

**DAVID P. HINCHLIFFE M.A.**  
**LIST OF CURRENT TALKS, SPRING 2020**

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. 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.

**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 WHITE RAJAHS OF SARAWAK**

On Dartmoor lie the tombs of a dynasty of private individuals who won and then ran this nation on the north-western coast of Borneo for over 100 years. This talk looks at how the charismatic and adventurous James Brooke first won Sarawak and forged a link with Devon, and some of the eccentric individuals who followed him. *Please note – I am planning to phase this talk out of my programme at the end of 2020.*

**THE HILL FIGURES OF ENGLAND**

We have over 60 hill figures in England, many of their histories being shrouded by myth and legend. In this talk we unravel the stories of some of these iconic landscape features, which have inspired artists, writers and poets down the centuries.

**STORIES FROM A CARRIER BAG**

Most of my family history is that of simple Yorkshire farmers, but when my mother handed me a carrier bag of photographs and documents it opened up another world which developed into an inspiring story from tragedy to success. A talk which takes us to Maidstone and to Norwich, which takes in snippets of military history, the fight for shop workers' rights and for public open space, and key contributions to the British Legion.

**THE TORQUAY HISTORICAL PAGEANT OF 1924**

In the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 promote the installation of new ones to counteract the plague of single-use plastic bottles.

## **KIWIS IN TORQUAY (in preparation, available Autumn 2020)**

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.

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