

# LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

## 2023 - Press Briefing

The **Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition** held its 64th Annual Awards Ceremony at Eaves Hall, West Bradford on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



The organising committee welcomed the 120 guests, which included 10 mayors representing many towns and villages from all over Lancashire.

The Chair, Kelly Wood, thanked the judges and villages for all the hard work throughout the year and hoped that moving forward we could build up the number of entrants to the competition, and increase the number of judges to assess the villages during the months of June and July.

The finals Judge was Sir Peter Openshaw, who lives in the Ribble Valley, and he joined us on Monday to present the awards. All the results are a closely guarded secret until revealed during the award ceremony.

This year the winner of the Champion Village Class was **Elswick**. They received a commemorative plaque, along with a trophy, and past winner **Blacko** was runner-up.

The other major Whole Village awards went to **Sabden** in the Large Village Class, with runner-up **Hambleton, Town Green** in the Medium Village Class with new to the competition **Samlesbury** runner-up, **Grindleton** in the Small Village Class with **Roughlee** coming second, and **Little Eccleston** in the Hamlets Class with second place going to **Haighton**.

There were also 15 Outstanding Features Awards for features nominated by the villages themselves which they think are the Best in Lancashire. The highest number of entrants were for the best kept Place of Worship & Grounds, the winner was **The Church of Our Lady & All Saints, Parbold**. Out of the 27 entries for Schools, the joint winners were the **Primary School, Belmont** together with **St. Aidan's Preesall**. There were 31 entries for the Public House award, the highest number of entries for a number of years, which bucks the trend of pubs shutting, the overall winner was the **Ship** in **Elswick**. **Eaves Hall** in **West Bradford** took the award for best Hotel/Guest house and **West Bradford's Public Playing field** also took first place. **Elswick & Samlesbury** were joint winners for their excellent Village Hall and **Elswick** also won the category for the Children's play area,

Joint winners for Industrial/commercial Premises went to **Deighans Funeral Parlour** in **Higher Adlington** and **Moy Vets** in **Stalmine**, whilst the Best Shop was awarded to both **Pulse hairdressers** in **Blacko & Henshaw's** in **Town Green**. **Blacko's** War Memorial took top spot. **Sabden** was a worthy winner of the best Community Notice Board, and also **Bretherton** for its excellent Bowling Green. **Mawdesley CC** took first place in the Cricket Grounds category, and **Shirdley Hill** won best public garden. Finally, in our Heritage Feature award, **Weeton's** old village sign won first place.

Our new category “Community Class” saw two areas of Preston take the top spots – Ingol & Tanterton – and this category we hope to grow in 2024, with Communities of our towns becoming involved.

For further information on how to join the competition or to become a judge please see our website, or email our secretary.

A full list of all the winners can be found on the competition’s website, which also includes more details and information about the competition [www.lancashirebestkeptvillage.co.uk](http://www.lancashirebestkeptvillage.co.uk)

Competition Secretary - Ann Alty:

[lbkinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lbkinfo@gmail.com)

Chairman - Kelly Wood:

[Margaretwood60@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Margaretwood60@hotmail.co.uk)

**PHOTOS – NEXT PAGE...**

# LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION WINNERS 2023

## CHAMPION VILLAGE – ELSWICK



## LARGE VILLAGE – SABDEN



## MEDIUM VILLAGE – TOWN GREEN



## SMALL VILLAGE – GRINDLETON



## HAMLET – LITTLE ECCLESTON

