

CASTLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TALKS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2026



21 MAY - BY KATE FAULKES

Commissioner Churches of 19th Century Sheffield

This talk will explore the lives of the working-class families who were buried in one of Sheffield's four Anglican Commissioner Churches. These churches were funded by a government in financial crisis after the Napoleonic Wars to tackle 'urban godlessness' and to combat the growing popularity of nonconformist faiths in towns, and have been little studied, despite providing a rich source of data on what the Victorians called 'the industrious classes'. The talk will investigate where these families came from, the work they did, the households they put together, how long they lived, and how they fought for political control and better living conditions through their involvements in Chartism and trade unionism. It explores the many choices they made, both in life and in deciding how to bury their loved ones. The talk will particularly focus upon the lives of those whose stories are most difficult to find; women, and particularly widows.

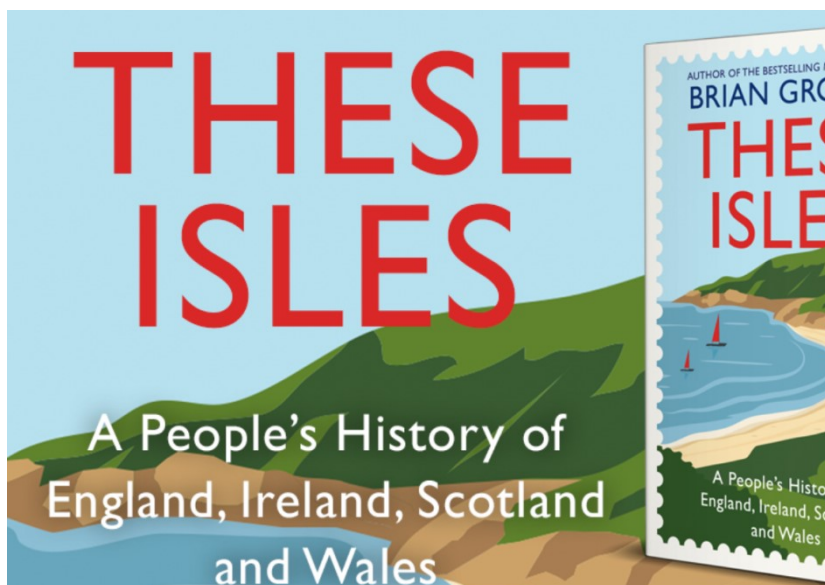


18 JUNE - BY BRIAN GROOM

"These Isles"

An inventive new look at the entwined histories of Britain and Ireland's nations – and the people who have called them home. The talk reveals a colourful and often-contested story of the Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans and others who have occupied these islands, along with their culture, languages and passions. Exploring the role of religion and the British Empire, international diasporas and internal migration, gender relations and war in this entertaining narrative.

With forays into popular culture, sport, music, language, literature and art, stretching from 800,000-year-old footprints on a Norfolk beach to the changing fortunes of the early 21st century. It offers a uniquely rich and kaleidoscopic vision of the shared stories of people across Britain and Ireland – past and present.



Talks are held in the Peveril Centre, Methodist Church, Buxton road, Castleton, starting at 7.30pm.

Visitors are welcome £3. Students are free. For further information or membership details contact

secretary@castletonhistorical.co.uk