

Denbighshire village sweeps board in Welsh Village[®] of the Year competition



Suzanne Weir
Sioned Humphreys

Calor Gas
Deputy Director CPRW

The final results of the first ever Calor Village of the Year[®] for Wales competition were announced at an awards ceremony in Cardiff on Wednesday 28th September.

This new national bi-lingual competition was launched earlier this year to offer Welsh communities the opportunity of taking part in what can be best described as a 'Community fitness test' and sharing a competition prize fund of £8,500.

The awards highlight the best that community life in rural Wales has to offer and CRPW is proud to be a partner in this

new initiative. Sioned Humphreys, CPRW's Deputy Director helped judge the 2005 competition and the organisation now looks forward to continuing its involvement in this competition and collaborating with Calor Gas in the future.

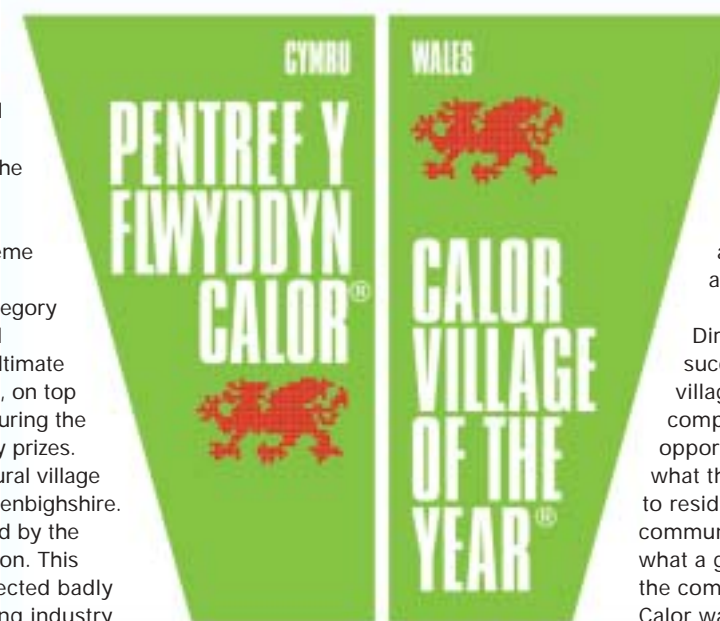
A total of 79 entries were received for this year's event, all were assessed and a number shortlisted prior to the judges' visit. Each village community could enter any or all of the six categories, Community Life, Business, Young People, Older People, and Environment and then judged separately for Information

Communication Technology (ICT). The judges looked for well-balanced, proactive, caring communities which, irrespective of size, have made the best of local opportunities in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all its residents.

Clawddnewydd in Denbighshire won the prestigious title "Calor Village of the Year[®] for Wales" 2005 and was presented with its prizes by Managing Director of Calor, Howard Kerr, and Welsh National Assembly Member, Mike German, in a high profile ceremony in Cardiff.

Clawddnewydd, announced as the regional winner for North Wales in July by HRH The Prince of Wales, was matched against Ffarmers in Carmarthenshire for the supreme title. In a nail biting finale, Clawddnewydd carried off category prizes for Community Life and Business before gaining the ultimate accolade and £1,500 top prize, on top of £1,500 prize money for securing the regional title and two category prizes.

Clawddnewydd is a small rural village nestling in the heart of rural Denbighshire. The judges were overwhelmed by the community spirit and innovation. This agricultural area has been affected badly by the downturn in the farming industry and the foot and mouth crisis. In spite of this, the villagers rallied and embarked on the ambitious Ganolfan Project which provides the community with first class sustainable facilities and includes a



mobile shop which provides a lifeline for those more isolated members of the community. Younger people are being encouraged to return to the village, creating a healthy balance of ages to support and sustain this as a successful and thriving community, proud of its achievements, but continually aware of the needs of its people.

Howard Kerr Calor's Managing Director said, "Clawddnewydd's success will encourage even more villages to take part in the competition next year. Entering is an opportunity for villages to celebrate what they've got and to say 'well done' to residents who help to make community projects happen. We know what a great experience participating in the competition can be for villages and Calor wants as many communities as possible to benefit from working together for a common goal."

mobile shop which provides a lifeline for those more isolated members of the community. Younger people are being

Next year's Calor Village of the Year[®] for Wales competition will be launched in January 2006; however if you're interested in entering your community, you can register your interest now. Please call 01926 318634 or send contact details to ktwigger@calor.co.uk and you will receive more information about the 2006 competition as soon as it's available. You can also refer to the bi-lingual competition website at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org for full details.

Back: Howard Kerr, Managing Director of Calor (left), Sir Roger Jones, Chairman WDA.

Front: Clawddnewydd representatives (left to right) Eryl Williams and Robert Hughes.



Gwobr newydd i Clawddnewydd

Pentre bach yn nyfnderoedd gwledig Sir Ddinbych oedd enillydd cynta' cystadleuaeth Pentref y Flwyddyn Calor[®]. Llwyddodd Clawddnewydd ger Rhuthun i gipio'r wobr am gategoriâu Bywyd Cymunedol a Busnes, cyn mynd ymlaen i guro Ffarmers yn Sir Gaerfyrddin o drwch blewyn er mwyn hawlio'r prif deitl. Roedd menter arloesol ac ysbryd cymunedol pobl Clawddnewydd wedi

gwneud argraff anferth ar y beirniaid, wrth i'r pentrefwyr ddod tros broblemau'r diwydiant amaeth a sefydlu Cynllun Canolfan i greu adnoddau cynladwy. Gobaith Calor yw y bydd rhagor o bentrefi'n cael eu hannog gan lwyddiant Clawddnewydd i gystadlu y flwyddyn nesa' - eleni, roedd 79 o gynigion ar gyfer chwe chategori gwahanol. YDCW yw un o'r partneriaid yn y gystadleuaeth ddwyieithog ac roedd Sioned Humphreys, y Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr, yn un o'r beirniaid eleni. Roedd cyfanswm y gwobrau yn £8,500.