Current Lecture List

Mike Royden M.A. Cert Ed. (University of Liverpool)

First World War

The Home Front in Cheshire During WW1

The Effects of the First World War on Local Communities

(volunteers/Old Pals regiments/ conditions at home/ rationing / air raids / internment / conscription / conscientious objectors / changing role of women / the aftermath / war memorials & remembrance)
Can be tailored to your local area. (Based on the research for three books and three war memorial research projects).

The men who marched away

The Soldiers of the WWI Ellesmere Port War Memorial & the setting up of a research project Includes the context of the small town of Ellesmere Port in 1914, the devastating effect of the numbers who enlisted and the casualties. Plus, the project to trace the men concerned, the campaign for a sign for those soldiers buried in the local graveyard and the construction of a website to make the work accessible to researchers.

Henry Bowen of Farndon and the Last Voyage of the Lusitania

The story of the sinking of the Lusitania and of Henry Bowen, a stoker on the vessel

The Liverpool Old Pals' regiment

Noel Chavasse VC

Conscientious objectors during WW1 and WW2

Everton Football Club during the First World War

Second World War

Exploding Munitions - Captain Kinley and the May Blitz 1941

The story of the Liverpool Blitz and the most devastating explosion on the docks

The Home Front on Merseyside

(including Evacuation/Defence/Blitz/Getting through/Spirit of the Blitz/Leisure/Battle of the Atlantic/Victory/reconstruction/Bravery awards – based on my book Merseyside at War 1939-1945).

Conscientious objectors during WW1 and WW2

The Poor Law and Workhouse

The 19thC Poor Law in Liverpool - Roots of Workhouse Infirmaries

The Poor Law and Workhouse in Liverpool

The Poor Law and Workhouse in Cheshire

The Poor Law in South West Lancashire and Wirral/West Cheshire

This can be tailored to suit the location of the society so as to make it more relevant to members' research interests

The Roots of the New Liverpool Women's Hospital: Early care of Women in the First Half of the 19th century

Maritime

Shipbuilding on the Mersey During the Nineteenth Century

Henry Bowen of Farndon and the Last Voyage of the Lusitania

Thomas Royden & Sons – the history of a shipbuilding family

Liverpool

The Hitler's of Liverpool - Did Adolf Visit in 1912/13?

Liverpool Castle and the Foundation of a Medieval Town

Edward Rushton - The life and times of an 18th Century Radical and Poet

The Docker's Umbrella - The Story of the Liverpool Overhead Railway

Lewis's – The Story of an Iconic Store

Dr Duncan, Medical Officer of Health

The Leveson Street Murder of 1849

A History of the Royal School for the Blind Liverpool 1791-1991

Otterspool: From medieval fishery to leisure amenity

The Liverpool Police Strike of 1919

Frank Hornby and his Factory of Dreams

The Murder of Julia Wallace 1931

The Decline of the Manor of West Derby and the rise of Liverpool during the medieval period. Covering the castles of West Derby and Liverpool and the creation of the Borough of Liverpool

Liverpool and the Slave Trade - The Foundation of the Eighteenth-Century Port

To what extent did the Slave Trade affect the growth of Liverpool in the eighteenth century?

Salt, The Dungeon and the Rise of Liverpool

Aspects on the History of Hale

Aspects on the History of Halewood

19thC Halewood and the coming of the Railway

Monastic Lands - Stanlawe Grange and Garston Hall

The Calderstones – the history of the stones and site in a wider context

Chester

The Siege of Chester During the English Civil War

Workhouse, The Poor Law and Workhouse in Cheshire

Coming of the Canal to Chester and the Re-cutting of the Dee

The Home Front in Chester During both WW1 and WWII

(based on recent research and my publication *'Chester at War*)

Wirral

The Roydens of Frankby: the history of a well-known Shipbuilding family from North Wirral/ Liverpool

Surviving the Titanic – the forgotten story of Ruth Bowker of the Wirral (Little Sutton)

The foundation of a canal town - A History of Ellesmere Port

My Background and experience

In addition to teaching Local History in evening classes at the University of Liverpool Centre for Continuing Education, I have been giving lectures to Societies and Conferences since the early 1980s. All lectures are illustrated using PowerPoint/Keynote. Some of topics are featured on my website, so do please take a look if there is more information you require regarding content.

If there is another topic you are looking for, please contact me as I may still be able to help (or redirect you to someone who can).

Lecture secretaries usually ask for a short biography, either for publicity or introductions – I have included one at the end – please feel free to edit and lift out what you require.

Charges

Fees and travel expenses are negotiable and not extortionate!

Equipment

Venues usually provide a screen and projector and extension lead.

I bring my laptop with an HDMI cable to connect to the projector (please confirm there is an HDMI socket on the projector to ensure compatibility). (I do have a laptop with the older VGA connection which I usually bring too in case of problems.)

The HDMI socket

HDMI cable

VGA cable

Contact

email: mikeroyden1@gmail.com

Mike Royden – short biography

Mike Royden has been a teacher and lecturer for over 30 years. He studied History and Archaeology and the University of Liverpool. He has taught History, Politics and Information Technology in Wirral schools since 1992, and has also lectured for many years in Local History on Adult Education Degree courses in University of Liverpool Centre for Continuing Education.

He has researched and written about various aspects of History for over thirty-five years and publications include,

- ***Merseyside at War 1939-45***
- ***Tales from the 'Pool – a collection of Liverpool Stories***
- ***Tracing Your Liverpool Ancestors***
- ***Pioneers and Perseverance: A History of the Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool 1791-1991***

He has contributed entries to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and numerous Historical Academic Journals. He has written a variety of articles for various websites and has designed and maintains ten history websites at www.roydenhistory.co.uk

He has also appeared several times on Radio 4's Making History, and several appearances on TV, such as BBC1 Heir Hunters, BBC1 Who Do You Think You Are? and recent programmes on the Blitz.

He is vice-chair of Everton FC Heritage Society, writes history articles for the match day programme and website, and compiled a Remembrance booklet for the club on all players lost in both wars.

A book on the shipbuilding firm of Thomas Royden & Sons is due for publication early 2026.

He lives near Chester and has two sons, Lewis - a photographer, and Liam - a musician.