

The Whittlesford Society

Whittlesford – past, present & future

Sad start for us in February as our super secretary **Debbie Bright** and husband Paul leave for pastures & projects new in Hilton. A well-known figure round the village with little dog Archie, they've lived here since 1990 and she gained loads of valuable contacts and experience when Secretary on the Playgroup Committee and a founder member/secretary of Whittlesford Warriors (twice, when son Harry began playing later!) and daughters Claire & Laura were both at William Westley. She was also for years PA to Peter Spufford, while taking on increasing responsibilities in Whit Soc, especially latterly as Website Administrator, which we hope will be a way of keeping in touch! We'll miss her dreadfully – but wish them all good luck and happiness (and it's really not too far away!).



2019 is a specially important year - centenary of when most of our men who fought in WW1 (who could) returned and when we mark the **DINNER** in their honour, which inspired our 5-year research project, and the unveiling of the War Memorial that followed it in New Year 1919/20. The culmination will be our book focusing especially on life and lives here in Whittlesford before, during and just after those war years. It will explore the temporary changes over that period and the longer term effects on the people and places here then- and highlight how much can still be seen today in our Listed buildings, key landmarks and locations + stories of who lived and what happened where. This will add new dimensions to the revised and extended '**Guided Walks**' we plan, as shown in our 'taster' Poppy Pilgrimage on Remembrance Sunday 11/11/18 and covering the whole village plus its links to neighbouring villages. This final book will complement and develop the excellent reference book that Karen Wright compiled for that Armistice date, listing details of each of the men of Whittlesford who went to fight and their involvements far from home.

Already our research team's core data is being input on to the IWM's huge international database (www.LivesoftheFirstWorldWar.org) under our special **Whittlesford Society 'Community'** with more in coming weeks.

We look forward to sharing what we do at the Newcomers' Tea-party