***The Cone Gatherers: Political Setting***

There is the inclusion of conscientious objectors in the novel because Jenkins was a conscientious objector working for the Forestry Commission during World War II.

Conscientious Objector: A person who refuses to serve in the armed forces due to moral and religious grounds or due to their conscience.

Jenkins includes conscientious objectors as minor characters because he was one himself during the war and he feels as though they should be there. He also portrays them as good people to show that just because they don’t want to go to war; it doesn’t mean they are bad people.

“During his lifetime he had suffered so much from neglect…” “…Now in the café the three young men came over to their table and chatted merrily for a few minutes…” (P109)

He (Neil) doesn’t fully speak to the conscientious objectors in case anyone is watching and he quickly passes them.

“Neil, mindful of Lendrick eyes watching, nodded or shook his head.”

They treated him as an equal by speaking to him as though he wasn’t disabled.

“They gave the news from Ardmore and asked about the cone gathering. Calum answered them.”

He may also be disappointed because he isn’t able to deal with his wife’s deteriorating condition and he wanted to go to war so that he could get away from her and her condition for a while and because he can’t go away, he has to face it all the time causing him to feel depressed, and lead to him committing suicide.

“As she watched with Baird as horrified as she, another gunshot rang out. She glanced at him and saw that it had not occurred to him so soon what it meant. She knew that somewhere, on her beloved promontory, Duror, with his face shattered and bloody, lay dead.”