

“CPRE Gloucestershire Awards Celebrate Second Year”

The **Campaign to Protect Rural England** (CPRE), Gloucestershire Branch celebrates its second year of the **CPRE Gloucestershire Awards**. The Award Scheme was launched in 2007 to recognise projects that make outstanding contributions to the environment and communities within the County.

Richard Lloyd, Vice-Chairman, CPRE Gloucestershire said:

“We are delighted at the calibre of the applicants this year. This is only the second year we have been running the Scheme and it is also very encouraging that projects have now been nominated from all parts of the County.”

The second annual presentation ceremony will take place on Saturday 14 November in the Great Oak Hall, Westonbirt Arboretum. The recipients will be presented with their plaques and certificates by Viscount Bledisloe.

Entries were received for a wide variety of projects. This year five have been successful in meeting the criteria for an Award. The **Arlingham Horseshoe Project** has been recognised for the creation of a network of well interpreted Parish footpaths facilitating access and enjoyment for all members of the public. **Court Barn Museum, Chipping Campden** is an example of exemplary design and execution of a museum in an historic building dedicated to the Arts and Crafts Movement. **Dunkirk Millponds Restoration Project** has been recognised for the restoration of a water management system in old millponds and the re-creation of three tranquil and beautiful lakes. **Hartpury Orchard Centre** promotes traditional varieties of Gloucestershire apples, pears and plums. At its heart is a new, traditionally constructed building with the highest environmental credentials from which courses are run. **Toddington Village Hall** is an example of how good design can be both environmentally friendly and still provide exceptional facilities for the community.



David Evans, former Chairman of the Guild of Handicraft Trust receiving the award on behalf of Court Barn Museum from Rupert Bathurst, 4th Viscount Bledisloe.

Jim Chapman, who will be receiving an Award on behalf of the **Hartpury Orchard Centre** said

“The traditional orchard is one of the many attractive features of Gloucestershire’s landscape, but changing demands means that it is under threat. The Hartpury Project was developed to do our bit to awake interest in our orchards and the value of local fruit and in particular in the perry pear which gave our village its name.

As we are seeking to encourage respect for the countryside, we realise our activities must be sustainable and our buildings must compliment their surroundings. We are delighted by the reaction to this aim and honoured to receive the CPRE Gloucestershire Award.”

Sponsorship for the Award Scheme has been received from Lycetts Insurers, specialised nationwide insurers for the rural sector.

The Award Scheme is not a competition but a means of recognising and celebrating excellence and there is no set number of awards in any year. Details of this year’s recipients and of how to apply are available from the CPRE Gloucestershire website www.cpreglos.org.uk.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is a charity which promotes the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England. It advocates positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside. Founded in 1926, it has 60,000 supporters and a branch in every county. President: Bill Bryson. Patron: Her Majesty The Queen. Website: www.cpre.org.uk

2. CPRE Gloucestershire, the County Branch of the national Campaign to Protect Rural England, is a voluntary association for all those concerned about the future of rural Gloucestershire. CPRE Gloucestershire is campaigning to protect and enhance the Gloucestershire countryside; recognising and encouraging those changes which are needed to maintain an attractive and economically viable countryside, and challenging changes that unnecessarily threaten rural areas.

3. Public, private, commercial and partnership projects are eligible for a CPRE Gloucestershire Award. Projects are assessed by an independent panel of judges. There are three categories of projects; buildings, new, restored or converted, natural environment and community projects. Each category has its own specific criteria but all projects should demonstrate improvements to the rural environment, whether natural or manmade, sustainability and be enjoyed in some way by the public.

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