



Walkers enjoying a spring walk at Benthall Hall (Sarah Jameson)

CPRE Shropshire AGM: Tuesday 15th June

You are warmly invited to CPRE Shropshire's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 15th June at 6pm on Zoom (see enclosed papers).

Due to the current uncertainties over meeting in person, CPRE Shropshire will hold its AGM over Zoom once more this year.

We do hope you will join us for this short meeting where you will have an opportunity to 'meet' some of the Trustees.

Please book your place with Sarah Jameson (back page) by the deadline given.

Advance notice: CPRE Shropshire Members' social gathering: Thursday 9th September

The pandemic has meant our 2020 and 2021 AGMs have had to be conducted virtually, with no chance to meet up with each other.

We would therefore like to invite you to a Branch Members' social gathering at Millichope Park (Craven Arms) on Thursday 9th September at the kind invitation of the Bury family. More about this later this summer - this is advance notice for your diary!

(The date will of course depend on prevailing Covid 19 regulations at the time).

President's Report

I resisted the temptation to look back at what I had written for the last Annual Report; the contrast between the two years has been so dramatic. Our bird table has never been so busy and the bird song has become so much more noticeable; indeed nature seems to have thrived over the last 14 months. The benefits of the countryside to our wellbeing have never been more apparent than during lockdown. Having been blessed with a wonderful summer in 2020 the pressure on some of our outstanding landscapes has been too much. Our own honeypot of Grinshill Hill has suffered from too many feet and more worryingly the proliferation of mountain bikes doing real harm to a local nature reserve. Hopefully, it will have time to recover this spring and summer.

It has been a year for learning new tricks (who would have thought that back to back Zooms would be a new norm!?) and fighting new battles. Planning has always been centre stage, both at a local as well as a national level. Charles Green has been at the heart of our work with the Local Plan Review and it has involved a huge amount of time and effort for which we are extremely grateful.

At a national level the Government's White Paper, produced a joint petition of 310,000 names which helped to persuade government to abandon policies that would have increased pressure to build on Greenfield Sites in rural areas. It was particularly pleasing to achieve a renewed commitment to urban regeneration in the Midlands. CPRE National Office research shared that such a policy would provide over a million homes close to jobs and services.

Climate change moved centre stage during 2020; the countryside is our greatest asset in combating climate change. In Shropshire, the Mosses are our 'rainforest' providing a carbon sink;

peatland restoration has been reflected in the government's Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution. This, coupled with hedgerow restoration and creation, will be central to our Branch efforts, as is our relationship with SCAP (Shropshire Climate Action Partnership) whose target is a Carbon Neutral Shropshire by 2030.

The introduction of the Agricultural Act has provided another stepping stone towards a lower carbon countryside. Legislation reflected our vision for a fairer farm support system to encourage greener food production and land management. It especially promotes the part that soils can play in mitigating floods and storing carbon.

During the year we welcomed Zoe Turner to the Management Committee, she has taken up the challenge of improving our PR and Social Media presence and we are already seeing the benefits. The Charity has a new Treasurer and so we were able to welcome Linda Charie who has taken on the mantle from Emma Jones.

I would like to thank all the Management Team and Trustees for all they have done and achieved under Connor Furnival's leadership and not forgetting Sarah Jameson who runs the office, dispenses wise advice and keeps us on the straight and narrow. Thank you Sarah.

Robin Thompson
President, CPRE Shropshire

Chair's Report

Without a doubt the last 12 months has been unprecedented for the country and I should not need to go into any details for our Members and readers to sum up how the pandemic has changed our lives. Instead, I want to focus on the things that have given us a chance reflect.

But firstly, I want to thank all our Members for their support through this time and our Trustees, volunteers and of course our Branch Manager, Sarah Jameson for all that they do not only for our charity but for the countryside of Shropshire. Without our merry band there would certainly be a void to fill in the landscape of countryside protection and a voice lost in fighting for our beautiful countryside. I must also single out our Planning Spokesperson, Charles Green for the endless months, days and hours spent researching, scrutinising and preparing CPRE Shropshire's response to the Shropshire Local Plan; we cannot thank him enough for his work on this.

I think as a local Branch we have found some positives in meeting virtually, instead of our by-monthly meetings held at Shirehall in Shrewsbury. We are now using Zoom, saving on room hire costs and more importantly reducing our carbon footprint by not having many of our management committee travelling from all corners of Shropshire. Although of course many people do miss meeting up physically too. I suspect we will give some thought to carrying on in this way for some of our meetings but still very much hoping to welcome you all back to a physical AGM in 2022!

We have been able to concentrate on our social communications, through our new communications officer Zoe Turner who has increased our following and supporter engagement through Facebook

and Twitter. We have also trialled our first online public event with great success. In March we ran an online "Geology of Shropshire" talk, hosted by our very own Sally Green. The delivery of talk was fantastic, and the turnout was unexpected with all 100 tickets being taken up within just a couple of days.

We are working on expanding our reach in our local District groups and would like to call to anyone interested to get in touch with us to find out how you can become involved - even attending local district fundraiser events will help us an enormous amount. We are particularly looking for new District group members in South Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin so please do get in touch (via Sarah Jameson - see details on the back page). The other District groups are: Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Bridgnorth.

In addition, we are on the lookout for new Trustees. If you have any experience in business, or as a Trustee, or would like to know more, we would love to hear from you. I would like to personally invite anyone interested to an informal discussion with me about how you could get involved.

As the pandemic allows the nation to open back up, we will be focusing more again on volunteer engagement, fundraising and increasing our District level planning support and we would love for you to be a part of this and help us help our lovely Shropshire countryside remain as beautiful as it can be.

Connor Furnival
Chair, CPRE Shropshire



Planning Update

Despite increasing recognition of the perils facing the whole biosphere through the Climate Crisis and the Ecological Crisis, here in Shropshire there is no let-up in mankind's use of resources, as witnessed by the relentless flow of planning applications, which come in at the rate of about 100 a week for Shropshire Council and around 20 a week for Telford & Wrekin Council! We glance at them all, and comment on the most inappropriate ones. We also liaise with many other campaign groups and give advice and support whenever we can. The main spheres of our planning activity over the last year have been under the following headings.

Local Plan Review

The main influence on development over the next twenty years will be Shropshire Council's Local Plan (and also Telford & Wrekin Council's). We have always given lobbying on this a high priority, in order to try to keep in check the worst ravages to our precious countryside. To add to four previous rounds of consultation that first kicked off in January 2017 there were two further major consultations during the last year, on a full version of the Draft Plan.

Shropshire Council continue to ignore our and others' arguments and plough on regardless with their growth plans. We continue to argue that this is inconsistent with Climate Change policies, to the extent that it is unsound (we are an active supporter of the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership, which got going in August last year and produced its ambitious Zero Carbon Shropshire Action Plan at the end of the year). This coming year this faulty Draft Local Plan will get examined in public by a Government Planning Inspector when we and others should get a chance to follow up on all these arguments. Our harrying of the Council with questions to Cabinet and

Committees has not resulted in any formal scrutiny being given to the Plan before it gets to the examination stage.

The Green Belt eastwards of Bridgnorth is particularly under threat from pressure from the West Midlands and the Black Country. Shropshire Council wants to accept some overspill development from the Black Country (1,500 houses and 30 hectares of employment land) but does appear to have dropped the Bradford Estate scheme to build 3,000 houses and more near junction 3 of the M54 near Tong. The controversial plans in the Green Belt at Stanmore just to the east of Bridgnorth have been largely replaced by equally controversial plans at Tasley to the west, but not in the Green Belt.

In the meantime, Telford & Wrekin Council has started the process of reviewing its Local Plan too.

White Paper - Planning for the Future

Boris's "Build, Build, Build" agenda took shape toward the end of last year in the form of the "Planning for the Future" White Paper. As well as the controversial zoning proposals it spawned the now notorious mutant housing "algorithm" which was eventually quashed thanks to the efforts of national CPRE and a revolt of back-bench MPs. The threat of ever-yet-more power to developers, and less protection for the countryside remains though.

Major planning applications

The Ironbridge Power Station Redevelopment is the largest prospective housing development (1,000 houses) in the county and, as it borders the Telford & Wrekin district, is a joint application to both authorities. The involvement of Telford & Wrekin Council lends the suspicion that it is being given greater



View out over the Ironbridge Power Station site (Sarah Jameson)

scrutiny than it otherwise might receive. It is now over a year past the stated determination deadline on the planning website, partly because of a continued holding objection from Highways England.

North West Relief Road

More recently, the plans for the North West (Relief) Road (the largest engineering project in the county for years) arrived in March with 604 attached documents.

Better Shrewsbury Transport (BeST) is the most articulate campaign group, who we support. The application is expected to attract well over 3,000 objections, and one of the objectors has just ousted Peter Nutting, the (former) leader of Shropshire Council, from his seat, on an anti-road ticket. It remains to be seen whether the council listens to its public.

The road would produce massive further greenhouse gas emissions, would not relieve much congestion in Shrewsbury, would generate ever more traffic, would

be hugely destructive of the precious green wedge around the river, and would imperil the finances of cash-strapped Shropshire Council. They want it partly because it would release further development land owned by the Council. Hopefully, a public inquiry will see through all this and put paid to the plans. Herefordshire County Council had the sense to arrive at the decision themselves to abandon plans for a Hereford bypass and spend the money so saved in better ways.

Charles Green
Chief Planning Spokesperson
CPRE Shropshire

Treasurer's Report

2020 turned out to be a very unusual year due to the Covid pandemic. Our meetings after February were suddenly switched to zoom online and due to various lockdowns we were unable to organise any events including our AGM which also reverted to zoom.

However despite the obvious problems of 2020 and the financial restraints many people were experiencing, our membership subscriptions were not too badly affected by the crisis and were down by approximately 3.5% on the previous year. We were also fortunate to have received £3250 in donations, £3000 of which is a ring fenced donation for planning advice.

Expenditure was also very much reduced to £10,131.73 which was basically the cost for running the office, zoom meeting costs, and accountants audit.

We ended the year with a healthy current account bank balance of £26,944 and £19203 in our NS&I Investment account.

Linda Charie, Hon Treasurer

Social Media Report

Having taken over CPRE Shropshire social media outlets at the end of August 2020 and discussing the group's aims and visions, all accounts have been increasing in activity, which is fantastic news!

From being fairly dormant with little interaction, to being a source of information and support for a wide variety of local campaign groups and like-minded Shropshire residents who want to protect and enhance their local green spaces however small or large they may be.

CPRE Shropshire aims to lead the conversation about the importance of green spaces and countryside to our health, wellbeing and economy. We also wish to raise awareness of the need for everyone to care for our

countryside and green spaces and ensure the understanding of CPRE's role in promoting, enhancing and protecting the countryside.

Our social media accounts have included themed events such as mental health awareness, Clean Air day, Halloween and the lead up to the festive season whilst highlighting the beauty of the Shropshire countryside and the need to protect it.

Throughout the last 12 months and the world wide pandemic, open spaces have never been more important as a means of escape and for mental health.

Zoe Turner, Social Media

CPRE Social Media accounts statistics (September-December 2020)

Instagram:
Initial followers – 168
Currently - 380

Twitter:
Initial Followers - 1325
Currently - 1,425

Facebook:
Page Likes - Currently 503
Followers - Currently 601

N.B - A "Like" is a person who has chosen to attach their name to your Page as a fan. A follower is a person who has chosen to receive the updates that you post in their news feed.

District Groups yearly roundup

Bridgnorth District Report

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, planning proposals have continued to bring concerns to local people in the Bridgnorth area. The district has suffered from a mushrooming of applications for glamping sites, pods and plans for large clusters of mobile homes, expanding numbers of holiday lets and numerous barn conversions.

Group members have challenged a number of controversial planning applications during the year of lockdowns but with little success in stemming the proliferation of locally unwanted developments.

The recent April warm and sunny weather has helped to look more brightly on the future for our lovely countryside which the Bridgnorth Group will continue to protect as best they can.

Stella and David Voysey

Oswestry District Report

The Covid 19 restrictions have again put paid to any social gatherings for the Oswestry District in the last year but there is always plenty of planning activity in the area.

Oswestry is the largest town outside Shrewsbury, so is earmarked for development in the "A5 corridor". The double-headed roundabout at Mile End is now under construction, with the aim of allowing all the traffic from the Eastern Sustainable Urban Extension, and the so-called Innovation Park to flow through without clogging it up. A planning application has recently been submitted for the latter, which does not inspire much hope of actual innovation; it appears to be just another bulk standard industrial estate. We were heavily critical of what appeared to be on offer jobs-wise at the pre-application consultation and the number and type of jobs in prospect is still somewhat vague.

The scheme for 91 houses near the Oswestry Hillfort remains undetermined, over a year on from being made; Highways England have a holding objection in place until the end of June pending getting better information from the applicants, Galliers Homes or the agents, Berrys about mitigating the traffic impacts at the A5/Whittington Road roundabout.

The plans for around 120 static caravans, on half of the golf course at Henlle Park outside Gobowen, were turned down mainly because of the unacceptable impact on the surroundings and the historic parkland setting of the grade II listed Henlle Hall.

The risk of increased flooding (in the Severn/Vyrnwy confluence area of our District) from the initially proposed dam under the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road has dissipated for the moment now that plans for it have been "parked".

Do please get in touch with us (see back page) if you have any news or views to share.

Charles and Sally Green, Joint Chairs

Shrewsbury District Report

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions, Shrewsbury District has not held a face-to-face meeting during this year.

In March 2021 another objection was lodged with Shropshire Council Planning re an outline planning application for the development of 150 homes to the south of Meole Brace Retail Park. This application is still pending.

In Autumn 2020 we were consulted by a Shrewsbury resident re replacement of a hedge and embankment planting above the railway line on Drawell Street. As far as I know, the residents have been successful in getting British Rail to comply with their request.

Recently we have been consulted regarding outside lighting at Rea Valley Tractors (who sell John Deere products) at Uffington. The resident has been able to lodge a request for the lighting to be subdued so that night skies can be visible. The result of this appeal is pending. It is hoped that a similar decision will be forthcoming to that of Hencote Winery.

I joined South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA) following their successful launch in September 2020. I am part of the Communities & Education Group and the Retrofit Group. I am also a member of Pontesbury Climate Action Group. My purpose in being involved in these groups is to be able, eventually, to approach housing associations with the correct information to persuade them to upgrade their old housing stock, especially including zero carbon heating systems.

(See Planning section for an update on the North West Relief Road).

Susan Lockwood, Secretary

South Shropshire Report

It is some years since South Shropshire had an active District Group and this summer we are hoping to address this and re-start a planning-focussed group in the South of the county. We hope to have our inaugural meeting in June, where we will explore the possibilities for the new group and meet new members. If you live in the South Shropshire area and would like to join us, do let Sarah Jameson know (details on back page). Hopefully we will have a fuller report to offer in the next Annual Report!

Sarah Jameson, Branch Manager

SHAONB (Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Report

This has been a strange year as all the meetings have been on Microsoft Teams or Zoom and we have not had any site

visits. However the draft Local Plan Review which was published in December had a number of new policies proposed which recognise the importance of the AONB designation in determining planning applications and is an important milestone. The most significant policy is:

DP24: Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by limiting the scale and extent of development in the designated area. Planning proposals for minor development in the Shropshire Hills AONB and all development proposals outside the designated area which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the special qualities of the AONB (as set out in the AONB Management Plan) will be resisted in the interests of conserving the area's natural beauty.

S5 Church Stretton: Church Stretton is located within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Development proposals must recognise the importance of conserving and where possible enhancing, the special qualities of the Shropshire Hills AONB as set out in the AONB Management Plan and should be in accordance with Policy DP24 and other relevant policies of this Local Plan. New residential development will be appropriate small-scale windfall residential development within the Church Stretton development boundary. Snatchfield a large site on the edge of Church Stretton has been removed.

SP9: managing allocation of Community Hubs and Clusters in order to achieve a landscape-led approach to housing allocation for local need in the AONB. Community Clusters have been identified through a 'bottom-up' approach. Specifically, Shropshire Council has undertaken proactive engagement with Town and Parish Councils, as the elected representatives of communities, in order to understand the aspirations of rural communities, which have not been identified as Community Hubs, over the Local Plan period. Again this is good news for settlements within the AONB and also reflects a more bottom up approach for decisions on Clusters in particular.

Common Cause Update: the three year project being run by the National Trust which includes the Long Mynd, Stiperstones Commons and the Clee Liberty Common. Bracken control is a major part of all three Commons in Shropshire as is "shepherding and managing grazing." The Curlew is present and needs protection on the Stiperstones and Clee Liberty. Studies of Winchat and butterflies are ongoing on the Long Mynd.

Poultry Sheds: There has been no activity in the AONB although there are 2 applications adjoining the AONB where following a defeat of the council at Judicial Review, there are existing revised applications which have not progressed. The AONB Partnership are working with local farmers between the long Mynd and the Stiperstones who group together to maximise their Environmental Land Management plans.

Sarah Bury CPRE Representative on the AONB Partnership.

Telford & Wrekin District Report

The Telford & Wrekin District Group has not had the opportunity to meet since the Covid 19 pandemic swept the country. However, our local volunteers have been very proactive and kept the light on our work since.

Through Garry Nicholson, and with support from our IPU Adviser, Bill Ware and our Branch Chairman, we have been monitoring developments of sites in Aqueduct, Rodington, Stirchley and most notably the proposals for 350 dwellings on The Hem, between Telford and Shifnal where the Borough Council are pursuing a development of housing needs higher than their allocated in the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan. We have been supported in highlighting this application by both Telford and Wrekin Members of Parliament who have aired their concerns with the Planning Authority over this vast loss of green space and the potential for inappropriate development, which should be more sustainable than what is proposed.

A special thanks must be made to our Garry, our Planning Volunteer for Telford & Wrekin, who has led a great amount of research into applications and the supposed "Green Network" of the Borough.

We shall hopefully meet in 2021 and we will be in touch!

Greg Sinclair, Chair

Heritage Report

As CPRE's Heritage adviser, I have made comments on a number of listed building and conservation area consent applications in the last 12 months.

One of the most recent and taxing is a former Vicarage in Much Wenlock where it was proposed to remove and replace the existing Georgian sash windows with replicas and well as removing the rear transom and mullion plus casement windows in a similar fashion. This is always a difficult issue given the Government initiatives on energy conservation.

Two factors are at play here. Sash windows are a form of historic artefact and are rarely beyond repair by cutting out and splicing in, taking care not to introduce too many joints to avoid weather ingress. They are constructed either in oak or in highly resinous and slow grown Baltic Pine, the wood having closely packed growth rings which gives it incredible density and resistance to decay. The rear mullion and transom windows are of similar wood, and although the iron casements, in origin having leaded lights with green/brown glass, often now replaced with simpler casements, can prove a challenge, they are an important historic feature. The issue of energy conservation can be dealt with in a number of ways. Sashes can have brushes inserted in meeting rails to act as draught excluders, and all such windows can have secondary glazing, removable in summer. There seems to be a stigma associated with this form of

removable glazing which appears to have been promoted by the plastic window industry. In reality secondary glazing can be really efficient.

A further application for new development in the orchard has thankfully been refused following a number of objections including that from CPRE. Buildings of such stature and importance really do demand that they retain their curtilage especially when it had an important historic function.

Current trends indicate that such areas may well be needed for food production once again. CPRE Heritage and others on the committee have also tried to promote the use of the mountain of shorn sheep's wool which is currently unprofitable for farmers to sell (a ewe costs around £1 to shear but a fleece sells to British Wool- previously the Wool Marketing Board, for a fraction of this. More on this topic in our next newsletter.

Carole Ryan Ridout, Heritage Adviser

Intensive Poultry Units (IPUs) - what a load of manure

Due to Covid there has been a decline in planning applications for IPUs, but there are still over 10 outstanding applications dating from 2017. There have been some success stories.

An application at Crickmeole was dismissed on appeal on the grounds of biodiversity interest of the adjacent Special Area of Conservation, the living conditions of the occupiers of the nearby residential properties by way of noise and odour, and the character and appearance of the area. There have been other successes due mainly to judicial reviews, for example at Aston Munslow.

The Tasley application at Footbridge Farm is still running and the Tasley Action Group have done sterling work in opposition to it. By applying for a judicial review and employing independent

experts they have exposed flaws in the application. In the Court of Appeal judgement, important principles were laid down concerning the environmental impact of intensive farming. It also established the correct approach to interpreting the environmental permits under which such intensive farming facilities operate. It is worth reading the latest response from the parish council (at [17 01033 EIA-TASLEY PARISH COUNCIL-4218198.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#) on this application which is now over three years old, and admiring the sheer tenacity of the objectors behind it.

One of the major problems of IPUs is what to do with the manure produced by the chickens. The total number of poultry sheds in Hereford and Shropshire has risen to over 1,150 in 2020. The number of chickens on the ground in the two counties at any one time is 38 million. There are also almost 10 million birds in neighbouring Powys. 1,000 free-range laying hens excrete 3.5 tonnes/month which assumes birds are commonly housed 90% of the time.

1,000 broilers excrete 1.5 tonnes/month. That's a lot of manure to dispose of. New Welsh legislation in April 2021 gives farms two years preparation time to reduce manure spreading by one third.

An IPU planning application at Llanshay Farm, Knighton (just to the South of the Shropshire border) intends to truck 2,000 tonnes a year of poultry waste to an anaerobic digester in Whitchurch, Shropshire, 55 miles away. Whitchurch Biogas Ltd has applied to Shropshire Council to vary its planning permission to include chicken manure after it was granted a permit by the Environment Agency (EA) in January to handle waste and non-waste feed stocks at the plant. It is currently only permitted to process agricultural crop products. In another application at Dol y Dre Farm, Llandewi, they plan to export 2,700 tonnes a year of poultry waste with agricultural contractors Gamber of Grafton, Hereford, 40 miles away.

Bill Ware, IPUs & Poultry Sheds

Public transport in Shropshire

Over the past year, public transport has suffered greatly from the effects of the pandemic. Passenger numbers (and therefore income) have fallen and services cut as a consequence.

Bus services were already reducing (or having to be subsidised) in rural areas especially, and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

In the last few weeks, CPRE National Office has published a report on rural bus transport which makes the following recommendations :-

CPRE is calling on the government to:

1. Continue emergency funding for bus operations, ensuring that the contractual terms are a fit basis for a transformed and fully regulated rural bus system.
2. Recognise a universal basic right to public transport and back it with statutory duties for local transport authorities to provide Swiss-style legal minimum service frequency standards to villages and towns, according to their size.
3. Legislate to establish bus regulation under the 'guiding mind' of local or regional transport authorities in all areas, with the option for local transport authorities to contract services or to provide them directly so as to reinvest the shareholder dividend savings.
4. Establish revenue funding at national level in the order of £2.7 bn per year to

enable an 'every village, every hour' bus network.

5. Redirect funding from current road building schemes to fund the 'every village, every hour' network. Review the range of fundraising powers deployed by local transport authorities in other countries and assess the best ways to enable England's transport authorities to access similar powers.

6. Ensure that the transformed rural public transport network is affordable or free, to put an end to rural transport poverty and to provide an alternative to car use sufficiently attractive to address the climate emergency.

7. Investigate how England, including all of rural England, could move to a Swiss-style single national public transport timetable, aligning all trains and buses on a 'pulse' model of repeated hourly services.

CPRE Shropshire has made contact with the Shropshire Bus Users group in order to get local information on bus services in Shropshire and to explore ways of supporting each other.

See the Public Transport page on our website for more information and links to the CPRE report:
www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/publictransport

Elizabeth Jones, Public Transport



A bus arriving at the Bus Station, Shrewsbury (c) Les Bell

CPRE Hedgerow Project

CPRE Shropshire was delighted to be one of 5 branches to receive funding via National Office to run a pilot hedgerow project in 2020/21.

The plan in Shropshire is to create new hedgerows this autumn/winter and gap up/restore older hedgerows. For this first year we are concentrating our efforts in the South of the county. But if the project is a success and funding is ongoing, we will want to expand out into other parts of the county.

We are planning several fascinating presentations/webinars on Zoom (open to everyone) in the summer/autumn with some exciting guests who are experts in their field in hedge-related topics such as the history of the British hedgerows, hedgerow foraging, field names/field maps and the folklore of our beloved hedgerow plants. We are also hoping to secure speakers on insects and hedgerows and good hedgerow management.

We will be running some hedgerow ID walks and some hedge maintenance training (including hedge laying) for beginners.

If you would like to volunteer and help us plant new hedges (between October and March), please let us know and we will be in touch (admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk).

Keep an eye on our website since by the end of May we will have created a new page on www.cpreshropshire.org.uk with up to date news on the hedgerow project and how to get involved. Dates of events and talks will be added as these are finalised.

**Sarah Jameson,
Branch Manager**

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