
Homes shortage threatens rural future

The National Housing Federation has stated that younger people and families are being forced out of rural areas due to a shortage of affordable housing. It also states that parts of the UK could become “pensioner pockets” as the number of older residents rise.



40% or four in every ten households will be over 65 years' time
The cost of buying a home in 90% of rural areas is 8 times the average salary!

For further reading please [click](#)

Help tackle rural crime update

The National Rural Crime Network requested for people who work or live in rural areas to give their views on policing in their community via a survey which is now closed. The information collated will show the impact of crime and anti-social behavior experienced by residents and their neighbors throughout the UK.

**BBC Countryfile aired on Sunday 19th July 2015 announced the results
for catchup see BBC iplayer.**

For further information on the National Rural Crime Network please visit their website by clicking [here](#)

“Green Week 2015 tackles declining biodiversity as new data reveals birds and marine life threatened with extinction”

Alarming factual information has been published by the European Commission stating that nearly 15% of birds and 7.5% of all marine fish species in the EU face extinction.



67 species out of 533 of birds are under threat, amounting to a concerning 13%

It is stated that 10 species are Critically Endangered including the well-known species the Sociable Lapwing



40.4% of sharks and rays are sadly currently the most threatened with extinction and 39.7% declining in population. The Angel Shark once common throughout the European waters has dwindled to the point of being restricted to the Canary Islands

It is not all bad news as the Atlantic Cod and the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna are recovering in numbers, however marine management now have another fight on their hands.....

To find out what the EU proposes to do to protect biodiversity please [click](#)

LEP Rural Strategy

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is a business-led, public/private body established to drive economic growth across East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock.

The LEP Rural Strategy Event was formally launched on Thursday, 21 May 2015 at Hylands House.

For further information please click the following [Link](#)

'Water for life and livelihoods: draft update to the river basin management plan'

Following the public consultation earlier this year the Environment Agency has now produced a summary response document, this can be downloaded by clicking [here](#)

Hunting Act vote postponed



The Countryside Alliance report that the Government was due to introduce amendments to the Hunting Act under a free vote. The amendments would have removed the arbitrary two dog limit in exempt hunting, making it legal to flush and shoot foxes using packs of hounds. The SNP have decided not to vote on the Hunting Act which only affects England and Wales. Due to the SNP's decision the Government has postponed the vote.

If the changes had been passed it would have been legal to manage foxes and some other wild mammals using packs of hounds representing a significant improvement for many farmers and hunts, whilst moving the law into line with Scotland.

CLA Farm Business Diversification Event

CLA East will be staging an event focusing on the key issues affecting those considering diversifying their farm business on the morning of Friday 25 September at Wickham Hall, near Bishop's Stortford.

The event will consist of presentations on planning (conversion of agricultural buildings and new builds), marketing, and rural funding, plus a tour of commercial units available for let.

CONGRATULATIONS!! To the Abberton Rural Training Project



The Abberton Rural Training Project, under the Rural Community Council of Essex, has been awarded a grant from the NatWest Skills and Opportunities Fund. They were picked from over 1000 applications, with 42 projects gaining funding, in recognition of the good work that they have been carrying out as part of their Skills Program. With this grant, they are now able to continue this work for next academic year and build further on their objective of helping more people into work and to make real steps to improve their lives.

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Compiled and edited by Lizzie Rose, Rural Community Council of Essex.

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