



PRESS RELEASE

Issued 23 Feb 2009

Call to Action for Cumbria's Villages

Villages throughout the county are being called to action as the Cumbria Calor Village of the Year competition 2009 gets underway.

The competition is being organised by Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) with sponsorship provided by Calor – the UK's leading supplier of off-mains gas.

Eric Robson, Ambassador for Cumbria and one of the competition judges said: "The Cumbria Calor Village of the Year competition encourages communities to play to their strengths - sometimes strengths they didn't know they had. It's a great way of generating community involvement and enthusiasm at a time when so many rural services are under threat."

Villages with a population of 5000 and under can enter any or all of the four main categories: Community, Business, Sustainability and Communications. The competition is about recognising, rewarding and encouraging vibrant and sustainable village communities which, irrespective of size, pull together to make the best of local opportunities – through both good times and bad.

ACT's Chief Executive, Roger Roberts added: "This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the creativity and energy of Cumbria's most active communities. We know there are great things happening in our villages and towns that deserve wider recognition. This competition provides the perfect opportunity."

Winners of the county competition will have the added honour of being nominated to go forward and represent Cumbria in the prestigious Calor Village of the Year for England competition 2009/10. Here they will have the opportunity to gain recognition at a national level and a share of the prize fund totalling more than £40,000.

The Calor Village of the Year UK competition is also running for a second year so the ultimate accolade for one village in Cumbria could be representing England and going on to win the overall UK title.

Closing date for entries is Friday 29th May 2009. Entry forms and guidelines can be found at www.cumbriaaction.org.uk or requested from ACT by contacting Hellen Aitken on Tel: 01768 869520 or Email hellenaitken@ruralcumbria.org.uk

To find out more about Calor Village of the Year you can visit the competition website at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org

- Ends -

Photo:



Dr Mike Walker, Kirkby Stephen Town Forum, and Joan Johnstone, Vice Chair Kirkby Stephen Town Council, holding up the 2008 Calor Village of the Year winner's plaque.

Notes to Editors

Action with Communities in Cumbria

(Previously known as Voluntary Action Cumbria)

- ACT is Cumbria's Rural Community Council and a registered charity.
- ACT is working with people and communities to improve the quality of life in rural Cumbria.
- ACT is an independent organisation able to work with a wide range of partners on an open and equitable basis.
- Established in 1948, for 60 years ACT has been supporting communities that are socially, economically and environmentally vibrant where the needs of all are considered.
- To find out more information, please visit ACT's website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk

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® for England competition.

About the competition:

For 2009, Calor is sponsoring 39 county village competitions across the country, with the winner going through to the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition. In each case the judges will be looking 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® competitions totals 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.

UK Competition:

The winning English community will then go forward to the UK Calor Village of the Year® competition where it will go head to head with the winners of the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish stages.

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