



The Hills Group CPRE Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition 2014

This judging of this year's **Hills Group CPRE Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition**, sponsored by the **Hills Group**, is now complete. The First Round of the competition saw the expert judging teams from the Wiltshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England putting each village under the microscope. 51 villages throughout the county were tested against the competition criteria which look for tidiness, cleanliness, presentation and village community spirit. The parish councils and their volunteers had clearly been hard at work, achieving encouragingly high standards and making the judges' task that much more difficult. Each village is judged within the categories of 'Small', 'Medium' and 'Large' and in the First Round they are only judged within their own district: West Wiltshire, North Wiltshire, South Wiltshire, Kennet and Swindon Borough.

The winning villages in each district were then judged against each other in the County Round, using fresh judging teams including individual judges from Wiltshire Council. The final results were:

Large Village

1st Blunsdon
2nd Whiteparish
3rd Holt
4th Box
5th Aldbourne

Medium Village

1st Mildenhall
2nd Liddington
3rd Biddestone
4th = Maiden Bradley
Sutton Veny

Small Village

1st Stapleford
2nd Charlton
3rd = Bishopstrow
Rushall

A quote from one of the judging teams reflects just how high the standard of this year's competition was:

"The overall standard of the villages was very good, and deciding on a winner was very difficult, only 6 points separated all the villages and the majority of category scores were 5 or 6 (better than good)"

Each winning village will be presented with, and keep, an eight foot standard with mounted shield for a year emplaced on their village green. An award ceremony will be held sequentially at the three winning villages on Sunday 12th October when CPRE Wiltshire's President, the Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton, will pull away the Union Flag surmounting the shield; a Hills Plaque will be presented by the CEO of The Hills Group, Mr Michael Hill and we expect another plaque from Wiltshire Council to be presented by the Chairman or the Leader of the Council and cash prizes to be awarded by the High Sheriff for Wiltshire, to each winning village. 2nd and 3rd placed villages will receive a certificate and all villages in the County Round will receive an additional certificate for coming top of their district in the First Round.

Laurence Kitching Award - Sponsored by NFU Mutual

The winning six villages from 2012 and 2013 were, as dictated by our rules, not allowed to compete in the main competition but were invited to enter the **Laurence Kitching Award**, sponsored by **NFU Mutual** and often called the 'Winner of Winners' competition. This year, All Cannings (2013 Best Medium Village), Burbage (2013 Best Large Village), Dinton (2012 Best Medium Village and 2013

Laurence Kitching Village), Great Hinton (2012 Best Small Village) and Hilperton (2012 Best Large Village) all entered. The results were:

- 1st Great Hinton
- 2nd Dinton
- 3rd All Cannings
- 4th Burbage
- 5th Hilperton

The award will be presented at Mildenhall on 12th October in conjunction with Mildenhall's receipt of the Best Kept Medium Village prize.

Newcomers Award – Sponsored by Smiths Gore

A new prize has been instituted this year which is sponsored by **Smiths Gore**. It is designed to encourage villages which have not entered the Best Kept Village Competition for the previous five years to give it a go. It comes with a generous cash prize and CPRE Wiltshire hopes it will encourage even more villages to enter in 2015.

The results were:

- 1st Ansty
- 2nd Mildenhall

This prize will be presented at Stapleford on 12th October in conjunction with Stapleford's receipt of the Best Kept Small Village prize.

Making the Competition Work

Finally it is important to point out that this competition could not take place without the very generous contributions of our sponsors, the support of Wiltshire Council and of course the immense hard work put in by individual parish councils and villagers. It is a joint effort but one we feel benefits Wiltshire and in particular the participating villages.

Contact for CPRE Wiltshire: John Blake, Lansdowne House, Long Street, Devizes, Wilts SN10 1NJ
Telephone: 01380 722157 Mobile: 07595 711 530
Email: admin@cprewiltshire.org.uk



Contact for The Hills Group: Monique Hayes, Group Communications Officer, Wiltshire House, County Park Business Centre, Shrivenham Road, Swindon SN1 2NR
Tel: 01793 714978 monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk

