



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
SUSSEX

CPRE Sussex Countryside Awards 2008 - 2009

PRESS RELEASE

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CPRE Sussex rewards Countryside and Community Champions

Leading countryside campaigners applauded ten Sussex countryside projects at the first ever CPRE Sussex Countryside Awards on Tuesday 26th May at Braylsham Castle, near Heathfield, East Sussex. Guests including Peter Field, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Tim Loughton MP and Charles Hendry MP, congratulated the winners.

Dr Peter Brandon, the well known landscape historian and author who was chair of the judging panel said “I am delighted to be involved with this fantastic initiative which recognises those who have contributed so much for the good of Sussex and our communities. Travelling across the County to visit these inspiring projects and the individuals responsible for them was a great privilege. It was quite exhilarating to view such innovative and sensitive development which will benefit so many.”

Entries were received from across Sussex and Awards were given in two categories, New Sussex Landscapes and “Field to Table”, for local food projects.

Awards were presented by Lady Caroline Egremont and Dr Peter Brandon, on behalf of the Judging Panel with Miss Margaret Moore and Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts.

Gerald Summerfield, as host for CPRE Sussex told guests “CPRE is ever vigilant to protect the countryside and to discourage bad rural development, but in contrast this evening it is a wonderful delight to commend good development”.

He continued “our new CPRE Sussex Award Scheme has been a unique opportunity to support and encourage innovative and sensitive development schemes here in Sussex. The judges have been full of praise and the winners can be hugely proud of their contribution to the landscape and their communities.”

Gerald continued “We have been delighted to welcome so many people who care for the Sussex countryside to Braylsham Castle. This building is itself an unusual development, a cross between a latter-day medieval castle and a modern home – kindly loaned to us tonight by Jo and John Mew. John Mew said “we fought hard to get planning permission for our unusual home, but we feel it shows that with great care it is sometimes possible to integrate good new development into the countryside.”

CPRE Sussex say they plan to announce the next Award Scheme in the coming year.

AWARD WINNERS

Coopers Farm, Hadlow Down, nr Uckfield

This restoration of a historic farm landscape by Michael and Melissa Lunn was strongly endorsed by the CPRE Judges. Margaret Moore said “this is a superbly researched and managed re-creation of a historic and traditional farm landscape, based on organic and sustainable principles. A little farm with big ideas. The Lunn’s can be justifiably proud of their work!”

Downs Barn Education Centre, Sompting, nr Worthing

This education centre on the Downs won strong plaudits for Mike and Emma Tristram, Trustees of the Sompting Estate. For the CPRE judging panel, Lady Caroline Egremont said “The restoration of this nineteenth century flint barn using traditional materials as an education centre is a real delight. In a remote setting, the barn enables access to this unknown and beautiful part of the Downs to all. An inspiring enterprise”.

Old Shoreham Toll Bridge

The restoration of the Old Shoreham Toll Bridge by Toll Bridge Trust won a CPRE award, received by Liza McKinney and Vera Tickle. Lady Caroline Egremont, for the CPRE Panel judges said “This marvelous enterprise has succeeded in preventing the loss of a beautiful Grade II listed bridge which had been a much loved feature in the landscape and of great benefit to the local community. Much of the original timber has been retained and now that it is restored it is used again by cyclists, walkers, riders and the residents of Shoreham. A true community effort involving West Sussex County Council, Adur District Council, voluntary and other organizations led and inspired by the indefatigable trust chairman Liza McKinney”.

Castle Water, Rye Harbour

Castle Water at the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve led to an award received by Dr Barry Yates. Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, for the CPRE judges said “Castle Water created a beautiful and peaceful environment for both visitors and wildlife. This is a very special landscape, a place where you can enjoy sea and nature”.

Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge, nr Lewes

Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge, north of Lewes, won a landscapes award, received for its trustees by Marion Hughes. Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, for the CPRE Panel judges said “This is a handsome and inspiring “green” building, bringing new life to the villages, and we hope sets a standard for others to emulate in future similar village projects in Sussex”.

Bradford’s Farm Shop, Little Horsted, nr Uckfield

The Bradford Farm shop project was rewarded with honours for Michael and Kathy Fordham. Margaret Moore for the CPRE Awards panel said “This is the sort of very well planned and presented Farm Shop to which one would choose to return at every possible opportunity to sample an enticing, carefully sourced, selection of local products”.

Ouse Valley Foods, Plumpton, nr Lewes

Ouse Valley Foods at Plumpton won an award received by their director, Julian Warrender. Lady Caroline Egremont for the Award judges said “This is an inspiring

place - a small specialist food producer providing top quality fresh foods from mainly locally grown produce. It has excellent award winning products which are both traditional and innovative. It provides a great environment for the nine local people who run it led by Julian Warrender, a hard working and inspirational director” said Lady Caroline Egremont for the CPRE Awards judges.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Newick School Eco-garden, East Sussex

The Eco-Garden at Newick C of E School was highly commended, with a certificate presented to Mary Mayes and Diana Newman for the school. Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, Panel Judge said if children can create such a beautiful eco-garden, there is a real hope for the planet!”

Restoration of Glynde Wind Pump at High Salvington (nr Worthing)

High Salvington Mill Trust was highly commended for the restoration of the Glynde wind pump, with a certificate collected by Robert Potts and Peter Casebow. Lady Caroline Egremont, on behalf of the judges said “This is one of the last surviving Sussex wind pumps, saved and restored by a dedicated, local volunteer work force. We admired the high standard of workmanship and the contribution to the local community of their windmill site with its long barn, granary and visitor facilities. This project really is highly commendable.”

COMMENDED

Burnt Row Wood, Billingshurst

The Burnt Row Wood project by Billingshurst Community Partnership was commended and marked with a certificate received by Barry Barnes and Margaret Perks. “This is a small but commendable project, to restore an area of poorly maintained woodland so it can be used by the local community for recreation and education.” Margaret Moore said for the CPRE panel judges.

ENDS

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Notes for editors

Photographs of the Ceremony and individual projects are available on request.

The New Sussex Landscapes Award – rewards those projects that make a positive contribution to landscape through innovative and sensitive development.

The From Field to Table Award – rewards those projects and individuals who help to inform the public about the value of locally sourced, seasonal food and help consumers gain a better understanding of the countryside it creates.

The awards were judged by a panel of distinguished judges, chaired by renowned landscape historian and geographer Dr Peter Brandon. Lady Caroline Egremont, Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts and Miss Margaret Moore completed the judging panel.

CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is a charity which promotes the beauty, tranquility and diversity of the English countryside. CPRE advocates positive

solutions for the long-term future of the countryside. Founded in 1926, CPRE have 60,000 supporters and a branch in every county. Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

Bill Bryson., the well known author and champion of the countryside, is its president.

CPRE Sussex represents nearly 2,000 organisations and individuals as members from all walks of life. With 11 District Groups across Sussex, CPRE volunteers help ensure the countryside has a voice in the matters that affect it.

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