

# Steve Williams Talks

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

Lancashire based historian & author, talking history since 2003



Steve Williams Talks



SteveWtalks

2023 - 24

## Steve Williams :



I am a Lancashire based historian, author and speaker who offers entertaining **talks** to groups, clubs, historical societies, libraries and museums, as well as to U3A, Lifelong Learning, lunch clubs, fellowship groups, Probus, the Women's Institute and similar organisations.

I researched and presented my first talk back in 2003 and since then have presented my talks at venues across the U.K. to audiences ranging from twelve to 250. I spent most of my working life in sales and marketing doing presentations, so feel comfortable doing talks as well as interviews on local radio and television (such as BBC Radio Lancashire, BBC North West Tonight and ITV Granada Reports).

Local and social history is my main interest and I like the First World War, railways, travel and football reflected in my list of talks which I refresh each year. I have written two books about men who fought in the First World War ('The Chorley Pals' and 'Brindle & Hoghton Pals') and am currently working on a couple more. I am a keen photographer and avid user of social media, posting regularly on my Facebook pages and several Twitter accounts, mostly history with a Lancashire theme.

I bring my own modern equipment and use the latest PowerPoint and graphics software. My illustrated talks generally last about an hour being aimed at mixed audiences of all ages, focusing heavily on people, places and social history. I am usually free during the day and evenings and can accept emergency or late bookings (subject to my diary).

### Charges : \*

Groups and Clubs £55

Historical Societies, Education and Libraries £65

### Travel expenses :

I look for a contribution towards my travel costs when a talk venue is more than 15 miles from my home near Chorley.



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## Lancashire

### Unsung Lancastrians

There have been **many men and women** in the County over the years whose stories have never been told - from entrepreneurs, Suffragettes, social campaigners, newspaper editors, soldiers and even a President of FIFA.

### Shifting Sands

A regular visitor to **Morecambe Bay**, the talk looks at the history and changes around the bay from the Fleetwood to Arncliffe, Grange-over-Sands and the tip of Walney Island.

### Lancashire over Sands

NEW

The County dates back to 1182 and includes areas "**over the sands**" of Morecambe Bay on the Furness Peninsula and into the Lake District; the talk looks at its long history.

### The history of ROF Chorley

The **Royal Ordnance Factory at Buxton near Chorley** was one of the largest munitions factories in the UK. Opened in 1938, at its height in WW2 it employed over 35,000 workers. The factory closed in 2007 with the 925 acre site becoming a new 'Village'.

### Preston in WW2

A snapshot of **life in Preston** and area during the Second World War - from rationing to air raids and V.E. Day in the town on the 8th May 1945.

### Along the towpath

Highlights the history of the **Leeds-Liverpool Canal** between Wheelton, Withnell Fold and Hoghton nr. Chorley, the last section to open in 1818.

## Social history

### "Keep Calm and Carry On"

The talk looks how Lancastrians coped with everything from the Plague to two World Wars, the General Strike in 1926, the 1974 Three Day Working Week, through to the COVID pandemic.

### Four tins

Looks at military and social history using **four tins** - a WW1 Christmas tin, a tin of emergency rations issued for D-Day in WW2, a coal miners lunch tin and a tin of Heinz baked beans; all have a Lancashire connection.

### "Nowt but a Lad"

A very personal talk of **my life in Lancashire** since the 1950s - from schooldays to my business career, plus 30 years as a football Referee and my interest in WW1.

## Football

### Lancashire footballing greats

Features many of the **greatest footballers** the county of Lancashire has produced including Dixie Dean, Tom Finney, Nat Lofthouse, Bryan Douglas, Alan Ball and Emlyn Hughes.

### Preston North End in the Tom Finney era

**Sir Tom Finney** was one of England's greatest players, playing for his hometown club from 1938 to 1960, as well as making 76 appearances for his country; he died in 2014.

### The Ref!

From 1967 to 1996, I spent 29 years as a **Referee** and Linesman in schoolboy, youth, amateur, non-League football and the professional game, seeing many changes along the way.



GRANGE-OVER-SANDS



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## Railways

### Rails to the Dales

The **rail journey** along the Ribble Valley and then up the scenic Settle to Carlisle line - both steeped in history; the talk mixes historic facts with old and new images.

### Rails to the Lancashire Coast

A look back at **journeys** to resorts of Blackpool, Fleetwood, Morecambe as well as Heysham, Knott End and Glasson Dock during the steam era, the hey-day of rail travel.

### Lakeland Lines

Railways in **the Lake District**, then and now - the closed lines to Conistone and Keswick, the preserved line to Lakeside, the narrow gauge Ravenglass & Eskdale and the line to Windermere.

### Railways around Chorley

The Lancashire market town was **well served by railways** until the 1960s; the talk is very much in the 'then & now' format with many never seen before photographs.

### Railway Walks

Features **walks** along existing and disused railways in the Lake District, Lancashire, France, Belgium and Italy, outlining the history along the lines; many 'then & now' pictures.

## Travel

### Italian reflections

I first visited **Italy** in 1994 visiting Milan and Bergamo. Since then I have visited Venice, Sardinia, Sicily, the Italian Lakes, the Dolomites, Naples and "The eternal City", Rome.

### Normandy

There is more to the **Normandy** than just the D-Day beaches. Whilst the talk covers the events of the June 1944, it takes a wider look at the historic region of northern France.

### Malta GC

The talk looks at some of the history of the Mediterranean **island of Malta** - from the Knights of St. John and 'Great Siege' in the 16th century, through to World War Two when the island was awarded the George Cross by King George VI in 1942.

## Military

### Loyal Lancastrians

NEW

Many Lancastrians served in **The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment** in WW1 and in WW2 when it became The Loyal Regiment; stories of some of their battles and men who served.

### Dunkirk

Back in late May and early June 1940 over 350,000 men of the British Expeditionary Force were rescued from the **Dunkirk beaches** in France - one of them being my father.

### Battlefields and Poppyfields

Looks at the many WW1 and WW2 **battlefields in Northern Europe** - from Ypres, Verdun and the Somme to Dunkirk, Normandy, Bastogne and Arnhem.

### "For you the War is over"

Stories of Lancashire men who became **Prisoners of War** in two World Wars - from where they were captured to the camps and conditions they were held in, to what happened to them in hands of the Germans, Turks and Japanese.