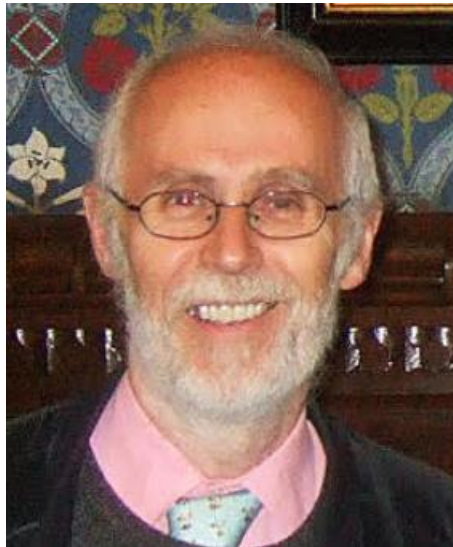


IAN MURSELL



Aztecs and Mayas and the story of the Spanish Conquest of Mexico

2nd March 2024

The talk will focus mainly on the Aztecs and the story of the Spanish invasion of Mexico (1519-1521). It will include occasional references to the Maya but the emphasis will be much more on the Aztecs. It will try to dispel some of the common myths surrounding the 'Conquest', and to present something of the opposing viewpoints on this momentous event in history. It will also look at some of the achievements of the Aztecs (and other great Mesoamerican civilisations) and end with a brief look at 'cultural resistance' and the legacy of the Aztecs and Maya today.

Ian Mursell is co-director of a small, long-established, specialist, independent, 'Living History' artefact-based teaching team on Mexico, the Mexica (Aztecs) and the Maya (for schools and museums throughout England); we have worked with over 225,000 children in some 3,500 primary school visits alone since 1980, as well as in the British Museum, Museum of Mankind and the Royal Academy of Arts. We ran a series of oversubscribed workshops for schools attending the major exhibition 'Aztecs' at the Royal Academy from 2002-3, and repeated this at the British Museum in 2009-10 in support of their exhibition 'Moctezuma – Aztec Ruler'. In July 2015 we ran another series of workshops for schools and families attending the major exhibition on the ancient Maya at the World Museum Liverpool. We maintain a popular, educational website in support of our programmes in schools. The homepages of the site can be found at

<http://mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/>

<https://www.mexicolore.co.uk/maya>