

# **LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS January 2024**



*Sunrise photo kindly supplied by Chris Jones*

**Compiled, edited and published for the village on behalf of  
St Margaret's Church**

## **SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S**

*\*7 January 2024 - Benefice Communion in one of the other churches in the Six*

14 January 2024 - 10am Family Worship

21 January 2024 - 10am Communion

28 January 2024 - 10am Family Worship

Also there is always a Sunday online service at 10.30am on The Six YouTube which can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3JykJ8W>

## **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

We hold a short midweek service of Praise and Prayer in the church on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 10.30am. Prayers for the community, personal needs or illnesses and there is opportunity for prayer for yourself if you would like it. All are welcome and you are invited to stay for tea/coffee after. Rev. Jacky Davis, 843189.

## **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

7 January 2024 - Lesley

14 January 2024 - Gillian

21 January 2024 - Eileen

28 January 2024 - Georgina

## **FLOWERS IN MEMORY**

The flower ladies at Friends of St Margaret's are very happy to create an arrangement in memory of a loved one. This is a new initiative for 2024.

You may either buy the flowers direct and pass them on to the co-ordinator or you can make a donation towards the cost of the flowers. We will then create a beautiful pedestal in church with a little card to say who the flowers are in memory of.

For further information please contact Liz 842272.

## **BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS**

If you would like to share any of this type of news with everyone in future editions of the Village News please email brief details to [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or pop written details round to 16 Cumberland Drive.

## **RAINBOW CAFE - EVERYONE WELCOME**

St Mary's Church, Upchurch 2pm to 4.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Children's snack deal £1

Homemade cakes and savouries and hot drinks.

Children's crafts and storytelling.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Dear Friends

It's always a challenge and a privilege to offer the first pastoral letter of the year. For so much of human history, the beginning of a new year is full of significance. It's a new start, full of promise and possibilities. New hopes and plans are formed, resolutions are made, and we intend to make the coming year better than the last one.

We have just ended that year with Christmas, a festival of love, joy, and peace. It's a time of thanks for all that we have and share. But it can also be a time of sorrow for many, when we think of those we may have lost and the challenges we have had to face. Christmas is meant to reassure us that God is still with us, that nothing and no one loved is ever lost, and that God is among us and within us for the coming year.

As we face the new year, we need to hold onto the promise of Christmas. God has been with us and will still be with us. Jesus says to us, "I am with you always – to the end of the age."

God's love be with us in the coming year,

Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain (retired)  
Lower Halstow

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Bring real trees to the hardstanding next to the Memorial Hall by Sunday 7 January 2024 for Treecraft to recycle for us.



## MOBILITY ITEMS

From Jackie Swift:

Under the umbrella of St. Margaret's, we hold a selection of mobility items, which can be borrowed in emergencies. If any one has any items they wish to donate for "lending out" our very kind gentleman Mr Tony Clark, will collect and deliver. Tony's No. 07977 566097. Dawn's No. 842688. Jackie's No. 07840 258665. Thank you

## BIG THANK YOUS, 2023.

**From Jackie Swift:**

Firstly to thank Sean Mayes for producing the Church Christmas card, and Mark Ransom for organising the printing, there were many compliments. (Look forward to 2024's Sean).

Also, many thanks for all those who help in the church, lots of names, Liz Mouland who has raised a lot of money for St. Margaret's with her monthly "Friends" in the hall. We always remember the flower ladies who arrange such beautiful displays in the church, the cleaning group, and David and Chris who keep the churchyard tidy. We thank so many people who are in the background, the Village News would be full up with so many kind people, most of us know who they are?. The Clergy team, who work hard to try to gather us up.

So, in a short BIG THANK YOU. Wishing every one a Healthy and Happy New Year.

**From Glenda Tress:**

Thank you to Gill and all of our team of volunteers who deliver the newsletters every month. The volunteers in our lovely village are amazing. They step up to the mark every time to make so many events for all of us to enjoy. Your time and dedication is really appreciated. Thank you and a happy new year to you all.

**From Gill (Editor):**

Thank you to Glenda and all the volunteers who sort out the delivery of the newsletters every month. Also thank you to the wonderful Paul who prints them each month.

Throughout 2023 we have had the opportunity to take part in so many varied and wonderful events, groups, activities. It makes me feel very lucky to live in such a special village where so many people are willing to organise things and volunteer to help. Long may this continue. Thank you also to everyone who sends items to be included in the Village News and provides photos. Happy new year to you all and wishing you a peaceful, healthy and happy 2024.

**RUMMIKUB GROUP - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH**

A small Rummikub group meets ONCE a MONTH at Emily Bartlett's house, 1pm-3pm on the 1st THURSDAY of the month - the next session will be on 4 January 2024. Beginners are welcome as two people can teach you. For more information call 841139.

**MOBILE LIBRARY**

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 11 and 25 January 2024.

**FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS**

From Judy Telford:

The Friends would like to wish everyone a Very Happy New Year and we hope you continue to enjoy the Brickfield in 2024.

We will be working to improve the worst parts of the main paths early next year and we hope that the rising main sewer will not crack again leading to yet more mud and disruption to our paths. On that subject, please be careful around the end of the Fire Break and around the bends on the Stream Path as Southern Water have left the area in a bit of a state - deep mud and trip hazards plus the stream on the near



corner is unfenced and overgrown - you cannot see where the path ends and the stream bank starts. Easy to slip and get a wet foot. Our next work party will be on Sunday 14 January 2024, please come along and work off some of that Christmas cheer!! Meeting at 10am, Lapwing Drive entrance as usual. No mince pies on offer this time but there might be some Tunnocks Tea Cakes, IF I remember. So much for working off the post Christmas flab!

The focus for the last few work parties has been the work on the Reed Bed to keep it healthy and flourishing.





# WARM SPACE

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**NOON to 2.00PM**

**MEMORIAL HALL**

The heating will be on, the kettle will be on, a Lunch of hot soup and bread donated by the Neighbourhood Watch will be available.

**Everything is Free!**

A Grab and Go Food Station has kindly been sponsored.

There will be a FREE raffle for a hooded blanket to help keep someone cosy this winter.

Come along and meet your Neighbourhood Watch representatives and special invited guests. We want to know how we can best assist the community and we need your help.



We look forward to meeting you soon.

[LHNWatch1@gmail.com](mailto:LHNWatch1@gmail.com)





Richard Asbury  
Find me on  
facebook messenger  
or email  
LHNWatch1@gmail.com  
or call/text 07894 792802



## **THE TUESDAY SOCIALS 2024**

The Friends of St Margaret's Tuesday Social will be on  
Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7.30 pm, in the Memorial Hall.

The speaker will be Brian Killick  
from the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The usual warm welcome awaits you with refreshments and a raffle.  
Entry fee £4 per person. For more information call Liz 842272

### **THE THREE TUNS**

From Carol Haines:

The team wish everyone a happy new year and thank the village for  
their continued support.

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in 2024

### **LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS - MONDAYS, 10AM**

All are welcome.

Starting at 10am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end  
of Lapwing Drive, by the Brickfields, and usually there will be two walks  
on offer; a brisk 2 hour walk and a one and a half/two hour walk at a  
more moderate pace (the slower walk will have opportunities for an  
earlier detour if the distance is longer than some walkers can manage).  
Walkers who want to go faster can, but will be asked to wait for the rest  
of the group at suitable points, as currently happens, this way we can be  
inclusive of everyone. A short walk will be available for up to one hour if  
people request it in advance, please contact Margaret on 07964 067915  
to arrange it.

The first Monday of every month when we walk to the golf club we will  
still have two walks, one taking the shortest route possible, arriving first  
and therefore being served first. Sturdy walking shoes/boots and a  
waterproof jacket are recommended.

Please phone Margaret on 843927 for more information

### **KEEP FIT GROUP**

A friendly group of ladies meet for DIY keep fit on Monday evenings,  
7-8pm in the Memorial Hall. For more information call Liz on 842272.

## **FACEBOOK PAGE FOR GARDENERS**

A friendly group for anyone interested in green-fingered hobbies such as gardening, allotments, fruit and veg growing, house plants and flower arranging. Everyone welcome including absolute beginners.

Please search on Facebook for Our Lower Halstow and Upchurch Community for Gardeners and Growers.

## **FOOD BANK DONATIONS**

Swale Food Bank is supported by the Trussell Trust which provides food and toiletries in Swale and surrounding areas. This is run in partnership with local churches including St. Margaret's of Lower Halstow part of "The Six". The aim is to provide 3 days emergency food and support to local people referred to the Food Bank in a crisis. The collection point in Lower Halstow is 34 Crouch Hill Court. Please place any food/toiletry items in grey box by garage, or if money in an envelope marked "Food Bank" into letter box

## **RECYCLING**

In her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue, Lynne Morris can now only recycle:

Dental products -Cheese wrappers -Used stamps

## **LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS**

From John Mustoo:

The Swale League has reached the mid point and starts again in January. The Lapwings are top of the table with 9 points from 4 games. High point being the draw away to Boughton. The points system is now 3 for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for a lose. This was adopted to avoid teams scoring fewer victories being placed higher in the league due to bonus points scored. Providing we retain this good form we should be promoted at the end of the season.

The club celebrated Christmas at the Three Tuns, attended by 28 members and friends. It was a great afternoon, our thanks to Chris and Carol for a job well done.

The Triples Team is again doing well in the Kemsley Friday Competition. Two teams have been entered in the "The Boughton Open" in January. We are still looking to build up the numbers on Wednesday evenings, come along and give it a try.

## **FLOOD WARDENS - FLOOD ALERTS**

From the Lower Halstow Flood Wardens:

During the year we are contacted if there is a Flood Alert by the Environment Agency, which we of course take very seriously. There is a flood Village Flood Plan, which if there were to be a flood within Lower Halstow, and would be very quickly put into place, for the Villagers safety.

And we would like you also to be prepared too, should one occur:-

1. Move your family and animals into a higher place for their safety.
2. Businesses (like The Three Tuns and Shop) should inform staff and customers, ensure that they can get to safety and move stock to a safe place.
3. Move your car or other vehicles to higher ground, if it is safe to do.
4. Cover your property's air bricks.
5. Move important items upstairs, or to a safe place in your property, starting with cherished items of personal value that you will not be able to replace (such as family photographs) , Next move valuables (such as computers), movable furniture and furnishings.
6. You may need to leave your property, so pack a bag with enough items for a few nights away, Include essential items including a torch with spare batteries, mobile phone and charger, warm clothes, home insurance information, water, food, first aid kit and any prescription medicines or baby care items you may need.
7. Turn off gas, electrical and water mains supplies before flood water starts to enter your property. Never touch an electrical switch if you are standing in water.
8. If it is safe to do so, make sure neighbours are aware of the situation and offer help to anyone who may need it.
9. Listen to the advice of the emergency service and be ready to evacuate your property if told to do so. Most evacuation centres (i.e. Lower Halstow Memorial Hall ) will let you bring your pets.
10. Avoid walking, cycling or driving through flood water. 30cm of fast flowing water can move a car and 6inches can knock an adult off their feet.
11. Flood water is dangerous and may be polluted. Wash your hands thoroughly if you've been in contact

To check the latest information for your area:-

Visit the GOV.UK website to see the current flood warnings, view rivers and sea levels or check the 5-day flood risk forecast: <https://check-forflooding.service.gov.uk/target-area/064GWT1Medway>

Or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 using quickdial code 317052.

Follow @EnvAgency and #Floodaware on Twitter.

Tune into weather, news and travel bulletins on local television and radio.

We would like to point out, that the Environment Agency spent an enormous amount of money only this year, helping Lower Halstow's sea wall to be safe from high tides, and the shoreline crumbling away. Please keep this section of Lower Halstow's Village News, as it helps you to know what to do, in case we are flooded, or even if your washing machine/dishwasher should floods, a lot of the above information applies.

And please do not be alarmed, we do have frequent flood warnings during the year, but thank goodness they are not all serious, but if we are flooded, you now have the knowledge to take steps in keeping you, yours families and neighbours safe, should their ever be a 'could be harmful to life and properties' flood.

### **LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council wish everyone a Happy New Year and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 January 2024 in the Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Parish Council website (<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>) where you will find notices of local road closures, Parish Council policies, agendas and Minutes amongst other things. The Parish Council will post some items on the Village Facebook group, but this is not their main method to inform residents and it is not monitored by the council. Please contact the Clerk via email: [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com) or on 01760 336459 if you have any queries.

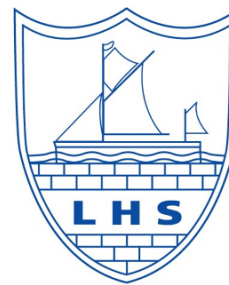
### **LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM**

Lower Halstow Yacht Club has a live weather station and webcam looking out over the creek. It is on the yacht club website and is open to everyone [weather.lhyc.org.uk](http://weather.lhyc.org.uk)



## LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

There is definitely an air of festivity and excitement at Lower Halstow School, with many eager children now counting the days down until the special day! We have fitted such a lot in already this term! In November Year 3 were archaeologists for the day and spent their time uncovering artefacts and fossils then identifying each piece they found. Meanwhile Year 6 experienced a day at the Houses of Parliament in London; they had a tour around the Palace of Westminster and considered democracy and the rule of law as they spoke to various representatives from the House.



The School Council helped have the final vote on what we would do for Children in Need this year; we had a 'bring your bear in' day. A variety of furry friends, small and large, old and new, spent the day with the children in return for a donation towards the worthwhile charity - as a school we managed to raise £244.84 for Children in Need!

Once we hit December the Christmas activities really started in earnest. The Year 1 and 2 children performed their Christmas nativity 'Born in a Barn' to the rest of the school and then their families. It was an enjoyable and memorable performance which you can read more about in the contribution from Year 1 below. The Year R children also took to the stage for their first time and performed a range of Christmas songs to their families. They did amazingly as all the songs were accompanied by signing as well, they even sang one song in a round! Everyone left the hall with a smile on their face that afternoon.

For the first time in 3 years the whole school, as well as parents, were able to gather in the St Margaret's church for two Christingle Services. John Guest led the services with a memorable story called 'The Little Yellow Line', we also had readings, sang songs together and lit some of the Christingles for a moment of quiet reflection. It really was lovely to all be together again in this lovely church. In the afternoon the PTA ran their annual Christmas Fayre for the children in which they could participate in a range of games, decorate baubles, have a go in the raffles or

purchase gifts in the Secret Room. Great fun was had by all – thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make it such a special event.

At the end of that week the whole school also took part in a sponsored Santa Run, this year the weather was kind to us and the sun shone (this was especially wonderful as it had rained on all of the other days that week!), the children donned their Santa hats (provided by the PTA), and completed as many laps of the Daily Mile track as they could. We are still counting up the amount raised but everyone enjoyed the event, including singing along to the Christmas songs as they ran.

It is hard to believe that, at the time of writing this, we are less than 3 weeks from the big day! We still have a few Christmassy events left to fit in before the end of term, these include our Christmas dinner, class parties and a special visit from that man in red – along with all our usual learning!

Everyone at Lower Halstow School would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Year 1 Rowan Class Feature:

*Rowan Class have had a very busy second term of the year. We have been working hard on our nativity, Born in a Barn: learning our lines, practising our songs and working with Willow Class to create some fantastic actions. We enjoyed performing to our parents, carers and friends of the school. It certainly helped us all get into the Christmas spirit! In addition to performing our own play, we also visited The Marlow Theatre in Canterbury to watch an amazing performance of The Littlest Yak - a story that made us all feel proud to be unique. This term has been full of the arts; we have enjoyed studying the work of Frank Bowling in our art lessons. We even created our own drip paintings inspired by his work which we have proudly displayed in our school corridor.*

Michelle Crowe, Head of School



## **MENTALK HEALTH SITTINGBOURNE**

MenTalk Health - Sittingbourne is a free, weekly group for all men in Swale who are struggling with their mental health or enduring a difficult time.

Every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Holy Trinity Church (next to Lidl) in Sittingbourne - no appointment needed.

You can just go down, meet the guys and have a tea or coffee and a chat.

If you would like to go to a meeting but don't want to walk through the door on your own that first time, then you can fill in a form on their website and one of their mentors will meet you ahead of time.

More information is available on their website [mentalk-health.org](https://mentalk-health.org)



## **CONTENT**

**Please note that the editor is not responsible for any inaccuracies which may occur in items from contributors. Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments or corrections if necessary) as submitted.**

The editor has to assume that the contributors have checked their facts. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct.

## **ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS**

If you would like to advertise in the Village News minimum suggested donations are - Full page £10 per month, Half page £5 per month, Quarter page - £2.50 per month.

All monies received go towards the cost of printing the newsletters. Everything else is done free of charge by volunteers. The PCC reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable

**The deadline for items for the February 2024 Village News is noon on 12 January 2024. Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com)**

## **CONTACTS**

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

**If you notice any information is out of date, if anything has changed, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or call 07771 817152**

### **Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade**

Lloyd Chapman, [lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk](mailto:lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk)

Roger Clark, 430324, [rogerclark@swale.gov.uk](mailto:rogerclark@swale.gov.uk)

### **Brickfields**

Judy Telford, 07486 530068, [friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com)

### **Citizens Advice**

0800 144 8848, [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)

### **Cricket Club**

Mark Stevens, 842090

### **Dog Warden**

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07795 237479

### **Flood Wardens**

Kay Howard-Challis, 844408, [kayhelen2017@outlook.com](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

Abbie Dowell, [abbie\\_mcdowell@hotmail.com](mailto:abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com)

### **Friends of the Brickfield**

[friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com)

### **Judo Club**

Jon 07944 755036

### **Kent Wildlife Trust**

01622 662012

### **KCC Potholes**

03000 418187

**Kent County Councillor**

Mike Baldock, 471139, 07522 442964, [mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament**

Gordon Henderson, 423199, [www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk](http://www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk)

**Memorial Hall**

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)  
Bookings Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

**Mentalk Health Sittingbourne**

[mentalk-health.org](http://mentalk-health.org)

**Neighbourhood Police Officer**

PC Jez Chittim, [jez.chittim@kent.police.uk](mailto:jez.chittim@kent.police.uk), no direct phone number call 101 or 999 in an emergency

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, [LHNWatch1@gmail.com](mailto:LHNWatch1@gmail.com), 07894 792802,  
Facebook - Search Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

**NHS**

111

**Noise nuisance**

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07881 817601

**Parish Council**

Parish Clerk, Ann Smith, [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com), 01760 336459,  
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>

**Playgroup**

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

**Police**

General enquiries, 01622 690690, [kent.police.uk](http://kent.police.uk)

Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

**Samaritans**

116 123 - free number day or night; email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) (response time 24 hours)

### **School**

842344, <https://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk/>

### **Scouts, Cubs and Beavers**

Ria Smith, Group Scout Leader, [ria.smithuk@gmail.com](mailto:ria.smithuk@gmail.com)

### **Short Mat Bowls**

John Mustoo, 843681, Mick Porter, Secretary, 484345

### **St Margaret's Church**

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329

PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688

Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 078402 58665

### **Swale Borough Council**

Main office, 424341

### **The Three Tuns**

842840, [www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk),

[info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk)

### **Village News**

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com),

07771 817152

### **Yacht Club**

Dave Quigley, 841242



## **UNIQUELY YOURS FLOWERS AND MORE**

A village based flower arranging business offering flowers and crafts for all occasions, tailored to meet your needs.

No job too small. Find me on Facebook or at <https://www.uniquelyyoursflowers.co.uk> or call Liz on 07730 893747



### **KINDLING FOR SALE**

3 Large Bags of Kindling for £10  
Call 07485 039868

## **J&S TREE CARE**

*Your local trusted tree surgeon*

*Tree & Hedge Specialist*

*Stump Removal • Chipper Hire  
Reductions • Pruning  
Felling & Dismantling*

**07501 831 471**

**ALL MAJOR CREDIT AND  
DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**



find us on [facebook](#)

## **J&S TREE CARE**

***YOUR LOCAL TRUSTED TREE SURGEON***

***FOR ALL YOUR TREE & HEDGES NEEDS***

*Professional Tree & hedge Service  
That Is Safe, Efficient & Affordable  
Friendly & Honest Approach  
Competitive Rates, Fully Insured  
We Guarantee Your Satisfaction  
Trusted To Provide The Best Possible Service  
For Free Estimate And Advice Call Jack*

***jstreecare01@gmail.com***



Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and  
Investment Planning & Mortgages

**Michael van der Straaten**  
**Chartered Financial Planner**  
**Edenwood Wealth Management**

19 The Street, Lower Halstow

Contact me on 07824 392342 or

Email: [edenwood@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:edenwood@sjpp.co.uk)

Website: [www.edenwoodwealth.com](http://www.edenwoodwealth.com)

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up  
repayments on your mortgage

SJP APPROVED 10/03/2023

## **BC WINDOW CLEANING LTD**

Based in Upchurch

WINDOW CLEANING

GUTTER CLEANING

CONSERVATORY CLEANING

FASCIA AND SOFFIT CLEANING

DRIVE/PATIO CLEANING

HOUSE ROOF DE-MOSSING

07738834782 - 01634 926911

[Info@bcwindowcleaning.co.uk](mailto:Info@bcwindowcleaning.co.uk)

[Www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk](http://Www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk)

