

KEEPING FAITH WITH THE COUNTRYSIDE - MAY/JUNE 2002

- **What can we do about rural social exclusion?** 1.5.02 Ushaw College, Durham
- **Whither agriculture and the rural economy?** 29.5.02 Agricultural Mart, Hexham
- **What kind of landscape and environment do we want?** 5.6.02 Kirkby in Cleveland
- **A rural revelation** 15.6.02 A celebration and service at the Wolsingham Show Ground

Delayed by one year by the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak, this series of consultations was organised to celebrate 10 years since the Archbishops' Commission report "Faith in the Countryside". It follows on from the successful "Futures" events also organised recently by the Churches Regional Commission in the Northeast.

- It marked the continued commitment of the churches to the countryside.
- It responds to the current rural crisis, recent rural initiatives, the Rural White Paper and the Rural Action Plan.
- It sought to encourage practical involvement with the most pressing rural issues.
- It sought to contribute to more effective rural partnerships in and across the Northeast.

This report summarises the key issues and action points which arose during the three public consultation events, and also gives sources of information, good practice and help.

Each event followed a pattern. After an introduction from the Chair, a panel of keynote speakers first outlined their perceptions of the key issues. Participants then discussed their reactions and ideas in small groups, which were reported back to those assembled in the form of observations to a panel consisting of the keynote speakers and others. Discussion was without exception extremely lively and discursive - reflecting the deep concern, commitment and care for the countryside held by all those attending the events.

Panel Members

1.5.02 Introduced by Very Reverend Bob Spence, Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and Major Bob Davies, Salvation Army Director of Social Services Northern England.

Panel: Canon Jeremy Martineau, National Rural Officer, Church of England
Stephen Downs, Government Office NE
Peter Brookes, Community Support Unit, Durham County Council
Leigh Vallance, Director Durham Rural Community Council
James Lynn, Teesdale Village Halls Consortium and community member

29.5.02 Introduced by the Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Reverend Martin Wharton and the Reverend Peter Poulter, Moderator of the United Reformed Church.

Panel: Professor Phillip Lowe, Newcastle University
Frances Rowe, One NorthEast and Countryside Agency Board Member
Canon Bob Burston, Rector of Wooler
Jerry Dronsfield, Head of School for Land Based Industries, Northumberland College, Kirkley Hall

5.6.02 Introduced by Bishop of Whitby, Right Reverend Robert Ladds
Chair Abbot Timothy Wright, Ampleforth Abbey.

Panel: Andy Wilson, Chief Executive, N Yorkshire Moors National Park
Bob Pailor, Environmental Protection Manager, Environment Agency
Phil Lyth, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
Howard Petch, former Principal Bishop Burton Agricultural College and Rural Officer

What can we do about Rural Social Exclusion?

KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PANEL 1.5.02

Distinguished by a refreshing degree of honesty and openness, the speakers highlighted:

- Honesty - the government has failed some of our communities -its top down approach has been insufficient. Statutory agencies should be open about failures to achieve results.
- Community development - promote this approach; work across departmental boundaries by looking at themes - rural issues, young peoples issues, social exclusion etc.
- Take risks - Local authorities and government departments are risk averse, but should work more directly with communities and risk working in innovative and different ways
- The Countryside Agency needs to hear what people in our rural communities are saying.
- Years of capacity building have not received the results envisaged, because investment has been put into social assets that don't belong to the community. Need to ensure that future investments stay in the community and do not go to "usual suspects".
- Value the voluntary sector and how it can reach into our rural communities. This has been visibly demonstrated during Foot and Mouth. The ARC/Addington Fund was effectively and efficiently delivered to those in need - 4 days from request to receipt of assistance, which could not have been achieved by statutory agencies. A network of quality pastoral connections was developed. Government is learning from this experience.
- Farmers and rural people are reluctant to ask for help - benefits take up is low. Of the farms who applied for help during FMD from the ARC/Addington Fund, the average farm overdraft is £65k; the mean debt per hectare is £812. The smaller the farm, the greater the indebtedness. There is no way farmers can trade out of debt.
- 65% of farmers have already developed other sources of income to support their farming - and in the NE, opportunities for further diversification are limited.
- There are pockets of considerable poverty and potential poverty in rural areas - but they are invisible among affluence and not fully recognised.
- Community involvement strategies are developing - e.g. DRCC, DCC. Rural poverty is a real challenge and different approaches to engage with local communities and encourage participation and involvement are evolving.
- There is a great need for ICT, training and education provision at the local level provided through partnerships of local agencies, colleges, voluntary and community groups.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSION 1.5.02

A wide ranging discussion emphasised:

1. We need action to reconnect food producer to consumers. Peterborough Diocese now requires all churches to use local produce for example. Why are we still importing our meat? At present we do not have a self-sustainable food supply. The costs of food production are not covered by the price received. It is easier to order organic food from France or China than to use local producers because a local food trading infrastructure does not exist in this country. It needs financial and policy support in order to do so.
2. Diversification opportunities are limited by climate, geography, population mass and peripherality in the NE of England. Don't insult farmers by requiring change when many have already done all that is possible.
3. Recognise the landscape as a farm product, value it and pay for its creation and maintenance.
4. Support natural products e.g. thermofleece, even if more expensive than artificial substitutes.

5. Business support service needs to give better support to rural businesses and farmers, from people who really understand rural issues and farming.
6. Work to supply affordable housing for young people and older people in rural areas.
7. See the NE region as a whole - connect urban consumers to rural products. County and District Councils, Government offices, schools and colleges, prisons, One NorthEast could make a real difference if policies encouraged purchase of local food products.
8. Look at social economy targets, not built environment, jobs and usual outputs.
9. Look at the pockets of poverty and deprivation differently - look to less orthodox delivery mechanisms of support, training and facilitation within communities.
10. Listen to poor people, listen to rural people, listen to the communities - and stop tick box consultations focussed on statistical outputs that do not really affect real people.
11. Develop social inclusion strategies. Provide smaller sums of money directly to community groups and members.
12. TRUST community members and work with them directly.
13. Regeneration money so far has been spent on short term, "innovative" projects. It has not been invested in longer term, sustainable development work which results in key skills and established networks and workers who can achieve real progress. 10 years secure funding is needed at minimum for sustainable community development.
14. Rationalise the geographical boundaries of local government, funds and grant schemes. The present jigsaw creates problems and inequalities for communities.
15. Rationalise the pots of money available and make application processes accessible and quicker: aim for up to £5k available from one side A4 paper form within 2 weeks.
16. Press for a social justice agenda leading to wealth distribution. The churches should lead on this.
17. Work for behavioural and cultural change - attitudes, management styles and corporate culture need to move from command and control to facilitative, transformational management: e.g. Trimdon 2000
18. Where has philanthropy gone? Compared to the USA, our super rich do not give to the community.
19. Encourage "Putting something back into the community" through focussed policies encouraging volunteering and philanthropy. Where is the energy and drive within the community - could the churches drive the challenge to government and society?
20. Investigate the role and potential of community trusts as the way forward in rural areas: e.g. Wooler, Belford, Amble in Northumberland. Local people identify the problems, work towards solutions, get involved and "rattle the cages" of institutions.
21. Is the parish too small a unit? Recreate parish councils - revive or abolish? At present there is competition between active citizens and elected representatives. Key to the future is to bring them together. There are limits to what is achievable at different levels - government can't act locally on poverty that is based at household level. Only within the community can effective action be taken, with a community development worker or facilitator to make things happen.
22. Who represents the countryside? We need a rural voice. Someone to sell the positives of the countryside. To market its products - food, landscape, peace and quiet, opportunities for reflection and refreshment. The urban view of the rural idyll is out of date and unrealistic.
23. We need a "can do culture" - which puts money into the hands of community groups and lets them take responsibility for achieving results rather than the usual statutory routes that patronise people and leave them feeling hopeless and helpless and not in control. Regular, robust conversations are needed by agencies and those involved in rural issues - who could instigate, facilitate and organise these?

Whither Agriculture and the Rural Economy?

KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PANEL 29.5.02

United by a deep and lasting care, commitment and concern for those who live in our rural communities, the meeting encompassed academic, practical and impassioned personal viewpoints which ranged wide and deep and were difficult to summarise succinctly:

- Foot and mouth outbreak [FMD] highlighted trends and facts about the rural economy that were not previously recognised - especially the outdated notion of separation between agriculture and the rural economy.
- There is still a residue of anger and hurt amongst individuals and rural communities that need to be recognised and supported. There are still tensions and vulnerabilities and wounds yet to heal. Families and businesses absorbed the shocks of the crisis, and the strains remain to be resolved.
- The EC Common Agricultural Policy [CAP] is a barrier to balanced rural development and its reform will lead to further changes and demands being placed on farmers and rural people. Support is needed for rural communities as they go through this process. Farmers diversify to STAY in farming not to get out of it. But piecemeal diversification is vulnerable, and a coordinated and integrated approach is needed.
- The inter-relationships between agriculture and tourism and the rural economy were made clear during FMD. Links and cooperation between these facets of rural economy need to be recognised and strengthened. Services are often not effectively delivered in rural areas, and most rural businesses are small - employing fewer than 10 people.
- The inter-dependency between farming, landscape, tourism, heritage, recreation, urban and rural areas needs to be acknowledged and built upon. In 1967, FMD was an animal health issue. In 2001 it affected the whole rural and urban economy.
- The moral economy in rural areas should be recognised and supported, Unemployment did not increase in rural areas during FMD as expected because of the strength of personal linkages within the rural economy. The importance of trust, networks and mutual support was revealed by FMD. There are moral and ethical considerations and responsibilities for all who live and work in rural areas that need expression at a regional level.
- Agencies supporting the rural economy should be more easily accessible to rural people.
- The new understanding of how closely urban and rural areas are linked together, reflected in the Regional Economic Strategy, should lead to greater integration and support at policy and practical levels.
- The newly raised profile of rural issues needs to be maintained. We need rural partnerships, focussing for instance on community economic development.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSION 27.5.02

1. Churches should use and encourage others to use local produce. They could provide venues for the marketing of local produce.
2. Churches should support the moral economy and work to strengthen understanding of rural affairs in urban areas. What are the cornerstones of the moral economy? Hope, cooperation, justice, sharing, integrity, inclusivity - values that characterise rural areas and contribute to their unique character. Churches could be in at the ground level of community development projects - building hope in the community, enabling a community to take responsibility for its development, re-enlivening real local political involvement along non Party Political lines. The moral economy debate should be held.

3. Churches should stand alongside rural people, celebrate their resilience and adaptability, and help them to look for positives and work in proactive ways with initiatives such as those adopted by the Farm Crisis Network, and to facilitate connections between incomers/indigenous community members for instance.
4. The church should recognise and develop its own role in rural tourism.
5. The churches should lobby for policy changes that support rural areas and work to raise awareness and encourage change.
6. Voluntary, church and community organisations were effective in supporting rural communities and people during the FMD crisis. Their role has been recognised and should be developed as they could support rural people through future changes.
7. Local authorities should press for funds for improvements to infrastructure that will support the rural economy - rural roads and transport need particular attention, as well as modern information and communication technologies; trading linkages are needed to enable the marketing and processing of local produce; affordable housing to enable the young to stay in rural areas and for the older people to remain once they retire from farming. How can older farmers be cushioned from the shocks of change?
8. Don't forget our small coastal communities and fishing - some are still dependent on it.
9. All statutory authorities should be required to use as much local produce as possible. How self-sustaining could the NE region be? How can regional demand chains be met? Who is researching the import of goods into the region? Can a regional procurement system be developed that serves rural need? Unhealthy diets of imported foods contribute to the poor health within the region.
10. Encourage links between urban and rural schools - exchange visits, email diaries, learning from each other. Training for rural businesses and communities should be more accessible and inclusive.
11. Grants should be available more easily and more quickly, especially for infrastructure development. Help is needed NOW.
12. Entrepreneurial activity should be encouraged and supported - especially amongst the young. Social entrepreneurship should be encouraged to develop the capacity of communities, to give them back their "buzz".
13. Provision of abattoirs, food processing and marketing facilities should be reviewed and investment made available to allow the local food economy to grow and flourish. Procurement policies are set nationally not locally, and catering organisations have national not regional supply lines. Changes at policy level will be needed.
14. Rural tourism needs specific, strategic and focussed support and information systems.
15. The role of heritage, of agriculture and in particular the endangered species known as the hill farmer in producing the landscape needs recognition. The hill landscapes are in jeopardy if the hill farmers are allowed to disappear.
16. Bio-security measures are being ignored. FMD could return within 5 years if efforts are not made.
17. Who really represents the farmers? Who could fill the role of rural advocate? We need a mechanism to listen to rural problems.
18. No progress will be made without connection and trust between urban and rural.

What kind of landscape and environment do we want?

KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PANEL 5.6.02

Purposefully marking the 10 years since Faith in the Countryside, the panel introduced the relevant themes at local, regional and national levels:

- Our countryside provides physical, cultural and spiritual landscapes - all of which have particular qualities. The people within the countryside also provide a great wealth - producing paintings, ideas such as the theory of evolution and the development of geology for instance.
- There are many special qualities within an area such as a national park. They are not just lungs for city factory workers as they were initially envisaged, but provide opportunities for spirituality - opportunities to pause, reflect, to be peaceful, to be happy with oneself to concentrate on the human within a materialistic and globalised economy.
- 10 years ago the links between the countryside and the economy were not so clear. Farming is vital to maintaining the landscape, rural economy and rural communities.
- Upper Wharfedale project has demonstrated practical sustainable land management.
- Environmental thinking tends to be ahead of social and economic trends - they need aligning. We need to achieve greater biodiversity, tackle flooding issues, produce quality local food, support tourism and produce energy resources from our land.
- Farmers feel undervalued. They cannot compete with imported food from countries that do not work to our standards and norms of ethical food production. They are over-regulated and told by everyone how to farm. Yet it is very difficult to farm and make a living, yet farms are businesses.
- Farmers prefer to live "as if they will die tomorrow but farm as if they will farm for ever". Stewardship and husbandry are underpinned by the key motivation to hand over ones inheritance in better shape than you found it. It is a difficult concept to communicate to urban people.
- The triple bottom line of profit, environmental sustainability and social inclusion is a tough demand to place on farmers. Farms can't continue if they trade at a loss.
- Farming is influenced at two levels: at the macro level by a liberalised world trade, CAP reform and currency relativities; at the micro level by the demands for added value, additionality and diversification. It is hard to reconcile these pressures.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSION 5.6.02

1. Self esteem is at a low ebb in farming communities. Bullied by central government, with supermarkets setting food prices and low wages for long working hours means that young people are leaving for more attractive options. What can we do to stop this?

2. DEFRA needs to be clear about what it is that society wants from farmers - is it food? What about farmers' engagement with infrastructure - such as winter snow clearance, maintenance of rights of way? Schemes need to say - do this, you decide how to achieve it, then get payment. Put the farmer back into the driving seat. Treat them individually, acknowledge their importance and skill. Put a price tag on way forward. For example - a farmer is ready to cut silage, but there are 15 skylark nests there. If he cuts at the optimum time for feed they will be destroyed. If he delays for a month the skylarks hatch but food production for his dairy unit is lost at a cost of £6k. Price per skylark = £15. Who pays?

3. At the macro level, world trade works to the least cost food production. If we continue to go towards least cost food production, without controls on the production systems of imports, the effect will be to export our food production to others whose ethical standards are far less than ours. We need to export our ethical agriculture. National governments no longer control world trade talks. Is the individual more powerful as a consumer than as a voter now?

4. At the micro level, DEFRA need to get serious about local food production - setting criteria, building infrastructure and consumer support, creating local directories, tourist linkages and supply chains.

5. The national diet is a time bomb leading to expensive, poor health. Unhealthy eating is an opportunity for education - starting within schools. This is also an opportunity to link children back to the sources of food and an understanding and an appreciation of environment. Work within schools is therefore crucial and the benefits multi-faceted.

6. 30 years ago, 35p out of each pound spent on food went to the producer; now it is only 9p. The power of the supermarkets is a real barrier. They sell milk below production cost as a loss leader. Schemes such as "White and wild milk " can help to counteract this.

7. We need a rural advocate - to guide a dialogue between farmers and politicians. To identify best practice and disseminate it. To make part time farming a respectable alternative. To encourage farmers to hang on until the situation improves. To help innovative and inspiring young people to respond to the changes. To recognise the transferable skills amongst farmers. Of the 45000 farmers who have left the industry in the last 2 years, few are unemployed but are using their self-reliance and adaptability to survive.

8. Change the planning regulations to protect houses for occupation by local people. The Addington Fund [based at Stoneleigh] is tackling this problem for example.

9. Encourage and support collectives, cooperatives - organise information exchange with successful schemes in Italy and Spain. Supermarkets have been kept in check by strong cooperative movements in Europe. Change the monopoly legislation that led to the demise of the Milk Marque, and yet allows a huge increase in power in other parts of the food chain.

10. Market the holy places of North Yorkshire for example. Show them as stories of living faith. Organise trips from inner city areas to places such as Father Abbot's Abbey Church, the Shrine of St Cedd at Lastingham Parish Church. Stress the importance of wilderness in our lives and our faith.

11. Are we in danger of sanitising the countryside? Once our material wants are met we damage our world and our relationships with a continued emphasis on the material over the spiritual. Is there a measure of fulfilment that can equate to an economic output? Put stress reduction in the countryside as an output.

12. The church has been very good at the pastoral - especially over the last year during FMD. It has been practical. But has it been prophetic? Can it emphasise the ethical base underpinning local food? Can it build self-esteem by challenging the culture of blame and emphasising the recognition of skill?

KEEPING FAITH IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: The contribution of Faith Communities
Ian Zass-Ogilvie, Churches Regional Commission NE England.

In the Northeast countryside the Christian Churches still tend to be the principal representatives of the faith communities, being located in and engaging directly with the rural community from which their membership is drawn. However, with the now enhanced regional awareness of the interdependence of rural and urban communities, so in a multi-faith society is the faith dimension one that is increasingly inclusive of other faiths. In such a context, we should be conscious of "faith communities" rather than solely of "churches".

That said, in the countryside and particularly during the recent FMD crisis, it was the rural churches that stood steadfastly alongside farmers and the rural community by providing:

- a continuing presence despite the churches' own diminished resources
- a core of pastoral support delivered by local people and clergy
- a vital link in the process of applying for and receiving help from the ARC/Addington fund

These counted for a great deal in the fast-changing and often unsupported environment.

Faith communities can as part of a substantial network spanning both urban and rural communities:

- Assist in generating the sense of rural/urban mutual awareness, dependence, partnership and cohesion.
- Support the "moral economy" by means of encouraging local procurement of food and by raising connected moral and ecological issues. The faith dimension inevitably has moral consequences and faith communities have a reasonably good record of being able to raise them.
- Contribute to the regional economy by:
 - employment of people
 - location and maintenance of churches, halls and schools
 - initiating and supporting local community projects and trusts
 - encouraging local social entrepreneurship
 - facilitating voluntary community and caring work
 - networking and community development - increasing community capacity and empowerment

Finally, faith communities engage with the human spirit - as does the landscape itself in its sometimes awesome beauty and majesty. This spiritual and theological convergence was raised during the third consultation.

Just as the countryside can enhance human flourishing by its ministry to the human spirit, so too will faith communities continue to cherish, hallow and respect the natural order as being one that discloses in part the Creator of that order.

Faith communities should be the best of partners for our countryside and its communities.

USEFUL REFERENCES

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CONTACT DETAILS of useful people, projects, agencies and ideas

1. Ruth Ineson, The Ropeworks, Hawes, W. Yorkshire. Local businesses cooperating for survival and development.
 2. Andrew Humphries, President of Voluntary Action Cumbria - a major agent of rural regeneration. 01697-473405
 3. Gill Henwood - Lancashire: 01254-878419
 4. Howard Petch - Yorkshire: 01964-550736
 5. Judith Hampson - Hexham: 01434-683336
 6. Ian Bell - Addington Fund, Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2LZ. 024-7669-6969
 7. www.freshfood.co.uk - a national company that delivers organic food to the home.
 8. Phil Lyth -FWAG - 01609-783632 happy to arrange help with organising visits to demonstration farm at Knaresborough or other farms showing the links between conservation and commercial farming.
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1. **ACRE** - Action with Communities in Rural England. Somerford Court, Somerford Rd, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. GL7 1 TW. 01285-653477
 2. **ACA** - Agricultural Chaplains Association. Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. CV8 2LZ. 024-7669-6969
 3. **CCN** - Community Council Northumberland, Tower Buildings, Morpeth, Northumberland. 01670-517178.
 4. **CLA** - Country Land and Business Association. 16 Belgrave Square, London. SW1X 8PQ. 020-7235-0511
 5. **DEFRA** - Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Nobel House, Smith Square, London. SX1 3JR. 020-7238-3000. Helpline : 08459-335577; www.defra.gov.uk
 6. **DTA** -The Development Trusts Association. facilitates and supports development trusts. 2-8 Scrutton Street, London. EC2A 4RT. F.watts@dtta.org.uk or www.dta.org.uk
 7. **DCC** - Durham County Council. County Hall, Durham. DH1 5UQ. 0191-383-4567
 8. **DRCC** - Durham Rural Community Council, Park House, Station Road, Lanchester, CO. Durham. DH7 0EX. 01207-529621.
 9. **FTA** - Fair Trade Association www.fairtrade.org.uk
 10. **FCN** -Farm Crisis Network. 38 De Montfort Street, Leicester. LE1 7GP. 0116-255-1700.
 11. **FWAG** - Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, South Parade, Northallerton. DL7 8SL. 01609-774985 phil.lyth@fwag.org.uk
 12. **IRH** -Insitute of Rural Health, Gregynog Hall, Newtown, Powys. SY16 3PW. 01686-650800. katem@rural-health.ac.uk
 13. **NACAB** - National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux. 115 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9LZ. 020-7833-7025.
 14. **NAFM** - National Association of Farmers' Markets, Green Park Station, Green Park Road, Bath. BA1 1JB. www.farmersmarkets.net
 15. **NFU** - National Farmers Union. Agriculture House, 164 Shaftesbury Avenue, London. WC2H 8HL. 020-7331-7200
 16. **NFYFC** - National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs. 10th Avenue, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2LZ. 024-7685-7200
 17. **NREC** - National Rural Enterprise Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2RR. 024-7669-0691. s.berry@ruralnet.org.uk. www.nrec.org.uk/inforurale/
 18. **Northumberland National Park** - Eastburn, South Park, Hexham. 01434-605555
 19. **North Yorkshire Moors National Park**: 01439-770657 www.northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk

20. **RABI** - Royal Agricultural Benevolent Association. Shaw House, 27 West Way, Oxford. OX2 0QH. 01865-724931.
21. **Ruralnet** - online rural development community. 0845-1300-411 or www.ruralnet.org.uk
22. **RSIN** - The Rural Stress Information Network. Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2LZ. 024-7641-2916. enquiries@rsin.org.uk
23. **The Samaritans**: The Upper Mill. Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey. KP17 2AF. 020-8394-8300.
24. **TFA** - Tenant Farmers Association. 7 Brewery Court, Theale, Reading. RG7 5AJ. 0118-930-6130
25. **VAC** -Voluntary Action Cumbria, The Old Stables, Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria. CA11 0DT. 01768-242130. vac@dial.pipex.com
26. **VIRSA** - Village Rural Shops Alliance. The Little Keep, Bridport Road. Dorchester. Dorset. DT1 1SQ. 01305-259383. virsa@ruralnet.org.uk www.virsa.org and www.rural-shops-alliance.co.uk
27. **WiRE** - Women in Rural Enterprise. C/o Harper Adams University College, Shropshire. Julie Pescod. 01952-815338. jpescod@harper-adams.ac.uk or www.wireuk.org

EGS OF GOOD PRACTICE

- **UTASS** - Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Service - a one stop shop for advice and support for the farming community of the Upper dale. Diane Spark :01833-641010
- Upper Wharfedale FWAG Northern Regional Office :01756-700999
- Mondragon - www.sfworlds.com/linkworld/mondragon.html
- Mobile rural outreach e.g. Durham Dales Rural Recovery Project using the mobile Police Office to take information, support and counselling to Weardale and Teesdale after FMD.
- **RITES** project - Rural information Technology Education Service - initiated jointly in the Northallerton/Thirsk area by the Anglican and Methodist Churches.
- Northumbrian Larder: a cooperative between speciality food producers borne out of the FMD.
- Scottish Borders Rural Partnership Rural Resource Centre - assists community groups free of charge, with practical advice on projects, getting support and applying for funding. 01835 824136 rrc@tinyonline.co.uk
- **ACORP** - Association of Community Rail Partnerships - helps local rail/bus initiatives. Contact Paul Salveson c/o Huddersfield Railway Station.
- Out of this World - organic and fairly traded foods and goods. 106 High Street, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE3 1HB. 0191-213-5377
- Hill Farm, Loddington, Leicestershire. E.g. of scheme encouraging wild birds by combining altered farm practices and predator control. Game Conservancy Council.
- **Whitehaven Community Trust Ltd**, The Market Hall, Market Place, Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 7JG. 01946-590590 or user@communitytrust.freeserve.co.uk

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