

Things that go BUMP! in the night....

01.00 am – all's quiet in Dolton Sue and Rob are sleeping peacefully, having forgotten about the mysterious rearrangement of the fluffy toys at the side of their stairs that morning (they both thought the other was responsible).

Then THUMP! Rob was up in an instant, leaping Kung-Fu style onto the landing, ready to tackle the intruder bare handed. Nothing. Bathroom – nothing. Shop – nothing. Kitchen – nothing. Windows – all ok, so back to bed. Sue goes to the loo and does a final check around – the loo cleaners have moved, and the loo brush...hang on - its moving!

A big, inquisitive and now bemused hedgehog nestles beside a cuddly loo brush, maybe hoping for action later. Only slightly disgruntled at being picked up and put in the garden, he now enjoys his nocturnal adventures in peace, and hopefully not disturbing his hosts. *(But Rob was later rather unimpressed by the deposit left in his hat which he'd positioned on the stairs among the fluffy toys!)*

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## **B G Electricals – Dolton's Electrical Superstore**

**As part of our occasional Q&A series** about Dolton's vital local shops and businesses, we bring you the history and services provided by **B G Electricals**.

### **Q. Why is it called B G?**

**A.** Simple! After Beacon Garage, built in 1928-30 by Rob's father, Robert Christopher "Bob" Turner. He started as a motor engineer but soon took on the new technology of electrical goods, especially the new Baird TVs, first at the Beacon Garage site, then he bought the present shop in the village (previously a drapers and a butchers) and called it B G Electricals.

### **Q. When did Rob & Sue get involved?**

**A.** Rob's older cousin Mervyn worked for Bob in the electrical business, then Rob joined when he left school. The three of them developed a thriving business as the village electricians - in those days rewiring a whole house for about £100! When Rob and Sue married in 1972, they needed somewhere to live and were keen to take on the electrical business, so they bought the shop from Rob's father, where they have lived and worked ever since.

### **Q. Who works there?**

**A.** Over the years, they have employed a number of local people, but with the huge changes in electrical retailing and servicing, it is now just Rob and Sue, who is (amongst other things) also a dinner lady at Dolton School.



**Q. It's an Aladdin's cave of a shop – do you sell everything electrical?**

**A.** Not quite these days! But throughout the 70's and 80's it was a booming business; with the rapid growth in TVs, videos, domestic appliances, plus TV rental to over 350 local customers together with all the repairs and servicing, they employed more people and supported their growing family of four (Kate, Claire, Kelly and Wayne). Entering the shop today, you're struck by the amazing range of electrical stuff. There's little that Rob can't put his hand on in an instant. But perhaps more than any trade, electrical retailing has changed beyond belief, with prices dropping, ranges of goods increasing, and the throw-away society meaning we now replace rather than repair.

**Q. Do you also do repairs and service?**

**A.** Rob (now 67), still does repairs of small appliances and can genuinely boast of being "open all hours", providing a complete sales, installation and set-up service which few big retailers can compete with locally. So, if your telly goes on the blink at the weekend, Rob's there to sort you out. He's not keen to climb on roofs these days, so he now passes all aerial installation work on to his good friend Ali McMillan. With his knowledge of cars, Rob can often help with motor electrics and small parts.

**Q. You must both have done lots for Dolton over the years?**

**A.** Yes, it runs in our blood and we've loved it! Back in '67, Bob paid £100 for the old village hall, then with Rob & Mervyn they dismantled it and made it into garden sheds, and used the roof slates on a house in Ashreigney, then did all the wiring of the new Village Hall. They've supported the carnival with imaginative and brightly lit floats, and for years did the Christmas tree lights in the Square.

**Q. And your other interests?**

**A.** They are both still actively involved in all things Dolton. As well as being a bell ringer, singer and dinner lady, enthusiastic cook Sue helps out with events at the Village Hall, and bakes the most amazing cakes for many events. Rob loves classic cars, indeed he successfully raced minis in the 80's and 90's, when they were truly "mini" and great fun, and has many trophies to prove it. Currently he has a lovely Jaguar XK140 which can occasionally be seen around the village, and an unrestored 1930's Vauxhall, plus a huge collection of model cars.

**Editors Note:** *What an absolute pleasure to feature one of Dolton's longstanding local businesses - Good Luck to both of you for the future.*