

INFLUENCERS OF THEIR AGE

STUDY DAY – WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2024

10.15am–3pm including buffet lunch. Cost £20

The Junction, Christ Church, Chorleywood

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

10.15am: Arrival – coffee served

10.30am: **‘Samuel Pepys, His Life and Times’** Composer, MP, civil servant, diarist, historian, Fellow of the Royal Society, friend of the high and mighty, a prisoner in the Tower, eyewitness of both the Plague and the Fire – Pepys was described by his friend John Evelyn as “universally beloved”. Could anyone have a finer memorial?



Our speaker is Andrew Davies, the renowned lecturer and extra-mural tutor for London, Essex and the Open University, who makes a return visit to Chorleywood following our study day last year.

11.45am: Coffee break

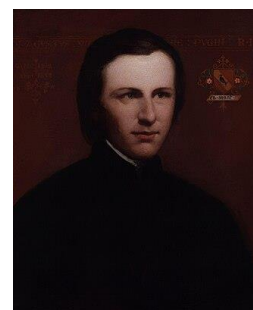


12.00 – **‘Mothering Heights: Finding Mrs Brontë’** Before Cathy met Heathcliff, before Jane Eyre met Mr Rochester, Maria Branwell met Mr Brontë. Reader, she married him, and their real Regency love story rivals any Brontë novel. Maria gave us Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë; but who was the mother of such genius?

Author and journalist Sharon Wright shares her quest to unearth Maria’s remarkable, untold life story for her biography *Mother of the Brontës*.

1.15pm – Buffet lunch

1.45pm – **‘Pugin and the Gothic Revival’** What a life! Architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin was a writer, keen sailor, drug addict, original angry young man, designer and polemicist who died aged just 40. His work ranges from the lovely church of St Giles Cheadle and the Medieval Court at the Great Exhibition of 1851 to the ornate decoration of the Houses of Parliament (and Alton Towers), a style he pioneered and which swept through Victorian Britain and much of the world. He was responsible for dozens of churches, cathedrals, monastic buildings, almshouses and private residences.



Andrew Davies examines this volcanic personality and his influence.

3pm – Afternoon close