

2020 COUNTRYSIDE AWARDS

Entries are now invited for the CPRE Sussex Countryside Awards 2020 which recognise and reward individuals, projects and initiatives that enrich our countryside and support thriving wildlife and rural communities. CPRE Sussex is the local branch of CPRE - the countryside charity. The winners will be recognised and celebrated at the Awards Ceremony on the evening of 14th October 2020.

In Sussex we are blessed with a beautiful and diverse countryside. CPRE Sussex is a registered charity which aims to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of the Sussex countryside. We want the countryside to enrich people's lives contributing to their physical and mental well-being, providing habitat for wildlife and helping combat climate change. The CPRE Sussex Awards give recognition to projects, enterprises, groups and individuals making an outstanding contribution to our countryside, communities and wildlife.

The Awards are **FREE** to enter and are open to individuals, community groups, local businesses, schools and for projects and initiatives (large or small) completed between December 2016 and January 2020. The **closing date** for entries is **30th April 2020**.

The categories are as follows:

1. **Empowering Communities – The Peter Brandon Award – chosen by the public via an online vote**

Recognizing **INDIVIDUALS** who make an outstanding contribution towards conservation, biodiversity and climate change. This could include, but is not limited to:

- conserving & enhancing wildlife (tree and hedgerow planting, nature reserves, ponds)
- encouraging local renewable energy initiatives
- waste reduction and recycling
- promoting sustainable transport
- developing/protecting green spaces in our villages and towns (parks, community gardens, public spaces, green initiatives in schools)
- authors and artists with an interest in conservation, biodiversity or climate change.

2. **Connecting People and the Countryside**

Recognizing **COMMUNITY GROUPS, LOCAL ENTERPRISES** and **SCHOOLS**. We are looking for inspiring projects/enterprises that make a positive contribution to encouraging engagement with the natural world and wildlife. This could include, but is not limited to:



- local produce & crafts, food and drink (village and farm shops, vineyards and breweries, craft shops/studios)
- site specific and interactive land art, such as wood sculpture areas within parks
- improving access to the countryside through activities such as farm tours and eco-tourism
- helping people get out and about in the countryside (walking groups, green gyms)
- school and college initiatives and projects that bring nature into the classroom (gardening clubs, nature and conservation projects, forest schools)
- organic farming, local food initiatives, pick your own (PYO) and foraging schemes
- community gardens and orchards.

3. Promoting Nature and the Countryside

Recognizing **COMMUNITY GROUPS and ENTERPRISES**. We are looking for inspiring projects/enterprises that contribute towards a rural community and thriving countryside. This could include, but is not limited to:

- changing farming practices in the era of climate change, including landscape management and making room for nature
- good design - energy efficient and appropriate building developments that are sensitive to the needs of wildlife, the landscape, heritage and community
- enhancing urban green spaces (community gardens, parks, orchards and public spaces)
- creating corridors, refuges and homes for flora and fauna
- creating cycle and pedestrian routes.

For more information about previous winners, go to: www.cpresussex.org.uk/awards

The Awards Ceremony will be held during the evening of the 14th October at the wonderful Hendall Manor Barns, Heron's Ghyll, Near Uckfield, East Sussex - a Countryside Award Winner in 2017.

We are looking for:

- positive contribution to the countryside and rural communities
- innovation
- sensitive design
- enhancement of landscapes and promotion of the natural world
- initiatives to tackle climate change
- distinctive and exciting enterprises
- projects which are educational and informative.