



The countryside charity
Shropshire

Summer Newsletter 2021



The first hedgerow walk in CPRE Shropshire hedgerow project, in June.

Exclusive Member Invitation inside: CPRE Shropshire Members' social event: Thursday 9th September.

See inside for more information and how to book your place now!

CPRE Shropshire ran a successful online AGM on Zoom on 15th June 2021. We would like to welcome Susan Lockwood to the post of Vice Chair and Sarah Bury to the post of Vice President. All other officers remain the same. Thank you so much to all our Trustees and volunteers for making CPRE Shropshire's work possible.

Welcome to CPRE Shropshire's Summer newsletter ... and to a re-energised CPRE Shropshire Branch.

As you read the progress of activities so far this year, perhaps you would like to tell us of issues in your area that you would like followed up by CPRE? Let us know by emailing or calling our Branch Manager, Sarah Jameson (details on back page).

The local districts are Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Telford & Wrekin and (new this summer) South Shropshire.

We do not currently have a district group operating in the North of the county. If you live in that area and are interested in helping us start one - let us know!

CPRE Shropshire Hedgerow Project - update



Above and right: Hedgerow and plant walks with Rob Rowe and Roy Vickery in June and July.



We have been very busy organising talks, walks, training and - most importantly perhaps of all - planning hedgerow creation over the last few months.

Hedgerow creation

We have identified 24 sites so far for planting new hedgerows in the autumn and winter of 21/22 amounting to nearly 2km of new hedgerow (using around 15K hedgerow plants/whips), along with half a km of hedgerow we will be restoring through gapping up, replanting or laying. Livestock fencing has been put up already on one or two sites in readiness.

We have had a number of online meetings with National Office and “met” the other four CPRE branches who are taking part in this Hedgerow Heroes project. CPRE nationally have now appointed a new Hedgerow Project officer who will oversee the work we do over the next nine months.

We have been researching into the best tree guards to use for the planting since we want to avoid plastic as much as possible. The Woodland Trust is currently trialling a tube made partly from sheep’s wool but these will not be available commercially until February 2022. Cardboard tubes seem to have failed most if not all field trials, so unfortunately do not seem to be suitable for the job with our wet English winters!

Hedge walks

We have run three hedgerow walks so far, one with Rob Rowe, local botanist, in Clun learning about hedgerows and the plants they contain - and two walks in the last weekend of July with Roy Vickery an experienced botanist and folklore expert who came up on the train from London to be with us for two days.

Hedge plant stories

Roy’s walks took us to the beautiful Redlake Valley (in Treverward, near Clun) on old lanes and tracks, the second to the spacious churchyard at Bishops Castle.

Roy told us about the folk stories and past uses of many of our common plants from Bramble and Ash to Hawthorn and Elder, the ‘queen’ of worthy trees, useful in all its parts - leaf, flower, berry.

If you have any plant folklore ‘memories’ - perhaps stories told to you by your parents or grandparents about any of our native plants, Roy would love to hear from you at his website www.plant-lore.com (or let Sarah Jameson know).

Hedge talks: starting soon!

We have organised a series of eight free hedgerow-related online talks on Zoom, starting on Wednesday 8th September at 7pm with “A Natural History of the English Hedgerow” presented by John Wright, author of the book of the same title.

See enclosed talk programme. Bookings for all talks are now open online - go to cpreshropshire.org.uk to book your place on the talks that interest you. Please tell your family and friends and any local interest groups about the talks - there are plenty of places available at the moment.

(Continued on back page)

Exclusive CPRE Shropshire Member afternoon at Millichope

Book your
place now!


Thursday 9th September from 3.30pm

We are delighted to invite you to a late summer afternoon at Millichope (near Craven Arms, South Shropshire) at the kind invitation of the Bury family.

Hear about how the estate is managing land and woodland for biodiversity - and how the family have adapted the house to twenty-first century [living!](#)

Take a guided walk around the lovely garden and parkland to look at ancient and veteran trees. Return to the main house for light refreshments in the beautiful Dining Room and (if fine) on the Terrace. If you don't want to walk, you are welcome to relax in the garden or house.

Enjoy a social afternoon with fellow members and CPRE Shropshire volunteers in lovely surroundings.



Tickets:
£12 per person
to include light
refreshments.

Please book
your place now!

Details below.

We will run a luxury
raffle on the day
with some lovely
prizes. Please bring
some extra change
with you to buy a
ticket or two!

Contact & bookings:

Sarah Jameson, CPRE Shropshire - 01547 528 546 / admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk

Please complete the enclosed (loose) booking form and send back to Sarah Jameson. Payment may be made by cheque or BACS. Members may bring one paying guest. On receipt of your booking we will contact you nearer the time with directions and further information. Deadline for bookings: Friday 3rd September.

CPRE Hedgerow Project continued

Working with young people

As part of the project we are working closely with the Shropshire Hills AONB and producing a hedge 'pack' for the autumn term that can be taken into Forest Schools to kindle children's interest in hedgerows - their history, wildlife-friendliness and usefulness. In addition we are hoping to run some joint hedgelaying training with the Young Rangers who work with older children and go out into the countryside to learn practical skills.

Hedgelaying training

We are partnering up with the Small Woods Association to provide one or more two-day hedgelaying training workshops for adults. More on this in the next newsletter, but if you wish to put yourself forward for some training, please contact me.

Sarah Jameson, Branch Manager

Festival appearances

CPRE Shropshire had stands at both the Ludlow Green Festival and the Hay Meadow Festival in Craven Arms in July. We met many interesting people and had some great conversations - and managed to get a good number of signups for some hedge planting this winter!

We will have a stall at the Restoring Shropshire Verges Project conference (Norbury) on Saturday 13th November and also at the Go Green festival in Market Drayton on Friday 29th October. We hope to see you there!

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