

Notes from History Group meeting on 10th July 2023

Present: Ian, Phil, Nigel, Peter, Brian

Brian reported that Margaret Ankins had completed a draft of her book and offered to provide the link to anyone able to help review it.

Ian that his cemetery work was now complete and deposited with the Devon Record Office and the Devon Family History Society.

Discussion then turned to the enquiry made by Rodney Hartnell about his father Clement's wartime service. Ian had identified several Hartnell memorials in Sidbury cemetery, while Nigel had located aspects of his civilian life, including his son's birth in 1939. Ian commented that the 2nd Devonshire Regiment served as Desert Rats in North Africa, so that was a possibility. Since making the enquiry, we understood that Mr Hartnell had managed to get a response from MoD records, so we are hopeful that he will finally find out which regiment his father served in.

Discussion then broadened out into the general issue of war service records, following a comment that WW1 records were in a much better state than WW2. It was mentioned that John McCarthy has produced a Sid Vale Roll of Honour running to 107 pages which contains names and short biographies of all who died in both world wars.

The meeting concluded with an advertisement from Nigel for the AONB 60th anniversary exhibition in Kennaway House from 17-22 July, which will include contributions from a wide variety of groups across East Devon.

Brian apologised that he was going to be away for the next meeting on 12th September. It turned out that most of those present would also be away, so exceptionally, the next meeting will be moved to the 3rd Monday of September, i.e. 18th September.

Therefore, next meetings will be on Mondays 18th Sep, 13th Nov and 8th January.