



PRESS RELEASE

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Judges plan to visit Cumbrian villages

Ambassador for Cumbria and BBC's Gardener's Question Time chairman, Eric Robson, joins the judging panel for this year's Cumbria Calor Village of the Year Competition.

Eric with fellow judges; Colin Cheyne, Business Advisor and past Chairman of Cumbria in Bloom, Roger Hart, Cumbria Community Foundation Grants Development Officer, and Sally Orrel, Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Development Programme Manager, will visit selected entries for the county competition.

Eric said "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 at a time when so many rural services are under threat."

The full judging panel met with competition co-ordinator Hellen Aitken at Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC) to discuss this year's competition and confirm dates to visit the short listed entries.

When all entries are in, judges will select a short list of villages to visit, giving them an opportunity to present what makes their village special and why they should win. Judges visits will take place on August 12, 13 and 14.

Judges are 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.

Hellen said "I am delighted with the response we have had so far and would encourage anyone who is proud of their community's achievements to enter the competition."

Villages can enter any one or all of the four categories: People, Business, Environment and Communications. The Cumbria Calor Village of the Year Competition 2008 is coordinated by VAC, Cumbria's Rural Community Council, and sponsored by Calor – the UK's leading supplier of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas).

Closing date for entries is 30th June 2008. Entry forms can be downloaded from the VAC website www.ruralcumbria.org.uk/calorvoy.html or requested from VAC by contacting Hellen Aitken on Tel: 01768 869520 or Email hellenaitken@ruralcumbria.org.uk

- Ends -

Photo:



Cumbria Calor Village of the Year Competition 2008 Judges - Left to right: Colin Cheyne, Roger Hart, Sally Orrel and Eric Robson

Further press information available from:

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Notes to Editors

Voluntary Action Cumbria

- VAC is Cumbria's Rural Community Council and a registered charity.
- VAC is working with people and communities to improve the quality of life in rural Cumbria.
- VAC 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 VAC 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 VAC's website: www.ruralcumbria.org.uk

Calor Village of the Year®

Calor, the leading supplier of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) to those living and working in the countryside, has supported rural activities in England, Scotland and Wales for 21 years through its Rural Sponsorship programme, which includes the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition.

The Calor Village of the Year® for England competition, now in its twelfth year, was founded and developed by Calor, and is organised and funded by the company on an annual basis.

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

Entry to the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition is through the existing county competition network. Every year, Calor sponsors the majority of the county village competitions – which this year total more than 40 – each of which is invited to nominate one village to take part in the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition.

The national Calor Village of the Year® judges look 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.

The prize money for the 2008 national Calor Village of the Year® competitions stands at 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 (covering People, Business, Environment and Communications).

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

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

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

Email: emma.flinn@connectpoint.co.uk or Tel: 0161 817 4221

For all general enquiries relating to the Calor Village of the Year® competition, please contact Brian Challis:

Email: b.challis@ntlworld.com or visit www.calorvillageoftheyear.org