



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

The Hunsbury Hill Centre • Harksome Hill • Northampton • NN4 9QX
Phone: 01604 765888 • www.northantsacre.org.uk



PRESS RELEASE - EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.30 PM TUESDAY 18th JULY 2017

Northamptonshire’s 2017 Best Village Competition Winners.

Around 60 villagers and other guests gathered this evening to hear the results of the 2017 Northamptonshire Best Village Competition. The winners were announced at the Presentation Evening Ceremony held on Tuesday 18th July at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, Harksome Hill, Northampton. The Competition celebrates community spirit and the quality of life in the County’s villages.

The South Northamptonshire village of Blisworth was the overall winner gaining the prestigious title of the 2017 Northamptonshire Best Village and winning the prize of £1000 to be used for community projects. The village of Braunston in Daventry District was the runner up.

Annette and Paul Hollowell of Hollowell’s Funeral Plans presented delegates from the winning villages with cups and certificates.

The full results were as follows:-

OVERALL WINNERS	WINNER	BLISWORTH
	Runner Up	BRAUNSTON
	Third	WEEDON BEC
LARGE VILLAGES	Winner	Irchester
	Runner Up	Moulton
	Highly Commended	Brixworth
MEDIUM VILLAGES	Winner	Blisworth
	Runner Up	Braunston
	Highly Commended	Weedon Bec
SMALL VILLAGES	Winner	Syresham
	Runner Up	Evenley
	Highly Commended	Rothersthorpe
NEWCOMERS CUP	Winner	Evenley
	Runner Up	King’s Sutton
	Highly Commended	Potterspury

The Best Village Competition is run entirely by local volunteers and is based at Northamptonshire ACRE. The Competition looks at all aspects of village life: community and social activities, sustainability, the provision for the younger and more senior residents, the use of IT and social media, local business involvement as well as tidiness and the welcome visitors receive. The Competition is sponsored by Hollowell's Funeral Plans whose generous support since 2010 has ensured that villages continue to be provided with the opportunity to enter this high profile annual contest.

The Judges commented that Blisworth is a very active community with excellent interaction between different groups. The canal is a great asset providing a focus for various events. There is much to enjoy as a resident of the village for all age groups.

David Scudamore, Chair of the 2017 Best Village Competition, commented: "Yet again the judges had great difficulty in deciding on the winning villages which clearly reflected the quality of Northamptonshire's rural communities. Visiting the villages we were pleased to meet a wide cross-section of village residents and view a great variety of community activities. We would like to compliment every village that entered the 2017 Competition and thank them all for making the judges visits so informative and enjoyable."

The County Co-ordinator, Barron Walton was particularly pleased with this year's Competition and added: "Blisworth is a worthy winner of the 2017 Northamptonshire Best Village Competition and a splendid example of the County's rural communities. We hope to see more villages enter the 2018 Competition particularly from the North of the County which seems to be under represented. We would again like to thank Hollowell's Funeral Plans whose generous sponsorship ensures the continuation of this prestigious Northamptonshire Competition."

Photographs of the presentations to the winning villages will be emailed to you before midday on the 19th July.

For further information regarding the competition in Northamptonshire, please contact Barron Walton on 01327 312950 or via email at Barron.Walton@northantsacre.co.uk or David Scudamore on 01604 762230.

- Ends -



Proud to sponsor the 2017 Northamptonshire Best Village Competition
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