

## Who we are

Shakespeare and His Sisters is a research project run by Professor Alison Findlay based at Lancaster University. The project looks at the parallels between plays by Shakespeare and by women dramatists of the sixteenth and seventeenth century: including two women writers of the Sidney household, the Countess of Pembroke and her niece, Lady Mary Wroth. We aim to connect local communities with the drama and cultural history of their environments. <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/shakespeare-and-his-sisters/about/>

Lady Mary Wroth's play is part of an alternative tradition of women's drama in Shakespeare's day that looked forward to the work of female playwrights like Aphra Behn in the Restoration theatre. Unlike Behn's work, Wroth's play is little known because it was never printed. The only complete manuscript is at Penshurst Place, owned by the Sidney family and is currently being edited by Alison Findlay, Philip Sidney and Michael Brennan for publication next year.

## Contact Us

### Professor Alison Findlay

Alison Findlay is Professor of Renaissance Drama and Director of the Shakespeare Programme in the Department of English and Creative Writing. She specializes in sixteenth and seventeenth century drama and writing.

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### Imogen Felstead

Imogen Felstead is a PhD student at Lancaster University. She is the Early Career Academic for Shakespeare and His Sisters.

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# Dramatizing

# Penshurst

# Festival



**DRAMATIZING PENSURST FESTIVAL**  
**28 AUGUST – 16 SEPTEMBER**  
**SHAKESPEARE AND HIS SISTERS**

PENSURST PLACE  
AND GARDENS

Lancaster  
University

The Dramatizing Penshurst Festival brings to life the remarkable literary history of the Sidney family by rehearsing and staging a fully costumed production of *Love's Victory* (1617), by Lady Mary Wroth, at her home, Penshurst Place.

Director, Martin Hodgson, and Professor Alison Findlay are providing a series of open rehearsals with a company of professional actors for visitors to watch and offer comments and suggestions. These events are free and included within the cost of a standard Penshurst Place admissions ticket.

The festival will close with the first professional performance of *Love's Victory* at Penshurst Place, introduced by Professor Alison Findlay and directed by Martin Hodgson. Tickets for the play at 2 pm and 7.30 pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> September can be purchased via the link: [tinyurl.com/lovesvictory](https://tinyurl.com/lovesvictory)

The performances will be filmed so a wider audience can share in the Festival's goal to uncover a 'hidden' heritage: the history of Shakespeare's 'sisters' or female contemporary dramatists.

## What's on



**Celebrating the Centenary of Women's Universal Suffrage**

Talks by Professor Alison Findlay and Dr Marion O'Connor celebrating Kentish women writers of the seventeenth century are illustrated by documents and manuscripts from Kent's archive collections will be on display. The event is FREE. To book ring 03000 420673 or email [archives@kent.gov.uk](mailto:archives@kent.gov.uk).

**Location:** Kent History & Library Centre  
**6 September 2018 at 6pm - 8pm**



**Workshops**



**Open Rehearsals & Script-in-Hand Full Rehearsal**



**Art Exhibition**



**'Crowne of Sonnets' Calligraphy Exhibit | Hands-On Calligraphy Workshop**

Professor Alison Findlay will be running workshops at Penshurst Place and in local schools in Kent up to 21<sup>st</sup> October. To see examples of our work in schools and book a workshop, see our website.

The open rehearsals will be taking place on the South Lawn at 12-1 and 2:30-3:30.  
**\*Location in the case of inclement weather: Baron's Hall or The Buttery**

Tutors from Kent Adult Education in art history, painting, collage, and calligraphy have all based courses on responses to Penshurst Place and *Love's Victory*.  
**Location: Garden Restaurant**

The Cinque Ports Scribes, a local calligraphy group, under coordination of Els Van Den Steen, gave each sonnet an artistic interpretation to form the crown.  
**Location: Baron's Hall**

The workshop offers a chance to learn calligraphy techniques Lady Mary Wroth and her family used. Tickets £5.

**Enter at the Private Entrance**  
**12 September 2018 at 2pm**  
[tinyurl.com/calligraphypenshurst](https://tinyurl.com/calligraphypenshurst)