

Warwickshire's Calor Village of the Year Competition 2009

ENTRY FORM



NAME OF VILLAGE

WOLVEY

POPULATION

1200

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: Margaret Cartwright

**ADDRESS: The Old Post Office
Wolds Lane
Wolvey
Hinckley
Leics
LE10 3LL**

Please Note

Entries for the Warwickshire Village of the Year Competition are judged **entirely** on the information provided in this form. It is therefore essential that careful thought is given to the information included and the way it is presented.

All categories must be completed. Please complete each section using no more than 200 words.

Judging will take place during the last two weeks of July 2009. The presentation ceremony for the county competition will be held in September 2009.

The Winner of the Warwickshire Village of the Year Competition will go forward to the regional level of the Calor Village of the Year Competition, which will involve a visit from judges and may result in a substantial cash prize in the national competition.

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THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES TO THIS COMPETITION IS 30 JUNE 2009

COMMUNITY – A Better Place To Live

Local voluntary groups provide a range of local facilities for people of all ages, including Baby & Toddlers; Pre-school; Brownies; a new Cubs & Scouts group; Junior Cricket; an excellent playing fields with children's play area & tennis court; WI; history group; over 60's club; bowling club; Church and Baptist chapel activities.

The village hall hosts dance classes, dog training, bingo, whist drives, table tennis, archery and short mat bowls. Fund raising events to maintain local facilities and also to raise funds for charities are well supported by the community.

These groups, along with the village shop and doctors surgery, provide excellent social networking; identify areas or individuals in need of assistance; and people are always willing to help when necessary. A newly formed Neighbourhood Watch is slowly building a team to raise awareness and the parish council newsletter alerts the community about the rare episodes of vandalism.

Volunteers have recently joined a Community First Responder scheme to provide rapid assistance to victims of cardiac arrest.

Regular annual events include a bonfire & fireworks evening, Christmas tree switch-on celebration, Church Cribs & Trees Festival and a St Georges day dinner. A recent summer festival helped to further establish a sense of community.

BUSINESS – A Better Place To Work

The local Post Office and Stores is at the heart of community life. It freely displays notices of local activities, sells raffle tickets, donates to village events and provides a centre of information and support for both villagers and visitors. They also provide a second hand book exchange, donations from which are sent to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance. Of course they also sell basic provisions, newspapers, stationery, etc., make sandwiches and soup for staff of local businesses, provide invaluable banking services for the community and employment for local people. This all helps to reduce the number of car journeys made for essentials.

Staff of the major employer regularly sit and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the neighbouring Wetland Nature Reserve during lunch breaks.

Local pubs also provide employment; raffle prizes; sponsor sports teams; support litter picks; donate to hanging baskets and provide space for recycling. They provide a meeting place and a focus for a number of local events.

Local farmers help with equipment to put up the Christmas tree & lights and bunting for festivals. Fresh produce, such as asparagus, summer berries, potatoes and eggs are on sale locally in season.

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SUSTAINABILITY – A Better Future

At the Wolvey Wetland Nature reserve, during October/November 2008, a 198 metre boardwalk, made of recycled plastic, was built by a team of volunteers from the Wolvey Environment Group. This was designed to enable access for all to this beautiful 3.5 acre area, so unique that only 1% of the planet is comparable. A management plan for the reserve has been formulated to maintain and increase biodiversity, to encourage native flora and fauna, a great variety of birds, butterflies, dragonflies, insects and mammals. Bird and bat boxes have been made and erected, log piles constructed and a basking area for amphibians created. Information boards have been placed throughout the wetland.

To engage the whole community in the project, the quarterly newsletter contains articles about activities taking place and wildlife to look out for in each season. As part of a successful village festival the wetland hosted guided tours of the wetland; pond dipping sessions; free bird, plant and insect spotter cards given out; and environment group members on hand to answer questions.

At the Annual Parish meeting speakers were invited from the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership and Act on Energy to inform and encourage residents what they can do to improve the environment.

COMMUNICATION – Being In Contact

Wolvey Church produces a monthly parish magazine, 'the Link' ,which provides information about village activities. New residents receive a welcome pack with information and a diary of local events.

A new larger central notice board has been provided this year which is open and available to be used by all groups within the community. Also, the village post office and stores readily displays local information on its doors.

The parish council produces a quarterly newsletter which it distributes to every household in the parish. This improves awareness of parish council activities, provides information about available new services and encourages involvement with community activities.

The parish council provides an item for public participation at every monthly meeting. The council has also, this year, started a monthly 'Councillor's Surgery' to enable residents who might not wish to speak at a meeting or wish to raise an issue between meetings.

The parish council also provides a village website www.wolvey.org

This not only gives the statutory information relating to the parish council but enables local organisations and businesses to advertise their activities, events and services free of charge. Following a local campaign broadband is available and the parish plan identified that a significant proportion of households have internet access.

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GENERAL

Please tell us what is special about life in your village.

Wolvey has many special people who are willing to give time and effort for the good of the village and its community. A proactive Parish Council seeks to enhance village life through better communication and approachability. A vibrant environment group strives to improve surroundings. The many village groups, church and chapel came together recently for a village festival. This was a resounding success with the whole community working to promote and celebrate all that takes place in Wolvey, and having fun in the process.

Despite the village being split by a busy road, the village manages to maintain a cohesive and active sense of community. Crime is low, but to reduce anxiety and improve understanding, the police have recently opened a room in the village hall where residents can go for advice and information on any local problems. There is an excellent working relationship between the Parish council and the local PCSO.

Speed of traffic is an ongoing problem; recently mobile speed cameras, speed aware signs and a speed limit review are helping to slow traffic down through the village.

To resolve a divisive issue over the siting of the village bus stop a village survey and numerous meetings have been held.

Signature

Name .Margaret Cartwright.....

Date