

# AROUND THE COUNTY

Compiled by Helen Scott

## Which are Wiltshire's best kept villages?



Villagers in Dinton are presented with the Laurence Kitching Award

VILLAGES ACROSS the county are celebrating after being named Best Kept Village in their size category, against criteria of tidiness, cleanliness, presentation and community spirit. Fifty villages entered the Hills Group CPRE Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition 2013, which is supported by *Wiltshire Life*.

Best large village was Burbage, best medium sized village was All Cannings and best small village was Teffont. Teffont's neighbour, Dinton, won the Laurence Kitching Award, sponsored by NFU Mutual. The six winning villages from 2011 and 2012

cannot compete for two years after their win, but are eligible for this award. Great Hinton, Hilperton, Lea and Ramsbury also entered.

Gary Rowitt, chairman of Dinton parish council, said: "Our win is absolutely down to the villagers; they keep the village looking immaculate. We just put notices up to say the judges will be visiting in June or July. We didn't know when exactly they would be coming. We are very proud to have won the award. It shows we have an excellent community and good community spirit."

• See the December issue for more photos of the award ceremonies.

## The bravest of heroes: Paul Elwell, DFC

THE MEDALS of a Wiltshire pilot who fought in the Battle of Britain and died as he lived – in the cockpit of his aeroplane – were auctioned at Moore Allen and Innocent in September.

Wing commander Paul Bingham Elwell, from Highworth, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for taking on five Focke-Wulf 109 fighter planes in a dogfight near Cherbourg on June 26, 1944.

Swindon's *Evening Advertiser* reported at the time: "Investigating flares and heavy flak, a 34-year-old Mosquito pilot, Squadron Leader P B Elwell, noticed five FW109s climbing steeply. He raced in and fought the planes until his ammunition was exhausted.

"He destroyed one FW for certain, and probably another, before returning home."

Born in 1910, and apprenticed as an engineer at the Great

Western Railway Works in Swindon, Elwell started flying in 1932. After the war he continued to fly for carriers in Africa.

He also evacuated European refugees from Belgian Congo during the bloody revolution, which won him the MBE.

On October 8, 1962 Elwell suffered a heart attack when coming in to land at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. His DH Rapide crashed and he was killed.



## Matthew Burt's royal boost

HINDON-BASED furniture designer Matthew Burt was on the shortlist of five to create 'the Cambridge highchair' for Prince George. He didn't win but what a mark of distinction.

The award-winning designer is a member of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers and creates stunning, original pieces. He is celebrated for making beautiful bespoke free-standing furniture and his work can be seen in museums, corporate HQs, public spaces and homes.

Commissions range from designing seating for the Ashmolean Museum to creating libraries and home offices.

Using wood selected from managed sources in the UK, Matthew has created signature designs which have evolved into collections which his team now make to order.

• A selection of pieces will be on display in Hindon from November 11 to December 21, Monday to Saturday, 11am-5pm. Margo Selby will also showcase her textiles. Visit [www.matthewburt.com](http://www.matthewburt.com).

