Dr Rodney Atwood BA PhD is well known to some of you as a speaker, writer and historian with special expertise and knowledge of the events and personalities surrounding the Great War about which he is critical of accepted opinion that often pervades the broadcast media. Rodney is a graduate of the McMaster University in Canada and Churchill College, Cambridge. He served in the Royal Tank Regiment before pursuing an academic career. His first book to make his name is Pen and Sword, but he was a published author before that. He is also a regular contributor to historical journals and a frequent lecturer.

You may remember his last talk to us that dealt with events in the first years of WW1. This War is the seminal event of the twentieth century and its consequences are still with us today, for example in Iraq, a nation formed of the unstable mix of Sunni, Shia and Kurd. Rodney Atwood's talk will begin with 'five heroes' on the Western Front and elsewhere on the morning of the 11th November, 1918, and their reaction to the war's end. He will then go back to August, 1914 to explain Britain's entry to this terrible war. Initially Germany held the advantage, and the talk will trace how the Allies gained the initiative, largely lost it in 1917, regained it again and won. He will briefly describe the aftermath, both internationally and nationally (in Britain), the advantages women gained (or didn't), and one or two influential writings on the war, finishing with the fate of his 'five heroes' plus one more who joins the story in March 1918.

Our venue is Cerne Abbas Village Hall, an excellent facility opened in 2006. It is set on the periphery of the historic village of Cerne Abbas, six miles north of Dorchester and is within sight of the Cerne Giant overlooking a wetland area rich in wildlife. There is ample parking. The address is Kettle Bridge Lane, Cerne Abbas, (OS Grid reference 663014.) A location plan is attached, and the postcode for satnavs is DT2 7GY.

The meeting will begin with coffee from 1100 followed by the talk at 1130. There will then be a two-course hot buffet lunch of Lamb Tagine or Vegetarian Tagine, followed by either Lemon and Raspberry meringue roulade or Fruit Salad and fresh cream. Helen Furness is a local caterer whose first-rate service some of you may remember from a meeting held here about 2 years ago.

NOTE: Please bring your own drinks.

The charge for this event is £21.00 per person, which can be paid by cheque or via bank transfer to The Cambridge Society of Dorset. Our bank account is with HSBC, sort code 40-17-22, account number 31130641. If you pay electronically, this must be done when you return the slip (which can be sent by email to Mr John Yerbury, details below), and you must give your surname and the date of the meeting as the reference on the transfer request to your bank. Otherwise, please return your booking slip as normal to: Mr John Yerbury, Holly Oak Lodge, Lions Hill Way, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, Hants BH24 2EX (tel: 01425 461497 or e-mail jtyerbury@btinternet.com) by Friday 17th August 2018

Please enclose a SAE if you wish your booking to be acknowledged.
CERNE ABBAS VILLAGE HALL LOCATION

DT2 7GY