

NEWS RELEASE

Issued 17 August 2009

Cumbrian villages compete for county title

The villages of Allonby, Crosthwaite and Nenthead are through to the final stages of the 2009 Cumbria Calor Village of the Year competition, and are now busy preparing for a nerve wracking visit from competition judges taking place on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 August.

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

ACT’s Hellen Aitken commented: “We’re so proud of last year’s Cumbrian winner, Kirkby Stephen, who was recently revealed as the Calor Village of the Year for England. I’m sure this year’s entrants will be working just as hard to show the county judges why they deserve to win. I’d like to thank all the villages that entered and wish them the best of luck.”

The three villages will be visited by a team of independent judges including: Eric Robson, Ambassador for Cumbria and BBC’s Gardener’s Question Time chairman; Colin Cheyne, Business Advisor and past Chairman of Cumbria in Bloom; Sally Orrel, Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Development Officer; and Roger Hart, Cumbria Community Foundation Grants Development Officer.

They will be looking 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. 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.

Eric Robson commented: “The 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.”

ACT's Chief Executive, Roger Roberts, added: "This competition celebrates the type of community activity that is at the heart of ACT's work. Because of this we are delighted to be both organising the competition in Cumbria and directly sponsoring the prize fund. This strengthens our long association with Cumbria's active communities and will help to support their success."

The presentation for this year's Cumbrian competition awards will take place in last year's winning village, Kirkby Stephen, on Friday 11 September at the Tourist Information Centre.

Each of the four category winners will receive £100 in prize money and a framed certificate, the overall county winner will be awarded £300 prize money and a commemorative plaque, together with the opportunity to represent Cumbria in the national Calor Village of the Year for England competition. More details of this competition are to follow in the autumn.

For further information regarding the county competition, please contact Hellen Aitken by telephoning 01768 840827 or by e-mail at hellenaitken@cumbriaaction.org.uk

- Ends -

Photo



Cumbria Calor Village of the Year Competition 2009 Judges - Left to right: Colin Cheyne, Roger Hart, Sally Orrel and Eric Robson

For further press information, please contact Hellen Aitken on 01768 840 827 or email hellenaitken@cumbriaaction.org.uk

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 over 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 competition.

About the competition:

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

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.finn@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