

## NEWSLETTER

November 2018, issue 21

### Parish Council matters

It has been a very busy month in Purley for community activities. I hope you took the opportunity to go to the Firework Fiesta organised by Friends of Purley Primary School and the various events related to the Remembrance of World War 1 and the Armistice. We would very much like to thank the organisers of the Armistice celebrations for all their work. Christine Lamb, Pam Beddoes, Catherine Sampson, Marion Maybank and John Chapman planned a varied programme of music, poetry and history, all set against the amazing curtains of poppies made by local schools, scouts, groups and individuals. I am sure that those who followed the trail to the birth places of the 11 local men who were killed in action felt the reality of what it must have been like for a small community to lose its boys in such a devastating way. The Remembrance Day service, attended by so many, allowed us to honour all our soldiers. Then the evening event organised by the Church reproduced the celebrations of the Armistice and allowed us to share in the nation's hope for peace, still relevant today. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the fund to buy a special Remembrance seat for Purley via the Just Giving campaign or collection boxes.

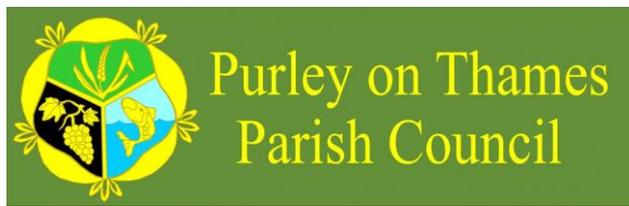
As promised, a copy of the Village Plan will be delivered to every home in Purley in the next few weeks. An enormous amount of work by local people has gone into its production and I hope you will find it an interesting read. You will also be able to find the Village Plan and the resulting Action list on the Parish Council website [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk). We will keep the Action list updated as we tackle and achieve the proposals made as a result of compiling the Plan.

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chair of Thames Parish Council*

### Parish Office hours over the Christmas period

This year, the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 21 December, and will not be open for the public hours on Monday 24, Thursday 27, or Monday 31 December, although officers will be monitoring e-mails and telephone messages during this time.

The office will re-open as normal at 9.30am on Thursday 3 January 2019.



## News from the Parish Office

It's been a sad time for the Parish Council recently as a number of councillors have lost close family and loved ones. We'd like to send our condolences to those concerned, and also to thank them for their continued support and commitment at such a difficult and personal time.



On a happier note, in preparation for the colder weather, the Amenities Officer has completed an audit of the salt bins and made sure they're all undamaged and supplied with grit, ready for the first icy weather of the season.

If you do see any problems with the salt bins, or if any of them need topping up over the next few months, please do contact the Parish Office to let us know.

## 2018/19 Grants

The 2018/19 Grants process is open, and the criteria and application form are available on the [web site](#) – please be sure to read the criteria before completing the form, and also to send all documents with the application. The closing date for applications is 31 December 2018.

## Thames Valley Police

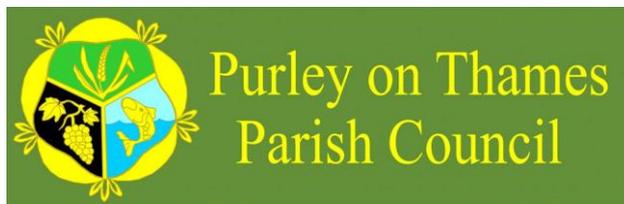
Further to the brief item in last month's Newsletter, we thought a little more information about Thames Valley Police (TVP) Alerts might be helpful.

TVP Alerts are intended improve the flow of information between the police and the community, so that everyone can work effectively together in the prevention and detection of crime and antisocial behaviour. Anyone can register for them and benefit from the two-way exchange of information with TVP, Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups. There is also information about local groups, events and meetings in the area.

For more detail and to register, please see – [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)



Over recent months, there has been a series of ATM robberies across the Thames Valley. This has led to an ongoing TVP operation being set up to bring the gang responsible to justice. As part of this operation, early on the morning of 21 November, TVP led a series of raids which saw 250 officers targeting ten locations, making arrests and searching properties. Raids such as this are a major disruption to organised crime gangs, and help bring people to justice and make communities safer.



## West Berkshire Council

In order to balance the West Berkshire Council (WBC) budget for 2019-20, members have to find around £7m of savings or additional income. A small proportion of the proposals affect frontline services, and this obliges WBC to consult the public.

In this round, many of the proposals in the consultation are labelled as Public Health and, on the surface, it might seem as if WBC is taking money away from vulnerable people.

This is, however, not the case. The proposed savings have been very carefully selected to try to minimise any negative impact on the public, particularly to those who are vulnerable, and the intention is to provide better support to vulnerable and “at risk” groups. To achieve this, the benefit of particular services and particular providers have been measured and, as a result, WBC is:

- a) Decommissioning services which are ineffective;
- b) Improving the value-for-money of services which have been too expensive for the benefit they deliver;
- c) Looking for more targeted interventions where services are seen to benefit the wrong audience.

Three examples of services where WBC is looking to make savings are:

1. Cease funding the Alcohol Screening and Brief Advice service (saving £21k). The impact of this is expected to be minimal: the AUDIT-C screening and brief advice are included in the NHS Health Check programme, which WBC also supports financially.
2. Reduce funding for Eat4Health (adult weight management service) (saving £16k). It is proposed to reduce the number of classes from 25 to 18 as they are not filled to capacity due to lack of demand and lack of referrals.
3. Reduce funding to Smoking Cessation Service (saving £100k). The smoking rate in the area is falling anyway and evidence is that stop-smoking services play only a small role in that decline. The service will continue but will be more targeted to vulnerable and “at risk” groups, such as pregnant women and those with health conditions.

The public consultation on budget proposals for 2019-20 has now commenced and WBC is keen that as many residents, groups and organisations as possible have the opportunity to review the proposals and respond if they wish to do so.

The consultation is open until midnight on Sunday 23 December 2018 and further information, including the list of 14 services affected by the proposals, may be found on the web site – [www.westberks.gov.uk/budgetproposals](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/budgetproposals)

## Armistice Working Group

The Armistice Centenary Programme for Purley on Thames has now come to its end but will be remembered, I think, as a very moving commemoration of our local and national history.

I would like to thank those members of the community who attended and participated in the programme and who helped make it such a special and rewarding experience for those involved in organising the events.

Many of the programmed events raised money for charities supporting servicemen and women. The British Legion stand at “Purley Remembers the First World War” held at the Barn on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of November raised £430 in donations: a reflection of the generosity of residents and visitors who attended the event.



“Purley Remembers the First World War” exhibition



Armistice Working Group

Feedback on the event has been very positive and moving for the Armistice Working Group (Catherine Sampson, Pam Beddoes, Marion Maybank, John Chapman and myself, Christine Lamb) who organised the Barn event, memorial trail and published the programme including all the local events. The Armistice Working Group’s events were sponsored by the Parish Council which fully supported the idea of events to mark the community’s history and bring the present community together.

After the culmination of the programme at St Mary’s Church on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, the Armistice Working Group met to formally bring the work to a close. The group was very pleased that, thanks to the hard work of the Brown Betty Tea Room, it is able to donate fund to have plaques added to both the Memorial Hall and the Church’s WW1 memorial to include the names of soldiers who had been omitted. There will also be enough to fund a plaque and to purchase supports for the Verdun Oak which will be ready to plant at the Memorial Hall in a couple of years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the other members of the Armistice Working Group who were full of dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank Sarah Williams for her hard work pulling the programme together so professionally, and to Colin Moses for listening to my vague descriptions and then making the hangings that made the poppy display possible!! We are a great team and many thanks.



Christine Lamb  
Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council



### Poppies

There was a wonderful variety of locally-made poppies which, when put together made a striking display in the Barn. Thank you to all the groups, schools and individuals who contributed poppies and made the display such a great success.

When the exhibition in the Barn had finished, some of the poppies were transported to the Memorial Hall and put on display for the Service of Remembrance on 11 November, before being moved to St Mary's Church for the evening events held there!



**Poppy-filled silhouette of a soldier  
created by Brookfields School**

### Allotments

We are delighted to confirm that all four of the new micro plots which were created earlier this year now have tenants.



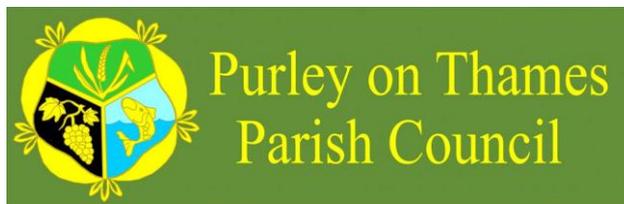
We are also pleased to confirm that all the invoices for annual rent of the allotments have now been raised and sent out.

### Road closure

The B472 Whitchurch Road in Pangbourne will be closed at the railway bridge from 10.00pm on Saturday 24 November until 6.00am on Sunday 25 November. This is to enable Network Rail to complete maintenance and vegetation clearance works to the railway bridge.

During the closure, all traffic will be diverted via the B471, B4526 and A329, and vice versa. Access for pedestrians and emergency services will be maintained.

A plan of the closure may be seen at <https://roadworks.org/?tm=109603090> and all enquiries should be directed to A Plant Lux on 03700 500792.



## Village matters

### Volunteering opportunities

The West Berkshire Village Agent project aims to assist older and/or socially isolated residents to engage in local activities, as well as putting them in direct contact with the community, voluntary services and statutory agencies which offer help and advice.

Through the project, Volunteer Village Agents make a positive impact by helping people gain access to information and services they need, as well as assisting them to make the best use of services which enable them to continue leading independent lives in their own homes. Village Agents can offer help with housing, personal safety, pensions and benefits, healthcare, social care, Trading Standards, fire safety, leisure, and more.

It's been suggested that Purley might benefit from having a Volunteer Village Agent, so this is something the Parish Council is investigating. If you'd like to know more, or might like to volunteer as an agent, please see [www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk/village\\_agents.htm](http://www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk/village_agents.htm)



If you have concerns about cars speeding in the village, why not sign up for training in how to use a Speed Indicator Device (SID) and help us get a clearer idea of where there are problems to be addressed?

This is a voluntary role and each person who offers to help is given a three-hour training session run by West Berkshire Council which qualifies them to operate the SID apparatus. If you're interested or would like to know more, please contact Christine Lamb by e-mailing [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk), or calling 0118 984 4507.



As part of a research project about how communities respond to extreme events, local people are being invited to take part in "Shutdown" on Thursday 6 December. "Shutdown" is a cross between theatre and a game, and involves a team of 12 people reviewing fictional events. They'll watch video testimonies from characters, read material (possibly out loud) and have a discussion with neuroscientist, Dr Kris De Meyer. The whole event will last up to 2½ hours, and it all takes place sitting around a table so is not physically difficult or stressful.

The project is run by Kings College London and is facilitated by Fanshen, a company which makes interactive experiences. The two sessions will be at 10.30am and at 7.00pm, and both will be held in the Memorial Hall in Glebe Road. Light refreshments will be provided and a £10.00 Amazon gift voucher will be given to those who participate.

If you'd like more information or to sign up to take part in one of the sessions, please contact [rachel@fanshen.org.uk](mailto:rachel@fanshen.org.uk) or call 07734 947682.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a scheme which is run entirely by the community, for the community. The aim is for neighbours to work together and form active communities where volunteers give their time to help make their neighbourhood safer, so that fewer people feel vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live.

If you're interested in setting up a scheme, the first step is to talk to your neighbours to find out if they're join as well. Not everyone in the road or area needs to be a member, but the more residents who choose to be involved, the more successful the scheme is likely to be.

If you'd like to know more about setting up and running a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, there's some helpful information and guidance on the web site – [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

### Bench to commemorate WWI Armistice



To commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War, a "Doves of Peace" memorial bench is to be placed in Purley. The bench will be similar to the one in the picture and is to be funded by donations collected via the [Just Giving page](#) – thank you to everyone who's given money towards it.

### Local news and events

The 2018 Christmas Market organised by Friends of Purley Barn will be held from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 25 November in both halls of the Barn at Goosecroft. This year, Father Christmas will be there to meet the children, and there will also be a wide range of stalls, mulled wine and refreshments, and a grand raffle. Entrance and parking are free. Light lunches will be available from Purley Sports and Social Club during the day.

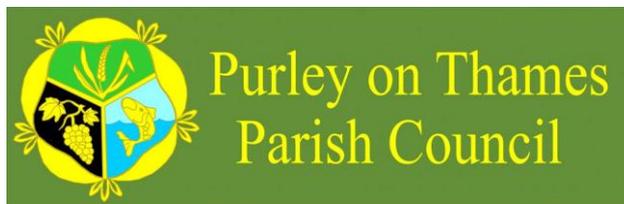
See [www.fopb.org.uk/FoPBStructure/FoPBCMarket2017.html](http://www.fopb.org.uk/FoPBStructure/FoPBCMarket2017.html) for more information.

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If you're looking for something more active, Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service's fundraising Santa Dash starts at 9.00am on Sunday 25 November in Windsor Town Centre. This festive 5km fun run is open to all and the route takes in Long Walk, the Castle, Queen Victoria's statue and Windsor's shopping area. There are Santa suits provided for adults and reindeer antlers for children; funds raised will go towards the hospice.

For further details and to book tickets see [www.alexanderdevine.org](http://www.alexanderdevine.org) or call 01628 822777.

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From Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 November, Green Shoots in Rotherfield Peppard will be holding its Festive Fundraising event between 10.00am and 4.00pm. There will be handmade Christmas decorations and wreaths, jams and chutneys, Greenshoots produce, including honey, as well as gift ideas. Refreshments, homemade cakes and mince pies will be available. All proceeds go towards supporting Greenshoots which is part of the Ways and Means Trust.

For more information see [www.waysandmeans.org.uk](http://www.waysandmeans.org.uk)



On Friday 30 November, Rain or Shine Theatre Company will be performing *Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Dr Jekyll and Miss Hyde* in the Barn at Goosecroft. Doors open at 7.00pm, with the show starting at 7.30pm.

The players are a professional touring theatre company, and this local performance is hosted by the village's local history society, Project Purley. Tickets are £10.00 each for adults, £6.00 for a child under 15, and may be booked online at [www.rainorshine.co.uk/](http://www.rainorshine.co.uk/) or via David Downs on 0118 942 4167. As always, profits will go to local good causes.



On Saturday 1 December, there will be a Christmas food fair from 10.00am to 3.00pm in Goring Village Hall. Information about stallholders and booking tickets is available [here](#).



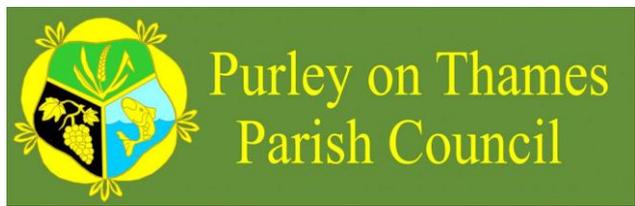
Tuesday Lunch Club (TLC) will be getting together for a Christmas-themed lunch from 12.30pm to 2.00pm on Tuesday 4 December. TLC is a group which meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) for a friendly, light, two-course meal. There is no fee but a donation of £3.00 per person is suggested.

It's very important that numbers attending are known for catering so, if you'd like to go to any of the lunches, please contact Sheila Adnett by e-mail – [sheila.adnett@ntlworld.com](mailto:sheila.adnett@ntlworld.com) – or by calling 0118 962 5760.



Singing for Fun is a welcoming group of older people who meet for a sing-song every Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in St Mary's Church Hall. As well as singing well-known songs, the group enjoys tea and biscuits while having a friendly catch-up and sharing news. At Christian festivals, the afternoon also includes a short informal service. For more information contact Sandy Chapman via the church on 0118 942 4390.





If you're feeling creative and would like the chance to make a Christmas wreath, there's a workshop making wreaths from seasonal foliage and decorations gathered from the Hardwick Estate, Whitchurch. Guided by florist, Chantal Becerra, in a beautiful Elizabethan manor house, this is an opportunity to create a wreath of your own to take home and enjoy.

6 December – 10am to 2.00pm, £75.00 including lunch  
7 December – 10am to 12.30pm, £50.00 including cake and coffee

Both sessions will be held at Hardwick House, and booking is essential although previous experience is not. To book, contact [chantalbecerra@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chantalbecerra@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07411 121250.



Thames Vale Singers will be presenting "A Very Merrie Christmas" at 7.30pm on Friday 7 December in St Mary's Church. There will be a second performance, also at 7.30pm, in the Barn at Goosecroft on Saturday 8 December.

Tickets cost £10.00 (including refreshments) and may be bought by calling 0118 942 4372, or 0118 952 1880.



On Saturday 8 December, the seasonal Farmers' and Craft Market will be held in the both hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. This is the last market before Christmas so there will be additional, festive stalls alongside the monthly regulars.

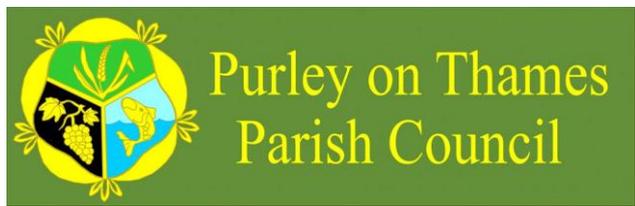
The Farmers' and Craft Markets are held on the second Saturday of each month and offer a range of food stuffs, including eggs, bread, meat, vegetables, as well as a variety of craft and gift ideas.



On Sunday 9 December, the Reading Santa Run organised by the Rotary Club will be taking place in Reading, starting (and finishing) at Forbury Gardens. The 1km Mini Santa Run is open to all ages and entry costs £7.00, while the 5km Santa Run is for anyone aged 11 years or over and costs (family and team tickets are also available). Santa or Elf outfits are included in the entry fee, and the money raised will go to charity (Macmillan Cancer Support, The Footsteps Foundation and Rotary charities).

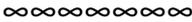
For more detail and to enter, see the web site – [www.readingsantarun.co.uk/](http://www.readingsantarun.co.uk/)





Looking ahead to the new year, Friends of Purley Barn (FOPB) and Purley Bridge Club are getting together to hold a bridge drive from 1.30pm on Friday 18 January 2019. The drive (format Chicago) is for keen bridge players, and there will be a prize giving at 4.15pm. Tickets cost £40.00 and include afternoon tea (please bring your own cards).

If you enjoy playing bridge and would like to enter the bridge drive, please call Myrtle Campbell on 0118 941 2322. All monies raised will be donated to improving facilities at the Barn.



For information about other local events, please see the [What's On](#) page of the Parish Council web – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/)

**Contact**

Please see the Parish Council web site – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) – for more information on local issues.

To contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or e-mail [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk). You are also welcome to come and see us during the following office public hours:

Monday	2.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	9.30am to 2.30pm

Please note that the office will be closed over Christmas as above.

If you know of someone who might like to receive this Parish Council Newsletter, please ask them to notify [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.