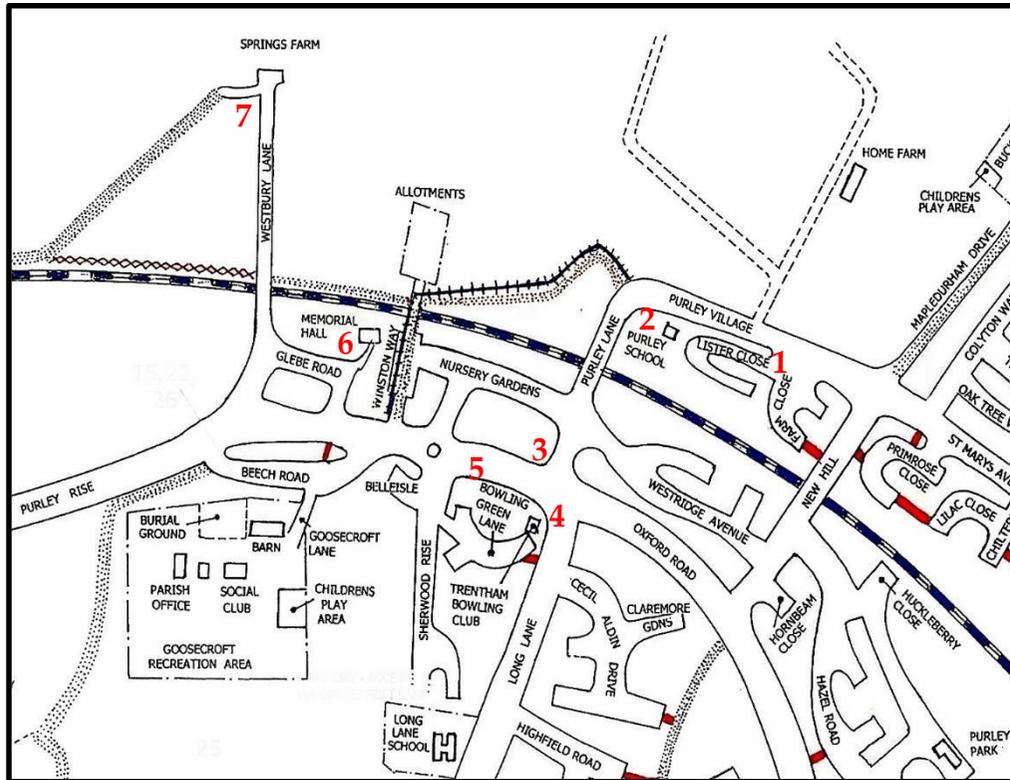


For more information and stories about these men, and World War One and its impact upon Purley, come along to *Purley Remembers The First World War* on 3 and 4 November in The Barn, Goosecroft. The event is free and open from 11am to 4pm.



Each soldier is between three and four feet high and has a plaque giving the name of the man commemorated and his date of death. The soldiers were designed, constructed and decorated by Marion and Steve Maybank.

The soldiers will stand before their former 'homes' from 20 October - 10 November, after which they will be removed to the Memorial Hall for the Service on the 11th.

The Armistice Working Group wishes to thank West Berkshire District Council and the owners of Letgable and Springs Farm for their kind permission to allow these soldiers to be placed near their original homes, and Purley on Thames Parish Council for permission to reproduce this map.



## Purley on Thames Armistice Trail 2018 Returning Purley's men home for one last time



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

This is a circular trail taking in the eleven figures erected to commemorate each Purley man who lost his life in World War One. Each figure has been erected as near as possible to their home, although not all of the original properties still exist. The trail begins and finishes at the junction of Lister Close and Purley Village.

**1 Location: Corner of Lister Close and Purley Village.**

**Alan Denys Powley** was the son of one of Purley's late 19<sup>th</sup> century Rectors and one of three brothers who served in the war. He died in 1916, in German East Africa, and is buried in Iringa Military Cemetery in what is now Tanzania.

*Now turn left onto Purley Village, your next stop is at the junction of Purley Village and Purley Lane.*

**2 Location: Front garden of Letgable, on the corner of Purley Village and Purley Lane (formerly the site of Corner Cottages, now demolished).**

**Charles Edward and Edgar George Sheppard** were one of two pairs of brothers from the village, killed during the war. Their father was a fisherman and grandfather, Purley's longest-standing lock-keeper. They were former pupils at Purley Infants School. Although fighting with different regiments, the brothers both died during the Third Battle of Ypres, in Belgium, in the autumn of 1917. Neither body, if recovered, was identified, so they are commemorated on the Memorial to the missing at Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium.

*Now walk up Purley Lane to the junction with Purley Rise and turn right at the top.*

**3 Location: The Coach house and Stables, Purley Rise (by traffic lights) (previously the coach house and stables to Westfield House, now demolished).**

**Henry Robert Jarman** was the son of the coachman to Lady Sykes of Westfield House. Henry was killed at Gallipoli (Turkey) in 1915 whilst fighting with the Berkshire Yeomanry.

*Please use the pedestrian lights to cross the road to the opposite side of Purley Rise, at its junction with Long Lane.*

**4 Location: Junction Long Lane and Purley Rise.**

Purley's forge stood on the opposite side of the Long Lane/Purley Rise junction to where our soldier stands. Long Lane at that time was much narrower, so the forge probably began about where the traffic island is now. **Nathaniel Henry Kirk**, known as Henry or Harry, lived with his family in the forge, which his father ran as Purley's blacksmith. He was on *HMS Black Prince* when it was sunk during the Battle of Jutland in 1916. There were no survivors.

*Turn left along Purley Rise towards Pangbourne.*

**5 Location: Grass verge in front of Bowling Green House, Purley Rise.**

**Dudley Cecil Aldin** was the son of the artist Cecil Aldin and his wife Rita, who lived at what was then known as Kennelgate or Belleisle (now Bowling Green House). Cecil Aldin was the master of the hounds for the South Berks Hunt and during the war ran an Army Remount Depot. Dudley enlisted into the army direct from Cheltenham College and was killed at Vimy Ridge, France, in 1916.

*Cross over Purley Rise, when convenient, and continue towards Pangbourne until you reach the junction with Glebe Road. Walk down Glebe Road to the Memorial Hall.*

**6 Location: Outside the Memorial Hall.**

**Albert Edward Clark** was one of Kitchener's volunteers who signed up on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914. Sadly, we know little about him, other than that he lived in Purley, and so his soldier has been placed by the Memorial Hall. Albert was killed in the Champagne region of France in 1918 and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial.

*Continue down Glebe Road to the junction with Westbury Lane and then turn right. Cross over the bridge and continue until you reach the former Westbury Farm Cottages.*

**7 Location: The former Westbury Farm Cottages, Westbury Lane.**

There are four soldiers located here. **Frederick Mott** and **Sidney Pinchin** are associated with Westbury Farm Cottages, and the brothers **Robert and William Nash** with Scrases Farm Cottages.

Frederick Mott was a regular soldier based in Jhansi in India with the Berkshire Regiment, at the outbreak of war. His unit were recalled to France, and he died in the closing stages of the Battle of the Somme, in October 1916. Sidney Pinchin, another former pupil of Purley Infants School, also died in the Somme Department, but in 1917. William Nash, like Frederick Mott, was a regular soldier recalled from India when war was declared. He died during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Berkshire Regiment's attack on Ovilliers la Boisselle on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916. Robert, William's older brother, enlisted when war was declared, and served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in Eastern Mesopotamia (then part of the Ottoman Empire, now modern-day Iraq). He survived the notorious siege of Kut-el-Amara, but died five months later (September 1916) in a Turkish prisoner of war camp.

*Now retrace your steps along Westbury Lane, and take the public footpath on the left, just before the bridge. Continue along the footpath to its junction with Purley Village. Turn left along Purley Village until you reach Lister Close and your starting point.*