



Is Kirkby Stephen England's Top Village? - Village's chance to shine in front of national judges -

Having been revealed back in April as the Calor Village of the Year for North England, villagers in Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria are now on tenterhooks as the day approaches when they get the chance to prove to a national judging panel why they deserve the title, not just for the region, but for the whole of England.

Judgment day is on Monday 13 July, when the four independent national judges will spend two hours in Kirkby Stephen assessing the community across four criteria: Community – a better place to live, Business – a better place to work, Sustainability – a better future, and Communications – being in contact. As the winner for North England, the village has already shown that it's a fantastic community; however, in order to gain the national title, the village must reveal a special X-factor and shine across all the categories.

Kirkby Stephen is up against four other regional winners in its bid for the title of Calor Village of the Year England: Derbyshire, Hathersage (Central England winner); Denton, Norfolk (East England winner); Silchester, Hampshire (South England winner); and Kingston, Devon (west England winner). The village was nominated to take part in the national competition following its success last year in the Calor Cumbria Village of the Year competition, organised by ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria).

Calor Village of the Year manager, Holly Sims commented: "Gaining the title for England and £7,000 top prize would be the ultimate achievement for one of our villages and only the very best communities stand a chance. Year on year it seems like the standard of the villages involved gets better and better, and this year is no exception. We are all very much looking forward to seeing how Kirkby Stephen fares during the final stage of the judging process and wish villagers the best of luck."

Following the judges' visit, villagers will be honoured as the North England winner when they will be presented with £2,000 prize money and a commemorative plaque in honour of their regional success. Holly Sims representing Calor will be in attendance to present the awards.

The Calor Village of the Year England 2009 overall winner will be revealed during the summer months.

Judges will be in Kirkby Stephen on Monday 13 July at 10.00am. They are due to spend no more than two hours in the village.

For more information regarding the competition in Cumbria, please contact competition organiser at ACT, Hellen Aitken on 01768 869520 or by email at hellenaitken@cumbriaaction.org.uk

To find out more about Calor Village of the Year, including full details of the winning villages in England this year, please visit the competition website at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org

- Ends -

Further press information available from: Amaze PR, Emma Flinn on 0161 817 4221/ Rebecca Jones on 0161 817 4200, email r.jones@amaze.com

Notes to Editors

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 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 £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