

Now in our 30th Season!

~ Tewkesbury Historical Society ~

## A First World War Love Story

Historical fiction in the Middle East  
A presentation by author and historian Nigel Messenger

7.45pm Thursday March 25th - on 'ZOOM'

A filthy barge arrives in Basra full of wounded and dehydrated British soldiers. An officer recognises a comrade and rescues him from certain death. The wounded man's sister travels to India from England to nurse him back to health. Nigel Messenger tells their story.

All most welcome! Members free, guests £2.50

How to join us: Visitors are most welcome. Simply contact presidentths@gmail.com by 7pm Weds March 24th to arrange payment and get your access codes.

Next month's Meeting by Zoom: 7.45pm on April 22nd 2021 - Nicola Nash (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) "Recovering the Remains of Lost Soldiers from WWI"

**The Story:** A filthy barge arrives in Basra full of near-dead British soldiers, wounded, starved and dehydrated without basic care and medicine, **after the British surrender at the Battle of Kut in 1916.**

A British officer and his team take the poor men off the barge and onto a steamer headed for Bombay and then by train to a hospital in the cooler Northern India.

He recognises one gravely wounded man who had saved his life in South Africa in the horrendous Boer War some years before. When this man's sister travels to India from England to nurse him back to health, she falls for his rescuer.

World War One action takes place in Mesopotamia, India, Arabia and South Africa and follows the adventures of a family who work and fight together and finally reunite at a family wedding.

### The Presenter & Author

**Nigel Messenger** has spent a lifetime working in the Hospitality business and now has his own consultancy company. **He has also worked for and supported the Poppy Factory, which provides employment support to wounded, injured and sick veterans, for almost thirty years.**

Apart from his family Nigel has two major passions – cricket and history. *“Teaching history in schools can be very boring for the poor recipients. **People remember and relate to stories rather than dates and my interest is trying to describe the effect historical events had on ordinary men and women.**”*

Nigel has written four books about World War One in the Middle East. Book 4 also covers events in World War Two. The last two books were inspired by the experiences of his family members in various parts of the world. “They were not heroes but ordinary people and families who carried out their duties often under the most extraordinary conditions and deprivation.”

**Nigel's presentation will allow us to quiz the writer of Historical Fiction into how far we can rely on these fictional – and enjoyable – accounts of History.**