

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

“Whilton Names”

In November we met to hear about some of the names used in Whilton over the centuries. Melchizidech Mynards or Maynard belonged to a family of Whilton farmers and carpenters, who were educated and able to read even in Elizabethan times. Melchizidech was the first baby baptized and recorded in in our Parish Registers in 1570. His name almost certainly reflects his family's knowledge of the Bible in English and their desire that he would lead a good and long life.

We looked at the significance of some other names used in Whilton in later times, and remembered how William Lucas Holden changed his surname to Rose by Act of Parliament in 1785. This meant he could inherit his uncle's fortune.

Some families were keen to keep alive the surnames of families with whom they had intermarried, leading to a string of names for William Langton Wright Butlin, who was simply recorded on his tombstone as W L W Butlin. There were also names which puzzled but inspired Whilton villagers, so that in 1712 Dorothy Goodman was written as "Doridy Godman" and in 1879 Theresa Noon became "Tryreza".