



May 2022

Dear colleague

I write with exciting news about the Aphra Behn Europe Society's plans for **2–4 July 2024**. This letter comes to you personally either because you have in the past participated in the Society's activities, or because I am aware that you have a research interest in the culture of Aphra Behn's times.

From 2–4 July 2024, the Aphra Behn Europe Society will meet at the University of Kent, which sits perfectly between the village of Harbledown, Aphra Behn's birthplace, and the city of Canterbury where she grew up. Accommodation and meals will be available on the university campus, which is where most of the conference's business will take place. The conference's working title is **Aphra Behn and her Restoration**, and we plan three days of papers and lectures on Behn, her times, and her restoration (in all senses of the word). Topics for papers and pre-formed panels might include:

- Aphra Behn's writings, and those of her key and/or neglected contemporaries
- translating and translation
- Aphra Behn today internationally
- the art and/or music of the Restoration
- Civil War and Restoration Canterbury (and wider Kent)
- Behn's dedicatees, printers and booksellers
- Restoration Drama in performance
- Teaching Behn and her contemporaries: Restoration writings in the classroom today.

Interwoven with the conference will be an **Aphra Behn Festival**, presenting to the city of Canterbury reasons why Behn deserves celebration, and all festival activities will be advertised widely in Canterbury and Kent, as well as being open to conference participants. A key event will feature the unveiling of a life-size bronze statue of Behn in her birthplace. There will also be theatrical and musical events, and an Aphra Behn Walk, visiting the church where she was baptised and Canterbury city landmarks with Behn (née Johnson) associations. And, of course, a trip to Westminster Abbey to lay flowers on Behn's grave, as Virginia Woolf so memorably recommended.

If you would like to be part of this jamboree, please note in your diary now **2–4 July 2024**, **Aphra Behn and her Restoration**, and email papers@aphrabehncanterbury2024.org asking for further details as they become available. If you already have a working-title for a paper you would like to offer, or a panel you would like to organise, do please include this information in your message so that we can plan for your inclusion. And feel free to pass this information on to your networks.

Spread the word: Aphra Behn is being restored in Canterbury in 2024.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Duffy
Honorary President, Aphra Behn Europe Society