

PRESTON NEWS

Community | Neighbourhood | Friendship

Dates for the diary

Friday coffee mornings -
1030-1200 in the Village Hall

3rd February, 10th March and
every second Friday of the
month thereafter

Soup Saturday - 25th February

Parish Council meeting - 2nd
March, 7pm in the Village Hall

Village Litter Pick - 25th March

Refuse collections

Wednesday 1st February

Wednesday 15th February

Food waste: weekly
Wednesdays

Village Hall

Monday & Thursday Art Group

Contact Cathy at
artinpreston@aol.com

Wednesdays Yoga 18:15-19:30

Contact Mark at
mark@cotswoldyoga.co.uk

To make a booking for the
village hall, email Anne
Mingins at
annemingins@btinternet.com



Scilla Chester-Master

In memoriam

“Scilla touched the lives of so, so many people, especially here at the heart of Preston. With her quiet faith, and generosity of spirit she did so much for the village, and cared deeply for its residents.

She was the driving force behind a lot of village activities, and, for me, Preston fete will always remind me of Scilla in her beautiful garden surrounded by fun and laughter.

Scilla was inspiring in her knowledge of gardening, and she taught me so much and started my obsession with geraniums!

She will be so missed and I for one feel privileged to have been a small part of her life.”

Sue Herbert



“From the moment we arrived as Scilla and Richard’s neighbours in 1990, they scooped us and our young chaotic family up and made us feel part of the Preston community and indeed Scilla always made a point of introducing herself to every new member of the village the moment they arrived and continued throughout her life to be interested in every aspect of their village life.

Her unending energy on the PPC and PCC to safeguard village legacies caused all those who were fellow council members to sit up, listen and emulate.

Church cleaning rota

22 FEBRUARY - 6 APRIL

No flowers for Lent

12th & 26th February - Mrs Tomblin

12th March - Mrs Mingsins/ Mrs Thornton

26th March - Mrs Bainbridge

9th April - Easter Sunday - date for decorating TBC

23rd April - Mrs Bainbridge

14th May - Mrs Cooper

28th May - Mrs Jones

11th & 25th June - Mrs MacKinnon & Mrs Canton



Church services

6th February 2.30 - memorial service for Mrs Chester-Master; All Hallows Church, South Cerney

12th February 9.30 - Morning Praise

26th February 9.30 - Holy Communion

All Saints church was very much the centre of Scilla's life in Preston from church flowers, to church festivals to the village fete, everything was attacked in a calm but efficient manner and no cutting corners !

Scilla considered Village litter picks as a way of catching up with all village news, that is the measure of the lady. We will miss her."

Reg Freyne



"It was a sad day for Preston the day Scilla Chester-Master passed away. Scilla was so much part of our lovely village, and the wider community. Her interests were wide-ranging and included, amongst other things, the PPC and the Nelson Trust. She was a loyal member of the congregation of All Saints church and always a keen helper with Soup Saturdays and other village events.

Preston fete, enthusiastically guided by Scilla and held at Church Farm, was always a happy event enjoyed by so many from the village and further afield.

She was often to be seen in her beautiful garden and always had time to stop for a chat to discuss the wildlife there - the little owls that nested in the barn, the nightly visits of the hedgehogs and the roe deer who ate her roses!

She generously opened her swimming pool to the children of the village during the summer to enable them to enjoy a refreshing dip.

Scilla has contributed so much to village life and she will be sorely missed."

Joy Canton



"We met Scilla soon after we moved to Preston over 30 years ago. She always made time for a chat and showed interest in our families. Through her huge generosity Scilla helped to maintain the Church, especially through the fete. She encouraged us all to take part and help make the day enjoyable. Generations of children enjoyed using her pool and have fond memories of happy summer times in Preston. Her Christian faith guided her in all she did, she will be greatly missed."

Ioan and Rosie Jones





A gardener's guide

As the frost melts, if you're anything like me, you are wandering around your garden, looking sadly at everything that has been flattened, frozen and frazzled.

But don't worry! That's the beauty of nature, particularly in the spring. The snowdrops, crocuses and aconites will perk up as the weather warms, and any perennials that had started to show their green will recover and put on new growth.

And any shrubs that look brown or dead - don't be too hasty in cutting them back. Wait until the green shoots appear in spring before pruning out the dead.

In the meantime, take advantage of the tentative warmer weather by tackling some of these seasonal tasks:

1. Give your wisteria its winter prune by taking the long growth back to 3 buds.
2. Prune your roses back to a third of last year's growth. Prune to just above an outward facing bud.
3. Once cut back and weeded, mulch your borders to give them a good feed and keep further weeds at bay!

"We have lived in the village for over 37 years and to us, Scilla has always been the heart of the village.

Her generosity and kindness extended to allowing our daughters to use her swimming pool during summer and subsequently our grandchildren.

In addition her house and beautiful gardens have been host to the village fete as well as being able to use her barns for storage of the components.

We are saddened by the loss which will leave a big void in the village for many years.

Sleep well Scilla, we shall miss you."

Alan & Janet Stone



"We moved to Preston in August of 2007 and we met Scilla Chester-Master and her little dog Periwinkle very soon thereafter as she walked the village paths. I remember her once saying that she knew the names of every dog here though sometimes not the full names of their owners. This was her patch and she loved Preston.

She became a good friend to us, kind and always ready to listen, generous with her hospitality and time. She was modest, and did good quietly, always ready to smile, quick-witted, and with an excellent memory, which made for lovely stories of times past.

I have never met anyone who was so admired and loved; when we said to new Gloucestershire friends that we lived in Preston almost unanimously they would ask, "So you know Scilla?". Of course we did!

She was the perfect neighbour. We will miss her so very much."

Alexander & Miranda Lindsay



"I hope that opening the pool up to the village children meant as much to Scilla as it did to those of us who were lucky enough to enjoy it.

We started going there when our son was 2, sitting on the side dipping our toes in, watching the older children splashing and enjoying the cool water on hot days. Every summer we were able to venture over a bit more, our son keen to see who was there and have the chance to make and meet friends.

GDPR

In compliance with GDPR, and with the change in editorship, we would like to confirm that your email address will be held on file by the Parish Council and will only be used for the purposes of distributing the newsletter and communicating any important Parish Council news.

All other village updates and reminders will be conveyed via the two village WhatsApp groups. If you are not in the Group and would like to be included then please contact Julie Tomblin on 07973 444902.

Your newsletter

Thank you to Dot Warren for keeping us informed so beautifully over the past 30 years of newsletter editorship.

The next full edition of the newsletter will be issued at the beginning of March.

All contributions are welcome. If you are a budding journalist, poet, artist, photographer, cook or even quiz master, we'd love to hear from you!

Perhaps you have an idea for a regular slot, or you have an event you'd like to share or a story to tell.

The deadline for each edition is the 20th of the month.

Let us know what you would like to read about in forthcoming issues by emailing newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk.

Ed.

It was a few summers before someone mentioned they had swum in the pool when they were a child some 30 years previous, having moved back and now taking their own children to join the fun. How lovely that Scilla saw the parents that grew up here repeating the opportunity thanks to her kindness.

Scilla's pool has been a meeting place for different generations - grandparents watching the little ones squeal with delight, parents having a catch up while dodging the water soakers, and the children themselves forming friendships.

Scilla would always come for a chat when she was home to see who was there. She always remembered the children's names, was interested in people's lives and passed on her wisdom.

In our son's words "I feel very grateful that I could swim in the pool in the summer. It was very kind of her to let families swim there"

How fortunate to have had such a wonderful lady in our village to give us these memories, that I for one will treasure for many years to come."

Alex Beadle



"Scilla had been a member of the Parish Council from the very beginning. Foremost in her mind the well-being of everyone in the parish both old and new. Her knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm were an inspiration to me.

Scilla told me just two days before she died, that she was feeling a little 'mouldy', but still wanted to hear all about our meeting the night before.

A remarkable woman whose contribution to our village is immeasurable."

Julie Tomblin



A memorial service will be held on Monday 6th February at 2.30pm, All Hallows church, South Cerney. In lieu of flowers, Scilla requested donations be made to All Saints church, Preston.

