



Sharnbrook Local History Group

Spring 2026 Programme

All talks in the Methodist Church at 2pm unless otherwise stated

**Wednesday
14th
January** **"Isambard Kingdom Brunel"**
Barry Tomlinson will talk about one of the great engineers of the 19th century Industrial Revolution

**Wednesday
28th January** **"Jane Austen and Fashion"**
A talk by Sharn Matthews
This is our contribution to the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the 18th century novelist who is probably the most read today.

**Wednesday
11th
February** **"A History of Olney"**
Thomas Jones from the Cowper & Newton Museum will look at the history of Olney, from before the Romans to the present day.

**Wednesday
25th
February** **"Bedford Monasteries"**
Bob Ricketts CBE returns to talk about Newnham Priory and some of the other lesser known religious establishments of Bedford

**Wednesday
11th
March** **"Found guilty, sentenced to death, but did I hang?"**
Des Hoar shares the results of his research into 19th century death sentences in Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire

**Wednesday
25th
March** **"It's a Hole, a Big, Big Hole"**
Brian Kerr will talk about the Extraction Industry in Bedfordshire and its impact on the landscape