

Councillor Dennis Claydon the councillor representing Lacey Green on Lacey Green Parish Council sadly passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 aged 73.

Dennis had been on the Parish Council since 1984 and was a valued member of the Council until his death.

Dennis had lived in the village of Lacey Green for all of his life, and his knowledge of the villages of Speen, Loosley Row and Lacey Green (the villages forming Lacey Green Parish) was invaluable to the Council.

Dennis was a keen walker and was often seen walking the footpaths of all three villages. He was very proud of the footpaths & bridleways in the Parish and liked to ensure they were well maintained for others to enjoy.

Dennis was on the planning sub-committee for the Council and he knew almost every house and property in the parish. His knowledge was extensive and he could recall at any time relevant facts relating to properties. His input will be very much missed at future meetings.

Dennis had many interests outside of his council work. He was a member of the Historic Society in Lacey Green and has written several books on local subjects including: 'The Tarmac and Beyond' the story of Kiln Lane Lacey Green, his home for all of his life and this was written in 2003; 'The History of Methodism in Lacey Green' completed in 2015, this is now published on the village website with illustrations; and a book dedicated to The Men of Lacey Green, Speen and Loosley Row who died in WW1.

Dennis took great pride in and put a lot of effort and time into turning what was formally the Methodist Cemetery, behind the Chapel into a non-denominational 'The Garden of Rest' for the Parish.

Dennis was instrumental, along with the former custodians, in retaining the war memorials that had been built into the entrance gates of the Chapel and having them placed in a new memorial in the Garden of Rest as a dedication to all those men from the village who gave their lives during war.

A little known competition took place in the village in 1968 to find 'The Bard of Lacey Green' and Dennis was voted the winner and awarded the formal title of 'Bard of Lacey Green' and to this day, he still holds that title.

Dennis served the Parish Council for over 30 years, he will be very much missed, though, never forgotten as it was he who drew the 'Windmill' that forms the centre piece of the Chain of Office that the Chairman wears at every council meeting.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and many friends