

PENISTONE HISTORY GROUP PROGRAMME 15 JANUARY 2025 TO 3 DECEMBER 2025.

15 January 2025. Andrew Green. Arthur!

All about King Arthur and did he actually exist? Andrew investigates!

5 February 2025. Julie Fearn. The Suitcase of Secrets - A Story of Love Amid Displacement in WW2.

The Suitcase of Secrets is a thrilling compassionate story of love, heartbreak and redemption in post war England and is partly based on actual events in Northern England in 1946 when Roman a Polish refugee determined to build a new life arrives in West Yorkshire and continues his search for his missing family whom he last saw in 1940's Warsaw. However he is also hiding something when he meets and falls in love with Irish fiery Bridget...

19 February 2025. Dr Jennifer Stephenson. The History of Water - The Sheffield Reflection. Water, an essential ingredient for life has a fascinating and rather turbulent history. In the early years the industrial town of Sheffield expanded quickly and became victim to severe overcrowding putting pressure on supplies of drinking water and general cleanliness, resulting in various diseases and consequently high mortality rates. It took 22 years for Sheffield's leaders to respond to the situation with sewers and further reservoirs. As well as this timeline the talk will cover the history of the toilet and that of our local fifteen reservoirs.

5 March 2025. Jennifer Rudd. Pus and Prejudice! Immunisation & Lady Mary Montague Wortley.

The focus of the presentation is on how Mary took on both deadly smallpox and the 'medical establishment' to introduce immunisation to our shores 300 years ago, pushing the boundaries of what was considered 'feminine behaviour' at the time! A short AGM will also be held at this meeting.

19 March 2025. Susan Green. Wentworth School and the Links to the Fitzwilliam Family.

The talk looks at Victorian education through primary sources and explores the 'Fitzwilliams' and the 'big house' (Wentworth Woodhouse) connections.

2 April 2025. HM Lord Lieutenant Chapman. The History of the Lord Lieutenant's Role.

HM Lord-Lieutenant, Professor Dame Hilary Chapman is His Majesty King Charles III's personal representative in the County of South Yorkshire. She will talk briefly about the history of the role as it is today covering the diversity and changes over the last few years

16 April 2025. Paul Iseard. The History of the Humble Fork

Paul's talk starts with a fun quiz followed by exploring how, why and when the eating fork was introduced into the British Isles and its evolution from 2 to 3 to 4 prongs, spanning the period from medieval to modern times with quotes and examples from historic records. The presentation concludes with the audience being asked to identify the more unusual cutlery items made in Sheffield.

7 May 2025. Martin Rowley. The Making of the Film The 1920's Sheffield Gang Wars.

This is a story of the Sheffield Gang Wars of the 1920's involving gangs such as The Mooney Gang and The Park Brigade and the subsequent creation by the Chief Constable of Sheffield John Hall-Dalwood of the Special Duty Squad commonly known as the Flying Squad and their deployment.

21 May 2025. Anne Featherstone. Fools and Horses -The Victorian Circus.

The history of The Victorian Circus is one of high success and dreadful failure, of fires, falls and fabulous feats. Of horses, equilibrist, aerial acts and clowns, and the men (and women) who rode, tumbled, swung and gagged. Of 'Lord' George Sanger whose circus was pitched at Windsor Castle to perform for Queen Victoria and Charlie Keith who invented the first iron circus. The talk provides a fascinating insight into this little known aspect of Victorian entertainment.

4 June 2025. Mike Ogden. Beyond The Blue Horizon -The Golden Years of Air Travel. A modest tribute to the Golden Age of Air Travel. Covering the years from the dawn of air travel to the 1950's, this talk looks at this unique period when air travel went from being uncomfortable, unreliable and very expensive to being stylish, luxurious and glamorous (and still very expensive).

18 June 2025. Mark Dawson. A Saucy Tale -The History of Henderson's Relish. Henderson's Relish or Hendo's is a Sheffield phenomenon. Eulogised by Sheffields often to the bemusement of others who have never heard of it. Its also a remarkable survival of a Victorian product produced on a relatively small scale by a family business that has a varied and interesting history

2 July 2025. Roy Meakin. RNLI Timeline. Roy covers the reasons for the formation of the organisation and its history up to the present day, including the story of Grace Darling and describes the sort of jobs carried out today.

16 July 2025. Cynthia Shaw. "My Life". Cynthia talks about her years working for the NCB and her time as a JP, a role she performed for 20 years, a period which included the Miners' Strike of 1984/5.

3 September 2025. Rod Dimbleby. "Tellin' t' Tale". Rod gives us background information about the Yorkshire dialect and the Yorkshire Dialect Society and entertains us with humorous poems and tales.

17 September 2025. David Hinchliffe. The Denby Witchcraft Case of 1674. David has written a book entitled "A Most Gross and Groundless Prosecution: the Denby Witchcraft Case of 1674". This book is based around the content of original court documents, concerning the case and, in particular, a petition of over 50 local residents of the parish of Penistone.

1 October 2025. Janet Stain. Unmentionable Foundations Part 2. This is a return visit for Janet and this time she is talking about the history of ladies' undergarments. Bras, stays, bustles and crinolines, all are included. It promises to be a laugh!

15 October 2025. Julie Banham. Home is Where the Hearth is 1750-1900 Part 2. This is a return visit for Julie, and this time she covers the history of the development of our homes and how we use them, right up to the beginning of the last century.

5 November 2025. Eric Jackson. The Gunpowder Plot. Eric will tell us about the events on this famous date in history and its consequences.

19 November 2025. Stephen Flinders. January 1916 The Night the Zeppelins Came. On the 31st January, one of the largest Zeppelin fleets raided Britain. Losing their way, they wandered over the Midlands causing death and destruction.

3 December 2025. Bob Massey. Traditional Christmas. Bob will recount to us the story of how things we do at Christmas came about and why.