

The logo features the word 'Christmas' in a large, green, stylized font with a yellow star above the 'i'. Below it, 'Memories' is written in a smaller, green, cursive font. Underneath that, '& Greetings from The Whittlesford Society' is written in a blue, sans-serif font. A green decorative swirl is on the left side.

# Christmas Memories & Greetings from The Whittlesford Society

The current Covid lockdown could be the final frustration in our efforts to get Suzanne Ridley's book published by Christmas! We hope at least a first print run will be done by then, but realistically the actual 'launch' and availability will be asap in the New Year.

Christmas is a time for memories and as we wait to read fascinating, hitherto undiscovered detail of how Whittlesford cared for hundreds of wounded servicemen hospitalised here in the WW1 years, it's appropriate to recall memories published in Whither Whittlesford in 1994 from regular contributor and chronicler of village history- Mrs Edna Wight nee Merry, She was born on the day before WW1 was declared, at 3 High Street (then 'The Village Blacksmith' pub beside the village forge.-Her vignette of village life and history, and especially those of her sister, Mrs Ida Sadler, are expanded in Suzanne's book 'Whittlesford Caring for the Wounded' on how the whole village was involved in the VAD hospital established here,

“ One of my most precious and enduring memories as a small child was the magic thrill of the Christmas parties organised every year for the village children by ‘Young Bob’(*Robert Maynard III., son of RM II who took over running the Maynards works from his father RMI*), Everything was so wonderful and so exciting. The party food was so delicious and plentiful and the highlight would be when, ‘Young Bob’ dressed as Father Christmas, would be dragged across the stage on a splendid sleigh and pull presents for every child out of his sack. We'd wait breathlessly as the headmaster solemnly read out the names on the label of each gift . To complete the magic, they rigged up some device so that after a while 'snowflakes' would start gently falling on Father Christmas. How vividly I remember being dressed up in my party frock and how my sister Ida pushed me up to the Memorial Hall on the saddle of her bike so my little party shoes wouldn't get soiled! And how she'd exhorted me not to forget to say 'please' and 'thank you'! “

**Happy Memories! Happy Christmas everyone!**

My early memories - getting on for eighty years ago - are of my parents speaking of "Old Bob" Maynard and his son "Young Bob" as they called them. They were the son and grandson respectively of the first Robert Maynard (1808-1883)

"Old Bob's" wife was a real lady bountiful' in the village, taking care of the poor and needy. My mother used to tell of how good she was and how she remembered seeing her in fine clothes with a bonnet and long cape taking soup to sick villagers. "Young Bob" took after her in many ways and in those days before Social Services he showed his practical concern for the welfare of people of Whittlesford - and especially the youngsters. He used to organise what we'd perhaps call Youth Clubs with all kinds of activities for the young people - he was always full of good ideas and organised every detail so beautifully

'Whittlesford Recalled' and the final book on Whittlesford history by Tony Carter (the acclaimed 'Anatomy of a Victorian Village - **finally published after his death by Pat Carter, the late Jack Sutcliffe and Tony Cartwright** ) **highlight the childhood memory of Christmas in Whittlesford in the Whither Whittlesford no 72: -**

more about the people at Sheads in *Whither Whittlesford* nos.33 & 37)