



NEWS RELEASE FROM ACTION IN RURAL SUSSEX 13 July 2009

FUNTINGTON AND SEDLESCOMBE WIN SUSSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR TITLES

The West Sussex village of Funtington and East Sussex village of Sedlescombe have been chosen as the winners of this year's Village of the Year competition, run by Action in rural Sussex.

Two villages, Ashurst Wood in West Sussex, and Ringmer in East Sussex, took runners' up prizes at the awards event on Friday 10 July at The Millennium Hall, Scaynes Hill.

Judges also made two special project awards, both involving local youngsters: Turners Hill School in West Sussex won a prize for the village for its sustainability project; Ninfield in East Sussex took an award for its programme to develop a range of new youth facilities.

The competition, sponsored by Calor – the UK's leading supplier of off-mains gas - aims to celebrate the villages which are best at working together to boost local quality of life. Sponsorship has also come from Sussex Police, The Sussex Police Authority, Sussex Community Foundation and the Sussex Association of Local Councils.

The overall winners, one from each county, each received £800, with £300 for the runners up and £150 for the special project awards. Jason Whitwell, from Calor, presented representatives of the winning villages with their prizes, which included framed commemorative certificates. He was joined by Susan Pyper, Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex and Sara Stonor, Deputy Vice-Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex.

The Panel, Trustees and staff from Action in rural Sussex, rated each entry on six aspects of village life: business, young people, senior citizens, quality of life, communication and information. The charity works across both counties in support of rural communities.

Chair of the Village of the Year Committee and **AirS Trustee** William de Salis said: “With the current economic climate, these are particularly challenging times for rural communities. However as the winners of this year’s awards have shown, when villages work well together, they can achieve so much to create vibrant, active communities

“We found some really innovative schemes and great ideas for improving local facilities and services – all generated by the local volunteers on whom so many communities depend. It was particularly good to note that more villages are involving their young people

“We were also pleased to see the number of villages working hard at improving communications – with welcome packs for new residents and the development of some very informative community websites.”

The overall winners now have the opportunity to bid for the title of Calor Village of the Year for England. This offers both the chance to gain recognition at national level, as well as additional prize money.

For further information contact: Caroline Nicholls, media relations on 07836 342495

Note to editors:

AirS began life in 1931 as Sussex Rural Community Council, a registered charity, and has served rural communities ever since. It changed its name in 2002. The role of Action in rural Sussex is to identify problems and to respond to the needs of rural communities - providing practical help and supporting villages in Sussex to remain vibrant living and working places. AirS’ agenda includes supporting communities to develop local action plans, distributing valuable grants for rural projects, developing innovative schemes for young people and campaigning on a range of key issues from affordable housing to rural transport.

Calor Village of the Year®

Calor is the UK’s leading supplier of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), the versatile off-mains fuel for rural communities and businesses. For the past 22 years Calor has supported rural activities in England, Scotland and Wales through its Rural Sponsorship programme, spearheaded by the Calor Village of the Year competition.

About the competition:

For 2009, Calor is sponsoring 39 county village competitions across England.

In the Calor Village of the Year® for England national competition the judges look for sustainable communities that are responding to the current environmental and socio-economic challenges and which, irrespective of size, are making best use of local opportunities to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Villages are judged across four categories: Community – a better place to live, Business – a better place to work, Sustainability – a better future, Communications – being in contact.

Prize details:

The prize money for the 2009 national Calor Village of the Year® competition totals over £55,000. 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.

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

For further information:

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

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

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

email: e.flinn@amaze.com or tel: 0161 817 4221

For 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

For further information on Calor and its sustainability commitment please visit:

www.calor.co.uk