

MILITARY HISTORY - Background



Military History, originally The First World War Group, is one of the longest running groups in Sevenoaks U3A. The first meeting, in November 1997, had six members. That quickly rose to our 'living room maximum' of twelve and has stayed at around that number ever since with a small turnover. Currently we are all male although there have been lady members. Many of our members have served in the Forces, which has contributed to the cohesiveness we have always enjoyed, but the Group has never developed into old soldiers' reminiscences. The lady members who joined had family military connexions.

Our first Group Leader, Brian Tolmie, had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the First World War and we looked not only at the war in France/Belgium but also in Italy, East Africa and the Middle East. We looked not only at battles and campaigns, but also at associated topics like underground warfare (before Birdsong), and women's contributions. After 5 years we extended our range and the group's title changed.

Since 2002 we have ranged from the Trojan Wars through Agincourt to the epic story of a lone bomber flying to the Falklands. Presentations are individually and eclectically chosen, some with more history and others more military, but most with a balance of the two. Discussion is encouraged, during and after a presentation. We always leave feeling something has been learnt and memories jogged.

Members of the group are expected to give an hour long presentation on a topic of their choice once a year. See information on

The Group is now organised by Nick white and see the listing under the Study Groups Tab.

Arthur Russ
founder member