



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England

**HERTFORDSHIRE**

## **HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGES GET RESULTS**

A packed County Suite at County Hall received the long-awaited results in the ***Hertfordshire Village of the Year Competition***<sup>1</sup> on Thursday 1 July. Organised by **CPRE Hertfordshire**<sup>2</sup>, the competition is sponsored by Hertfordshire Community Foundation<sup>3</sup>, in association with Hertfordshire County Council, North Herts. District Council and the Hertfordshire Mercury. The Awards Evening was hosted by Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council, Cllr. Bernard Lloyd.



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



A full list of results and the judges' Summary Reports are attached. **Publicity photos are available on request to [jo@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:jo@cpreherts.org.uk) of all presentations of awards made on the night.**



Judge Tom Davidson said

'Judging the competition was more difficult than ever this year. There is a wealth of talent, enterprise and innovative thinking in our villages, which is translated into achievements through the commitment and hard work of the villagers.'

Presentation ceremonies, and the unveiling of the prestigious Village of the Year Trophies, will take place on Saturday 24 July<sup>5</sup> in the three major prize-winning villages. These are Cottered, Village of the Year East, Ashwlel, Village of the Year North and Redbourn, Village of the Year West. One of these three village, Ashwell, has been chosen as the overall **Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2010**.

**- Ends -**

### **Notes to editors:**

1. The Hertfordshire Village of the Year Competition is organised by CPRE Hertfordshire, and is in its eleventh year.
2. CPRE Hertfordshire is the County Branch of the National Charity, Campaign to Protect Rural England. We are a registered charity in our own right, no 211299. We have 1350 members and our President is Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO. The Campaign to Protect Rural England is a charity which exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. Membership is open to all.
3. Hertfordshire Community Foundation exists to tackle deprivation in Hertfordshire and beyond. It is currently the largest non-statutory grant giver into the county and has issued more than £1million in grants to charities and community groups in each of the last four years..The Foundation was set up in 1989 and is a catalyst between the private, public, voluntary and community sectors, encouraging philanthropy and corporate social responsibility within Hertfordshire, aiming to address the social deprivation highlighted in its research. Its vision is to improve the quality of life for everyone living in Hertfordshire. It

does this by channeling funding to groups and by building a permanent endowment, the money gained from which being used to tackle need.

For further information please refer to the Foundation's website: [www.hertscf.org.uk](http://www.hertscf.org.uk)

4. Competition Prizes:
  - **East Herts, North Herts and West Herts Winners** - £250 plus commemorative plaque and village trophy (*One of these will be selected as Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2010*)
  - **Overall winner: commemorative framed certificate**
  - **Environment winner:** £100 plus commemorative plaque and Nazeing Glass Rosebowl
  - **People, Business and Communications Category winners:** £100 plus commemorative plaque
  - **Small Village of the Year Winner** (*awarded to an outstanding village with a population of up to 1,000 (nb: note changed population limit)*) £100 plus commemorative plaque and Hertfordshire Mercury Rosebowl
  - **Peterkin Award for an individual making an outstanding contribution to village life:** Rosebowl (*see attached nomination form*)
  - **Dorothy Abel Smith Award for a young person making an outstanding contribution to village life:** Pewter Dish (*see attached nomination form*)
  - **(NB: Village of the Year East, North and West Trophies, Rosebowls, Peterkin and Dorothy Abel Smith Awards are held for one year)**
5. **Presentation Ceremonies 24 July:** will be held in Redbourn at 10.30am, Ashwell at 12.45pm and Cottered at 2.45pm.
6. For further information on the Hertfordshire Village of the Year competition contact Jo Simson, CPRE Hertfordshire, 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587, email [office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk) or visit [www.cpreherts.org.uk](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk)



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## HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2010

Sponsored by Hertfordshire Community Foundation in association with  
Hertfordshire County Council, North Herts. District Council and the Hertfordshire Mercury

### COMPETITION RESULTS

**Entries received from: Ashwell, Cottered, Hornead Parish, Hunsdon, Knebworth, Lemsford, Redbourn, Woolmer Green**

Environment Category: Lemsford

*The Environment Category Winner receives a Nazeing Glass Rosebowl for one year, CPRE Hertfordshire Plaque and a cheque for £100*

Business Category: Knebworth

People Category: Woolmer Green

Communications Category: Hunsdon

*Each of the above Category Winners receives a CPRE Hertfordshire Plaque and cheque for £100.*

**Small Village of the Year: Lemsford**

*The Small Village of the Year receives a Hertfordshire Mercury Rosebowl for one year, CPRE Hertfordshire Plaque, and £100 cheque.*

Village of the Year East: Cottered

*The Village of the Year East receives a CPRE Hertfordshire Plaque, £250 cheque donated by the Hertfordshire Mercury and a Village of the Year East Trophy to be held for one year*

Village of the Year North: Ashwell

*The Village of the Year North is sponsored by North Hertfordshire District Council and receives a CPRE Hertfordshire Plaque, £250 cheque and a Village of the Year North Trophy to be held for one year*

Village of the Year West: Redbourn

*The Village of the Year West receives a CPRE Hertfordshire Plaque, £250 cheque and a Village of the Year West Trophy to be held for one year.*

Overall Winner of the title Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2010

**ASHWELL**

Peterkin Award:

*A glass Rosebowl donated by former Judge, Miss Margaret Peterkin, presented to an individual or group making an outstanding contribution to community life. This year the Rosebowl goes to*

Robin Wordsworth of Knebworth

Dorothy Abel Smith Young People's Award:

*An award donated by one of the Judges, Miss Dorothy Abel Smith (MBE) to a young person or person(s) making an outstanding contribution to community life. This year the award has been won by*

Lewis Harris of Cottered

*A judges' summary report on this year's competition is available from Jo Simson, CPRE - The Hertfordshire Society, tel. 01438 717587, email: [jo@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:jo@cpreherts.org.uk)*



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
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## **HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2010 Judges' Summary Report**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Judging the competition was more difficult than ever this year. There is a wealth of talent, enterprise and innovative thinking in our villages, which is translated into achievements through the commitment and hard work of the villagers.

### **BUSINESS**

Diverse and thriving businesses help villages to be self-sufficient and to reduce their carbon footprint.

For any business to flourish in a village, it must not only be supported by, but must also support the community. The winning village is fortunate in benefiting from a wide range of shops and services, the majority of which are very supportive of local organisations and the village festival. This support ranges from simply putting up a poster in a shop window to sponsoring programmes, advertising in the Parish News, donating raffle prizes, lending barbecue equipment, and donating barbecue food, using Estate Agents' signs to advertise events, doubling as Box Offices - the list is almost endless. In turn, village groups and event organisers buy as many supplies and source as many services as possible locally.

**Winner:** Knebworth

### **Environment**

All the entries this year do a lot to improve the environment in which their residents live, while making provision for wildlife and reducing carbon footprints. Gardening or horticultural societies, volunteer working parties for environmental projects, management of common spaces and encouraging residents to keep their properties tidy all contribute to this category. Supporting and working with other environmental organisations and managing nature reserves and maintaining footpaths also feature. Several villages this year have school garden clubs.

Most have produced good quality village or footpath maps and leaflets. In nearly all there is some problem area, but action is being taken to sort it out, including traffic calming projects.

This year's winner has made a dramatic improvement to its village street by removing an unsightly hedge which had blocked the view of the river and replacing it with a delightful wild flower bank. An excellent information panel has been put up.

This village also has a nature reserve with a local warden who involves local people in volunteer work parties and has introduced extensive facilities for using the site for educational purposes. The village mill has been converted into offices; its water wheel supplies electricity to the National Grid. The Mill garden, beautifully landscaped and maintained, is a recreational space for all.

**Winner:** Lemsford

### **PEOPLE**

The judges looked for people in the community taking an active role in the running of their village's affairs and sparking fresh ideas for improvements make their village more enjoyable to live in. This means individuals organising village activities and coming together for the benefit of their community, giving up their time and making a difference to their village life. The winner was not afraid to tackle big issues that concern the village such as improving the busy road that runs through the village and taking positive action over schooling for older children. The local police officer has worked with the community and developed good relations with the local young people. A high proportion of residents from all walks of life appear to be prepared to use their spare time supporting their village.

**Winner:** Woolmer Green

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

A good social centre is necessary for good communications, for example an excellent multi-purpose Village Hall, friendly pub or welcoming Church. In many cases the School acts as the centre of the communications web.

The winning village demonstrated an understanding between all the stalwarts who were prepared to give up their time to explain to us their particular role within the village. The village publishes a great deal of literature full of information of use to those living within and without the village bounds. The judges were impressed by the communication skills of the children who showed them round the school. The village website is easy to negotiate, up to date and it tells you all you need to know.

**Winner:** Hunsdon

### **PETERKIN AWARD**

The Peterkin award was donated by a former Village of the Year Judge and is awarded at the discretion of the judges to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to village life.

This year's winner has served 40 years on the PCC, 30 years on the Parish Council and as a District Councillor, where he was noted for his independent views. He edited the Parish magazine and continues to distribute it. He was President for nine years and he is now a Life Vice President of the Cricket Club.

**Winner:** Robin Wordsworth of Knebworth

#### DOROTHY ABEL SMITH AWARD

This award is given to a young person up to the age of 18 who has made an outstanding contribution in his or her village. This year the award goes to a young lad who brings his enthusiasm to his Church and community. He has worked really hard at school to improve his reading skills and has never shied away from public speaking. Other children support and encourage this 11 year old with a cheeky grin in his determination and enjoyment to take a full part in village life.

**Winner:** Lewis Harris of Cottered.

#### SMALL VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

This year's winner is exceptional. They not only have a first class Nature reserve which is a magnet for volunteers in the village and beyond and which is overseen by the Herts. and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. They are making new allotments and clearing banks, so that wild flowers can bloom again. The river is clear and full of wildlife. The oversubscribed school has an ecological centre. The village has one of the oldest and most successful football teams in the County. It holds an annual Village fête, as well as street parties. It even has its own Local History Group, which publishes its own documents. All this despite having one of the smallest populations in the County.

**Winner:** Lemsford

#### VILLAGE OF THE YEAR EAST

The Judges gave the winning village high marks for each of the categories-. particularly the Environment, People and Communications. They held a special Public Meeting to involve the entire community to prepare for the Village of the Year Competition and their enthusiasm and pride shone through during our visit. Theirs is a first time entry. They describe themselves as an ancient village with a big modern heart. Although a main road runs through the village and causes pollution, the verges are beautifully maintained and the village hall is magnificent with a large adjoining playing field. In spite of having no school, there are plenty of groups for children and young people. Older people are also well catered for and the Church is very much part of the community. Communications are first class and local businesses supportive.

**Winner:** Cottered

#### VILLAGE OF THE YEAR NORTH *(And Overall Winner of the title Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2010)*

The winning village is relatively small but self sufficient. The range of retail businesses is so extensive that you need never leave the village for shopping. There are many employers, so a high proportion of the residents work locally. The annual Village Show is almost comparable with the County Show and is highly participative.

Excellent publications include a Year Book, Church magazine, Design Statement and Village Plan. The village has raised funds for, and built, a major extension to the Village Museum. The curator has established a Local and Family Resource Centre database, freely accessible to all residents. There was mutual co-operation in a project to extend the cemetery. Volunteers manage the Quarry Nature Reserve and the excavation of the archaeological site where a Romano British treasure hoard was discovered. Volunteers are lobbying English Heritage to help preserve Arbury Banks, a local bronze age hill fort, for the benefit of the nation.

**Winner:** Ashwell

#### VILLAGE OF THE YEAR WEST

The winner is a large and vibrant village which has organised a whole host of celebrations this year, triggered by the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the Church. These include a family Fun and Sports Day on May Day Bank Holiday, a Rural Day later in May and a Carnival in June. July promises open gardens, a Flower Festival, street parties and a highly sophisticated Music Festival. September's events will include a celebrity cricket match, talent show and Mad Hatter's tea party.

A new and much larger Parish Centre is under construction and major re-landscaping is under way at a green public space known as the "Millennium Site". There is a high degree of mutual support between the local residents, the village businesses, the churches and the societies and clubs at all ages, with active encouragement of young people in decisions and organisation.

**Winner:** Redbourn