



## The Best Village Competition Northamptonshire ACRE

The Hunsbury Hill Centre Harksome Hill Northampton  
NN4 9QX

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January 2014

Dear Parish Clerk

### Northamptonshire Best Village Competition 2014

We are very pleased that the Best Village Competition will be running again this year, thanks once again to the generous sponsorship of B. Hollowell & Son Funeral Plans.

The Competition is open to all villages with populations up to 6,000. There are three different categories based on village size and there is a special award for best 'newcomer' to the competition.

The judges are looking for all aspects of village life: community and social activities; local communication; the village website; the provision for young people and more senior residents; the involvement of local businesses; sustainability; general tidiness; and the welcome given to visitors. They are looking for villages that can demonstrate enterprise, initiative and community spirit in how the village cares for its inhabitants and how the village is looked after. They want to know not only what has been done in the past few years to help the community, but also about plans for this year.

We have found that most successful villages in the competition have a group working on their entry form rather than leaving it all to someone like yourself or another individual member of the Parish Council. For this reason, we are circulating the entry papers simultaneously to Village Hall secretaries and we would welcome your help in promoting the competition to others in your community who might be interested in pursuing it. There is also a poster promoting the competition attached for display about the village. Entry to the competition, and the possibility of winning, carries a considerable "feel good" effect into the village as a whole, as well as gaining high profile across Northamptonshire!

The closing date is Wednesday 26th March. I attach the entry forms that should be completed and returned by then.

We welcome digital entries sent by email, but if you are doing a paper copy and you feel more space is required, please feel free to attach a single extra sheet of paper and number the answers. If you are entering the competition this year, we would be very grateful if you could send us a sketch map showing the location of the facilities within the village, as this will greatly assist the judges. The judges will be visiting between mid-April and early June. They will make contact to arrange their visit; which will last a maximum of two hours only; during this visit, they will be pleased to meet people from a wide cross-section of the community.

The winners will be announced at the Presentation Evening on Tuesday 15th July at the High Barn, Hunsbury Hill Centre, Harksome Hill, Northampton.

Finally, attached are three files from the Northants Wildlife Trust, giving details of their Conservation Churchyard Award Scheme, with the winners also announced at the Presentation Evening on 15th July. If you have any question about their Competition, please contact them.

We look forward to receiving your entry for 2014. If you have any queries please contact me by email: [barron.walton@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:barron.walton@northantsacre.org.uk) or by phone on 01604 831803.

Regards

*Barron Walton*

Barron Walton Co-ordinator Northamptonshire Best Village Competition



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B. Hollowell & Son Funeral Plans