

New amenity award won by Hempstead

HEMPSTEAD has won the first of the new county awards for which amenity societies throughout Essex have been competing.

In addition to the prestige value to the village concerned, the award carries a cash prize of £50.

Like the Best Kept Village competition this award is to be made annually but there are no separate classes and Hempstead has achieved success in competition with towns and villages throughout Essex.

The runners-up in this year's competition are the amenity societies of Harwich and Waltham Abbey.

Entries for this contest consist of "any scheme or project which makes a positive contribution either to the improvement of the environment or to the increase of public awareness of environmental problems."

Hempstead's entry consisted of a journal entitled "Salute the Past — but look to the future". It had been assembled largely from exhibits prepared for the Festival weekend exhibition held in Hempstead during November

of last year. Many of the exhibits have been prepared by the children and the old people of the village but the journal also included reports on the environmental film show, the footpath rally and the performance of Handel's Messiah with which the festival ended.

In a letter to the chairman of Hempstead village society, Essex county planner Mr. D. Jennings-Smith has written: "The standard of all the entries was high but the judges felt that a journal of a Festival weekend was an excellent example of a communal effort from the very young through to those of more advanced years."

The officers of Hempstead village society are delighted with this result and are hoping to put the journal on display locally in the near future. They have already been approached with requests to allow their winning entry to be exhibited in other parts of the country. It is understood that there will be an official presentation of the prize and certificate at a date to be arranged some time in the new year.

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