Thornton
where the story begins...

Event Programme...

- Ashley Jackson p7
- Proms at St James p10
- Christa Ackroyd p5
Welcome to the Thornton Brontë Festival.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Thornton and the varied events at St James, South Square and the New Inn.

We are holding this celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of the Brontë Family’s arrival here in Thornton. 1815 marked the Christening of Elizabeth, the second child of the Brontë’s, held in the Bell Chapel. The following children Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne were born in the house on Market Street and Christened in the Bell Chapel.

The festival also marks the first time the original Brontë Christening records have been on display ever. We are hoping this first Thornton Brontë Festival will be the catalyst for five years of celebrations. There are a number of people who have worked extremely hard to put this display and festival together and I would like to take this chance to thank Christa Ackroyd for her energy, enthusiasm and drive to ensure we had the facts and story correct Ann Dinsdale and Rebecca York from Haworth Parsonage for their input, Mark Davis for his excellent Photography and St James for enabling us to erect the new exhibition display to well and truly put Thornton back on the Brontë map.

Steve Stanworth
Bell Chapel Action Group
Programme of Events

Thursday 10th September 2015
10:00 am  Exhibition open at St James
2:00 pm  - Bachelor Branwell' talk by Actress Angela Crow at St James
7:30 pm  - Film screening of Jane Eyre at St James Church
(Admission with programme)

Friday 11th September 2015
10:00 am  Exhibition open at St James
7:15 pm  - Clifton and Lightcliffe Brass Band Concert (tickets £9) at St James
9:30 pm  - 'Tracking the Brontë's Live Music by Eddie Lawler at The New Inn

Saturday 12th September 2015
Daytime  - Bouncy castle & BBQ at The New Inn
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  - Children’s Brontë Fun Day and 12:00 Exhibition open at St James
7:30 pm  - 'Father of Genius' talk by Christa Ackroyd on Patrick Brontë (tickets £5) at St James
9:15pm  - 'Brontë Quiz Night' by Neil of Thornton Directory at The New Inn

Sunday 13th September 2015
12:00 Noon  Exhibition open at St James
All Day  - Family Fun Day: Bouncy castle, BBQ, Open mic performances & 'Branwell Falls' Bungee Jumps at The New Inn
12:00 noon  - Thornton Archives Open Day, Artist Studio Open Day & Family art and craft activities at South Square
7:30 pm Film night at St James - Wuthering heights
(Admission with programme)
Thornton and the Brontës

In 1815 a new minister arrived at the small village of Thornton, near Bradford, and took up residence in the old Parsonage on Market Street. Patrick Brontë was accompanied by his Cornish-born wife Maria, and their two small daughters, Maria and Elizabeth, both born at Mr Brontë’s previous parish at Hartshead. It was whilst they were living at Thornton that the couple’s four famous children were born in quick succession: Charlotte (1816), Patrick Branwell (1817), Emily Jane (1818) and Anne (1820).

All the children, with the exception of Maria, were baptised at their father’s church, the Old Bell Chapel, which now lies in picturesque ruins across from the current parish church of St James.

“The Brontë family moved to Haworth in 1820 upon Mr Brontë’s appointment as Perpetual Curate at St Michael and All Angels church. Mrs Brontë died within eighteen months of the family’s arrival at Haworth and the two eldest daughters died within a few weeks of each other in 1825.

For the surviving children, Haworth Parsonage and its surrounding moorland were central to their creative lives. Here they wrote their remarkable novels, including Charlott’s Jane Eyre, Emily’s Wuthering Heights and Anne’s The Tenant of Wildfell Hall.

Patrick Brontë outlived all of his gifted children, dying in 1861 at the age of 84.

Although Haworth turned out to be the final move in Patrick’s long career, he was to look back on the years at Thornton, with his wife and all his children, as amongst the happiest of his life’.

Ann Dinsdale, Collections Manager, Brontë Parsonage Museum

Despite Mrs Brontë’s frequent pregnancies, the family enjoyed a lively social life, centred on the wealthy Firth family of Kipping House and their circle of friends.
Christa Ackroyd is a well known Yorkshire journalist and fiercely proud of her Bradford roots. What many people don't know is that she is a lifelong Brontë fan. But it is not just their works of literature that fascinate Christa, but their place in social history.

‘A Brontë fan’

As the daughter of a Bradford policeman, Christa was brought up to understand the heritage of this great city and the Brontë's place as social commentators within it. That they were women, strong women with as Charlotte said, "an independent will" was always her inspiration.

It is no coincidence that the greatest social reforms happened in Yorkshire because of the appalling conditions in the woollen mills of Victorian England and Bradford in particular.

William Wilberforce, the man who was to lead the campaign against slavery was a Yorkshire MP and sponsor of Patrick Brontë at Cambridge. Richard Oastler, the Factory King, was also Yorkshire born and drew on his knowledge of the atrocious working practices and what he described as slavery of a different kind that saw young children working 14 hours a day in Bradford.

William Forster, a Bradford MP, was to campaign for education for all as Patrick had done and Margaret McMillan, a New Yorker, was a children's health campaigner who introduced free school meals. And the Independent Socialist Labour Party was formed by Keir Hardie because of the strike at Manningham Mills.
Yet it was the Brontë sisters who wrote about poverty, the class system and equality of women that educated the world about social injustice.

Which is why Christa is delighted to be involved in this exhibition which celebrates Thornton, the birthplace of The Brontë's, and the fact that it is exactly 200 years ago that Patrick came here as a campaigning and inspirational Minister.

‘Patrick’s happiest time

Christa says "The Thornton days were Patrick’s happiest time". To be able to help in bringing together some never seen before documents and artefacts to celebrate his time here is both inspiring and humbling. That the lesson he taught his famous children, that education is freedom, is as valuable today.

‘Education is Freedom’

I am proud to share in his legacy and that of his incredible daughters."  Christa

Christa has been instrumental in designing and writing the material for the exhibition display, and seeing the amount of time and effort she has put in we owe her a great debt of gratitude, Christa has been enthusiastic from day one and has striven to ensure that all the facts and dates are correct.

I think you will agree the exhibition is stunning and Christa should feel rightly proud of the end result.

Steve Stanworth
Bell Chapel Action Group
‘A word from Ashley’

Top Withens in the heart of Yorkshire, which is known as ‘Wuthering Heights’, I came across on a sketching day out in 1965 with Brighouse artist and friend Stanley Chapman who is sadly no longer with us.

I have always had a great admiration for the Brontë sisters and from the early age of 16, I have written in my diaries, “That what the Brontë's did with the pen I would like to achieve with the brush”

As an artist to be able to see Mother Nature's love letters, in the great cathedral of the open air, and to put them to paint is a great privilege.

I recently revisited with BBC Countryfile to explain the passion I have for Yorkshire and trying to capture her moods in my paintings in the same way that the Brontë’s captured the moorland atmosphere with their words, particularly Emily Brontë in Wuthering Heights for which Top Withens was her inspiration.

The moorland truly connects us, for we both try to capture a visual image and atmosphere, when someone views your painting or reads a descriptive passage you are attempting to make them feel, see and hear what you did in that one moment in time, alone on the moor.

‘appreciate the beauty’
I have always said that I am not a Barbara Cartland man romanticising the landscape but a Brontë man capturing the raw brooding moorland ... it's not for everyone but it is what inspires me to paint.

“A Brontë man”

I sadly feel that the Bell Chapel, Thornton is often over looked with regards to its Brontë heritage and it is for that reason that I wished to capture it in watercolour for its 400th year celebration, a painting that was then reproduced on to china plates to celebrate the landmark birthday.

Thornton has a lot to be proud of with regards to its past and present.

I sincerely wish the Thornton festival every success

Ashley Jackson

Biography

Ashley Jackson, has had an extremely distinctive and illustrious life in the world of art. Since opening his first gallery back in 1963, he has become one of the country's leading and most successful landscape watercolorists.

His unique evocative and distinctive paintings of brooding moorlands have become synonymous with Yorkshire, and more particular the moors above and around his Gallery situated in the heart of the Pennines, Holmfirth.

Hebrews will be open throughout the event
The New Inn - Thornton road, Thornton.

16% discount on all food to program holders during the Event.

Friday 11th   Eddie Lawler solo artist 9:30 PM - 10:30
Saturday 12th  Bouncy castle all day.  
               BBQ 1-6, Quiz night  9:15 PM
Sunday 13th   Bouncy castle all day. BBQ 1-6, Open-mic  
               [times to be confirmed]

‘BACHELOR BRANWELL’

ANGELA CROW will be opening the Festival at St James church  
on Thursday 10th of September at 2 PM

She will be introducing the programme and talking about  
BACHELOR BRANWELL’, the equally talented only brother of the  
Brontë Sisters.  
Find out through his poetry and prose what became  
of this wayward, wonderful boy.

Watch out for Angela's Biography of ‘Mrs Brontë’
If you would like to book either of our bands then look at our web site www.cliftonband.co.uk for more details or contact the secretary Mrs Jane Clay e-mail john366clay@btinternet.com
It is thought that the Clifton and Lightcliffe Band was formed in 1838 when most of the inhabitants of the villages around were employed in either agriculture or coal mining, the formation of the band was a way to escape from the hard work and poor conditions at that time.

In the early 1900’s the band competed and won a few major prizes at the famous Crystal Palace in London, where the National Brass Band Championships were held each year. More recently the band qualified for the National Championships in 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2011. In 2012 the band was promoted to the first section for the first time in its history.

The band has also toured abroad, performing in France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

In 2010 the band was invited by the Golden State British Brass Band and the Pomona Wind Band in Los Angeles to perform concerts around the California area including the famous Disney Park. The band has just returned from an 8 day tour of the Lake Maggiore area in Italy.

The band has recorded three CD’s entitled The Rise of the Phoenix, The Lost Chord and the latest double CD recorded in December 2014 which along with the senior band features our B Band.

All the band members are amateur musicians with ages ranging from 14 years up to 65 years of age and all give their time freely to come and make music.

Between both bands we perform around 60 concerts each year in and around the local area helping to support other groups such as local churches, school and hospitals with fund raising activities.

The Association has no commercial financial backing and all the funds are raised with the hard work and dedication of its members.

Jane Clay Secretary
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<th>Programme</th>
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<td>West Riding</td>
<td>Sam B Wood</td>
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<td>Fanfare</td>
<td>Pateley Bridge</td>
<td>Trevor Sharp</td>
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<td>Overture</td>
<td>The Barber of Seville</td>
<td>Arr. G Hawkins</td>
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<td>Cornet Solo</td>
<td>Solitaire</td>
<td>Arr. S Corbett</td>
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<td>Soloist</td>
<td>David Crisp</td>
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<td>Film Music</td>
<td>Magnificent 7/ Big Country</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<td>Concert Item</td>
<td>Highland Cathedral</td>
<td>Arr. A Duncan</td>
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<td>Concert Item</td>
<td>Gaelforce</td>
<td>P. Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock and Roll</td>
<td>Rock Around the Clock</td>
<td>Arr. B. Lawson</td>
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INTERVAL
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<th>March</th>
<th>Florentine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Song</td>
<td>Anything Goes</td>
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<td>Tuba Solo</td>
<td>Swiss Melodies</td>
<td>Eric Ball</td>
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<td>Soloist</td>
<td>Derek Hoyle</td>
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<td>Concert Item</td>
<td>Worth Valley Railway</td>
<td>Gordon Langford</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Knightsbridge</td>
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<td>Fantasia</td>
<td>British Sea Songs</td>
<td>Henry Wood</td>
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<td>Hymn</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Hubert Parry</td>
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<td>Finale</td>
<td>Pomp &amp; Circumstance No 1.</td>
<td>Edward Elgar</td>
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<td>National Anthem</td>
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*Please join us in the community hall next door for a buffet supper.*
South Square

South Square is a visual arts and heritage resource centre based within a Grade II listed building in Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire. The square also incorporates artists' studios, community space, fine art framer, craft shop and a cafe. It is home to South Square Gallery, a grassroots exhibition space committed to providing a professional and supportive resource for artists and emerging curators.

Sunday 13th September 12pm - 3pm All Free

Thornton Archives Open Day
Come and explore the artifacts and photographs of old Thornton Village, and share with us your memories of the village over the years.

Artist Open Studio Day
Meet the artists working in their Studio's at South Square and see what goes on behind the scenes.

Family art and craft activities
Make your own welcome to the village card for the Bronte family, at our arts and craft activity for all the family.
Your chance to own a limited edition Ashley Jackson printed china plate
For a special event price of £9.99
ST JAMES THORNTON

Christmas Tree Festival

Opens Saturday November 28th 2015
For one week

Refreshments | Gift Shop | Free Entry | Santa’s Grotto
All proceeds to voluntary and charity organisations