



Press release: December 2008
Final event/19/08

Fernhurst Scores High on Comms

Proud villagers in Fernhurst, West Sussex are celebrating after winning a Communications category award in the South England region of the 2008 Calor Village of the Year for England competition.

The results of the competition were announced at a prestigious awards luncheon which took place at the Guildhall in London on Tuesday 2nd December with guest of honour BBC breakfast anchorman and former Strictly Come Dancing contender Bill Turnbull.

Villagers have been on tenterhooks since judging visits back in April, waiting in anticipation for the announcement of the final results.

Village representatives Julia Roxen and Nicola Braithwaite were at the awards event in London to hear Fernhurst's fate and collect the community's awards. They made their way back to the village with £500 prize money to go towards community projects and a commemorative certificate. (For full results of the competition in England please refer below).

Calor Village of the Year, which is now in its twelfth year, rewards vibrant, self-sustaining village communities which, irrespective of size, have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all residents. The competition, which is organised and funded by off-mains gas supplier Calor, judged villages on four categories covering People, Business, Environment and Communications.

Judges commented on Fernhurst: "This village considers itself to be a special place to live for three main reasons: its strong sense of community, a strong level of self-sufficiency, and a willingness within the community to change and absorb new people and ideas.

"Communications in Fernhurst is particularly effective with the community making good use of the splendid facilities provided by the Fernhurst Centre which caters for a wide range of needs. The village website is a good resource for villagers as well as the wider community and the community forum function is a great way of encouraging online dialogue.

"The Fernhurst News is a parish news magazine, distributed free to 1,200 households. It contains contributions from most of the local organisations and institutions as well as the local church. Advertisements from local businesses also feature in the magazine and feedback suggests that this is one of the best ways of reaching their local market."

Fernhurst was nominated to take part in the competition by Action in rural Sussex.

Managing director of Calor, Alex Davis commented: "Once again Calor Village of the Year has brought to our attention some outstanding examples of rural village communities which are carrying out some fantastic projects and making great achievements on a day to day basis. Every year we never fail to be impressed by the standard of the villages that take part in the competition so our warm congratulations go to Fernhurst as the South England Communications category winner.

"I also have the great pleasure and privilege of passing on the congratulations of HRH The Prince of Wales, a long time supporter of the competition who has spent time in Calor Village of the Year competing communities in the past."

For further information regarding the competition please contact Emma Flinn or Rebecca Jones on 0161 817 4200, email emma.flinn@connectpoint.co.uk or to go the competition website at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org.

Ends

Further press information available from: Emma Flinn/ Rebecca Jones, Connectpoint,
tel: 0161 817 4200, email: emma.flinn@connectpoint.co.uk

CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR® FOR ENGLAND COMPETITION 2007/8 - FINAL RESULTS

Overall Winner:

Levington, Suffolk

Regional Winners:

<u>Village</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Region</u>
Sadberge	Tees Valley	North England
Smarden	Kent	South England
Levington	Suffolk	East England
Grampound with Creed	Cornwall	West England
Seagrave	Leicestershire	Central England

Regional Category Winners:

(Regional overall winners are highlighted in bold)

<u>NORTH ENGLAND</u>		
<u>Village</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Category</u>
Sadberge	Tees Valley	People
Barrow	Cheshire	Business
Barrow	Cheshire	Environment
Woodsetts	Yorkshire	Communications

<u>SOUTH ENGLAND</u>		
<u>Village</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Category</u>
Wickham	Hampshire	People
Smarden	Kent	Business
Smarden	Kent	Environment
Fernhurst	West Sussex	Communications

<u>EAST ENGLAND</u>		
<u>Village</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Category</u>
Cheddington	Buckinghamshire	People
Harleston	Norfolk	Business
Levington	Suffolk	Environment
Little Paxton	Cambridgeshire	Communications

<u>WEST ENGLAND</u>		
<u>Village</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Category</u>
Hawkesbury Upton	Avonside	People
Halberton	Devon	Business
Ashton Keynes	Wiltshire	Environment
Broadway	Worcestershire	Communications

<u>CENTRAL ENGLAND</u>		
<u>Village</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Category</u>
Seagrave	Leicestershire	People

Uppingham	Rutland	Business
East Bridgford	Nottinghamshire	Environment
Elton	Derbyshire	Communications

Notes to editor:

Calor Village of the Year®

Calor, the leading supplier of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) to those living and working in the countryside, has supported rural activities in England, Scotland and Wales for 21 years through its Rural Sponsorship programme, which includes the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition.

The Calor Village of the Year® for England competition, now in its twelfth year, was founded and developed by Calor, and is organised and funded by the company on an annual basis.

Please note that Calor Village of the Year® is a registered trademark and should be referred to in full in all circumstances.

Entry to the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition is through the existing county competition network. Every year, Calor sponsors the majority of the county village competitions – which this year total more than 40 – each of which is invited to nominate one village to take part in the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition.

The national Calor Village of the Year® judges look for well-balanced, pro-active, caring communities which, irrespective of size, have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

The prize money for the 2008 national Calor Village of the Year® competitions stands at over £40,000. First prize in the English competition is £7,000 with £2,000 going to each of five regional winners. In addition, there are four category prizes of £500 within each region (covering People, Business, Environment and Communications).

For general information on the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition:

email: info@calorvillageoftheyear.org or visit: www.calorvillageoftheyear.org

For all media enquiries relating the Calor Village of the Year® competition, please contact Emma Flinn:

email: emma.flinn@connectpoint.co.uk or tel: 0161 817 4221

For all general enquiries relating to the Calor Village of the Year® competition, please contact Brian Challis:

email: b.challis@ntlworld.com, tel: 01962 629768 or visit www.calorvillageoftheyear.org