

DAVID P. HINCHLIFFE M.A.
LIST OF CURRENT TALKS, SUMMER 2022

I am happy to give talks across South Devon, although my fees will reflect the travel distance involved. Many of my talks reflect my interests in hill and mountain walking and in history (especially military history) and archaeology. All my talks are extensively illustrated, using Powerpoint presentations, and last from 45-50 minutes. During lockdown I have been delivering talks via Zoom. I have 6 talks which I am currently delivering:

VISITING THE ALPINE FRONT 1915-18

Based on my own visits to the former frontline between Italy and Austro-Hungary, after an introduction to this relatively unknown front of World War 1, we then go on a tour from Lake Garda to the high Dolomites and into Slovenia, illustrating the remarkable relics to be found today in these remote and often spectacular locations.

CAMELS OVER THE ALPS

Looking at the last year of the Great War in Italy, from November 1917 when British forces became involved. The talk particularly focusses upon aspects of the air war. I am not taking bookings for this talk at present as I intend updating it following a planned visit to Italy in 2023.

TINPOT AND THE SPY

Still in Italy during the Great War, the remarkable story of what may have been the first instance of a spy being dropped by parachute behind enemy lines.

THE REDOUBTABLE SWISS

Who would have guessed that Switzerland has 15,000 underground and disguised bunkers dating from WW2, all forming part of the National Redoubt, intended to deter German invasion. This talk tells the story of Switzerland in WW2 with a look at some of the sites that can be visited today.

THE TORQUAY HISTORICAL PAGEANT OF 1924

In the first part of the 20th century our nation was gripped by “pageantitis”, following the “mother of all pageants at Sherborne in Dorset in 1905. Torquay’s pageant was overseen by Arthur Applin – classical actor, sensationalist novel writer and war hero. Around 2,000 local people took part in what is now an almost forgotten event.

THE DRINKING FOUNTAINS OF TORQUAY

Often overlooked and neglected, we still have a few of these curiosities around the town. I provide a background history of drinking fountains, and then look at the stories behind some of our remaining ones and some of our lost ones. I am producing a booklet in support of my research, as I want to promote the restoration and maintenance of our remaining fountains, and also the installation of new ones to counteract the plague of single-use plastic bottles.

KIWIS IN TORQUAY

In 1917 a Discharge Depot for New Zealand troops designated as Permanently Unfit and awaiting return to their homeland was established in Torquay. Around 30,000 Kiwis passed through the Depot in the 30 months it was open. I look at the buildings used, the activities undertaken by the soldiers, including their social lives, war brides, their eventual departure and their legacy. A couple of period film clips are included.

TINPOT AND THE SPY

Italy, 1918. Three of the very bravest men come together for one incredible mission. Allegedly the first ever parachute spy drop.

SEARCHING FOR MOOROVER

What links a remote spot on Dartmoor with a St Marychurch GP ? This talk reveals all !

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