



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
OXFORDSHIRE

Press Release

Saturday 7 November

OXFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER IS RURAL CAMPAIGNER OF THE YEAR

A volunteer from CPRE OXFORDSHIRE [1], Gordon Garraway, has won the Marsh Award for the Benefit of Rural England [2] for his work in creating the Oxford Green Belt Way [3]. The Marsh Awards seek to recognise unsung heroes who aim to improve the world in which we live.

Gordon will be presented with the individual category Award at CPRE's Sharing Success volunteers' conference in central London on Saturday 7 November. The Awards, for CPRE groups and individual volunteers, are presented annually, alongside CPRE's existing Countryside Medal.

Commenting on winning the Award Gordon Garraway said:

'It's a great surprise and honour to accept this national award. I am grateful for all the volunteers who helped create the Green Belt Way – it wouldn't have happened without their help in creating maps, putting in sign-posts, or simply walking the route to check it.

'I feel passionately that the Green Belt should be protected, but this will only happen if people know about it and use it. The countryside should be accessible for all, and I would be delighted if the idea of a Green Belt Way were to be repeated in other parts of the country.

'It's tremendous that the Marsh Christian Trust have recognised my work on the Oxford Green Belt Way as it shows the positive side of CPRE's message.'

Brian Marsh, Chairman of The Marsh Christian Trust and Chairman of the judges said:

'We are pleased to be able to give Gordon Garraway this award to recognise his hard work in creating the innovative Oxford Green Belt Way. This venture is sending a strong message to the people of Oxfordshire, and to those who visit the county, that the Green Belt is something to be cherished, and a vital tool in protecting England's countryside. We are delighted to be making a contribution to the continuing work of CPRE and their volunteers in all their efforts on behalf of our rural areas.'

Gordon was awarded a certificate, Countryside Medal and a cheque for £500.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. CPRE Oxfordshire promotes the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural Oxfordshire by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We were established in 1931 and are part of the national CPRE charity. For more information see: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

2. The Marsh Christian Trust was established in 1981 and has two main areas of work: grant-making and the Marsh Awards. The Trust runs a portfolio of Awards with a number of internationally recognised organisations and seeks to recognise unsung heroes who aim to improve the world in which we live. The Marsh award for the benefit of rural England, in association with CPRE, has been set up to enable CPRE to demonstrate its appreciation of these people who care deeply about their environment and have played a significant part in improving and protecting it, and in enabling this to happen. The awards will be presented on an annual basis, sitting alongside CPRE's existing Countryside Medal which branches award unilaterally to long-standing volunteers.

3. The Oxford Green Belt Way was created to celebrate CPRE Oxfordshire's 75th Anniversary, and 50 years of the Green Belt. It was opened in July 2007 by Boris Johnson who was then a local MP. The Green Belt Way is a 50 mile circular route, divided into nine stages. The starting and finishing point of each stage links with a regular bus service.

Gordon Garraway, co-ordinated the whole project, overseeing the work of seven volunteers. Together they planned the route, and got it agreed by the County Council, created maps and a guidebook, put in waymarks, and planned a successful launch of the Oxford Green Belt Way in July 2007.

To purchase a copy of the guide to the CPRE Oxford Green Belt Way please send a cheque or postal order for £6 (£5 plus £1 p&p) to: CPRE Oxfordshire, Punches Barn, Waterperry Road, Holton, Oxfordshire OX33 1PP

Further details can be obtained at www.greenbeltway.org.uk, phone 01865 874780 or email administrator@cpreoxon.org

4. CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is a charity which promotes the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England. We advocate positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside. Founded in 1926, we have 60,000 supporters and a branch in every county. President: Bill Bryson. Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

5. Photographs of Gordon Garraway are available on request from CPRE's press office 020 7981 2880.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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