

## Steve Williams talks:

I am a Lancashire based historian and author who offers highly illustrated and entertaining talks to groups, clubs, historical societies, schools, colleges, libraries and museums, as well as to U3A, lunch clubs, men's groups, Rotary Clubs, the Women's Institute, Mothers Union and the like.



All my talks are aimed at mixed audiences of all ages and focus heavily on people, places and social history. They are highly illustrated using PowerPoint and the latest graphics software, and last around an hour; I do not use notes or read from a script. I bring my own equipment such as Laptop, projector and screen.

My main interest is World War One, being the Secretary & Co-Founder of the Chorley Pals Memorial. I have written two books, 'Brindle & Hoghton Pals' and 'Chorley Pals', chronicling over 650 local men who fought in The Great War.

Since 2002, I have made numerous visits to the battlefields on The Western Front and Gallipoli. In 2004, I started running coach trips from Lancashire to the First World War battlefields in France and Belgium. Over the last few years, I have assisted and appeared on BBC Television 'Inside Out' programme with WWI related stories, as well as on BBC regional news programmes, Granada Reports and BBC Radio Lancashire. I am also a regular contributor of 'Flashback' articles to my local newspaper, as well as to magazines such as 'Lancashire Life'.

I spent most of my working life in sales & marketing, being used to presenting at sales conferences, product launches, seminars, meetings and training sessions; I took early retirement in 2008. I researched and presented my first history talk to my local historical society back in 2003 and, since then, have presented over 200 talks and lectures at venues across the North West of England. Last year I was appointed a part-time Lecturer for the Lancashire Adult College at Alston Hall, near Preston.

### Charges\* :

Groups, Clubs and local Societies - £40  
Historical Societies and Libraries - £50  
Government, Education and Museums - £60

Other / commercial organisations - £75  
Talk & workshop - £90  
Conference / Day rate - £150

### Travel expenses:

Included to venues in Central Lancashire. For outside this area I seek and agree a contribution towards my petrol / travel costs. Talks to Government, education, museums and commercial organisations - 33p per mile or standard class railfare + taxi and subsistence (as appropriate).

Website: [www.stevewilliamstalks.co.uk](http://www.stevewilliamstalks.co.uk)

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# Steve Williams

# Illustrated talks



WWI



Football



Travel



Railways



Social History

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# World War One



## Kitchener's "Pals"

The idea was sound - men who live, work, play or worship together will want to fight together. Thousands of men across the U.K. joined Kitchener's New Army and his 'Pals' Battalions. Untried, many went into battle for the first time at the Somme on the morning of the 1st July 1916 - "Two years in the making, ten minutes in the destroying" is how one of them summed up their history.

The talk looks at the Pals from Lancashire and Yorkshire who fought and died attacking the small French village of Serre on the Somme.

## The Accrington Pals

The Lancashire town of **Accrington** was the smallest in the country to form a 'Pals' Battalion of 1,000 men. On the morning of the 1st July 1916, over 700 of them went 'over the top' together at the start of the Battle of the Somme - this is their story.

## The Chorley Pals

In September 1914, men from every walk of life in the small Lancashire market town of **Chorley** answered Lord Kitchener's appeal to join up. The talk looks at the 225 Soldiers of 'Y' Company, 11th (Service) Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, part of the famous "Accrington Pals". Their story ends with the unveiling of a memorial statue to the men in the town during 2010.

## Gallipoli

A visit to the **Gallipoli** battlefield in Turkey during September 2006 was more of a pilgrimage, searching out the lost graves of three men from my village. The talk covers the research and result, as well as looking at the beaches and battlefield; numerous maps & photographs.

## Footballers in the Trenches

Combining research into WWI with my interest in football. Numerous stories of professional and amateur **footballers who fought in the trenches** during the First World War - from Walter Tull (a Black Officer who played for Tottenham Hotspur) to the eleven team-mates from Scottish club, Heart of Midlothian.

## A Mother's Tears

A few lines spotted in the 'In Memoriam' column of my local paper in June 1918 gave me the idea for this talk. I have put together some very poignant stories from my own research into WWI over the years. As the title implies, they view **the War through different eyes**.

## Football

### The Ref.!

Stories from 29 years as a football **Referee**, including 12 years as Linesman on The Football League (1985 - 1996); numerous photographs.

## The Blue & Whites in Black and White

As a lifelong **Blackburn Rovers** fan, I illustrate the history of the Rovers from their beginnings in 1875 and founder members of The Football League to 1990, prior to the era of Premiership football.

## Blackburn Rovers in the Bryan Douglas era

A look at the Rovers during the era of one of its most famous players, England International **Bryan Douglas**. He played for his home-town club from 1950 to 1969.

## Preston North End in the Tom Finney era

**Sir Tom Finney** was one of England's greatest players, playing for his home-town club of Preston North End from 1938 to 1960, as well as making 76 appearances for his country; he was knighted in 1998.

BRITISH RAILWAYS

## A country railway

In **steam days** the line from Blackburn to Chorley was only eight miles long but it went through some rustic villages and rugged Lancashire countryside. Numerous 'then and now' photographs of the line which closed in 1968.

## Along the line

Opened in 1846, the line from Blackburn to Preston still sees **trains** passing through the two villages of Brindle and Hoghton. Numerous 'then and now' images as well as stories of the people who lived and worked along the line.

## Lakeland Lines

Looks at the railways in **the Lake District**, then and now - from the closed lines to Coniston and Keswick, the preserved line to Lakeside, the narrow gauge Ravenglass & Eskdale railway and the single track to Windermere.

## Rails to the Lancashire Coast

A look back at **journeys** to seaside resorts of Blackpool, Fleetwood, Morecambe and Southport during the early 1960s, the hey-day of rail travel.

## Misc., Travel & Social history

### Who do you think I am?

Based on the format of the BBC TV programme 'Who do you think you are', I chronicle **my own family tree** finding Huguenot roots in 18th century France, a Yorkshire wool merchant, a newspaper Editor, a Bolton tram driver and a Lady's maid who supposedly perished on the Titanic.

### For King and Country

Covers **WW1 & WW2** - a unique and personal talk, linking families (including my own) who fought in both wars. Stories and photographs of the Somme, Ypres, Gallipoli, Dunkirk, Normandy and Burma.

### Travels in France

I share some of the places I have visited in **France** over the years - not only battlefield visits to Dunkirk, Normandy and the Somme but to Paris, Corsica, Bordeaux, Nice, Monte Carlo, the Carmargue and Champagne country.

## Death of a village - Oradour-sur-Glane, June 1944

The **French village** of Oradour-sur-Glane was the scene of the worst atrocity by the SS during World War Two; it remains today as they left it in 1944.

## Battlefields & Poppy fields

Covers the many **battlefields** in Northern Europe - from Crecy to Agincourt and Waterloo; from Ypres, Verdun and the Somme to Arnhem, Dunkirk and Normandy.



Full details of **BATTLEFIELD TRIPS** see separate leaflet or visit [www.stevewilliamstalks.co.uk](http://www.stevewilliamstalks.co.uk)