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JUNE AT THE BRONTË PARSONAGE MUSEUM

The Infernal World of Branwell Brontë
Friday 5 June 2009, 3.30pm
West Lane Baptist Centre, Haworth
 To coincide with a new special exhibition at the museum focusing on Branwell Brontë, writer and novelist Justine Picardie and Brontë biographer Juliet Barker discuss the life and creative legacy of the Brontë brother. Tickets £5 on the door

The Brontës and Romance
Saturday 6 June 2009, 8pm
West Lane Baptist Centre, Haworth
 This panel discussion, chaired by Justine Picardie, looks at the Brontës' influence on romance novels. Writers Joanne Harris, Amanda Craig, Jude Morgan and Mills & Boon author Kate Walker take part. Tickets £10 in advance from jenna.holmes@bronte.org.uk / 01535 640188.

Brontë Book Group
Wednesday 17 June, 2pm
Cobbles & Clay Café, Haworth
 A new monthly book group will meet to discuss contemporary women's fiction. All welcome, please contact jenna.holmes@bronte.org.uk / 01535 640188 to join.

Brontë Parsonage Museum – 01535 642323 - www.bronte.info

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

by Jenna Holmes, Arts Officer, Brontë Parsonage Museum



The dining room in Haworth Parsonage is the room where the Brontë sisters wrote their famous books. Every night, after their father had gone to bed, the sisters would walk, one after the other, around the dining table late into the night discussing their work. After Emily died (possibly on the sofa in the same room) Charlotte and Anne circled together until, in the end, Charlotte walked the room alone. In the many years that have followed, famous writers such as Mrs Gaskell, Virginia Woolf and Sylvia Plath, as well as millions of readers, have made the pilgrimage to Haworth to see the very room where Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights were written.

Now the museum is exploring the ways in which contemporary writing takes shape, so that the Parsonage isn't only a shrine to long-gone writers, but a place that inspires new talent too. In Writers' Rooms, a new photography exhibition at the Parsonage, modern-day writers show us their writing spaces in a series of prints by photographer Eamonn McCabe, who publishes a different writer's room every Saturday in The Guardian. One photograph shows children's author Jacqueline Wilson's neat study with pretty decorative teapots, while in another, science fiction writer Russel Hoban's room is filled with mountains of discarded papers, junk and creative debris. The writers point out objects of significance on their desks and tell us the stories behind them, just as the Brontës might have done about the objects on display in the museum cases.

Popular writers, such as Sarah Waters, Tracy Chevalier and Barbara Taylor-Bradford, will be visiting Haworth too this year, to read from their books and share with local audiences their writing processes. There will also be event days for local people to come and try their hand at creative writing activities. We hope that through this column, we can communicate with Worth Valley readers some of the insights into life 'behind the scenes' at the Brontë Parsonage Museum; the people who work here, the visiting writers and artists who continue to draw inspiration from within its walls, and the secrets and stories that surround it.

Writers' Rooms by Eamonn McCabe is on at the Brontë Parsonage Museum until Monday 6 July 2009. The exhibition is free with normal admission to the museum.