

March 21st – Michael Willoughby

The third event was on the 21st March when Michael Willoughby talked about the human costs of World War 1. Because Michael had come across one of his family who died in the battle of the Somme and because he knew precious little about him he became interested in the backgrounds of soldiers whose names appear on War Memorials in the villages in and around Reading and Henley. Unlike many talks on World War 1 which sanitise the horrors of the war this talk was both personal and emotional. We were shown pieces of military ordinance found in the fields of Flanders, as well as the book that the speaker had produced, after considerable research, about the lives of 2500 men from Henley and the surrounding area who were killed in the war. Named 'Lest We Forget: Remember each one was somebody's son' the title summed up the tenor of the talk brilliantly and gave us all much food for thought.