**From the Parish Council**

I’m writing this after returning from the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and wreath-laying at the war memorial. These last few years, with their many centenaries relating to the First World War, have been particularly moving, and I know there are already thoughts in the village to make 2018, the centenary of the Armistice, into a particularly big event. It was good to see so many people there despite a wet start to the day and a cold north wind.

A big welcome to the newest member of the Parish Council, Sue Bishop, who will join us at our December meeting. Sue has had a very varied career, first as an occupational therapist and then as a commercial lawyer, and has worked in the public, private and charitable sectors. She is also chair of Governors of Hillview School for Girls in Tonbridge. Sue will be a great addition to the Council.

Next, a reminder that the Neighbourhood Plan process is getting under way. Wealden have confirmed that the boundaries of the plan are the same as the boundaries of the Parish. The steering group is meeting regularly every 2 weeks at 5pm on a Wednesday at the Sparrows Green Pavilion. The next couple of meetings are the 29th November and the 13th December. I asked you last month to get in touch (at this stage through the Parish Clerk) if you wanted to champion a particular aspect of the plan. We have one volunteer, for green spaces and walkways, but we need more. Do you have positive ideas about how the village will develop in the next 20 years in terms of not just the housing, but sport and recreation, culture, energy, business, retail, farming, transport……. or anything else? If so, please tell the Steering Group. The Neighbourhood Plan can only succeed if it really relects your views.

A couple of thank you’s – first to the Wadhurst Warriors for organising such a great show for the annual village bonfire – as usual, it was splendid. And another thank you to Rotary for all their hard work in the past in the High Street at Christmas. They let us know earlier this year that they no longer felt able to put up the Christmas lights, and we have been working hard to find an alternative, supported by the High Street traders many of whom will decorate their own shops this year. And Rotary are no longer organising the late-night shopping event and the fair in the Commemoration Hall. We don’t know at the time of writing whether the shops will open late for the evening anyway – if it doesn’t happen this year, maybe someone will take up the challenge and organise something for 2018.

At our November meeting, Cllr Standley drew our attention to the face that efforts to vaccinate children against flu are being hampered by misleading posts on social media. All children aged two to eight should receive a free nasal spray each winter, but last year only a third of two to four year-olds in the county were vaccinated. Health officials say false rumours being circulated about the potential side-effects of the vaccine are discouraging parents from vaccinating their child – placing their health at risk.

Dr Neil Myers, from Rowe Avenue Surgery, in Peacehaven, said: “Children’s tactile nature and the fact they may not be aware of the importance of hygiene means they can quickly pass on the virus to others, even when they have no symptoms. It’s very unfortunate that myths spread online mean some parents are being deterred from having their children vaccinated. I would strongly urge parents to ignore the rumours and instead listen to expert medical advice and ensure their child is protected through this safe, painless nasal spray.”

Parents of two to four-year-olds can book a free vaccination through their GP while school age children up to year four can be vaccinated at school.

I mentioned last month that we had had some problems with our parish council email accounts – these still continue, so if you want to contact me, please do so by phone or via the clerk for the moment – hopefully it will be sorted out before I next write.

*Felicity Harvest*

*(Chair Wadhurst Parish Council)*

*Contact: tel 783226, or the Clerk (Amanda Barlow) – The Pavilion, Sparrows Green Recreation Ground, TN5 6TW, tel* 07375 062428*, email* [*clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk*](mailto:clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk)*. Fiona Hensher, Finance Officer, address as above, email* [*rfo@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk*](mailto:rfo@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk)*. Follow us on Twitter: @wadhurstpc. Website:* [*www.wadhurst-pc.gov.uk*](http://www.wadhurst-pc.gov.uk)*. Or download the free Wadhurst Parish Council app for your Apple or Android mobile device.  Search for ‘Wadhurst Parish Council’ in the Apple App Store or Google Play.*