

PENISTONE HISTORY GROUP SPEAKER SYNOPSIS' 21 JANUARY TO 2 DECEMBER 2026

21 January 2026. Edana Guest. An Exploration of George Orwell's Time in Barnsley.

In 1936, the writer spent time in Barnsley and this is recounted, using extracts from his diaries and his novel 'The Road to Wigan Pier'.

4th February 2026. Chris Tapster. Always A Little Further.

This

presentation about the Falklands War focuses on the role of the 45 Commando Royal Marines during the conflict.

18 February 2026. Tim Mulroy. Sheffield - City of Sanctuary.

This is a talk about people from all over the world who, over the last 300 years have made Sheffield their home. This includes the reasons for that and how the city has supported migrants and refugees.

4 March 2026. David Kershaw. The Oberammergau Passion Play.

This play is the most famous and longest running event on the calendar. The origins, the turbulent history and modern revisions of it will be explored whilst looking forward to the next production in 2030 and the 400th anniversary in 2034.

18 March 2026. Rod Dimbleby. Tellin' T' Tale!

Rod recites Yorkshire dialect poems and tales whilst including background information about the Yorkshire Dialect Society.

1 April 2026. Jan Brown. The Development of Wortley Top Forge site over 400 years.

Wortley Top Forge is the oldest surviving water driven heavy iron forge which has recently been restored by volunteers. The talk follows the history of the site from its earliest days to the present.

15 April 2026. Jane Ashby. The Silk Road.

The Silk Road is one of the oldest trading routes in the world and connects China to Western Asia. This is the story of this road and the beautiful architecture along its route.

6 May 2026. Martin Rigney. The Mille Miglia Road Race.

This talk encompasses the career of Sir Stirling Moss and his record-breaking win of the Mille Miglia road race in 1955 in Italy. There will also be a mock 'auction' where our members will be able to bid for a classic car!

20 May 2026. Bob Massey. Herbert Ponting.

Herbert Ponting was a photographer, film maker, war correspondent and explorer who went to the Antarctic with Captain Robert Falcon Scott.

3 June 2026. Jonathon Reid. Ernest Wright - Hand-made Scissors in Sheffield.

This

talk covers the background and history of Ernest Wright, Sheffield's renowned scissor maker, the evolution of manufacturing practices and the enduring joy found in the making of scissors today.

17 June 2026. Geraldine Hughes. Ceramic Restoration.

A light hearted and informative talk by a Potter and Ceramic Restorer of all types of ceramics. The speaker explains the history of ceramic restoration which started many

centuries ago and the methods used in restoration including examples of her work, the tools, materials and pots used.

1 July 2026. Jude Warrender. Unknown Nepal.

Jude who has travelled and volunteered in Nepal will talk about her time as a volunteer working in poor communities and schools in a remote area far away from the tourist trail.

15 July 2026. Lizzie Jones. Rogues and Vagabonds. The Elizabethan Theatre.

Lizzie takes us on a visit to the Elizabethan theatre scene, an innovation at the time with some of the greatest playwrights, colourful actors and aristocratic patrons, but not welcome to everybody.

2 Sept 2026. Ann Featherstone. I'll Polish Him Off! The Curious History of Sweeney Todd.

Pies and cannibalism, barbering and butchering, stage plays and films, myths and truths. Why is the story of this 1800's murderer so fascinating? Ann explores.

16 September 2026. Alan Dulcamara and Kevin Turner. The History and Heritage of Tinsley Sheffield Canal.

Following the speakers' extensive research their presentation explains the long delay in the canal's construction, why its heyday was so short lived and the eventual demise of the industry along its length. All supported by photographs of the amazing buildings and infrastructure.

7 Oct 2026. Stephen Miller. When the Oaks Fired: Britain's Worst Mining Disaster 1866.

In December 1866 Barnsley witnessed the worst mining disaster in English history, killing nearly 400 men and boys in a series of underground explosions. Stephen a local historian will present the story of the disaster, its impact and legacy.

21 Oct 2026. Dr Jenny Stephenson. Physicians and Pharmacists - A Healthy Alliance?

Dr Stephenson's talk will examine their history and give an animated overview of the history of the evolution of these two ancient arts, discussing the many ups and downs in their relationship.

4 Nov 2026. Mark Dawson. What's Up With Ewe? 2000 yrs of English Sheep's Milk Cheese.

Cheese made with sheep's milk was once produced in England, now you will pay a premium for an artisan product. The talk charts the rise and fall of English sheep's milk cheese against farming and the wider economy from Roman Empire to the present day.

18 Nov 2026. Alan Hancock. The Maybrick Murder - A Jack the Ripper Suspect.

Alan an aficionado of The Whitechapel Murders of 1888, is back to talk to us but this time will concentrate on James Maybrick and the story behind his strange life and death.

2 Dec 2026. Maureen Taylor. How The Tudors Celebrated Christmas.

Tudor

Christmases involved heaps of fun and ribaldry, but also had a huge element of friendship and commitment to family. Most of all though was the religious meaning as society at that time was deeply affected by religion and various foreign influences.