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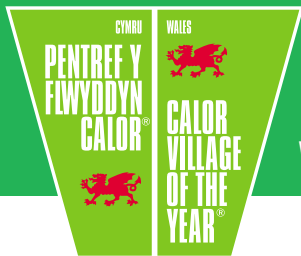
WALES



CALOR
VILLAGE
OF THE
YEAR®

Welsh Calor Village of the Year® 2006
Entry Forms & Guidelines

celebrating rural communities



Welsh Calor Village of the Year® 2006

Entry Conditions & Guidelines

The judges are looking for: “Well balanced, pro-active, caring village communities which, irrespective of size, have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all inhabitants.”

The Welsh Calor Village of the Year® competition is open to all rural communities throughout Wales with a population of 5,000 or under. Entry is open to Community Councils or other community groups if they meet any of the following criteria:

- A ‘not for profit’ local organisation or trust set up to improve the social, economic or environmental health of the local community.
- A strong emphasis on the involvement of local individuals or groups active within the community.
- Partnerships, networks or forums acting within a localised community.

If you are unsure about your group’s eligibility, please contact: Rachel Hayden, Welsh Calor Village of the Year® competition, tel: 01926 318634, e-mail: rhayden@calor.co.uk

The closing date for entries is 30th April 2006. Entries received after this date may not be considered.

The competition assesses communities on six aspects of rural village life: Community Life, Business, Young People, Older People, Environment and Information Communication Technology (ICT). Villages can enter as many or as few of the categories as they wish. Equal consideration for category awards will be given to villages entering selected categories, as to those entering all six categories. However, for a village to be considered for the overall titles, it will need to enter all six categories (having a go is enough - you don't have to be great in all of them to win a major prize).

NOTE: The overall winners for North Wales and South Wales in the 2005 competition are not eligible to enter the Calor Village of the Year® for Wales competition 2006.

Written Entry

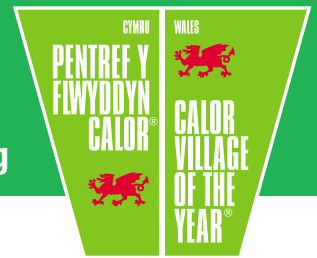
Please submit no more than 500 words for each category you wish to enter. Please use a word processor or typewriter to aid legibility for judges when assessing your entry. Do not include additional material with your entry as it will not be possible to copy and send the material out to the judges.

Accompanying your entry please supply:

- 1) A simple map/directions on how to find your village and meeting place.
- 2) A sketch map of points of interest within the village (this will be particularly useful if you are taking the judges on a short tour).
- 3) A list of newspapers that circulate in your area, and regional TV and radio stations (media coverage of your achievement is important, not only for you but also to make the competition more successful).
- 4) Photographs (a detail of requirements follows)

Photographs: Six photographs of your village for non commercial purposes only; namely for use on the Calor Village of the Year® website, at the Awards Lunch and for use in Calor house magazines and in brochures and promotional material concerning Calor Village of the Year®.





N.B. Please supply photographs separately and do not include within the text.

Format: You can supply either prints of photographs taken with a conventional camera, or digital images.

Size: Prints should be no smaller than 8in x 6in (230mm x 152mm). Digital photographs should be minimum 300dpi resolution. It would be preferable for your digital photographs to be supplied on a clearly titled CD along with your main entry. (N.B. Please do not send prints of digital photography, as quality will be lost during the scanning process.)

Content: A variety of images to represent the village and its activities. These might include views or shots of local areas, e.g. park, high street, businesses, community activities (e.g. environmental work, village hall event, annual fete etc). A brief note explaining the image content would also be very helpful.

Late entries: Entries arriving after the closing date of 30th April 2006 or those not conforming to the entry format may not be accepted.

“We know that communities gain so much just by entering the competition - our aim is to encourage everyone to give it a try!”

Suzanne Weir (Manager, Calor Village of the Year®)

How your Entry is Assessed

All entry forms received by 30th April 2006 will be assessed. Completed entry cards are to be signed by a recognised official of the community body.

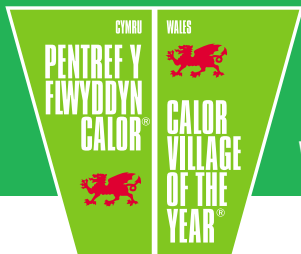
Villages entering the 2006 Welsh Calor Village of the Year® competition will be split into two regions covering North Wales and South Wales.

Initial judging of the villages short-listed from their written submissions will take place in the summer months to determine category winners for North Wales and South Wales. During this period a team of judges will visit each short-listed village. Each visit will last two hours and this will be an opportunity for the village to make a presentation to the judges. Your village will be contacted in good time by the judging organiser for your region to discuss the timing of the judges' visit.

Further judging of selected villages will take place in the autumn. During this period, the panel of final round judges will visit selected villages. Only those villages chosen for further judging will be contacted. The preparation for this visit should be the same as for the first judges' visit. Should your village not receive a second visit from the judges this does not mean that you have not won a prize.

No results will be announced until the Welsh Calor Village of the Year® Awards Lunch, which will take place on 31st October 2006. Each short-listed village will be invited to send two representatives to the awards lunch to celebrate their achievements.





Welsh Calor Village of the Year® 2006

Prizes

Welsh Calor Village of the Year®: £1,500

Calor Village of the Year® for North Wales and South Wales: £500 each

Category winners: £500 each

(For the winners of Community Life, Business, Young People, Older People, Environment and Information Communication Technology categories in North Wales and South Wales)

All prize winners will also receive commemorative plaques and/or certificates.



Clawddnewydd, Denbighshire won the prestigious title of Calor Village of the Year® for Wales 2005. Representatives of the village were presented with their prizes by Sir Roger Jones OBE (Chairman of the WDA), and Howard Kerr (Managing Director, Calor).

Category Guidelines

The following information is for guidance only and is not the criteria for judging. Please do not try to answer any suggested questions which do not apply to your village.

CATEGORY 1: Community Life

- Imagine a visitor has asked what goes on in the village - what activities are available? Please give a concise description.
- How does information circulate in your village, e.g. newsletter, magazine, website, notice boards, WI, deliveries? How many households receive a newsletter or parish magazine?
- How are people in need supported by your community? Does your village have any kind of community transport or voluntary car scheme?
- What range of activities organised by local people goes on in the village hall or other village centres?

- What other groups provide community activities, e.g. WI, drama society, local history group, sports groups, church groups, others?
- How are new people welcomed into the village and how easy is it for them to become involved with village life?
- Has your village recently completed (within the last 12 months) or is it about to embark upon any special project? Please give brief details, explaining what benefits to village life have ensued or will ensue, and state who was involved.
- What are the current issues in your community? Who and what is involved in addressing these?
- Do people feel well represented, e.g. by the Community Council?



CATEGORY 2: Business

- What part do local businesses play in the life of the village, e.g. post office, village shop, farm, industrial enterprises, working from home?
- Are businesses supportive of community life and vice versa?
- What employment opportunities do these businesses offer to local people? Approximately how many local people are employed?
- Do the businesses present any environmental difficulties, and, if so, how are these tackled?
- Does the community or parish council do anything to encourage or help existing businesses or try to attract new ones? If so what is involved?

CATEGORY 3: Young People

- What local facilities, services and activities are available for the younger age groups in your community, e.g. crèche, pre-school groups, youth groups, other?
- How are these supported by the community?
- Are events organised especially for young people? Do they attract people from outside the community?
- Are young people encouraged to be involved in decision making forums which affect their role in village life? How are the needs of young people assessed?

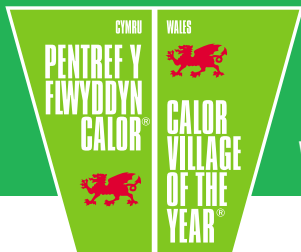
CATEGORY 4: Older People

- What facilities, services and activities are available for older people in your village, e.g. car scheme, home help, social clubs?
- What provisions are made for the housebound?
- Is there a forum which focuses upon senior citizens and are they encouraged to get involved in decision making processes?
- Are senior citizens involved in village activities and what part do they play in the life of your village?

CATEGORY 5: Environment

- What has been, or is currently being undertaken in your community to help protect and improve the local and global environment?
- Are there areas of special conservation? Who manages them?
- Tell us about policy and practice of conservation in your village. How do village people become involved?
- Are educational or informative materials provided about the environment, e.g. newsletter or leaflets?





Welsh Calor Village of the Year® 2006

CATEGORY 6: Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The organisers will assess all ICT entries and a shortlist will be presented to independent judges for final assessment.

This category is intended for those villages either already on the technological road, or those that are at the planning stage. The judges will be looking for the villages that work best with the technology available to them, which seek access to funding, support and training and maximise the benefits available from ICT. A village will need to have a website or be able to demonstrate detailed plans for the implementation of a site, as well as showing how technology is being, or can be integrated into, village community life.

The elements to be judged are as follows -

1. ICT in the community:

Availability of ICT skill learning courses / tuition / advice within the village; involvement / support of parish council

and/or local businesses; wider uses of ICT to support community life; community access to technology.

2. Existing web site / detailed plans for website:

Ease of navigation around the site and accessing information; promotion and publicity for the site (effectiveness in reaching target audience); page design (appearance and technical); change control (degree of access for those without computers or ICT skills); village involvement (all sectors); hosting of the site; linking to other relevant sites; any special features.

3. General

Planned / actual benefits for the village from ICT, e.g. tourism, local communications within the village and surrounding area, business, environmental; other ideas.

If you require assistance with the composition of your entry documents we are able to offer further guidance. Please contact:

Rachel Hayden,
Calor Village of the Year®
Calor Gas Limited, Scapa Works, Aberdulais, Neath SA10 8ER
Tel: 01926 318634 E-mail: rhayden@calor.co.uk

***Further information on the competition can also be found by visiting the website:
www.calorvillageoftheyear.org***



Preparing for a Visit from the Judges

Please note that only villages short-listed for an award based on their written submissions will receive a visit from the judges. Villages short-listed for the Information Communication Technology category will not receive a visit from the judges assessing this category.

A shortlist of finalists will be compiled, and the judges will arrange to visit the communities to decide the prizewinners. Visits should take place in the summer months.

Each visit will last for no more than two hours and this will be an opportunity for the judges to observe and inspect evidence relating to all categories entered. Shortlisted communities will have the opportunity to provide further materials or documentation to support their case. One short informal presentation may be made if desired, but this is not a requirement. Wherever possible, the venue chosen for the judges' visit should be connected to your entry and a designated contact person should be available to escort the judges and co-ordinate the visit.

If you feel that your case will be helped by showing the judges aspects of your village, this must be accommodated within the two hours. It will save time if you have transport organised in advance. As a general rule, although judges will be interested to see a village, they have really come to hear from the village people and about community life. Do not use up your precious time with too much historical background.

The style and format of your presentation is entirely up to you. Please remember that this is your opportunity to tell the judges what your community has achieved. Plan your presentation and involve as many organisations and individuals representative of your community as you feel necessary.

If you wish to provide light refreshments to the judges this will be much appreciated. However, they will not be able to give marks for the quality of the biscuits or sandwiches, no matter how good!

DAILY  POST

In North Wales the 2006 Welsh Calor Village of the Year® competition is being supported by the Welsh Daily Post. For all the latest news and updates on the competition go to either www.calorvillageoftheyear.org or www.icnorthwales.co.uk or refer to the paper.



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CLARENCE HOUSE

Village life and all that it means for communities may not be a tangible monument like an ancient building or great cathedral, but I believe that it is just as important and just as precious, and it demands the best sort of protection that we can give. I was so pleased to hear of the launch of this competition in Wales; it is a vitally important part of that protection, and I cannot congratulate Calor warmly enough for their invaluable support of it.

Charles
