

CPRE Sussex

REVIEW

WINTER/SPRING 2019



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We exist to protect and promote the beauty, tranquility and diversity of our countryside by encouraging the sustainable use of land and natural resources in town and country.

CPRE Sussex is an independent charity relying on membership subscriptions, donations and legacies to fund our work. What makes our work so effective is our network of active volunteers and the support of our members.

The opinions expressed in the Review reflect the views and interests of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Branch.

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CPRE Sussex
Keeping the countryside green



Beating the winter blues – naturally

Welcome to our Review 2019!



This year the buzzword seems to be ‘wellness’. People all over the country are making new resolutions to eat more healthily, sleep more and get more exercise. Research shows that time spent outdoors in nature, especially now in the winter, can help lift your mood and contribute to wellbeing.

For example, in Japan, Shrinrin-yoku, which is the art of ‘forest bathing’, is part of a national public health programme. The purpose is not to get wet but

to simply lose yourself among trees to relax and reconnect with nature. Over the course of eight years, Japanese officials studied the impacts of forest bathing and found that levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, dropped after participants spent just 30 minutes surrounded by nature. The study also showed that time spent outdoors in green spaces can even help bolster immunity to diseases such as cancer.

In the UK, the NHS has introduced ‘green prescriptions’ as a means to

get people moving and support both physical and mental wellbeing. A 2016 report by Natural England and the mental health charity Mind revealed how conservation, farming and horticultural activities can lessen symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression. If you don’t have the time or energy to take up farming though, don’t worry – other studies have shown that small things like having more trees in the streets and better access to parks and greenery in urban areas can make a real difference to improving our health.

At CPRE Sussex we recognise that our work goes beyond protecting the countryside and our beautiful rural landscapes, and extends into our growing urban areas through promoting green spaces and access to the countryside. This is why we are not only fighting the big and small threats to our countryside (such as a three-runway Gatwick, see page 6) but also promoting street trees and encouraging biodiversity in all new development.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the Sussex Review. Please take advantage of our tours and talks in 2019 (see back page) and consider joining our passionate team through our current paid or unpaid vacancies.

Finally, a huge thank you for supporting CPRE Sussex as we continue to campaign for a vibrant countryside for the benefit of everyone. We would not exist without your ongoing support. As a small charity, any donation (of time or money) makes an enormous difference to our work.

Kia Trainor,
Director, CPRE Sussex



Wildlife: how do we stop the flashing lights?

Henri Brocklebank, Director of Conservation at Sussex Wildlife Trust and Vice Chair of the Sussex Local Nature Partnership explains how the new concept of natural capital can be used to save our local wildlife and countryside.

The term 'natural capital' is being increasingly used in the global and local conservation sectors and also the UK public and business sectors, but what does it actually mean?

It can be defined as: "The world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible."

Ecosystem services are the services that a healthily functioning natural environment provides us. Flood resilience, soil conservation, pollination, enjoyment and fulfillment, clean air and more. The list is long.

In terms of geological age, we are currently in the Anthropocene – the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. But we are now at a point in this period where the warning lights on our 'lifestyle dashboard' are starting to come on: climate – **ALERT**, wildlife degradation – **ALERT**, air quality – **ALERT**, childhood obesity – **ALERT**. So how is redefining nature going to help at a time like this?

'Valuing nature' has been given a bad press. Love it too much and you are called a 'bunny hugger' and not taken seriously by policy makers. But tell people that it is worth £117bn to the British economy and you are accused of putting a price on the priceless. Disappearing down either of these rabbit holes is not helpful. We need to make decisions that have healthy ecosystems at their heart and one way we can do this is through using a Natural Capital Framework.

I will be the first to say that, of course, wildlife is priceless. It is exquisite and special and humans should not be damaging it. However, conservationists have been saying this for decades and look where that has got us. Our British insect populations have decreased by 60% in the last few decades (flashing light on dashboard) and global species extinction is a reality – not just for far away charismatic predators like tigers but here in Sussex too (flashing light on dashboard, with beeping).

A group of organisations that includes CPRE Sussex have all come together under the umbrella of the Sussex Local Nature Partnership to translate our aspirations for the nature of Sussex into the UK Natural Capital Framework. We are using this national

framework to explain what this means at our very local Sussex level and creating a Natural Capital Asset map where we are analysing which of our natural capital assets are at risk.

Why are we doing this? As the Sussex Local Nature Partnership we need to re-frame our wildlife agenda so that it sits in the broader agendas of food production, flood risk management, tourism and public health. We need our crops to be pollinated. How do we strengthen this service that nature provides? We need to reduce the impacts of floods and droughts on local communities, so where should we invest in habitat creation to do this? As conservationists we know that the opportunities are great and that decision makers and potential funders need clarity on what the priorities are and why. What opportunities are there to invest in natural capital in Sussex? Which services and benefits are most at risk? What would be the benefits of a particular natural capital investment?

Asking these questions means that we can look at a far more diverse range of funding streams and partnerships to invest in our wildlife into the future. Investing in natural capital needs to make economic sense and this process highlights what a lack of investment in natural capital could look like as well as what investment would achieve. There are some services that nature provides that we simply cannot live without – carbon sequestration and pollination being two particularly obvious ones. If we are clear about what is a critical risk, the Sussex Local Nature Partnership can form a stronger voice to prevent further damage and reverse the trends.

CPRE Sussex has supported the Sussex Local Nature Partnership initiative from its outset, providing representatives to help design the Sussex Natural Capital Investment Strategy. No one organisation is going to turn around nature's fortunes here or nationally. The only way we will achieve this is through strong partnerships and shared agendas. The members of the Sussex Local Nature Partnership appreciate this. By the end of May 2019 the Sussex Natural Capital Investment Strategy will be ready.

Thank you CPRE Sussex and others for your contribution, we are looking forward to working together and stopping some of the lights on our Sussex dashboard from flashing.

Is Gatwick sneaking through expansion plans?

Airport expansion is one of the greatest challenges that CPRE Sussex has faced in its 92-year history.



Gatwick light pollution map (dark red indicates worst levels) nightblight.cpre.org.uk

In 2015, the Airports Commission ruled out an additional runway at Gatwick, preferring expansion to take place at Heathrow. However, the Gatwick Masterplan, produced at the end of last year, proposes use of the ‘standby runway’ and safeguarding land for an additional runway. This could mean a three-runway airport – in addition to an expanded Heathrow.

There is a very real danger that the scale and severity of this threat is being underestimated by all who believe, quite wrongly, that the impacts of an expansion would be limited to the immediate environs of Gatwick itself.

In fact, expansion could cause far-ranging, devastating and irreversible environmental damage right across Sussex – urbanising and polluting our rural county with alarming speed. It was for this reason that, in October, CPRE Sussex took the unprecedented step of declaring a ‘Countryside State of Emergency’ in response to the news that Gatwick is making plans to expand the airport from one to potentially three runways.

Perhaps the easiest way for us to really understand just how much is at stake is to view our beautiful green county from above.

In aviation terms, Sussex is tiny. From 7,000 feet up, flight navigation charts reduce the countryside below to nothing more than a series of landmarks and pathways – a spaghetti of departure and arrival tracks, approach routes, holding stacks and routing beacons. The only recognisable references to our landscape are the names of the navigation beacons – Goodwood and Midhurst to the West, East to Seaford and Mayfield.

These routes and their variations are effectively the motorways of the sky. Seeing them mapped in this way clearly illustrates that even with the most modern, low-noise, low-pollution aircraft, the impact of so many extra flights on these routes would be felt across the county.

Go higher still – to the dizzy orbit of the weather satellites at around 22,000 miles up – and the creeping environmental damage already caused by Gatwick is likely to quite literally blow you away. These satellite images show environmental impact in terms of light pollution. At night Gatwick, and its neighbouring town of Crawley, can be seen from space as a nucleus of bright light spawning a glowing urban sprawl which lights up the countryside for miles around.

These light pollution maps were produced by CPRE in 2015, using data gathered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in America. The NOAA satellite captured visible and infrared imagery to determine the levels of light spilling up into our skies. This research named Crawley district as the sixth worst light polluter in England. The glare generated by the airport can be seen to merge Gatwick with Horsham to the west, with Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath to the south and with East Grinstead to the east.

“People forget that Sussex is a relatively rural area,” says CPRE Sussex Chair, David Johnson. “The environmental obstacles for Gatwick are extremely serious and cannot be underestimated or ignored. Our landscape would be changed completely and the increased air and ground pollution would be devastating not just for us, but also for our wildlife.”

The airport’s own figures show that a second runway alone would create over 85,000 additional flights a year bringing an extra 12 million passengers to Sussex. Gatwick’s ambitions to build yet another, third runway would give the airport the potential to be even busier than Heathrow. This huge expansion would quickly overwhelm our existing road and rail network and necessitate a need for yet more housing and infrastructure in our precious countryside. A report produced by the pro-Gatwick group, Gatwick Diamond, estimates that the expansion would create the need for 52,000 additional homes in addition to all the associated services and infrastructure.

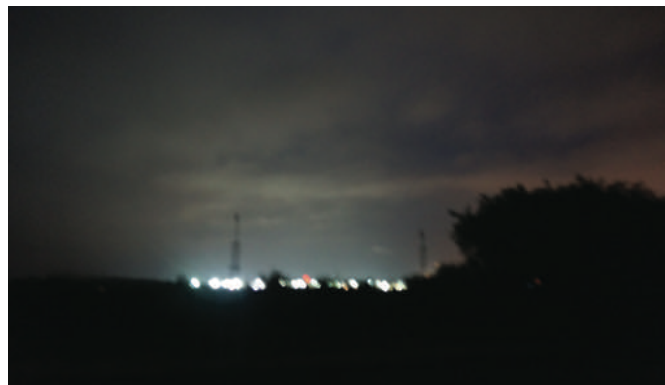
“Gatwick expansion is not just about a runway – it is also about the millions of extra passengers, cars, new housing and infrastructure which would change the face of Sussex forever,” says Mr Johnson.

This indiscriminate urbanisation and pollution of Sussex would also have a devastating impact on the county’s rich and diverse flora and fauna. Increases in light, noise and air pollution all have the potential to inflict permanent damage on our natural world and its inhabitants. Further afield new roads and infrastructure would cut through important wildlife corridors and destroy many valuable habitats used by some of our most threatened and fragile species.

This scale of far reaching development and expansion would also, inevitably, impact on Sussex’s nearby Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and South Downs National Park – valuable protected countryside which is already becoming squeezed on all sides.

“The countryside can’t speak for itself,” says Mr Johnson, “its voice is being completely drowned out in a shameful publicity drive which is all about profit. Expansion comes with huge baggage that would destroy the very landscapes we seek to protect and promote for future generations.”

CPRE Sussex is quite literally fighting to the save the fresh air that we breathe and the peace and tranquillity which most of us simply take for granted.



CPRE Sussex together with the Community Against Gatwick Noise Emissions (CAGNE) are pleased to invite you to Tim Johnson’s talk on Environment and Aviation.

The Government and Gatwick

February 27th 2019 at 7:00 pm

Ockley Village Hall

Stane Street

Ockley

Surrey

RH5 5SY

7pm CAGNE Annual General Meeting

7:30pm The Government and Gatwick

– A talk by Tim Johnson

Tim Johnson is the Director of the Aviation Environment Federation, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) dedicated to tackling aviation’s environmental impacts, and has nearly thirty years expertise in the aviation, environmental and planning field.

He is a lead representative for the international environmental NGOs at the United Nations’ International Civil Aviation Organisation and a member of the Department for Transport’s External Advisory Group. He also represents community and environmental interests on the department’s Airspace Modernisation Board and the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group.

Chichester: a rural homes success story

One of the biggest challenges facing our local Councils today is the provision of affordable homes in our rural villages.

Last year we ran an article (Summer Review 2018) highlighting this issue and examining the many loopholes used by developers who would prefer to build larger, more expensive houses on valuable greenfield sites.

Now, one year on, we are taking a closer look at one council which has managed to buck the trend by exceeding its required provision of affordable houses despite these challenges.

Chichester District Council is one of many Sussex authorities committed to providing affordable housing in expensive districts. Its 2017/2018 figures show that the Council has managed not only to exceed its 30% target but also to set up a community-led housing forum to tackle the problem in rural areas.

So how has it done it?

The District Council is clearly dedicated to its goal of providing homes for the people who really need them – particularly in rural villages. During Rural Housing week in July 2018 the Council held a special forum for local communities wanting to build their own affordable homes.

"There is a real need to address affordable housing needs and these sorts of very

local schemes can really help smaller communities where there are issues specific to that area," says Council Cabinet Member for Housing, Jane Kilby. "As a Council we are absolutely committed to supporting these groups."

This determination was also evident in November when the Council voted to provide a £165,000 grant to enable Radian Housing Association to build eight much needed affordable homes in the villages of Chidham and Hambrook. Without this money, the scheme could not have gone ahead.

Last year 165 affordable homes were built in Chichester District – 66 of these were rural homes for local people.

"This is not a quick fix – it takes time," says Jane. "It's very important for younger and older people who have been brought up in a community to remain in the community."

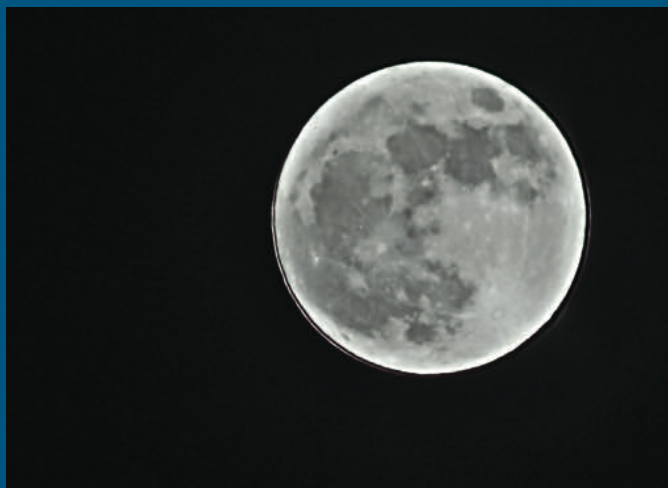
Are you a local person unable to buy in your own village? What is your council doing for rural housing? Please send us your stories: info@cpresussex.org



New affordable homes in Singleton, West Sussex.

Starlight spectacular

With the long winter nights still upon us, now is the perfect time to wrap up warm and head outside to enjoy the magic of the stars.



In February, CPRE is supporting a host of stargazing initiatives across the county to highlight the importance of our dark skies and the need to protect them.

“In some parts of Sussex, dark skies are becoming harder to find as towns and cities grow. But we are very fortunate to have protected landscapes where the skies are still dark,” says CPRE Director, Kia Trainor. “For as long as we can remember, humans have looked up at the stars and thought about ‘life, the universe and everything.’ We have used the stars to help us understand and navigate the world around us, and our place in the universe. We’d like to inspire everyone to get out and engage with nature on a galactic scale this winter.”

CPRE, the South Downs National Park, the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Woodland Trust and the RSPB all have dark skies initiatives this year, so why not shake off the winter blues with a little stargazing?

CPRE Star count 2019 will take place throughout February. Stargazers will be asked to count the number of stars they can see within the constellation of Orion. This will help us create a map to show how light pollution effects our view of the night sky.

To take part, go to www.cpre.org.uk/starcount

The South Downs Dark Skies Festival

Sussex’s biggest night sky event gets underway on Friday 15 February with the South Downs Dark Skies Festival and stargazing road show. This year’s two-week festival is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the lunar landings in 1969 so there will be many opportunities to take a closer look at our moon and to learn about its importance to our planet.

The Festival road show will be visiting these venues:

Saturday 16 February, 4 – 8pm
Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex

Monday 18 February, 4 – 8pm
Festival Hall, Petersfield, Hampshire

Wednesday 20 February, 4 – 8pm
The Town Hall, Lewes

If you can’t make the Festival, then there are plenty more stargazing events across the county, many hosted by local groups such as the East Sussex Astronomical Society, which is holding a Telescope Fest in March: <http://www.esas.org.uk/>

The High Weald AONB has created its own star counting programme and includes free activity cards for children. The initiative, called Help us Count the Stars, can be found on the AONB’s website: www.highweald.org

Meanwhile the Woodland Trust has produced guides on nocturnal animals for young stargazers out and about at night: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk and the RSPB has a Big Wild Sleep-out:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/families/big-wild-sleepout/look-to-the-stars/>

Sussex is a remarkable county for stargazing despite being located so close to the vast halo of light pollution produced by London, Crawley and Brighton. Despite this ever-encroaching threat, the South Downs National Park became a Dark Skies Reserve in 2011 and Wealden was named as one of the 20 darkest districts in England just two years ago.

Supporting wildlife in new developments

Graham Ault explains the thinking behind this new initiative from CPRE Sussex.

Although we at CPRE spend a great deal of time and effort resisting inappropriate new housing developments, it is inevitable that new houses will be built and sometimes in very substantial numbers. Where this happens, one major challenge for us is how we can limit the impact on wildlife habitats and, ideally, improve biodiversity as part of these new developments.

We have been working for some time now on a new advisory document that guides developers, planning authorities and environmental groups on practical measures that can be incorporated into new estates, and indeed into the very structure of new buildings. These measures can support existing wildlife to flourish around human developments and help us all to create greener and more biodiverse new environments. This document is currently being launched in Sussex.

The advice has been developed in conjunction with RSPB (South East) and Sussex Wildlife Trust, and builds on work already done in Exeter.

The approach is based on trying to link the development with the wildlife and habitat in the local area. By knowing about

the existing wildlife features of the area we can identify the best trees and plants to grow to support those birds, animals, reptiles and amphibians that need help. Fundamental to this is supporting the best insect life for a balanced and sustainable habitat.

It can also be very cost effective to design features into the houses themselves rather than spending more time and money fitting less effective, stand-alone features on completion. This can include nesting boxes for vulnerable bird species such as swifts, swallows, house martins as well as house sparrows, starlings etc. All these species, and many more, are in serious decline, often due to loss of habitat. Boxes can also be built into structures for bat roosts and breeding areas.

This approach, as well as being a great help to wildlife, also creates a win-win situation for everyone involved in a new development. Purchasers of the houses may well be attracted by the idea of being part of an environmentally sustainable housing area and that might encourage the residents to take an active role in sustaining higher standards of biodiversity in their immediate area, and hopefully on a wider basis, for the future.

Below: A lone swift captures walkers attention (Andy Hay rspb-images.com)





Above: Illustration of how Ibstock style brick and boxed joists can create eaves access with artificial swift nest platforms.

Left: Swifts need nesting areas to be included in new buildings (Chris Lowe, Brighton RSPB)

House builders, for minimum cost, can show that they take a meaningful responsibility for helping wildlife on their estates. This may help them to sell their houses with the added attraction of a greener environment. And planning authorities will be helped to meet their own sustainability and biodiversity targets. The national planning framework states that housing developments should be sustainable but at present provides little clarity on what that means or how it can be achieved. Our approach can help in this process.

The launch of this advisory document coincides with the launch of a government consultation on achieving a net gain in biodiversity in all developments. This welcome proposal is aiming to make a net gain in biodiversity a statutory requirement.

We are working on our response to this complex but very exciting idea in conjunction with CPRE National Office. We hope this will become a reality in the not-too-distant future and if that happens there will be an inevitable demand for guidance on how a net gain can be achieved. This is a perfect chance for us to promote our guidance document, which should prove useful – particularly for smaller projects.

“ These measures can support existing wildlife to flourish around human developments and help us all to create greener and more biodiverse new environments.”

We aim to provide our document to planning authorities and house builders at an early stage in the design of, and planning for, new housing developments. Our volunteers will have copies available so they can introduce its principles when talking through the practicalities of design aspects of all relevant developments. We will keep this under review and try to improve the content as we acquire more experience of its application.

We are grateful to Exeter City Council for sharing with us their very forward-looking policy, created jointly with RSPB and which, to their great credit, has been in place for several years.

If you want to find out more about this work, or want to contribute, please email info@cpresussex.org.uk

Benefits of CPRE membership

Explore somewhere new this year!

Did you know that as a member, in addition to supporting our wonderful countryside, you benefit from discounted entry at many of the county's wonderful local attractions?



Carry your membership card with you and keep an eye open for your new Members Guide, with details of over 200 places to visit across the country such as:

Weald and Downland Museum

Michael Warden visited the Museum in the summer and was so enthused he and his wife went again in December to see Christmas traditions being enacted.

"This is a wonderful place, fascinating to both young and old alike," says Michael. "We stepped back in time to explore a captivating collection of rural buildings, rescued from across Sussex discovering the stories of our ancestors over the past 1,000 years."

"There are rural homes with fabulous period gardens, farms and farm animals, a market hall and a working wood yard to explore. We enjoyed watching families with their children who were fascinated by the village lock-up and Victorian school. The museum is in a truly magical landscape threaded with trails through woodland, pasture and wildflower meadows. My wife got about on her mobility scooter with ease and help was on hand for short walks.

Michael adds: "The Museum is really family orientated with hands-on experiences. There is an abundance of shows, activities and demonstrations throughout the year, but if you favour a gentler approach, you can just take a walk in the woodland, visit the waterside café or enjoy a picnic. Your dog is also welcome."

Anne of Cleves House

Julia Tingle from Lewes District visited the historic Anne of Cleves House.

Given to Anne of Cleves in 1540 by Henry VIII as part of the marriage annulment, Anne herself preferred to live between the other properties given to her as part of her settlement, such as Richmond Palace and Hever Castle. However, the yearly rent of seven shillings and sixpence from this house certainly contributed to her very substantial income in England.

The history of the house is skilfully explained in interpretation panels and education leaflets in the house, and shows how its use changed over four centuries.

The house is a wonderful mixture of architectural styles and periods and much of what is on display takes the visitor through several centuries of use, adaptation and social history. Julia says: "I was particularly impressed with the 16th century version of an alarm by the bed. It must have been the mother of all alarm bells in the morning!"

For those who have children or grandchildren to entertain during school holidays, the education officer is keen to tailor-make sessions to inspire and interest young visitors.

Take your members card along and visit these great places in Sussex

Anne of Cleves House Museum

52 Southover High Street, Lewes, BN7 1JA

Fishbourne Roman Palace

Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO19 3QR

Great Dixter House and Gardens

Northiam, Rye, TN31 6PH

Hammerwood Park

Hammerwood, East Grinstead, RH19 3QE

High Beeches woodland and winter garden

Handcross, Haywards Heath, RH17 6HQ

Lewes Castle and Barbican House Museum

169 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1YE

Marlipins Museum

36 High Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5DA

Michelham Priory, House & Gardens

Upper Dicker, Hailsham, BN27 3QS

Pashley Manor Gardens

Pashley Road, Ticehurst, Nr Wadhurst, TN5 7HE

The Priest House

North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4PP

Sussex Prairie Garden

Morlands Farm, Wheatsheaf Road,
Nr Henfield, BN5 9AT

Weald & Downland Living Museum

Singleton, Chichester, PO18 0EU

The following are new entries for 2019:

Firle Place

Lewes, BN8 6NS

Merriments Gardens

Hurst Green, TN19 7RA

(The above details are correct but we are still finalising the entries for the 2019 guide which will be mailed to you in the spring)

New opportunity

If you love the countryside we are looking for an active person who is as passionate about it as we are!

Part-time post: Accounts Manager

Salary up to £24,400 pro rata
9 hours a week (hours flexible
to meet office needs)

5 weeks holiday pro rata

Based at our Blackboys Office

If you are interested in the future prosperity of the countryside please consider joining us.

Supporting the Treasurer and Director, you will manage and oversee the accounting and wider financial aspects of the Charity. A key member of the team, you will also be a vital point of contact for our members and the public.

As someone with good analytical skills, who pays close attention to detail and is happy to work independently, you will be responsible for ensuring our financial records are maintained to a high standard using the SAGE Accounting and Payroll software.

You will also be responsible for preparing and producing the quarterly and annual accounts and overseeing the payroll system making sure staff are paid correctly on time and that reports are made to HMRC.

Liaising with the Charity's auditors, you will also monitor our investments, report to the Board of Trustees and administer our banking, pension scheme, gift aid and legacies.

For the full job description, please visit www.cpresussex.org.uk or email lesley.wilson@cpresussex.org.uk.

To apply, please email a letter of application and CV showing how you meet the essential and desirable requirements in the job description.

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please call CPRE Sussex Director, Kia Trainor, on **07964894333**.

The closing date for applications is Monday, 25th February. Interviews will be held on Friday, 15th March at our office in Blackboys.



Plant your postcode

Alison Welterveden outlines the importance of trees to our towns and cities.



Brighton is lucky to have many beautiful parks and tree-lined streets – not only because of the aesthetic value trees provide but also because they are vital to people’s health and the environment.

However, we mustn’t take this precious Victorian legacy for granted. Our trees face many threats which is why CPRE Sussex has launched a new project to promote their value and to protect them called ‘Plant your postcode’.

“Our street trees and urban woodlands are threatened by disease, old age and climate change,” says CPRE Sussex member Alison. “Without action the tree cover in Brighton will be severely impacted. This is a national problem – most of our urban trees were planted 100 years or so ago and are now reaching the end of their natural life.”

“Trees are not just beautiful,” says Alison. “They remove particulate pollution and carbon dioxide from the air, improving the air quality and it’s been proved they lower temperatures in summer. They play an important role in absorbing water – reducing the impact of flash flooding and bring character to what could otherwise be bleak cityscapes. They make our streets safer and, most importantly, increase the sense of wellbeing in the community.”

A key part of Plant your postcode will be working with others like the Hove Civic Society who have experience in supporting local groups to raise funds for planting. Residents will be encouraged to get involved and offered training in the care and maintenance of

their local trees. “We will work with local people to identify suitable streets or parks for new planting,” says Alison. “This will include identifying sites across the city where street trees have the potential to dramatically improve the local living environment and people’s wellbeing.”

It is hoped that ‘Plant your postcode’ will also improve the green links between the countryside and the city, providing corridors for wildlife and people.

There is an urgency to this project. Severe budget cuts, the increase of disease and the onset of old age are all serious threats.

CPRE Sussex is already lobbying councillors and arboriculture officers for their support and in talks with other national organisations like Trees for Cities, the Tree Council and the Woodland Trust. We have also made a bid to the Rampion Fund.

With its international reputation as a centre for environmental initiatives like the Biosphere – the ‘Living Coast’, Brighton & Hove is the ideal place to launch a collaborative project to increase the number of trees on our streets.

“Individuals and communities keen to do this need support to enable them to step up to raise the funds needed to keep the city beautiful, green and leafy,” says Alison. “Being the home of the National Elm Collection, Sussex has an exceptional legacy to maintain – we are lucky to live alongside the largest number of healthy elms in Europe.”

The government has set a national target of planting a million trees by 2020 and launched a consultation on plans to ‘increase transparency and accountability in the process of felling street trees’. Last year a national tree champion, Sir William Worsley, was appointed. “We second his plea to householders to pitch in on a community level to help Councils to get trees planted so the benefits will continue to be felt by our children and our children’s children,” said Alison.

“Our aim is to dramatically increase Brighton’s tree canopy, to make us one of the greenest cities in Europe,” says Corrine Attwood, CPRE B&H group chair. “Eventually we hope to encourage other towns in Sussex to get involved in tree planting too”.

To find out more or get involved please contact lesley.wilson@cpre.org.uk.

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

What does the future hold?

Last year, the Government asked a panel of experts, led by the writer Julian Glover, to make recommendations as to what changes, if any, are needed to enable England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to remain fit for purpose into the future.

As Sussex is home to parts of the South Downs National Park, the High Weald and Chichester Harbour AONBs, we have a vital stake in their future, having supported the 2010 designation of the South Downs National Park.

CPRE Sussex volunteers have therefore worked together to provide a detailed response to the Glover Committee's call for evidence.

"Our branch response concentrates mainly on AONBs – the poor relation of National Parks – with a range of suggestions, based on our local experience, on how to protect and promote these iconic landscapes," says CPRE's Michael Brown.

"In recent years we have become increasingly worried about the erosion of the protection that the High Weald and Chichester Harbour AONBs are supposed to enjoy from major development, and the need for greater independence for AONBs from planning authority decision-making," says Michael. "Also greater weight needs to be given to the expert advice the AONB teams give to decision makers."

Michael adds: "We also highlight the flawed 2018 consultation by Highways England for the A27 Arundel bypass, which only considered options that severely harm the South Downs National Park."

In addition to making an independent submission, the group contributed to the national CPRE's wide-ranging response.

You can find out more at: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/5026-national-parks-aonbs-access-for-all-says-cpre>

Ashdown Forest, Vic Tent



Put your name to the best of Sussex!

CPRE Sussex Countryside Awards

An exciting sponsorship opportunity

Following 2017's hugely successful Awards, planning for 2020 is underway!

Recognising the many inspiring projects and initiatives which enrich our countryside and local communities, our Awards are open to any project or enterprise, completed between December 2012 and January 2020.

Now is the time for your business to benefit by becoming our headline sponsor! Or why not sponsor the category that best complements your business? Categories available are:

- **Rural Enterprise**
- **Environmental Education**
- **New Sussex Landscapes**
- **Making Places Design Award**
- **The 'Peter Brandon People's Choice Award'** (determined by a public vote).

There are so many benefits to being a sponsor, including:

- Advertising in each edition of the *Sussex Review* and publications during 2020
- Your branding on the Awards marketing materials and the dedicated section of our website
- Complementary invitations to the Awards ceremony
- Your marketing materials available at the Awards ceremony
- Extensive media coverage attracted by our Awards.

The Awards Ceremony will be held at the iconic De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea in October 2020 and the judging panel will be led by Lady Egremont.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please email: lesley.wilson@cpresussex.org.uk

The Sponsor Pack, with full details, is available at <http://www.cpresussex.org.uk/awards>

Tours & Talks 2019

Penns on the Rock



Withyham, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9PA

Thursday 2 May at 2pm

£12 for a private tour of the gardens

The area around Tunbridge Wells is noted for its tor-like sandstone outcrops which were laid down in the Lower Cretaceous period. Penns in the Rocks has as its backdrop a spectacular monumental example of one of these outcrops.

Our visit in early May should coincide with the beautiful display of bluebells, azaleas, magnolias and tulips. Within the garden there is an 18th-century temple, mature woodland and an old walled garden to explore. The current owner will greet us with a short talk followed by a tour with the Head gardener.

The historic house (not open to the public) was built for the Penn family of Pennsylvania and more lately owned by Lady Wellesley, a friend of the Bloomsbury poet and writer, Vita Sackville-West and the poet WB Yeats. The temple was dedicated to the poets who loved Penns. Although no refreshments will be provided, you are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy in the gardens.

This tour will appeal to both garden lovers and budding geologists!

Charleston Farmhouse



Firle, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6LL

Wednesday 10 July at 10.30am

£24.50 – talk and private tour of house and gallery with tea/biscuits

Charleston Farmhouse was the home and meeting place for some of the 20th century's most pioneering writers, painters and intellectuals – the Bloomsbury group.

Our visit will include a guided tour of the house which appears just as it did in the 1950s with its painted interiors by Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell. As Quentin Bell said: "Charleston has become a time capsule in which one can examine a vanished world."

Following the launch of two galleries last year, we will be treated to a talk by an expert before seeing the exhibitions. There will be refreshments between the two tours and afterwards a chance to enjoy the beautiful walled garden and the Charleston shop.

You could bring a picnic or have lunch in the Charleston café. We may also take a walk through picturesque lanes to Berwick church after our visit.

Wiston Estate Vineyard



Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3DZ

Monday 10 June at 2pm

£18 including coffee/tea and biscuits and wine tasting

The beautiful Wiston Estate has been managed by the Goring family since 1743. The winery is a fairly recent addition and won Winery of the Year 2018 at the Wine GB Awards.

Harry Goring, owner of Wiston Manor, says: "No-one seemed particularly interested in hundreds of acres of barley and wheat but plant 16 acres of vineyards and people are fascinated. English sparkling wine is the toast of England."

Our tour of about two and a half hours will begin with refreshments before an informative walk through part of the vineyard. The visit to the Winery will allow us to follow the journey of the grapes from harvesting to the finished bottle. Finally we shall move into the Wine Barn to enjoy a tutored tasting of four of Wiston Manor's award winning sparkling wines.

Malthouse Farm



Street Lane, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8SA

Friday 9 August at 2pm

£15 including a private tour, tea and cake

There have been gardens at Malthouse Farm since the 17th century. Covering five acres, there are stunning views to the South Downs. The plant-packed gardens are divided into a series of rooms including a cottage garden, box parterre, a decorative walled potager and herbaceous borders. To add to the experience there is also an orchard leading to an expansive field sculpture of grasses and trees.

Over the years the gardens have featured in several publications including *Country Life Magazine*, *Sussex Life* and *Architectural Digest*, which described them as: "Magical, hidden and inspiring. Helen and Richard Keys have coaxed a remarkable oasis, filled with subtle but magnificent surprises out of the area's heavy clay soil over the past 16 years."

The National Garden Scheme website also has a photo gallery of the gardens.

Separate Booking form enclosed in this Review