

The Whittlesford Society
45 years of Publications Recalled! – part 3

11.11.18

As **Remembrance Sunday** approaches and we're still uncertain exactly how and when the traditional marking of the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" will happen this year, we recall especially the slim guide with its scarlet logo which accompanied our '**POPPY PILGRIMAGE**' on the Centenary of the Armistice that ended World War I, the subject of Whit Soc's 40th anniversary research project, that started in 2014:-

'The Whittlesford 100' & the impact on the village of WW1'.



This leaflet details the exceptionally well supported circular walk past TEN key marked Locations significant here in 1914-18, starting after the 11am ceremony at the War Memorial, dedicated in 1920, naming the 15 of 'The 100' who lost their lives. A unique fact of the Poppy Pilgrimage is that it features the 3 locations making up the Whittlesford VAD Hospital. This and some 1,750 patients, wounded servicemen so like our own '100' was the single most striking impact on life here for the duration of the war and focus of our next major project publication, researched and written by Suzanne Ridley.

The Guide was used again in November 2019 for a shorter **Poppy Pilgrimage** including focus on WW2 remembrance, The Commonwealth War Graves and a 2-week exhibition in the Parish Church.

This Poppy Pilgrimage 'Guide' can be read in full - or downloaded from our website www.Whittlesford.photo.

Karen Wright's book 'Whittlesford Men at War 1914-18', builds on the initial research identifying 'The 100', with detailed service biographies and war context, plus photos of memorials and memorabilia. A copy is on permanent display in the church.

This year, we had, as mentioned in 'Look', anticipated a build-up to launch the next detailed publication on WW1: Suzanne Ridley's "**Whittlesford Caring for the Wounded 1914-18**" – but then came Covid, lockdown and uncertainty! (but worth waiting for!)

One particularly significant element of this **Poppy Pilgrimage** is that almost for the first time it highlights

Former farmstead, homes of family of prominent villager **Reuben Chapman**; 3 sons among 'The100' & son in-law **Percy Overhill**, postman & parish church lead tenor, who was in killed in action in 1917 leaving widow **ALICE** with 2 young children. She, along with other war widow, **Jane Eliza-beth Douglas nee Nunn**, (100-yearold 'star' of the 1977 village history *Whittlesford Recalled*) unveiled this War Memorial Cross. '**Ms Overhill**' is remembered as a teacher at the village school. After their only son **Geoffrey Overhill** was killed in WW2, she alone unveiled the current, extended War Memorial. Of the 8 names listing the fallen in WW2, two were grandsons of Reuben Chapman. As well as her son Geoffrey, an RAF pilot killed Feb 1943, Alice's nephew Royal Marine **Robert Henry Chapman**, died June 1944 aged 19. He was the son of Arthur Reuben, another of 'The 100'
* In fact, some 130 "Men of Whittlesford" are listed in Karen Wright's service biographies. There is more about the people at Sheads in *Whither Whittlesford* nos.33 & 37)