

Charminster Parish Council entered Charlton Down village in to

Dorset Pride of Place Award Dorset Best Community Village competition & Dorset Best Kept Village competition

Pride of Place award.

The Dorset Design and Heritage Forum launched a new Pride of Place Award for 2008, which looks for the Dorset Parish or Local Community Partnership that takes the most pride in its local environment and heritage. The winning community will have an artist in residence to work with them on a special project. The residency is to the value of £3,000.

The Turn Lyme Green recycle team from Lyme Regis won the pride of place award.

Charlton Down's Community Orchard won second place. Dorset County Council's Cultural Services will help CPC to find funding for a small arts project.

The Dorset Design and Heritage Forum were so impressed with the quality of entrants that they have decided to run another competition in 2009.

Best Community Village competition - sponsored by Calor.

This competition is to recognize communities that work together, where people are actively encouraged to participate in community life and events within the village, encourage businesses to establish there, and more. Awards are given to the best entry for each of the four individual categories and to the 4 best overall entries.

Charlton Down is the Category Winner of Category 4 - Communications.

The Communications category has been introduced to recognise the various media used by communities to communicate information locally and further afield, This award of £75 & certificate is for recognition of the Parish Council's noticeboards, the Parochial Church Council's The Pilot Magazine, both the web sites and the way that the Parish Council uses all these medias and both village halls alternately to communicate with the community.

Charlton Down won The best unplaced new entrant.

This plaque and £100 cheque is sponsored by the Western Gazette and goes to the village that is not in the top four overall Best Community Village villages.

Best Kept Village competition - sponsored by W & S recycling.

The aim is to encourage villages to promote individual and community involvement in: Conservation; Maintenance and enhancement of environment; Caring for all inhabitants. To stimulate village life by means of organisations, activities and communications; To encourage and maintain business and employment. The competition has 4 awards for large villages, 4 awards for small villages & the new entrant with highest % marks.

Judges primarily look at weeds & litter around village halls, businesses, shops, churches, facilities, monuments, etc, and also at the condition of those buildings.

Charlton Down received a Highly Commended Certificate.

Awarded to any entrant not in the top four large or small villages, but who gains 90% or more of the marks. Charlton Down was one of only three villages to receive the award.

Charlton Down won the International Tree Foundation award for a Large Village. This award of £50 is for work to maintain or improve trees within the village.