



Adult Learning Within Reach

Member Lecture – 25 May 2023

The father of the Bronte sisters: the Essex Connection

Margaret Mills, WEA tutor

Useful links and resources for further reading

Bronte Parsonage Museum - The first port of call for any information about the Bronte family is the website of the Bronte Parsonage Museum. Note that Unless you are a member of the Bronte Society, you won't be able to access the Members' area of the website, but you will be able to browse the rest of the site.

Visit - elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk - Elizabeth Gaskell, famous novelist and friend of Charlotte Brontë, wrote the 1857 biography *Life of Charlotte Brontë* and this biography has never been out of print. It is open to the public, but please check in advance of any visit, as it does open for special events only on certain days.

The Brussels Brontë Group (thebrusselsbrontegroup.org) - The Brussels Brontë Group has a thriving membership, so always contact them prior to any visit to Brussels.

Church of St Mary Magdalene, Wethersfield, Essex - is where Patrick Brontë took up his first clerical post. It is well worth a visit, and many of the 18th century buildings in the village would be recognised by Patrick if he returned today. The church is opposite St George's House, a private residence where Patrick lodged at the home of Miss Mildred Davy. Wethersfield is on the B1053, about 6.5 miles from Braintree, Essex and a few miles from the village of Finchingfield.

Biographies

“**The Brontës**” by Juliet Barker (2010) – this work also contains extracts from the Brontës' poetry

“**Charlotte Brontë: A Life**” by Claire Harman (2015)

“**Life of Charlotte Brontë**” by Mrs Elizabeth Gaskell (1857) – the first biography

“**The Brontës in Brussels**” by Helen MacEwan (2017)

“**Tales of Glass Town, Angria and Gondal**” Selected Early Writings (Oxford World Classics)” by Christine Alexander (2010)

“**Western Winds: The Brontës Irish Heritage**” by Edward Chitham (2015)

“**Patrick Brontë: Father of Genius**” by Dudley Green (2010)

“**The Last Brontë The Intimate Memoir of Arthur Bell Nicholls**” by S.R. Whitehead (2017)

“Mr Charlotte Bronte: The Life of Arthur Bell Nicholls” by Alan H. Adamson (2008)

“Charlotte Brontë (Vintage Lives)” by Rebecca Fraser (2015)

“The Infernal World of Branwell Brontë” by Daphne Du Maurier (2006)

Forthcoming WEA courses by Margaret Mills

Q0000664 – Care 2 Visit Marks Hall in Essex – Starting 19th June (online) - the story of a manor house that formerly stood on Marks Hall estate, near Colchester.

The course is for carers, former carers and the cared for.