

# Charlotte Brontë: A Bicentennial Celebration of her Life and Works



## Programme

Friday 13 & Saturday 14 May

#BrontëAtChawton

Chawton House Library



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**

**Southampton Centre for  
Nineteenth-Century  
Research**

---

## Programme at a Glance

---

### FRIDAY 13 MAY

09.00-09.30	Registration
09.30 – 10.30	<b>Keynote speaker:</b> Juliet Barker (Author of <i>The Brontës</i> and former Curator and Librarian of The Brontë Parsonage Museum)
10.30-12.00	<b>Panel 1</b> (Dining Room) and <b>Panel 2</b> (Oak Room)
12.00-13.00	LUNCH (Great Hall)
12.30-13.00	Lower Reading Room open for viewing
13.00-14.30	<b>Panel 3</b> (Dining Room) and <b>Panel 4</b> (Oak Room)
14.30-15.00	BREAK
15.00-17.00	<b>Panel 5</b> (Dining Room) and <b>Panel 6</b> (Oak Room)
17.00-17.15	BREAK
17.15-18.15	<b>Keynote speaker:</b> Justine Picardie (Editor in Chief of <i>Harper's Bazaar</i> and <i>Town and Country</i> Magazines (Dining Room)
18.15-18.45	Evening Drinks Reception
18.45-20.00	Dinner (Great Hall)
20.00-20.40	<b>Play by Diana Birchall</b> (Dining Room)
20.45	Coach departs from Chawton House Library to Alton

### SATURDAY 14 MAY

09.00-09.15	Registration
09.15-10.45	<b>Panel 7</b> (Dining Room) and <b>Panel 8</b> (Oak Room)
10.45-11.15	BREAK
11.15-12.45	<b>Panel 9</b> (Dining Room) and <b>Panel 10</b> (Oak Room)
12.45-13.45	LUNCH
13.45-15.15	<b>Panel 11</b> (Dining Room) and <b>Panel 12</b> (Oak Room)
15.15-15.30	BREAK
15.30-16.30	<b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Sally Shuttleworth (University of Oxford)
16.45	Coach departs from Chawton House Library to Alton/ Alton Station

---

## Friday 13 May

---

08.30-08.40	Coach departs (Alton House Hotel at 08.30 / Swan Hotel at 08.40)
09.00-09.30	Registration
09.30-10.30 Dining Room	<p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Juliet Barker (Author of <i>The Brontës</i> and former Curator and Librarian of The Brontë Parsonage Museum)</p> <p><b>Re-writing Writers' Lives: Mrs Gaskell's <i>Life of Charlotte Brontë</i></b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Gillian Dow, Chawton House Library/University of Southampton</p>
10.30-12.00 Dining Room	<p><b>Panel 1</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Sally Shuttleworth (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Cora Kaplan (University of Southampton/Queen Mary, University of London)</p> <p><b>Memories of Childhood: Charlotte Brontë and Harriet Martineau</b></p> <p>Valerie Sanders (University of Hull)</p> <p><b>'Mediocrity in the Sensations': Charlotte Brontë's Unromantic Marriages</b></p> <p>Syrie James (Author, USA)</p> <p><b>Autobiographical Details in the Novels of Charlotte Brontë</b></p>
Oak Room	<p><b>Panel 2</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Marysa DeMoor (Ghent University, Belgium)</p> <p>Clare Broome Saunders (University of Oxford)</p> <p><b>'I am an Esquire': Charlotte Brontë's Medievalism</b></p> <p>Filipa Sousa (University of Porto, Portugal)</p> <p><b>Representations of a Young Heroine: Gender, Genre and the Gothic Imagination in <i>Northanger Abbey</i> and <i>Jane Eyre</i></b></p> <p>Gaïane Hanser (University of Lorraine, France)</p> <p><b>'As the Reader Knows': Charlotte Brontë's Model Readers</b></p>
12.00-13.00	LUNCH in the Great Hall

**12.30-13.00**      **Lower Reading Room will be open for viewing:** a chance to see Charlotte Brontë's letter on reading Jane Austen's *Emma*, part of Chawton House Library's 'Emma at 200' exhibition

**13.00-14.30**

**Dining Room**

**Panel 3**

**Chair:** Maria Hayward (University of Southampton)

Christine Nelson (Morgan Library and Museum, USA)

**I Imagine her Face: Charlotte Brontë's Material Legacy**

Eleanor Houghton (University of Southampton)

**Charlotte Brontë's Corset: Intimacies Revealed**

Helena Bergmann (University of Borås, Sweden)

**Architecture and Artifacts as Signifiers of Sublimation in Charlotte Brontë's *Villette***

**Oak Room**

**Panel 4**

**Chair:** Daniel Brown (University of Southampton)

Sophie Franklin (University of Durham)

**'Till Try Violence': Charlotte Brontë and the Violent Nineteenth-Century Imagination**

Rosalind Parry (Princeton University, USA)

**Illustrating *Jane Eyre* for the Battle of Britain**

Emma Butcher (University of Hull)

**'But the woes of war are not confined to the field of death': War Trauma and Alcoholism in the Brontë Juvenilia**

**14.30-15.00**

**BREAK**

**15.00 - 17.00**

**Dining Room**

**Panel 5**

**Chair:** Julie Donovan (George Washington University, USA)

Cornelia Pearsall (Smith College, USA)

**Burying Bertha**

Hannah Desouza (University of Oxford)

**'Conscience, turned tyrant, held passion by the throat':**

**The Relationship between the Conscience and Passion in *Jane Eyre* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall***

Heather Ward (Marshall University, USA)  
**The Mad-Man: Rochester's Evolving Personality Disorder(s)**

Siobhan Harper (University of Durham)  
**'Do not choose me for your text': The Healthy Body in Charlotte Brontë's *Shirley***

Oak Room

Panel 6

**Chair:** Mary Hammond (University of Southampton)

Claire Thurlow (University of Surrey)  
**'In this sequestered forest glade': An Examination of the Role of Nature and the Natural World in the Work of Charlotte Brontë**

Kimberley Dimitriadis (University of Sydney, Australia)  
**'A shadow bent between the light and the lattice': Astronomy and Eclipses in *Shirley***

Malcolm Bare (University of Virginia, USA)  
**Rising Architecture: The Ethics of Material Memory in *Jane Eyre* and *Villette***

17.00 - 17.15      BREAK

17.15 – 18.15

Dining Room

**Keynote Speaker:** Justine Picardie  
(Editor in Chief of *Harper's Bazaar* and *Town and Country* Magazines)  
**Possession: How the spirit of Charlotte Brontë continues to haunt writers who have followed in her wake**

**Chair:** Eleanor Houghton (University of Southampton)

18.15 - 18.45      **Evening Drinks Reception** - Sponsored by the Southampton Centre for Nineteenth-Century Research

18.45 - 20.00      **Dinner in the Great Hall**

20.00 – 20.40

Dining Room

**'You are Passionate Jane'. A Play by Diana Birchall**  
Read by Diana Birchall and Syrie James

20.40                      **Coach departs from Chawton House Library to Alton**

---

## Saturday 14 May

---

08.30-08.40	Coach departs (Alton House Hotel at 08.30 / Swan Hotel at 08.40)
09.00-09.15	Registration
09.15-10.45 Dining Room	<p>Panel 7</p> <p>Chair: Clare Broome Saunders (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Carol M. Dole (Ursinus College, USA) Young Lucy and Young Jane</p> <p>Judith Pike (Salisbury University, USA) A New Legacy for Charlotte Brontë: From Miss Foxley in <i>The Secret</i> (1833) to <i>Jane Eyre</i> (1847)</p> <p>Erin Nyborg (University of Oxford) Pedagogical Mastery: The Male Teacher in Charlotte Brontë's Novels</p>
Oak Room	<p>Panel 8</p> <p>Chair: Gillian Dow (Chawton House Library/University of Southampton)</p> <p>Helen MacEwan (Brussels Brontë Group) Charlotte Brontë seen by the Belgians: the view from 'Labassecour'</p> <p>Marysa Demoor (Ghent University, Belgium) 'Brussels is still my promised land': Charlotte Brontë's Belgian Desires and Frustrations</p> <p>Charlotte Mathieson (Newcastle University) Brontë's Brussels: Locating the Brontë Legacy Abroad</p>
10.45 -11.15	BREAK
11.15 - 12.45 Dining Room	<p>Panel 9</p> <p>Chair: Cornelia Pearsall (Smith College, USA)</p> <p>Sarah Wise (Bishopsgate Institute) 'That Mystery of Mysteries': Grace Poole</p>

Eileen Fitzgerald (University of Winchester)  
*Jane Eyre: Myth and Morality*

Kimberley Braxton (Keele University)  
**Escaping the Shadow of 'Jane Eyre': A Re-Examination of Charlotte Brontë's Writing Identity**

**Oak Room**

**Panel 10**

**Chair:** Carol Dole (Ursinus College, USA)

Lucy Sheerman (Artist in Residence, Metal Peterborough)  
**The Imaginative Legacy of *Jane Eyre* on Subsequent Fiction**

Amber Regis (University of Sheffield)  
**Charlotte Brontë on Stage: 1930's Biodrama and the Archive /Museum Performed**

Catherine Han (Cardiff University)  
**The Afterlives of the Artist Charlotte Brontë: Art and Artistry in Contemporary *Jane Eyre* Adaptations**

**12.45 -13.45**      **LUNCH in the Great Hall**

**13.15-13.45**      **Lower Reading Room Open for Viewing:** a chance to see Charlotte Brontë's letter on reading Jane Austen's *Emma*, part of Chawton House Library's 'Emma at 200' exhibition

**13.45 - 15.15**  
**Dining Room**

**Panel 11**

**Chair:** Valerie Sanders (University of Hull)

Julie Donovan (George Washington University, USA)  
**Ireland in Charlotte Brontë's *Villette***

Adrian Tait (Independent Scholar)  
**'I felt the consecration of its loneliness': *Jane Eyre*, Moor House and the Nature of Dwelling**

Justine Pizzo (University of Southampton)  
**Atmospheric Inspiration and the Meteorological Nervous System in *Shirley***

Oak Room

**Panel 12**

**Chair:** Cora Kaplan (University of Southampton/Queen Mary, University of London)

Angharad Eyre (Queen Mary, University of London)

**Reviving Old Memories of Her Dear Friend: Ellen Nussey, Early Brontë Studies and Literary Tourism**

Sonia Villegas-López (University of Huelva, Spain)

**The Brontës in Spain: Two Recent Bio/Fictional Accounts**

Anne Reus (Leeds Trinity University)

**‘That Indefinable Something’: Virginia Woolf reads Charlotte Brontë**

15.15 -15.30

**BREAK**

15.30 -16.30

Dining Room

**Keynote Speaker:** Sally Shuttleworth (University of Oxford)  
**Charlotte Brontë: Experimental Novelist**

**Chair:** Gillian Dow (Chawton House Library/University of Southampton)

**Closing Questions and Remarks**

16.45

**Coach departs from Chawton House Library to Alton/  
Alton station**

---

## Exhibitions at Chawton House Library during the conference:

---

**Lower Reading  
Room**

A special exhibition on Charlotte Brontë, not only containing her letter on reading Jane Austen's *Emma*, but also a fragment of her dress and a lock of her hair taken on the day of her death, as well as other numerous items of ephemera.



Chawton House Library, Chawton, Alton, GU34 1SJ  
[www.chawtonhouselibrary.org](http://www.chawtonhouselibrary.org) 01420 541010

Registered Charity Number 1026921 Registered Company Number 2851718