

A competition to find the best royal scarecrow was hailed a success as prizes were handed out after the public vote.

The Eaton Village Residents' Association held their third annual Scarecrow Competition and saw the number of entrants increase by 50pc.

This year's theme was kings and queens, with people making scarecrow versions of such things as the Tower of London Beefeaters, the Queen of Hearts playing cards from Alice in Wonderland and the Duchess of Cambridge in her wedding dress.

The public vote from the scarecrow trail saw the favourite scarecrow award being won by Eaton Elephants Play Group for their Queen Bee.

The prize for the scarecrow most likely to scare crows was won by the Parker family of Denmead Close, for their Queen of Hearts Alice in Wonderland-themed scarecrow.

Most original scarecrow went to John and Sally Kerrison, of Birkdale, for Royal Mint, and most regal scarecrow was won by Sarah Spooner of Greenways for The Future? - Charles and Friends.

Families and schools were among those taking part and one of the organisers of the event - residents' association vice-chairman Chris Stebbing - says the mark of its success is community involvement.

Mr Stebbing said: "It was very successful, we had an awful lot of people out and about. It is a real community event; we tend to run it before the end of term so schools can get involved, which I think they appreciate.

"People have said to me that it brought people together and got neighbours talking to each other."

Scarecrows were displayed outside homes and schools in a four-mile trail around Eaton, with people voting for their favourites.

Mr Stebbing added: "It had a



feeling of community spirit which is not always there. More people have come forward and said they would like to do it next year, so it could grow."

Winners received a certificate and a Waitrose gift voucher from the Residents' Association.

Judges chose their top three as well.

The judges were Lucy Webster, deputy manager at Waitrose Eaton; Judith Lubbock, City Councillor for Eaton; and Eaton PCSO Ian Byrne.

The Parker family's scarecrow

Right royal scare: The most regal scarecrow display was won by this splendid offering from Sarah Spooner and the scarecrow most likely to scare the crows was made by the Parker family (left).

won first prize from the judges, with the Higham family of Eaton Street coming second with Tattie and Sammi Smith, of Abinger Way third with Queen Jubly.

The winners will receive prizes donated by Waitrose.

→ **Do you have a community story?**
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