmented and not so easy to identify – which is where your local knowledge comes in.

National CPRE have recently launched a new online toolkit that aims to help inform local councils about brownfield sites that could be developed, and to ensure they are included in the council's Brownfield Land Register and Land Supply dataset. This will increase the chances of these sites being developed and take pressure off less appropriate places. If you have information you believe would be of interest, we would love to hear from you. Please contact your district group in the first instance. Contact details are provided at the end of all local updates throughout the magazine.



Photo credit: Abigail Oliver

**At CPRE Hampshire we believe in the right kind of housing, in the right place.**

## Questions over household projection numbers used in planning



### Affordable housing development and children playing

With the new Planning Bill expected to be back in the political spotlight in the Autumn, CPRE Hampshire has recently lobbied our Hampshire MPs to take a closer look at the methods used for calculating the number of homes needed in local areas.

The current method for calculating housing need is based on out-of-date

projections from 2014. We are suggesting use of a more up-to-date calculation of population projections from ONS, based on data from 2018. We've also asked that the counting of students temporarily living in university cities is looked at and reconsidered. On top of this, we have suggested an early release of 2021 Census data that would provide up to the minute data. This means Local Plans can work from a far more accurate base.

CPRE Hampshire continues to work at the forefront of issues around development and planning and we'll keep you up to date as the Planning Bill progresses. Look out for our regular e-Newsletters for all the latest news.

**CPRE Hampshire are asking Hampshire MPs to take a closer look at how household projections are made.**



Photo credit: Nataliya Vaitkevich/Pexels

## The importance of our Local Plan – informative toolkit coming soon

As work continues on Local Plans throughout the country, CPRE Hampshire is responding to and working to influence these plans to ensure the right kind of development is being considered in the right areas. Hosting a Local Plan Response workshop in mid-October, we are aiming to empower Parish Councils, community groups and individuals, with the right tools to help them have their say and build their ability to influence development within their local neighbourhoods.

Alongside the workshop, CPRE Hampshire will be producing an online and downloadable toolkit that will cover a list of all relevant topics. This will include a description of the topic, what issues we believe should be considered within it and in most cases, a sample policy. These topics will include both broader, strategic issues such as renewable energy, safeguarding views and climate change, as well as more specific issues such as equestrian development and tourism.

The online toolkit should be available on our website, [www.cprehampshire.org.uk](http://www.cprehampshire.org.uk), by the end of October 2021.

For information on what's going on with the Local Plan in your areas, please see our district updates.

## North Hampshire Downs

CPRE Hampshire are currently exploring ways to strengthen the protection for the North Hampshire Downs. We're looking at a campaign that could better protect the chalk landscapes that stretch across the county from the North Wessex Downs AONB to the South Downs National Park. Watch this space for information on this campaign as it develops.



**CPRE Hampshire has previously undertaken Valued Landscape assessments on areas within the North Hampshire Downs.**

## Valued Landscapes

In our last edition of Hampshire Views, we detailed the work of CPRE Hampshire's Christopher Napier on undertaking and writing 'Valued Landscape' reports for areas in the North Hampshire Downs and Winchester.

As life slowly returns to some kind of normality after periods of lock-down, our District Group leads throughout Hampshire are hoping to return to regular meetings with local planning authorities. Valued Landscapes will be on their lists. With the National Planning Policy Framework referring to identifying and considering valued landscapes, we will be holding the local planning authorities to account. Valued Landscape assessments include landscape quality, scenic quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interests and recreation values.

## Dark Skies – full report coming soon

Work commissioned with CPRE Sussex and CPRE Kent to investigate the impact of light pollution on our dark night skies over five years, is now complete. The final report is currently being worked on, but early results are showing that although light pollution has decreased in cities, it is increasing in rural areas. This has the potential to majorly impact on the countryside, including wildlife. We will be releasing more detailed information on the report soon so keep your eyes peeled.

## Write to us!

We'd love to hear from you

**CPRE Hampshire would love to hear more from you, our members!**

To help celebrate our rich and varied landscape, we'd like to feature you and your special part of the Hampshire countryside in our future editions of Hampshire Views. Tell us what you love about your favourite area, what it means to you and how you enjoy it. A photo would be great too. We look forward to hearing from you. You can email [comms@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:comms@cprehampshire.org.uk) or write to The Editor, Hampshire Views, CPRE Hampshire, Winnall Community Centre, Garbett Road, Winnall, Winchester, SO23 0NY.

# Update from District Groups - what's going on in your area

## New Forest

During a welcome lull in developers' demands for more building sites, two encouraging announcements have been made. Nationally, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has published a report on the planning system in England. It welcomes additional funding for brownfield sites and recommends the Government 'incorporate availability of such sites into calculations for determining housing need', 'explain why the proportion of new residential address [sic] created on previously developed land has fallen in recent years' and 'enable Local Plans to prioritise the use of brownfield sites for developments ahead of other sites. Watch this space!

Locally, the most contentious development, at Snails Lane, near Blashford Lakes, Ringwood, has finally been defeated. Every environmental body and local authority (except the NFDC) had from the outset dismissed the site for 143 houses as unsustainable. However, at a crunch district council meeting, despite arguments from proponents, councillors voted against the scheme. Let's hope this will not be resurrected.

CPRE Hampshire has launched the 'Hedgerow Heroes' project at Hinton Admiral Estate just off the A35 near the famous 'Cat and Fiddle'. This will centre around the planting of new hedgerow and renovation of existing hedgerow. It will provide improved wildlife habitat, prevent soil erosion and enhance the quality of the landscape. Volunteers have been recruited, local schools involved and specialists from outside engaged, whilst the District Group will be directly involved.

The NFNP Partnership Plan has also been unveiled recently. Recognising the special qualities of the New Forest, the 5-year plan will focus on achieving outcomes in the following five areas: Nature Recovery (habitats restored, expanded and maintained to enable wildlife to thrive), Net Zero with Nature (cuts in carbon-emissions and carbon-capture), Thriving Forest (communing, local produce, tourism etc), Inclusive National Park (attracting people from all backgrounds and socio-economic groups), Team New Forest (encouraging communities, businesses and organisations to work together, sharing knowledge, ideas and resources). Again, the DG will liaise and participate in these endeavours.



**One of the first meetings to discuss plans for the CPRE Hampshire Hedgerow Heroes initiative.**

Finally, we should mention CPRE's forward-looking forecast, Greener, Better, Faster: 'countryside solutions to the climate emergency and for a green recovery'. This brochure should constitute a national manifesto for The Countryside Charity and warrants careful study.

**Russell Webb,**  
News Forest District Group Coordinator – russellwebb@uwclub.net

## Test Valley



**Andover Grain Silos**

It has been a fairly quiet spell in Test Valley from a planning perspective. Test Valley Borough Council are yet to announce their preferred way ahead for future development in the borough although there have been two rounds of public consultation to seek the views of the community (and to which your committee has responded). One fear is that the government will impose very high housebuilding targets on most Hampshire boroughs as a way of pushing forward its aim of building 300,000 houses a year – a figure with little rational basis. Potential changes to planning law will also make it easier for housing estates to go up anywhere outside a protected area.

There have been a few applications for small developments in local villages, some of which we have opposed because of their inappropriate location or because they contravene current local plan policies. There has also been a rather bizarre proposal to close a large flour mill complex in the middle of Andover and replace it with a storage and distribution centre. The site is close to the station and would seem an obvious location for flats rather than bringing more lorry traffic into the town centre.

Planning applications for Test Valley show a preponderance of tree works applications. Many for felling. These are just the ones with TPOs, many in conservation areas. Given the need to fell trees affected by ash die-back and other diseases now prevalent because they are unsafe, it seems ill advised to lose others often simply because of light or dryness issues in gardens. Some villages are losing perfectly healthy mature trees without protective TPOs which form important elements of the street scene and of course are essential in maintaining clean air and sequestering carbon. So please think twice before you fell.

**Moya Grove,**  
Test Valley District Group Secretary, moyagrove@gmail.com

**John Moon,**  
Test Valley District Group Acting Chair, john.moon@masafish.com

## North Hampshire

We continue to monitor planning matters within our area and to respond to the concerns of residents to schemes that are being proposed within their neighbourhoods. This has involved 10 such cases over this last summer, although some Council activity has been curtailed during Lockdown. They include some major schemes such as the proposed construction of a Care Community with 150 units close to the hamlet of Dene and an ongoing project for a major solar energy plant near Bramley. We continue also to keep in touch with local councillors and planning officers and are currently working towards the creation of a North Hampshire AONB. This would cover an extensive area of beautiful countryside and also offer a greater degree of protection against development schemes being proposed in such areas when they could be sited in less sensitive locations.

We have to report with much sadness the death of Nevil Wilson at the age of 94 when he was still acting as our indefatigable Secretary. Prior to that he served as a County Trustee and dealt with planning cases within our region.

Having had inevitably to cancel our garden visits and other events during lockdown, we are now able to reactivate our popular Autumn Supper which is planned for 12 November. Further details will be circulated shortly.

**Peter Prag,**  
North Hampshire District Group Chairman  
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Photo credit: James Vickers

**Taking in the views on the recent guided Winchfield walk with CPRE Hampshire**

## North East Hampshire

Budgets deficits and development plans are still in the news at Hart District Council. This is having an undefined effect on the plans for a new Shapley Heath Garden Community mini town between Winchfield and Murrell Green.

At the last Cabinet meeting the District Councillors agreed to prepare some business cases for making savings in some council activities and more importantly it was agreed that an additional business case be explored in relation to bringing forward the next revision of the Local Plan.

Whilst the Business case is being considered, all activity relating to the Garden Community project will be paused.

The District Group recently organised a walk round the designated area for the Shapley Heath Garden Community Project. This was led by Chris Griffin and some 45 members and residents took part on what was an excellent viewing of some of the very important land and woodland settings, on both sides of the M3 and railway line, that will be adversely affected by any development of the Garden Community.

Chris is planning to organise further walks in the area, and anyone interested in taking part should contact him via the Winchester office email [hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk).

We are not aware of any new planning applications regarding Bramshill House and adjacent land on the outskirts of Hartley Wintney, but we will be keeping an eye on the site.

Of great concern to us is the recent applications for Solar Farms on prime agricultural land at Chosley Farm in Odiham and several sites surrounding Long Sutton and Well. All these applications have been kept below a threshold size so as not to create the need for special treatment but when their locations and proximity to each other are considered they will have a massive impact on the rural setting and countryside.

Finally, the news that W C Baker & Son, the ironmongery shop in Fleet, is to close at the end of September after serving the community for over 100 years is yet another blow to the vibrancy and survival of Fleet.

As always anyone wishing to join our Hart & Rushmoor District Group team will be most welcome to contact us through the Winchester office.

**Alastair Clark,**  
North East Hampshire District Group Chairman-  
[alastairc@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:alastairc@cprehampshire.org.uk)

## South Downs and Central

The focus of recent planning work in South Downs & Central Group has continued to be on the two very large projects in the countryside of East Hampshire. The Veolia application to replace their recycling plant near Alton with an incinerator to generate electricity from unrecyclable waste is still to be decided by the Regulatory Committee of Hampshire County Council. Our strong objection is based on lack of need for another incinerator in Hampshire at a time when the focus needs to be on improving recycling rates, where Hampshire has fallen behind surrounding counties, and the high carbon emissions from large incinerators. Also, critically from a CPRE perspective, the fact that this huge building would dominate the Wey Valley to the east of Alton. There would be unacceptable impacts on the South Downs National Park and its setting and a Valued Landscape Opposition to the project is very strong. We are working closely with the local action group, No Wey Incinerator, who are appreciative of the contribution we have been making. Along with others, we are planning to make a statement to the Committee at the meeting to decide the application, focussing on the landscape impacts - either supporting the Case Officer if his recommendation is a refusal or criticising if not.

The other large project is the proposed Aquind Interconnector to exchange electricity with France through cables coming ashore at Eastney and then underground to a site near the National Grid substation at Lovedean. This would require two large converter halls, surrounded on three sides by the South Downs National Park from which they would be clearly visible. The Examination of this project came to a close in March. The Planning Inspectorate has given a recommendation to the Secretary of State, but that will not be made public until the Decision by the Secretary of State is announced, which must by law be made by 8 September.

We made a 25-page response to the recent consultation on Issues and Priorities for the emerging Local Plan for the District (outside the South Down National Park) which is intended to run to 2038. This included the need for a South Hampshire Green Belt, designation of Valued Landscape, housing numbers, sustainable development, carbon neutrality, and options for development.

We are planning to run our two annual quiz nights this year: at Itchen Abbas Village Hall on 22 October and East Meon Village Hall on 12 November.



## South Hampshire

It has been a busy time for Local Plans in South Hampshire over the last few months, and it looks like that will continue into 2022.

CPRE Hampshire appeared (virtually) at the Havant Local Plan examination, where we worked to persuade the planning inspector that Havant should not be forced to take an extra 900 houses on behalf of Portsmouth. Those extra houses will lead to the loss of precious green spaces in the borough, of which there are very few remaining. We also supported more ambitious regeneration of Waterlooville and Havant, and raised the issue of increasing light pollution, and its impact on the night sky, biodiversity and the South Downs National Park's dark skies reserve.

We submitted a further response to Fareham on its Local Plan, where we argued that the draft plan was a lost opportunity to include a new Green Belt. Fareham has carried out a number of consultations in the past 2 years, each with differing housing numbers as they tried to keep up with advice from central government. The latest incarnation proposes substantial development in the gap between Fareham and Gosport.

Eastleigh has been consulting on modifications from its Local Plan to resolve recommendations from the planning inspector, which including the removal of the proposed 5,500 houses and a new road north of Bishopstoke. Working with local group ADD, we'll continue to monitor Eastleigh as they commence an early review.

In Gosport, Portsmouth and Southampton we await consultations on their Local Plans, which are due in the autumn of 2021. Southampton has been hit with a 35% "urban uplift" on its housing numbers, and we will be working to ensure that they follow guidance which says: "This increase in the number of homes to be delivered in urban areas is expected to be met by the cities and urban centres themselves, rather than the surrounding areas." Portsmouth is proposing to include 2,200 dwellings at a large site at Tipner and Horsea Island, a site of high nature value. CPRE Hampshire believes both Portsmouth and Southampton have flaws in population projections, similar to many other university cities across the country, it appears that students may have been counted in when they commenced degrees, but not counted out when they graduated. We have asked Hampshire MPs to request early release of the 2021 Census data to ground truth the population projections, so that housing numbers can reflect true local need.

**Caroline Dibden,**

Vice President – [carolined@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:carolined@cprehampshire.org.uk)

# FROM HUMBLE HEDGEROW TO 'HEDGEROW HERO'



Photo credit: Bob Hart

## Brambles in a hedgerow at Burton Common.

Functional, useful in dividing our land and helping to create a path for us to follow, there is so much more to this extraordinary feature in our natural landscape. Hedgerows play an enormously important role in the health and diversity of our land, our wildlife, our climate and could make a valued contribution to our national economy, new research has shown. This is why CPRE is calling on government for a firm commitment: set a target to increase the hedgerow network by 40% by 2050.

Recent analysis by CPRE has shown that hedgerows could become champions of climate action and nature recovery, while contributing tens of thousands of jobs to hard hit local communities. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) recommends that the extent of our hedgerow network should be increased by 40% to support the UK government's goal to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Now, research conducted by the Organic Research Centre, on behalf of CPRE, has found that the benefits of setting and achieving this target would not only be for the climate and nature. 40% more hedgerows would result in over 25,000 more jobs in hedgerow planting and maintenance in both rural and urban areas. If the right hedgerows are planted in the right place, for every £1 invested in hedgerow planting, as much as £3.92 is generated in the wider economy.

While the government has set clear targets to increase tree planting, it has yet to set a target for hedgerows, which are absolutely crucial in soaking up carbon, protecting against flooding and aiding nature's recovery. Here at CPRE Hampshire, we are in full support of this campaign, #40by50, and have launched our own programme of work in the South West of the county.

Boyd McCleary, Vice Chair of CPRE Hampshire, commented: "We have long been aware of the role hedgerows can play in the sustainability of our natural world as well as the immediate benefits to the countryside and the wildlife within it. It is great to have this research on the economic benefits to back up what we've been saying. The call to government to commit to 40% by 2050 is vital. CPRE Hampshire are continuing to work on our initiative with the Meyrick Estate near Bransgore, rejuvenating what is existing and replacing hedgerows that have previously been ripped from the landscape. Nationally, we have lost around half of our hedgerows since the Second World War and they are still in decline. This is shocking. We need to reverse this pattern."



## Hedgerows are a key feature of our British countryside. But we need more, more than ever.

Read on to find out more about CPRE Hampshire's local hedgerow initiative and further articles from guest contributors on why and how they are important.

Visit the hedgerow section on [www.cprehampshire.org.uk](http://www.cprehampshire.org.uk) to sign our petition urging the government to commit #40by50.

**We've lost half of our hedgerows since 1945**

**It's time to turn that around**

**Sign the petition**

#40by50

The hedgerow network is our largest, most connected 'nature reserve'. Healthy hedgerows are teeming with life and vital for nature. One in ten of all vulnerable species in the UK are associated with hedgerows. These include the hazel dormouse, the much-loved hedgehog, whose decline has been closely associated with hedgerow loss, and the brown hairstreak butterfly, which lays its eggs on blackthorn, and is particularly common in hedgerows. It is clear that continued hedgerow loss will hasten the decline of these species but increasing the hedgerow network will aid nature's recovery.

**Turn over for more information on our Hedgerow Heroes**

# Replanting and rejuvenating hedgerows in Hampshire

Work continues in Hampshire with the Hedgerow Heroes initiative at the Meyrick Estate near Bransgore. Volunteers have been inducted with the help of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the People's Trust for Endangered Species, and are now working independently to conduct surveys on the hedges. This includes areas such as the structure and health of the hedge and the wildlife living amongst them. The front cover of Hampshire Views shows you a honeybees' nest that was spotted on one of these surveys.

Work with local schools and Young Farmers is just beginning as we look to spread the word on the value hedgerows bring to our countryside and exactly what we can do to help them grow and thrive. Local hedge-layer, Chris Sparkes, will be hosting workshops on hedge-laying to share the knowledge on how to regenerate and maximise the life and contribution hedgerows can make.

Keep up to date with our hedgerow initiative by visiting our website [www.cprehampshire.org.uk](http://www.cprehampshire.org.uk).

All our latest news is on there and you'll find further details and lots of photographs. Otherwise keep your eyes peeled for the next issue of your member-only Hampshire Views magazine, due out in the Spring, and we'll update you then.



Photo credit: Peter Bumfrey

**A Gateway Butterfly spotted on a recent hedgerow survey.**



**Example of 'lollipop' hedges requiring attention on the Hinton Admiral Estate.**

## A short history of hedgerows

By Bryan Woods, Guest Contributor

Hedgerows have been a feature of our countryside for thousands of years. They may even date back to the Bronze and Iron Ages, when man first began to clear the land for farming. By the 12th Century, 'common land' was first enclosed by newly planted hedges for agriculture. This increased significantly during the Tudor period.

Some 5,200 individual enclosure acts were passed in England and Wales from 1604 to 1914, affecting 6.8 million acres of land. The most significant was the Inclosure Act of 1773, which is still in force today.

During the Napoleonic Wars, many hedgerows were lost when the country was threatened with starvation and more food needed to be grown. After World War Two, government policy encouraged Britain to become self-sufficient in food. Larger farm machinery was developed that could not manoeuvre in small fields, leading to the destruction of many hedgerows.

A staggering fifty per cent of hedgerows have been lost across England since 1945. Many

others have been badly managed, so their value to wildlife has been much reduced.

Today our remaining hedgerows are an important record of the history of our countryside. They also provide vital food and shelter for wildlife, including roosting birds, the harvest mouse, and of course the increasingly endangered hedgehog. Many plants are also found in well managed hedgerows, and these provide food for birds and insects.

During heavy rainfall or flooding, hedgerows also act as a barrier to prevent the topsoil in fields from being lost. This contributes to healthier, more fertile soils that store more carbon, unlike eroded soils that become a source of harmful carbon dioxide emissions.

The many plants found in healthy hedgerows can even help to combat climate change by storing carbon in their vegetation.

The aim of CPRE Hampshire's current Hedgerow Heroes initiative is to go some way towards reversing recent negative trends. We will be planting a new 1.7 km hedgerow along

the line of an ancient hedgerow, which was marked on old estate plans. We will also be filling 1.3 km of gaps in existing old hedgerows nearby, thus restoring the hedgerow to its original glory and creating a much better habitat for wildlife.



Bryan lives in the town of Petersfield in East Hampshire and is one of our volunteer content writers. Surrounded by the beautiful South Downs, he likes nothing better than sketching and drawing this lovely countryside.



# Why are hedgerows so important for British birds?

By Izzy Fry, The Young Naturalist, Guest Contributor

During lockdown, I went on an early morning walk every day before online school. I am incredibly lucky and so grateful to live on a beautiful farm and hearing the yellowhammers bellowing their clumsy song along the hedgerows every morning was one of the highlights of my day!

As a mixture of woodland, scrub and grassland, hedgerows contain a wealth of different plant and animal species and are an essential habitat and refuge for a lot of our wildlife.

Hedgerows support up to 80% of birds, 50% of our mammals and 30% of our butterflies. They are extremely important corridors that join multiple habitats together. In this article, I am going to be talking about birds specifically, and why hedges are so important for them.

In areas, with few wooded areas, many bird species depend on hedgerows for their survival. So how do birds use hedgerows and what makes them so important?

## Nesting sites

At least 30 species nests in hedgerows. Many of these, such as bullfinches and turtle doves,

prefer hedgerows more than 4m tall, with lots of trees, whereas whitethroats, linnets and yellowhammers favour shorter hedgerows (2–3m) with fewer trees. Lesser whitethroats and willow warblers prefer medium or tall hedgerows with few trees.

Wrens, robins and dunnocks usually nest low down, but song thrushes, blackbirds, chaffinches and greenfinches nest well above the ground level. Grey partridges use grass cover at the hedge bottom to nest. This is solid evidence, that it is therefore very important to manage for a range of hedge heights and tree densities and to maintain a grassy verge at the base of the hedge, so different species, have the different nesting sites they need.

## Food sources

Hedgerows provide an abundance of food, from seeds and berries to insects and invertebrates.

Most of our bird species will have insects and invertebrates in their diet, at sometime during the year, and hedgerows are like a restaurant for birds, with a big menu of tasty meals! Hedgerows are an important habitat for creepy

crawlies and over 1500 insects have been recorded at some time, living or feeding in hedgerows.

Berries are also an important food source for birds, especially during the winter when the ground is too frozen to hunt for worms or snails, and there are few insects about. Some species, such as song and mistle thrushes, blackbirds, redwings and fieldfares, find most of their winter food from berries. Like insects and invertebrates, there is a large selection of scrumptious choices! From rowan for song thrushes, to holly, hawthorn and dog rose for fieldfares.

As well as nesting sites and food sources, hedgerows also provide birds with a place to roost and shelter from weather. They are also important for many bird behaviours, and the tops of trees or branches are used as song-posts and territory markers.

## So which hedgerows are best for our British birds?

Thick hedges with wide bases that provide plenty of cover are best but there should be a variety of shapes and sizes from shaped hedgerows to lines of woods. Hedgerows with large numbers of woody species hold more birds. Trees, particularly oaks, support a rich variety of insects and are good song posts. Old trees have holes where blue tits, owls and kestrels, as well as bats, can nest.

Dead timber is also a rich source of insect food and should be left in the hedge unless it is unsafe. The greater the variety of shrubs and trees, the better. Different species flower at different times, providing nectar over a longer period, and so will support more insects. They will also supply a variety of berries over a long period!



Photo credit: Izzy Fry

**The Dunnock lives in the UK all year round, but you may have to look carefully under bushes and hedges to find them.**



Izzy Fry is a 15-year-old nature and wildlife lover and aspiring conservationist. Her aim is to encourage more young people to get involved with conserving our planet and the wildlife we live alongside.

You can follow Izzy on her Instagram, @izzyfryphotography, and website [www.youngnaturalistizzyfry.com](http://www.youngnaturalistizzyfry.com)

# CPRE Hampshire volunteers great work against litter

CPRE Hampshire's campaign against litter is making great strides with the weekly one-hour litter picks gaining increased volunteer support to help to clear the roads and verges of Winchester. A recent roadside litter pick in Winnall collected 16 bin bags of rubbish in just one hour. A litter pick on footpaths near South Wonston collected rubbish including car wheels, large pieces of metal and plastic and polystyrene. With a CPRE national poll revealing over a third of adults in England are seeing more litter since the start of the pandemic, this work is needed more than ever.

Working under the supervision of newly appointed Volunteer Litter Co-ordinator for Winchester, Alison Kukla, a team of volunteers, with assistance from street scene contractor, idverde, collected rubbish from around the Winnall roundabout area, just off the M3 in Winchester. On this occasion their rubbish finds included a car exhaust and a fire extinguisher.



Litter volunteers collected 16 bags of rubbish in 1 hour. Photo credit: Alison Kukla

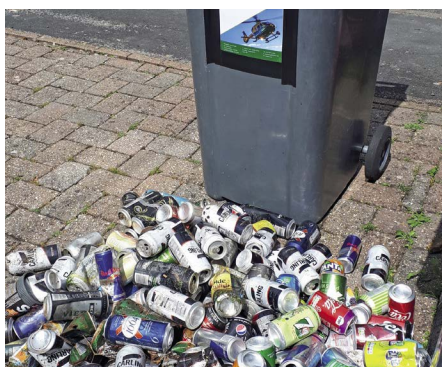


Photo credit: Alison Kukla

**A pile of cans collected from a local litter pick being recycled AND raising money for charity.**

Alison reports further on this litter picks: "I managed to keep all the aluminium cans separate, so they went in my aluminium bin that sits at the top of my driveway. We have a special recycling scheme in South Wonston and neighbouring villages. By collecting aluminium and other metals we raise money for the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance."

John Lauwerys, CPRE Hampshire trustee and litter champion said: "It is a great result and

fantastic work by our volunteers. However, if we could persuade people visiting or driving through our beautiful county to dispose of their waste in a bin or take it home, we would all benefit and reduce the impact it has on our natural environment."

**A big thank you to our litter volunteers. Keep up the good work.**

If you are interested in joining the Winchester team for litter picks, please email Natalie Hargreaves on [hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk). They take place for approximately 1 hour from 10.30am on a Saturday morning. Even if you're not able to attend every week, we can add your list to the name of volunteers to receive details or what's happening and where.

## Psst. Pass it on!

You receive your copy of Hampshire Views as a member of CPRE Hampshire and we are very grateful for your support as always. We are always looking to share news of our initiatives and campaigns as far and wide as possible and new members to the organisation are always most welcome. We all know that recycling your copy of Hampshire Views goes without saying – but first, please feel free to share your issue with anyone else you think share your passion for protecting the Hampshire countryside. And if they are interested in becoming a member too, then all the better.



## CPRE Hampshire – what we do

### **Our vision**

A beautiful and thriving countryside that enriches all our lives

### **Our mission**

To promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside.

### **Our charity works to:**

- Support communities to have their say on developments and changes in Hampshire.
- Promote the benefit of the countryside to everyone, wherever they live.
- Work with local and national government, and other organisations to promote planning policies that make the best use of land.
- Raise awareness of the Hampshire countryside as a vital space for health and wellbeing.
- Encourage care of our fields and hedgerows to help protect landscapes and wildlife.
- Call for homes that local people can afford to be built in the right places across the country.
- Celebrate and support businesses that give back to the Hampshire countryside.
- Promote renewable energy that doesn't damage the Hampshire countryside or wider environment.

# CPRE Hampshire – we couldn't do it with you

As always, our work here at CPRE Hampshire, would just not be possible without you – our members and volunteers who continually provide the resource needed to make things happen.

Here are some of the current opportunities for you to get involved:

## District Groups across Hampshire – can you help?

District Groups are the face of CPRE Hampshire in your local area. With 6 District Groups working across Hampshire, they monitor and influence local planning decisions affecting the countryside, campaign on local issues of concern, and take practical action to help improve the local environment.

They also raise vital funds to support the work of CPRE Hampshire and help to champion their local countryside and green space. Wherever you are in Hampshire, your local CPRE district group will be working away to help protect your green space.

In order that we can keep doing all that we can for the countryside, we need your help. Our district groups are looking for new volunteers to help with a range of activities to make a real difference to the local countryside. If you have a spare few hours, want to help out at a local event or are interested in getting more heavily involved in issues such as planning or policy, we would love to hear from you.

The six district groups within CPRE Hampshire are:

### **New Forest**

this covers the area of New Forest District Council

### **Test Valley**

this covers the area of Test Valley Borough Council

### **North Hampshire**

this covers the area of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

### **North East Hampshire**

this covers the areas of Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council

### **South Downs and Central**

this covers the areas of Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council

### **South Hampshire**

this covers the areas of Havant Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council

If you think you could assist and be involved with your local, district group, please email [hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk).

## Litter pickers in the Winchester area

We are delighted to have recently recruited a new Litter Pick Co-ordinator for this area but are always in need of more people to come out and take part in the actual litter picks.

These take place at a new location around Winchester, every week, from 10.30, and last an hour.



## Keep up to date

Hampshire Views is a printed magazine that goes out to CPRE Hampshire members only.

If you have been passed the magazine to read and are interested in keeping up-to-date with CPRE Hampshire news, you can subscribe to our e-newsletter. Details to subscribe are at the bottom of our homepage at [www.cprehampshire.org.uk](http://www.cprehampshire.org.uk).

All members should already receive the e-newsletter.

## We want to hear from you

At CPRE Hampshire HQ we are keen to hear more from you, our members, about what kinds of information you would like to receive from us. In this issue of the magazine, you should find a survey to be completed. Please feel free to post this back or complete, take a photo and email back to [comms@hantscpre.org.uk](mailto:comms@hantscpre.org.uk). This survey will also be emailed and available to undertake online, so if you would prefer this method, keep your eyes peeled. Thank you.

## Litter feedback

We are always on the lookout for local information on what public areas need the attention of our litter pickers.

Please note this is currently only in the Winchester area. Recent locations include the Winnall roundabout and public pathways just off the A272.

If you are aware of an area, especially roadside, that is currently experiencing excess litter, please email [hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk).

## CPRE Hampshire Events

As a charity, we are always looking for new ways to raise funds. If we can do this in a way that brings people together to share their knowledge and experience, then all the better. Not just a great way to connect our countryside community, we are hoping to provide events that are entertaining too.

This Autumn, CPRE Hampshire launched a series of events that included talks, conferences and workshops. We aim to keep you informed about these events via our e-newsletter and our website so do keep checking for the latest events available.

## Upcoming: Tickets are still available for a talk from local fly fisherman and author, Simon Cooper.

Simon will be taking about the 'Life of a Chalkstream', the story of a river that he discovered and brought back to life. A beautiful English chalkstream neglected for a generation or more. But perfection comes at a price, and Simon will talk about the highs and lows of the year he took to bring it back from the brink.

This is not just the tale of a river but the community that lives by it. How every creature, however big, small, fast or apparently unimportant, has a niche and a role in the life of a chalkstream.

See our website for further details and the link to book your tickets.

Check our website for the latest on news and events: [www.cprehampshire.org.uk](http://www.cprehampshire.org.uk).

## It's beginning to look a lot like .... Christmas!

We hope you like this year's selection of Christmas cards. All profits made from the sale of the cards will go towards the work of CPRE Hampshire and we thank you in advance for your support.

We are still unable to sell our cards at Winchester Guildhall this year, so to order your selection a Christmas Card order form is enclosed with this edition of Hampshire Views. Should your form be misplaced or no longer available, please email [admin@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cprehampshire.org.uk)

