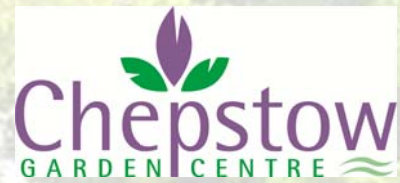


GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION



2011



The Gwent Best Kept Village Competition has been running for many years, and Glenda Genner, Assistant Director, GAVO Monmouthshire and the Gwent Best Kept Village Committee are delighted that the Chepstow Garden Centre has generously sponsored this prestigious competition for 2011.

Information and entry forms for all eligible villages and primary schools are available through the GAVO offices and the GAVO website from 1st April 2011.



There are four categories for rural hamlets and villages up to a population of 5000, whilst village halls, churchyards and public houses are judged separately. Rural schools are judged by experienced judges on a wide range of educational criteria.

Closing date for entries is Monday 16th May 2011 and all entries will be judged during the period 6th June - 30th June 2011. Entrants have no warning of visits and are advised to start their efforts early to ensure that their village or hamlet looks its best.

The competition continues to be an excellent way to involve a large number of people in an enjoyable and worthwhile community activity.

Many, many thanks to James Boyle of the Chepstow Garden Centre for his sponsorship of the competition for the third year, and for his enthusiasm and interest in preserving rural villages.





GWENT
ASSOCIATION OF
VOLUNTARY
ORGANISATIONS

Charity Reg No. 1113558 Company Limited By Guarantee 5590517



GAVO Monmouthshire
Holly House
Llancayo Court
Llancayo
Usk, NP15 1HY
Tel/Fax: 01291 672352

E-mail: glenda.genner@gavowales.org.uk

18th March 2010

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2011

Dear Villagers

I would like to invite you to participate in this year's Gwent Best Kept Village Competition.

For more than 30 years, the competition has attracted much enthusiasm and interest and is an opportunity for each community to encourage its residents to improve the visual aspects of the village and to instil a sense of civic pride.

Once again, we are very fortunate to have attracted sponsorship from Chepstow Garden Centre and I would like to thank the owner, James Boyle, for his continuing support and commitment to the competition.

The competition is open to villages with populations of up to 5000, the categories being up to 50, 51 - 350, 351 - 1000, 1001 - 4999. There are prizes for best village, highly commended village, best churchyard, best village/community hall, best war memorial (where applicable) and best public house (from the outside!).

The competition always shows the result of many hours of hard work carried out by dedicated volunteers to improve their areas through litter picking, mowing verges, caring for flower beds and hanging baskets etc and generally encouraging neighbours.

A sense of civic pride is the main incentive for the competition, with the benefits on show for the community, visitors and tourism in general.

Please find enclosed information on the competition for your use.

Yours faithfully

Glenda

Glenda Genner
Assistant Director
Monmouthshire

Encs

Please tell us of any problems beyond your control which our judges should take into account. (The judges will note such comments recorded in this section and make allowances accordingly).

In the event of the village winning a prize, who should be the recipient?

Name/address of person to whom all correspondence will be sent:-



Signed _____ **Date** _____ **2011**

On behalf of _____ **HAMLET/VILLAGE**

This form must be returned by Monday, 16th May 2011 to:-

**Glenda Genner, Assistant Director, GAVO, Holly House, Llancayo Court,
Usk, NP15 1HY - Tel: 01291 672352
E-mail: glenda.genner@gavowales.org.uk**

***HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO INCLUDE A MAP OF
YOUR VILLAGE CLEARLY MARKING THE
BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE?***



**GWENT
ASSOCIATION OF
VOLUNTARY
ORGANISATIONS**

Charity Reg No. 1113558 Company Limited By Guarantee 5590517
(Est. 1927)



GAVO Monmouthshire
Holly House
Llancayo Court
Llancayo
Usk, NP15 1HY
Tel/Fax: 01291 672352

E-mail: glenda.genner@gavowales.org.uk

18th March 2011

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

The Headteacher of all Primary Schools within Rural areas

I would like to invite you to participate in this year's Gwent Best Kept Village Competition.

For more than 30 years, the competition has attracted much enthusiasm and interest and is an opportunity for each community to encourage its residents to improve the visual aspects of the village and to instil a sense of civic pride.

Once again, we are very fortunate to have attracted sponsorship from Chepstow Garden Centre and I would like to thank the owner, James Boyle, for his continuing support and commitment to the competition.

The main competition is open to villages with populations of up to 5000 population and there are 4 categories depending on population size. The categories being up to 50, 51 - 350, 351 – 1000 and 1001 - 4999. There are prizes for best village, highly commended village, best churchyard, best village/community hall, best war memorial (where applicable) and best public house (from the outside!).

The competition always shows the result of many hours of hard work carried out by dedicated volunteers to improve their areas through litter picking, mowing verges, caring for flower beds and hanging baskets etc and generally encouraging neighbours.

A sense of civic pride is the main incentive for the competition, with the benefits on show for the community, visitors and tourism in general.

Primary schools in rural villages can also enter in their own right and are judged separately by a team of judges experienced in education. The village where they are situated does not need to be entering the competition this year.

I enclose an application form for you to complete and return to me by Monday, 16th May 2011. No entries will be accepted after that date. Judging will take place during the period 6th June 2011 and 30th June 2011.

The Award Presentation evening will be held at Chepstow Garden Centre in September and you may nominate 6 representatives per school (children and adults) to attend.

The event commences at 6.30 p.m. with a buffet supper.

I enclose an application form and rules for the competition. There is no entrance fee to the competition so I encourage you to enter now and start working to improve your school or achieve recognition for the work already undertaken by staff and pupils within the National Curriculum.

Please contact me if you need further information.

Looking forward to receiving your entry.

Yours sincerely

Glenda

Glenda Genner
Assistant Director

Encs

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2011

GWENT BEST KEPT JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

ENTRY FORM

Name of School _____

Address _____



Number of Pupils _____

Named member of staff to contact _____

The aim of this competition is to encourage the efforts and pride taken by pupils and staff in their schools grounds, gardens, nature areas and environmental projects. The judges will be looking for evidence of pupils' enjoyment, understanding of and participation in their environment whilst linking to the national curriculum.

Please note that schools may enter independently from the village in which they are situated.



Please describe below any special areas of your school or initiatives taken to involve pupils which would help judges in their task.

DECLARATION

Our school wishes to enter the Gwent Best Kept Junior and Primary Schools Competition 2011

Signed _____ Date _____ 2011

On Behalf of School _____

This form must be returned by Monday, 16th May 2011 to:

**Glenda Genner, Assistant Director, GAVO, Holly House, Llancayo Court,
Usk, NP15 1HY - Tel: 01291 672352**

E-mail: glenda.genner@gavowales.org.uk

GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2011



RULES



1. CLASSES

The competition will be run in four classes according to population:-

Hamlets	Under 50
Villages	51 – 350
Villages	351 – 1000
Villages	1001 - 4999

A winning village and runner up will be chosen in each class.

2. PRIZES

A prize and framed certificate will be awarded to the winning village in each class. Prizes and framed certificates will also be awarded to the Best Kept Village Hall, Best Kept Churchyard, Best Kept War Memorial Garden where appropriate, Most Improved and Highly Commended in each village category.

3. SCHOOLS

Primary Schools within the rural villages will be judged separately by the schools judges.

4. PUBLIC HOUSES

Pubs will be nominated by the Gwent Best Kept Village Judges and then separately judged on external appearance only.

5. CELEBRATION AND PRESENTATION EVENING

All prizes will be presented at the Celebration and Presentation Evening which

will be arranged by the Committee and held in the Chepstow Garden Centre on Friday 9th September 2011. Representatives of all competing villages and schools will be invited to attend. Representation limited to 2 from each organisation, schools 6 staff/pupils. Prize-winners will be informed that they have won a prize only on the night.

6. **HOW TO ENTER**

Entry forms may be obtained from GAVO Usk (phone 01291 672352) or on its website (www.gavowales.org) or collected from the Chepstow Garden Centre. Entries may be submitted by a representative of the village or any organisation on behalf of the village on the appropriate Entry Form.

The closing date for entries will be Monday 16th May 2011.

7. **BOUNDARY OF VILLAGE**

Each entrant will be requested to mark the road boundary of the village on a map provided by the entrant. This map must then be returned to the Secretary for use by the judges.

8. **JUDGING AND MARKING**

1. A panel of judges will inspect the villages during the period 6th June 2011 and 30th June 2011.
2. The decision of the judges is final.
3. The judges will be asked to submit to the Committee a report on their work, and photographs.
4. The judges will take into consideration the extent to which the entry has been effectively supported by the community. Posters encouraging villages to enter will be available.
5. The judges will be asked to inspect the following:-
 - a. Condition of churchyards and/or cemeteries (not interior of churches).
 - b. Condition and surround of halls, schools and War Memorials (where applicable).

- c. Condition of bus stops/shelters and telephone kiosks.
- d. Condition of village greens, playing fields and open spaces.
- e. Condition of hedges, fences and walls.
- f. External appearance of Inns, Shops, Garages/Petrol Stations and Public Houses.
- g. External appearance of out-houses, sheds and garages.
- h. Cleanliness of verges, ponds and streams and any conservation areas.
- i. Tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens and allotments as seen from the highway.
- j. Absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps.
- k. Orderliness of any advertisements and notice boards.
- l. The general appearance of the Village.
- m. The overall community effort.

The lack of any of the features listed will not penalise a village but any such features in an ill-kept condition will cause loss of marks.

Allowance will be made for condemned or uninhabited properties and for other factors which are technically beyond the control of villagers themselves. Bonus marks will be gained by villagers that have endeavoured to get those responsible for such eyesores to take remedial action, or failing this have done what is possible to improve or screen such eyesores. The architectural merit of buildings, old and new will not count for marks.

Any recognised conservation areas in your village will be taken into consideration and are likely to gain marks for environmental awareness and should be marked onto the map.

FOR YOUR GENERAL USE

The following points may be of interest:-

(a) **Local Committee**

Village entrants are advised that to ensure success a small working committee is essential. It need only meet once in the beginning to stimulate interest and again a little nearer the date of judging so that they can check upon the preparation by the villagers. It is recommended that you involve your Community/association and as many local voluntary organisations as possible.

(b) **Children and Young People**

We hope that villagers entering the competition will try and enlist the support and interest of the children and young peoples groups in the locality. This, it is thought, will be one way of "sowing the seed" for the future care and pride in our countryside and villages, as well as enlisting useful help.

(c) **Various Eyesores**

It is appreciated that many villages are handicapped by having eyesores of one kind or another, which may be technically overcome by enlisting the support of those responsible, either individuals or public bodies. We recommend villages to approach their Community Council, Borough Council, Town Council or County Council to find out if they can get eyesores removed or improved. This may be an ideal opportunity for local effort to show what can be done.

(d) **Constructive Improvements**

Even though a village may not be untidy or have particular eyesores, the overall appearance can often be much improved by fairly simple measures such as planting of flowers and trees, painting the notice boards, bus shelters and improving areas of waste land.

THE COMPETITION IS RUN BY GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (GAVO) TOGETHER WITH THE GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Gwent Best Kept Village Competition 2011 is sponsored by

