



Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC)
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Overall winner and runner up sponsored by



The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire



Supported by The Citizen, The Gloucestershire Echo and The Forester

Introduction

Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year is an opportunity for you to showcase your village. We want to find villages that are balanced, proactive, caring and, irrespective of size, are making the best of local opportunities to sustain or enhance the quality of life for all their residents. The competition is open to communities in Gloucestershire with a parish council or parish meeting and a total population of less than 3,500. It is designed to recognise and celebrate the hard work being carried out in Gloucestershire's smaller communities which are working to ensure their long term futures.

A cheque for £500 together with a framed commemorative certificate will be awarded to the overall winner as well as to each of the individual category winners. Runners up will each receive a certificate and a cheque for £100. Other awards may be presented at the judges' discretion. All completed entry forms will be automatically entered into our Grand Prize Draw.

All categories must be completed and returned to GRCC by **Tuesday 4th May 2010**. Please read the guidance notes for more information. After the judging visits have taken place in May/June, entrants will be invited to the awards ceremony at the beautiful Rococo Gardens in Painswick, Stroud on Thursday 15th July 2010 to celebrate the achievements of those who have taken part and to announce the winners.

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Guidance notes:

The awards are open to villages in Gloucestershire which have a parish council or parish meeting and a population of less than 3,500.

(Check your population on <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=96041>)

Responding to feedback, this year's form is much shorter and gives you the opportunity to tell us about your community and its achievements. **Please complete all categories.** If possible please provide up to three suitable digital photograph(s) of your village so that they may be used for publicity purposes.

The judging process for the Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year has two stages.

- **Stage 1** – an assessment by the judging panel of the completed entry forms
- **Stage 2** – a visit by the judges to the village

Stage 1: Completion of the entry form

It is really important to get a wide range of views and one of the best ways to achieve this is to involve as many members of the community as possible. These awards are about identifying vibrant villages. We believe that vibrant villages will have the following qualities and characteristics:

- V**igilant – looking out for your neighbours and making your community safe
- I**ntegrated – working with each other, taking a whole community approach
- B**alanced – inclusive of all age groups and backgrounds
- R**esilient – planning for your future and being prepared to deal with emergencies
- A**ctive – providing and participating in community activities
- N**urturing – supporting and caring for the whole community
- T**hriving – a community that is successful and has vision

Points to remember:

1. The entry form is a pre-cursor to the judges' visit.
2. The qualities highlighted in **VIBRANT** (above) should be demonstrated when completing each category.
3. You may wish to use bullet points when you complete the categories.
4. If you are proud of a particular project in your village, you may wish to provide additional supporting information which should be sent in with your entry form.

If you would like further help to complete the form, please contact the GRCC Rural Advice Team on **01452 528491** or email glosrcc@grcc.org.uk.

Stage 2: The Visit

The judges will arrange to visit your village in May/June. They will spend a maximum of two hours with you and will be relying on you to keep to time. The visit is your opportunity to expand on the entry form and to tell the judges more about your village, its history, its successes and plans for the future. -

Points to remember:

1. Plan your meeting with the judges to ensure that you include all the aspects of village life that you want to tell them about, bearing in mind the time constraints. Make the judges feel they want to live in your village.
2. Encourage as many individuals to participate in the visit as you feel is appropriate.
3. Include a short 'tour' of the village.
4. The judges will not be able to take away any extra material.

After the judging visits have taken place, all entrants are invited to the awards ceremony in July to celebrate their achievements when the category and overall winners will be announced. The awards for the Overall Winner and Runner Up this year are sponsored by the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.

Essential Information

District / Borough Council (delete as applicable)	Cotswold / Forest of Dean / Stroud / Tewkesbury
Name of village Population of your village	South Cerney 3074 (2001 census) (max 3,500)
Name of sponsor	(e.g. Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Church, WI)

(e.g. Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Church, WI)	Mike Stuart
Address	Rose Cottage Upper Up South Cerney Gloucestershire
Postcode	GL7 5UT
Email	mikestuart@southcerney.com
Landline number / Mobile	011285 860439
Signed	
Date	15 May 2010.
Summary of who has been involved in completing this form (e.g. groups, clubs, older and / or	South Cerney with Cerney Wick Parish Council, South Cerney United Church, All Hallows Church,

Category 1 (sponsored by GRCC)

Best community facility

e.g. community shop, village and community hall, community owned pub

To choose one such facility from several worthy contenders to represent our Vibrant Community is a hard, almost impossible task. The two front runners work together so very well to provide our village with premises to house a wide variety of amenities, groups and pastimes that it is only fair to put them forward as joint candidates.

The Village Hall and the United Church are in the heart of the village, both geographically and emotionally. Both buildings have undergone extensive renovations in the past few years and between them are able to house virtually everything required by our community. The United Church does this as well as providing its regular holy services, pastoral care and volunteer programmes whilst working with their Anglican colleagues by providing a combined Church office and meeting rooms.

There has been a steady and sustained increase in bookings of both premises in recent years. They liaise to ensure that would-be users are not disappointed.

The users of the two buildings cover a wide spectrum of events catering for all age groups from The Cerney Seedlings, coffee mornings/lunch club, weight management, through to Brownies; Mums and Toddlers; Pilates; Art Clubs; all sorts of keep fit; lectures; Flower shows; cinema; amateur dramatics; singing groups; children's parties; Curry Club; Bee keepers club etc, etc.

Since these two community centres have been renovated and have been working together, the level of community spirit has increased very noticeably.

Why are you providing it and how is it being used?

Category 2 (sponsored by GRCC)

Best community project / initiative

e.g. community garden, composting club, good neighbour schemes, rural cinema, pub club, energy saving scheme.

The most exciting recent development in this village must be the foundation of the Digger Uppers allotments scheme which has started in the past few weeks. This group is amalgamating with the Composting Club which occupies a site adjoining the allotment land.

As part of our Village Plan, the Composting Club scheme started late last year with financial support from Parish Council and also from Gloucestershire County Council which also gives continuing technical advice. Unfortunately, due to a great under-estimation of the amount of green material deposited, the group was literally inundated and needed assistance with both labour and machinery.

The Allotment Scheme started only a few weeks ago due to strong demand for gardens. Parish Council had attempted to find suitable land elsewhere within the village without success so decided to allocate a unused part of its large playing field for the purpose. Part financed by Parish Council, the Digger Uppers group was given the land on the understanding that they should run the scheme themselves and amalgamate with the composting scheme thus forming a community group. After some constructive get-togethers, the enthusiastic team have now started work. The twenty plots have already been cultivated mostly by using a rotavator donated free of charge to the village by a friend in Sri Lanka who, at the same time, also provided a large composting shredder at a very low cost. Our Sri Lankan friend was delighted to "help the Third World feed the First World"!

Category 3 (sponsored Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership)

Most resilient community

Planning for the future, preparing to deal with emergencies as well as looking out for neighbours and making the community safe.

- Following a very near flooding disaster, which was only averted by prompt action by Parish Council working with Environment Agency, GCC and CDC, laying large pipes to divert the water, the community has now asked a group of retired military officers residing in the parish, to prepare an Emergency plan working with GRCC and other agencies.
- Working with Gloucestershire Constabulary and with neighbouring parishes, we hold regular Police Neighbourhood Panel meetings at which community-led action plans are agreed and followed up. There is a very low crime level in this area.
- To ensure there will be a continuing and efficient youth leadership facility for our young people, Parish Council is now employing a professional Youth Leader to work with the GCC Youth Service team. Extra money has also been set aside for financing projects and transport to ensure the efficiency of the scheme.
- Sue Black, our Village Agent, and members of both Churches carry out many initiatives to improve the inclusion of lonely, isolated folk and others requiring support.
- Information events are run by various agencies, such as the Fire and Rescue Service, to keep people up to date on how to stay safe and how to obtain assistance.
- The community is kept informed by our monthly Cerney News, delivered free of charge to all dwellings, and by the weekly Community News column in the local Wilts & Glos Standard.

Category 4 (sponsored by NHS Gloucestershire)

Healthy and active community

Most effective initiatives contributing to improving the health of your community e.g. Reducing obesity, alcohol harm and smoking; improving sexual health, emotional health and wellbeing; making available accessible, healthy and safe housing and healthier workplaces.

How do you encourage a healthy and active community?

WOW (Walk on Wednesdays) encourages Ann Edwards C of E School pupils to walk to school. Parish Council funds a prize to the winning class.

Youth Leaders promote healthy initiatives.

Good sports amenities. Football, cricket, tennis, mountain bike track on parish owned land. Golf, sailing, fishing available nearby. Excellent facilities at GCC owned South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre.

With GCC Public Rights of Way, the Water Park Society and neighbouring parishes, Parish Council continues to improve pathways to a good standard making exercise easier for people of all abilities.

Local groups provide T'ai Chi, Pilates, Yoga, healthy exercise regimes, running clubs, etc..

The United Church, with access for all abilities, runs a weekly Weight Maintenance Group, is used by CDC to hold weekly Falls Prevention/Stability classes and a basic health and well being Tai Chi class. Happy Clappy (combines music and exercise for babies and pre-school children) operates there as does an advanced Tai Chi Kung class. Coffee Morning/Lunch Club, week-day worship, arts/crafts activities provide weekly opportunities for elderly, vulnerable or folks living alone to come together for company, comforting or confidential counselling. Carers with babies/pre-school children benefit from the experience of each other, voluntary leaders and a paid Families Worker weekly at play/chat sessions (Cerney Seedlings), Carers Cafe, and an arts and crafts afternoon. The babies clinic at Phoenix Surgery often refers families to these activities. Complementary Health is actively promoted by the Phoenix Trust.

Fund-raising continues for an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. A new unit should be available soon

Summary

What makes your village vibrant?

Community spirit is a result of a number of factors. This category is your opportunity to tell the judges how your community operates.

Please highlight 5 things that make your village a special place in which to live or work.

This Village is made by the people who live here!

- We have a great mix of people who get along very well, forming a marvellous community where we have a good number of truly enthusiastic, natural leaders prepared to go that bit extra distance to make things happen.
- Parish Council works with as many people and organisations as possible to ensure things are being done that are wanted by the people. The Village Plan is the framework for most things undertaken and that Plan is reviewed regularly.
- The highlight of the year is the annual Street Fair and Duck Race on the Spring Bank Holiday when the place is overflowing with people. This is preceded by three nights of dancing in a large marquee. The weekend raises thousands of pounds for charities.
- All age groups get involved in village life. The active Playgroup, the school, the Youth Group and the Youth Parish Council plus the sports teams cater for the younger generation while the pubs, Churches, South Cerney Trust, Bowls club, COSY Club and many social groups ensure the rest have plenty to do.
- We are an outward looking community not only working with neighbouring parishes and other governance agencies but also with people in foreign countries. The annual Operation Christmas Child sends lorry loads of presents to destitute children in Eastern Europe while the South Cerney Sri Lanka Community Support Fund (SCSLCSF) improves the plight of many poor people in Sri Lanka.

**GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU FOR ENTERING
GLOUCESTERSHIRE VIBRANT VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2010**