

GENERAL HISTORY

In January the group studied the complex story of the United Nations. We had a lively discussion afterwards about its effectiveness and concluded that it is a very mixed bag with a number of successes and important work on things such as health and relief services. But it has not achieved the high ideals it set out with (starting at meetings during World War Two) at its formal establishment. The power differences within the organisation are so great and the major players in the Security Council have such a huge influence.

Our February meeting looked at the Save The Children Fund which was established just after the First World War. Malcolm Kimber, our co-ordinator, chose this subject because he knew the great nephew of Eglantine Jebb the co-founder of the movement when living close to her home in Ellesmere in Shropshire. From small but highly successful beginnings Save the Children grew into a global organisation but it has not avoided some controversies in more recent years.

We have discussed our future theme to begin around the middle of the year and have agreed to “go local” by looking at aspects of history in Cumbria and North Lancashire.

Our normal meeting time is the first Thursday in the month at 2.00 pm.

Malcolm Kimber