



# Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2011

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC)  
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*Supported by The Citizen, The Gloucestershire Echo and The Forester*

[www.grcc.org.uk](http://www.grcc.org.uk)

## Introduction

Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year is an opportunity for you to showcase your village. We want to find villages that are balanced, proactive, caring and, irrespective of size, are making the best of local opportunities to sustain or enhance the quality of life for all their residents. The competition is open to communities in Gloucestershire with a parish council or parish meeting and a total population of less than 3,500. It is designed to recognise and celebrate the hard work being carried out in Gloucestershire's smaller communities which are working to ensure their long term futures.

A cheque for £500 together with a framed commemorative certificate will be awarded to the overall winner as well as to each of the individual category winners. Runners up will each receive a certificate and a cheque for £100. Other awards may be presented at the judges' discretion. All completed entry forms will be automatically entered into our Grand Prize Draw.

All categories must be completed and returned to GRCC by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 5pm**. Please read the guidance notes for more information. After the judging visits have taken place in May/June, entrants will be invited to the awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of those who have taken part and to announce the winners. Please visit the GRCC website to view case studies of last year's winners and runner ups.

# Gloucestershire

## Vibrant Village of the Year 2011

### Guidance notes:

The awards are open to villages in Gloucestershire which have a parish council or parish meeting and a population of less than 3,500.

(Check your population on <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=96041>)

Responding to feedback, this year's form is much shorter and gives you the opportunity to tell us about your community and its achievements. **Please complete all categories (it is highly recommended that you read the entire form before completing)**. If possible please provide up to three suitable digital photograph(s) of your village so that they may be used for publicity purposes.

The judging process for the Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year has two stages.

- **Stage 1** – an assessment by the judging panel of the completed entry forms
- **Stage 2** – a visit by the judges to the village

### Stage 1: Completion of the entry form

It is really important to get a wide range of views and one of the best ways to achieve this is to involve as many members of the community as possible. These awards are about identifying vibrant villages. We believe that vibrant villages will have the following qualities and characteristics:

<p><b>V</b>igilant – looking out for your neighbours and making your community safe</p> <p><b>I</b>ntegrated – working with each other, taking a whole community approach</p> <p><b>B</b>alanced – inclusive of all age groups and backgrounds</p> <p><b>R</b>esilient – planning for your future and being prepared to deal with emergencies</p> <p><b>A</b>ctive – providing and participating in community activities</p> <p><b>N</b>urturing – supporting and caring for the whole community</p> <p><b>T</b>hriving – a community that is successful and has vision</p>
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Points to remember:

1. The entry form is a pre-cursor to the judges' visit.
2. The qualities highlighted in **VIBRANT** (above) should be demonstrated when completing each category.
3. You may wish to use bullet points when you complete the categories.
4. If you are proud of a particular project in your village, you may wish to provide additional supporting information which should be sent in with your entry form.

If you would like further help to complete the form, please contact the GRCC Rural Advice Team on **01452 528491** or email [glosrcc@grcc.org.uk](mailto:glosrcc@grcc.org.uk)

## **Stage 2: The Visit**

The judges will arrange to visit your village in May/June. They will spend a maximum of two hours with you and will be relying on you to keep to time. The visit is your opportunity to expand on the entry form and to tell the judges more about your village, its history, its successes and plans for the future.

### Points to remember:

1. Plan your meeting with the judges to ensure that you include all the aspects of village life that you want to tell them about, bearing in mind the time constraints. Make the judges feel they want to live in your village.
2. Encourage as many individuals to participate in the visit as you feel is appropriate.
3. Include a short 'tour' of the village.
4. The judges will not be able to take away any extra material.

After the judging visits have taken place, all entrants are invited to the awards ceremony in July to celebrate their achievements when the category and overall winners will be announced.

# Essential Information

<b>District / Borough Council</b> (delete as applicable)	Cotswold
<b>Name of village</b>	Chedworth
<b>Population of your village</b>	811
<b>Name of sponsor</b> (e.g. Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Church, WI)	The Chedworth Society

<b>Name of contact representing the village</b>	David Musgrave
<b>Address</b>	Winterwell House Middle Chedworth Chedworth Cheltenham Gloucestershire
<b>Postcode</b>	GL54 4AJ
<b>Email</b>	davidmusgrave@btinternet.com
<b>Landline number / Mobile</b>	01285 720198
<b>Signed</b>	Original Signed
<b>Date</b>	04 April 2011
<b>Summary of who has been involved in completing this form (e.g. groups, clubs, older and / or younger people, Parish Council etc)</b>	Parish Council The Chedworth Society Village Hall Management Committee Cheery Club Football Club

## **Category 1** (sponsored by GRCC)

### **Best community facility (something you have)**

*e.g. community shop, village and community hall, community owned pub*

**Why are you providing it and how is it being used?**

The Village Hall is the vital, social heart of the Chedworth community. Built in the early 1970s within a large plot, the Hall is surrounded by the Village sport facilities, a children's playground and spacious car park. The Hall has been progressively developed over the years so that it continues to meet the ever changing demands of its users, which include numerous non-village organisations.

The main hall is very spacious. With a full stage and extensive kitchen facilities, it is used on an almost daily basis for functions as varied as dinners, dances, exhibitions, plays and concerts. It also acts as the village sports hall with badminton, table tennis, yoga and aerobics taking place each week. Off the main hall is a smaller social room which, during the day, is home to the successful Chedworth Pre-School. A third small room under the stage enables three separate gatherings to run concurrently.

The maintenance demands stemming from such virtually constant use are considerable. Consequently, the Management Committee maintains a programme of almost continuous repair and improvement, very much done on a voluntary basis. Over the past 10 years or so, around £135,000 has been raised for specific projects. Besides general refurbishment, these include an outdoor children's play area, renovation of the toilets and, most recently, the installation of a new state-of-the-art wood pellet boiler and high-specification thermal insulation. Together these ensure that Chedworth Village Hall will continue to meet the needs of the village for many years to come.

## **Category 2** (sponsored by GRCC)

### **Best community project / initiative (something you do)**

*e.g. community garden, composting club, good neighbour schemes, rural cinema, pub club, energy saving scheme.*

The newly-converted telephone box stands out as the Village's Best Project. In 2009, British Telecom made redundant the Grade 2 Listed telephone box in Lower Chedworth, and offered ownership to the Parish Council. The Council set about consulting the community as to how this iconic K6 box could be put to practical use. Unsurprisingly, many responses gained high marks for humour, one of which led to the redundant facility becoming rebranded as 'The eXbox'. A local resident put in shelves and a notice board to equip the box as a Parish Council Office and book/CD exchange – compensating in some way for the expected loss of the mobile library. A lost property box fulfils a valuable role.

Most importantly, a medical professional resident in the village, aware of the British Heart Foundation's drive for community-accessible resuscitation equipment, suggested that 'the eXbox could contain a defibrillator for emergency use'. Working in partnership with the Community Heartbeat Trust and the Great Western Ambulance Service, the Council initiated a fund-raising drive to which the community responded with alacrity, raising the funding in two months. Within the glare of the National media's interest, the eXbox with its constantly-accessible community was formally opened in January 2011, only the second such installation in the country. As a result, local residents are being trained in emergency procedures. The originality of the eXbox facilities is such that regional services are now seeking to extend these concepts to other communities, besides other parishes including them within their plans.

## **Category 3** (sponsored Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership and GRCC)

### **Most resilient community**

*Planning for the future, preparing to deal with emergencies as well as looking out for neighbours and making the community safe.*

The community's resilience to external threats is inherent in its coherence. It stems from good communications and a degree of self-sufficiency. Chedworth has a well-developed information-dissemination system, which operates through the monthly Parish Magazine, the Village website, five notice boards, the eXbox facility (q.v.), an emerging Twitter facility, community email data bases, and a planned 'Chedworth Forum'.

The Village remains in regular touch with the Gloucestershire Constabulary through the usual Parish Council procedures and by representation on the local Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group. Moreover, the Settlement has a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and also contains two 'No Cold Calls' zones.

The 2008 Parish Plan led to the formation of several bodies charged with specific responsibilities. A Community Land Trust is engaged with the District Council and Rural Housing Enabler in a well advanced project to construct a mix of Affordable Housing and Live-Work units. Similarly, an Environmental Group is focused upon environmental and ecological aspects. Meanwhile, a dedicated village charity continues to seek to influence positively the process of change, linking in with the emerging LDF and related consultation process.

Very importantly, unstinting commitment to the Village School has resulted in a progressive programme of development. An equally energetic team run the 'Cheery Club', and there are two Youth Groups – for years 6-8 and 9-12. These, and the dozen other Village groups, autonomous and receiving no external funding assistance, are proving resilient to the current economic situation. Four dedicated village charities provide financial support across a full spectrum, including education and the needy.

## **Category 4** (sponsored by NHS Gloucestershire)

### **Healthy and active community**

**How do you encourage a healthy and active community?**

The spatial beauty of Chedworth sets the tone for the Village's approach to a healthy and active lifestyle. The abundant network of footpaths and bridleways is well maintained and protected, and complemented by seating at suitable intervals.

The range of physical and social activities within Chedworth is quite out of proportion to the size of its population. Currently, the village provides a Badminton Club, Cricket Club, Tennis Club, Table Tennis Club, and has re-introduced regular youth football training, supported by grants from the Football Foundation and Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. Under the banner of wellbeing, Chedworth offers a Drama Group, Choral Group, Bell-Ringing Circle, a celebrated Silver Band, Women's Institute, Rural Cinema, a '6 to 8' Club, Youth Club, Cheery Club, and Yoga and other fitness Classes. Quietly behind the scenes, the Village also supports a Bridge Club and Art Classes.

The 'Chedworth Diggers' have taken on ideas from the parish plan, and have very much reinforced the Village's environmental and ecological credentials. From a little-used green field plot, the forward-thinking Diggers have worked hard to turn the site into a productive centre that embraces a vegetable area, community composting facility, embryonic community orchard and a bee-keeping section. With a similar outlook but totally different focus, the Chedworth Oil Club was formed to reduce the number of delivery vehicles servicing this domestic-oil dependent community. While preserving the local environment, the Club also provides welcome financial savings to members, a combination that has featured prominently on National and CNN media networks.

# Summary

## What and/or who makes your village vibrant?

*Community spirit is a result of a number of factors. This category is your opportunity to tell the judges how your community operates.*

**Please highlight 5 things that make your village a special place in which to live or work.**

Chedworth is special because the Village is:

**Enriching.** The visual impact of the settlement provides an almost immediate sense of enrichment. Interlaced with a sense of history, the physical aspect marries readily into a wealth of community activities that involve a broad swath of the community. As such, all villagers have the opportunity to take – and offer back – personally enriching experiences.

**Caring.** The Community's strong and caring attitude has several layers. The energetic and highly motivated Parish Council provides an excellent lead example, which is mirrored by the many and varied Village organisations.

**Proactive.** A highly proactive outlook is strongly embedded within Chedworth. Whether individually or communally, the settlement continues to take the initiative in all walks of life: from forming a new football team, through addressing a shortage of affordable housing, to having a voice in the development to the District's new Local Development Framework.

**Talented.** The expression 'everyone brings something to the party' could be adopted as an informal mantra for the Village. Whatever issue, difficulty, or social need arises, almost invariably someone within the community has the necessary skills, knowledge, experience to provide a solution. However, perhaps the most important feature within this deep pool of talent is a firmly rooted sense of personal commitment.

**Sustainable.** Chedworth's sustainability is founded on the bedrock of a wholly supportive community, which emanates from the four communal characteristics listed above. Chedworth recognises that sustainability is inextricably linked to change, and therefore continues to seek to support this process through its full involvement.

**GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU FOR ENTERING  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE VIBRANT VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2011**