

TRAIL blazing

The Whittlesford Society

About the village- past, present & Future

Since Whit Soc began in the early '70s scores of different -and repeated - village walks have always been favourite events. Still requested, the best-selling Whit Soc publication by far has always been the 8-page 'Pavement Walk' guide to the History of Whittlesford from its key and listed buildings (even though a copy of the 'new' extended edition was an insert inside *Whither Whittlesford*' no73). But that was in **1994!** Even with 'part 2' a little later adding North Road, it only detailed from the church to mid West End. Other handouts did cover specific, guided events or visits to adjoining parishes, but few copies, if any, still exist.

Now, developing the Neighbourhood Plan highlights more strongly than ever the **lack** of any proper **VILLAGE MAP** showing public footpaths etc and the inadequate **SIGNAGE**/'interpretation boards' at key locations to inform & encourage parish awareness, pride and participation. And this is just part of what we are calling '**TRAIL BLAZING**' (till we get a better name & logo!) a new community initiative engaging a wide range of people, interests, ideas and skills to develop **VILLAGE TRAILS so everyone can get out and appreciate what Whittlesford has to offer!**

It's more than just revising and revamping material we already have and (vastly!) extending it. It needs ideas -and planning. The scope is enormous and exciting! Test walks to measure and look afresh at existing footpaths; route planning & links; noting key points & views; photos & illustrations; content, wording & design; - dreams & practicalities!

People we've mentioned it to are encouraging and enthusiastic. What we want now is to hear from anyone with ideas to offer and an interest in helping to develop the concept and make it happen! Contact details please to **832453** or email infowhitsoc@gmail.com - **we'll hope for an open meeting to discuss things further in July.**

One short prototype **TRAIL** that Whit Soc plans is a **POPPY PILGRIMAGE** to mark the Armistice **CENTENARY** after the ceremony at the War Memorial on 11.11.18. It will pass ten locations of special WW1 significance, each marked by a giant British Legion poppy and include free tea/coffee provided at one of them- then 'The Exhibition', now 'The Bees' (thanks Lawrie) - before continuing on again to end at the churchyard.

More nearer the time! Watch out, too for details of a summer visit to Duxford village and new life in the ancient 'redundant' St John's church – perhaps basis for a future Whittlesford-Duxford History Trail.