

# **MIKE OGDEN has a lot to say.....**



**about**

**A LOST WAY OF TRAVELLING THE WORLD  
(AIRSHIPS)**

**about**

**ENGLISH INLAND WATERWAYS**

**about**

**THE ROYAL BLOODLINE**

**about**

**THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

**about**

**THE HISTORY OF SKYSCRAPERS**

**and about**

**THE GOLDEN AGE OF AIR TRAVEL**

A retired town planner, Mike Ogden launched his series of talks in 2013. It has grown into a substantial body of work, presenting a broad range of fascinating topics in a lively and enjoyable style.

Mike lives in north Nottinghamshire, and has given talks over a wide area of the North of England and the Midlands. Since 2020 he has also given many remote talks using the Zoom computer platform.

As of early 2022, he has given 250 talks to 150 groups, clubs and societies, and he hasn't lost his voice yet.



# The Sky's the Limit!

## A (more or less) Affectionate History of the Skyscraper

Nothing identifies and defines the modern world quite like the skyscraper. And right from the start, they were controversial.

Welcomed by many as dramatic symbols of the USA's dynamic growth, they were derided by others as the first new building form in history to be dedicated to the vulgar business of making money.

In this entertaining talk I show how the skyscraper evolved, and how its origins are older, and much closer to home than you might think.

I also show how the skyscraper has spread around the world, growing ever-taller in the process, and how it has become an inescapable part of modern popular culture.

**Mike Ogden**  
Visiting Speaker

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## BEYOND THE BLUE HORIZON

Discover the pioneering days of air travel, when converted 1st World War bombers became the first very basic, unreliable (and risky) airliners.

Enjoy the big flying boats of the 1930s – the supreme way to travel the world in comfort and style.

And look beyond, to the first jets that ushered in the world of mass air travel that we know today.



This is a vivid portrayal of a unique period when flying had an allure and glamour that can scarcely be imagined nowadays. Furiously expensive (and still risky), it was the **Golden Age** of air travel.



# The Seed of Kings

**Follow the bloodline of the British Monarchy  
from King Alfred the Great to Queen Elizabeth II.**

Learn how King Alfred's seed has passed through 39 generations in 12 centuries to the modern royal family.

Follow its sometimes-tortuous route as it passes beyond England into Scotland, Flanders, Normandy and Germany.

You will encounter many kings and queens in this talk, but you will not always follow the crown as it passes peacefully, or violently, from one head to another.

To know how the present royal family are linked to their ancient ancestors you must follow

**the bloodline.**

My talks are all one-hour PowerPoint presentations, richly illustrated. There is also a longer version of each talk if time is available. I charge a fee for each talk, plus travel cost (from Worksop). There is no extra charge for the longer talks.

I can give talks in the morning, afternoon or evening at venues in North Nottinghamshire, North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. Venues further afield, and bookings at short notice, may be possible.

**Please see my website for full details.**



## **A History and a Tour of the Houses of Parliament**

One of the world's most famous buildings, the Palace of Westminster stands majestically between Westminster Abbey and the River Thames.

Generally known these days as the Houses of Parliament, it is formally, as it has been for a thousand years, a royal palace which retains its royal name.

Learn about the palace's origins and follow its growth until the disastrous fire in 1834 which resulted in the erection of the buildings that now grace the site. And learn about the proposals to relocate Parliament while the buildings are restored and renewed.

Finally, take a tour around the palace, and enjoy a little of the biting humour and wit of the House of Commons.

# Hotels in the Sky

The times.... the people.... the sheer glamour...

of the **Zeppelin** years

In the 1920s the first airliners were unreliable, uncomfortable, cold and noisy, and they had only short range. What a contrast with airships, especially Zeppelins! They could cruise for thousands of miles, carrying more passengers in far greater comfort than aeroplanes.

**Few doubted in those days that the future of long-distance air travel belonged to the airship.**

This entertaining presentation brings to life a forgotten part of aviation history, celebrating a lost technology, and a lost way of travelling the world.



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You take the high road, and I'll take

## the **SLOW** Road

Join me for a cruise by narrowboat. Travel up the tidal Trent to Nottingham, and explore the Midlands and the Fens by canal and river. Cruise the Thames tideway through the centre of London, and follow the river all the way to Oxford.

Take the lovely Oxford Canal north, pass through the heart of the canal system in Birmingham, and end your journey on the biggest Meccano set in England!



This entertaining talk, illustrated with modern and archive pictures, brings the waterways vividly to life. It portrays the scenery, the variety and the history that make the English waterways so special.

And through it all shines the sheer pleasure of travelling, at a comfortable walking pace, in your own boat through your own country.