

'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition Rules

Our 'Wonderful Villages' photo competition is being run for the benefit of **ALL RURAL** village halls in the UK, large or small, rich or poor, connected to large social networks or serving tiny communities. So, the following rules are intended to make the competition as fair as possible.

We encourage ALL rural halls to enter, so whether you're a snap-happy amateur with a smartphone or a professional with a Leica, it's all about community spirit and content.

- 1. Theme: 'Village Life - a photo which characterises the value of community in your village'.**
Photos must have been taken from within the UK, in UK villages, and the village shown must be specified in the entry form. See below for definition of 'village'. So, to qualify for judging, an eligible photo must be taken **in a UK village** and show content which encapsulates **the value of community in that village**. It's not our role to be prescriptive but landscapes, nature shots, architectural shots, and photos without identifiable people doing identifiable things are unlikely to qualify, although each photo will be assessed on its merits. As noted in the instructions on our Facebook page, the competition aims to celebrate village life and the role of village halls in their communities and 'Judges will be looking for photos that encapsulate the sense of village community.' Although not mandatory, judges are likely to be impressed by content which emphasises the vital contribution which village halls make to the sense of community within villages.
- 2. Prizes:**

	Village Hall	Photographer
1st prize	£1,000	£500
2nd prize	£500	£250
3rd prize	£250	£125
4th prize	£100	£50
5th prize	£50	£25

- 3. Entry Details:** When submitting your photo, you must supply/confirm the following:
 - Your full name and a valid email address so we can contact you if you win.
 - The name and address of the nominated village hall which will receive its prize if you win. **The hall must be a legitimate village hall (or community / memorial hall) within a UK village community as defined in Clause 12 below** and you must have the hall's permission to nominate it. If you win, we will ask for contact details for the hall so that funds can be sent directly to the treasurer or chairperson. The photographer's own prize will be awarded once the village hall has confirmed receipt of its prize. Your nominated village hall does not have to be within the same village as shown in the photo.
 - The name of the village shown in the photo, together with region, county and country.
 - A short description of the content of the photo.
- 4. Entry Fee:** There is no entry fee. No purchase is necessary.
- 5. Final Dates:** Last photo entry – midnight 15/3/2020. Last votes – midnight 6/4/2020.
- 6. Late Entries:** Entries submitted after last photo entry date will not be included in the judging. Allied Westminster will not be held responsible for any delays or submission failures caused by problems with uploading images using the software provided.

7. **Entry Limits:** Only one photo can be submitted per entrant. This limitation applies only to the number of photos submitted per entrant and not to a village. A village can have multiple entrants.
8. **Location:** Only UK villages are eligible.
9. **Residence:** Entrants and voters must be UK resident.
10. **Age:** Entrants under the age of 18 must have parental consent.
11. **Judging and Voting:** To keep things as fair as possible, and to not prejudice late entries and small communities, judging will take place on the following basis:
 - **Judging:** After the closing date, ten photos will be placed before the judging panel. These ten photos will consist of the following:
 - i. Five qualifying photos with the most user 'Votes / Likes' from the public.
 - ii. Three qualifying photos selected on merit, regardless of 'Votes / Likes'.
 - iii. Two qualifying photos selected completely at random regardless of 'Votes / Likes' and submission date (provided they were submitted before the closing date).
 - The judges will then select the five best photos to which the prizes stated in Clause 2 will be awarded.
 - **Voting: You can share your entry to notify your nominated hall that it is live. Sharing options appear on-screen when your photo entry is accepted. Or you can share the photo gallery:**
<https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition/photo-gallery>. **To prevent any form of unfair voting we will collect the IP address of each voter. Each IP address will be limited to one vote for each photo in the gallery (i.e. someone can vote for as many photo entries as desired, but can vote only once on each entry). We monitor voting patterns very carefully. Voting is designed to reflect a fair measure of the public's appreciation for how well a photo encapsulates the competition's theme specified above. Entrants who spam their photo link to many personal contacts to garner votes to push themselves into the final short-list will be deemed to have engaged in unfair voting.**
12. **Definition of Village:** For the purpose of this 'Wonderful Villages' competition, the definition of 'village' will be 'village' or 'hamlet' as in the following:
 - For England and Wales the Rural/Urban Definition was introduced in 2004 as a joint project between a number of Government Departments and was delivered by the Rural Evidence Research Centre at Birkbeck College (RERC).The Definition adopts a settlement-based approach, comprising four settlement types, of which three are rural:
 - Urban (population over 10,000) - **NOT ACCEPTABLE**
 - Town and Fringe - **NOT ACCEPTABLE**
 - Village - **ACCEPTABLE**
 - Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings - **ACCEPTABLE** (assuming there is a 'community').
 - In Scotland, we will follow the same approach as defined by the Scottish Executive, and for Northern Ireland we refer to NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency).

The 'Wonderful Villages' competition has been created to support halls in rural areas. **If you are unsure whether either your photo or nominated hall is in a 'village' according to the above definition, submit your entry for consideration using the normal entry form.** In the event of any ambiguity, Allied Westminster reserves the right to determine the definition of 'village' and accept or decline any entries accordingly.

13. **Photography Laws:** All entries must abide by the photography laws of the UK and have appropriate permissions, especially if a model under 18 years of age is used. A general guide is available here: <https://www.blpawards.org/competition/photo-rights>
14. **Ownership:** All entries must be the original work of the entrant. Entrants will retain copyright in the photographs that they upload to the 'Wonderful Villages' competition. By entering the competition all entrants grant to Allied Westminster the right to publish and exhibit their photographs on websites owned by Allied Westminster, in print, or in any other media. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. Entrants also agree to allow their images to take part in any post-competition publicity. While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee that every use of the photographs will include the photographers' names. Entrants must ensure that the photograph is not used to publicise or promote companies, individuals, organisations or causes other than Allied Westminster and the winning photographers themselves.
15. **Copyright Infringement:** If any form of copyright infringement is brought to our attention, we will remove the relevant image(s) immediately.
16. **Exclusions:** Photos submitted must not have won, or been commended, in other competitions.
17. **Digital Enhancement:** Digital photo enhancement is only accepted if:
 - Image has had blemishes, scratches and or spots removed .
 - Colour in the image has had minor enhancement for the sake of accurate portrayal.
 - Image has been cropped.
 - Entire image has been rotated.
 - Entire image has been flipped vertically or horizontally.

We will not accept composite images. A composite image is an image that has been created from the combination of two or more images or their separate elements.
18. **Right to Exclude:** Allied Westminster reserves the right to exclude any images they believe may have been excessively treated so as to alter their authenticity, or which are not appropriate for public display. This extends to any text entered with the image (on the image itself, as part of the description, or any other information entered with the submitted photo).
19. **Professional Photographers:** Entrants cannot be professional photographers who derive more than 50% of their annual income earned from photography, **unless** they are resident in the village which contains the village hall that they nominate to receive a cash prize.
20. **Notification of Winners:** The winner, runners-up and their nominated village halls will receive notification (by email, post, or telephone call) within the three-week period following the last voting date. Prizes will then be sent within two weeks following **successful** notification. Allied Westminster will not be held responsible for any delays in the notification or transmission of prizes due to problems with postal or email services.
21. **No Contact:** In the event of Allied Westminster being unable to contact the winner, runners-up and their nominated village halls after a reasonable number of attempts, or if incorrect information has been entered into the entry forms which results in Allied Westminster becoming unable to contact you, or the village hall you nominated, your position in the competition will be given to the entrant next in line, all lower winners will move up and a new entry will be awarded 5th place. Allied Westminster cannot be held responsible for any consequences that occur as a result of incorrect information on the entry form.
22. **Privacy:** Allied Westminster will not share or distribute confidential submission information to third parties. All data will be held in compliance with GDPR. More details of our privacy

policy are available here: <https://www.alliedwestminster.com/home/14330/terms--conditions-and-privacy-policy.htm>

23. **Administration:** This competition is administered by Allied Westminster and will be administered in compliance with the laws that govern prize competitions in the United Kingdom.
24. **Right to Amend:** Under exceptional circumstances, and if Allied Westminster believes it to be necessary, it reserves the right to add, cancel or alter any rules of the competition at any time, in the interest of the participants and without prior notification.
25. **Restrictions on Entry:** Allied Westminster employees and their family members will not be eligible to enter this competition.
26. By entering the competition, you are accepting the Terms & Conditions set for this competition by Allied Westminster.