



RASE Supports UK Countryside bid for “City of Culture” status

The Royal Agricultural Society of England is supporting the imaginative application from Farm Stay UK to have the UK countryside considered as the UK City of Culture 2013.

Supported by the National Trust and the National Farmers’ Union, Farm Stay UK is asking the very pertinent question: “Why can’t the countryside be recognised as a cultural experience just as much as any individual City?”

“We are instigating a bid for The UK City of Culture 2013 as we know the countryside has just as much to offer culturally as any city in the UK. Our bid, which is supported by the National Trust and the NFU, will focus on the facilities available in the countryside that far outstrip any traditional city destination,” said Andy Woodward, Chief Executive of Farm Stay UK which represents over 1,000 working farms offering visitor accommodation and is based on the RASE’s Stoneleigh Park.

Commenting on the bid, RASE Chief Executive Brian Warren said that he was delighted to give Farm Stay UK the Society’s unqualified support.

“In terms of culture, the arts, heritage and sport, the UK countryside can stand alongside any individual City. It would also offer unrivalled opportunities to taste some of the best food and drink in the world. Indeed, the rich diversity to be found in rural Britain provides a stimulating and rewarding experience for any visitor.

“In addition, our countryside has a very special atmosphere and always offers a fantastic welcome to visitors. To receive an endorsement like City of Culture would give our rural economy a huge boost just when it needs it most,” said Mr Warren.

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