

**‘Nobler imaginings and mightier struggles’:  
Octavia Hill and the remaking of British society**

**A centenary conference organised by the  
National Trust and University of Oxford**

**Sutton House, London**

**27 and 28 September 2012**



Thursday 27 September 2012

**9.30 Registration and coffee**

**9.45 Octavia Hill in context: a graduate student forum**

Chair: Jessica Hindes, Royal Holloway

Adam Kozaczka	Syracuse University, USA	Moulding the slum dweller into an imperial subject: the colonial resonances of Octavia Hill's housing reforms
Laura Foster	Cardiff University	'Sunshine in a shady place': the workhouse and the lady visitor
Niamh A. O'Sullivan	University of Limerick, Ireland	'The artist-laureate of the street Arab': the representation of late nineteenth-century London street children in Dorothy Tennant's painting and illustrations

**11.15 Coffee**

**11.30 Welcome**

Elizabeth Baigent, Ben Cowell, Jessica Hindes

**11.35 Practical arrangements**

Chris Cleeve, Sutton House

**11.40 Introduction**

Fiona Reynolds, Director General, National Trust

**12.00 'The habit of seeing and sorting out problems': the origins of Octavia Hill's work**

Chair: Elizabeth Baigent, University of Oxford

Gillian Darley      Independent scholar      The making of a campaigner

**12.30 Lunch**

**1.30 'Beauty is for all': art in the life and work of Octavia Hill**

Chair: Peter Funnell, National Portrait Gallery

Elizabeth Heath	National Portrait Gallery	Octavia Hill: the reluctant sitter
Robert Whelan	Civitas / independent scholar	'The poor, as well as the rich, need something more than meat and drink': the vision of the Kyrle Society

John Price	Goldsmiths College, University of London	The Red Cross Hall murals to heroic self sacrifice
William Whyte	University of Oxford	<i>'Hang drawing!! I must go to help people'</i> : Octavia Hill and the art of housing

### 3.30-4.00

**4.00 'The value of abundant good air': Octavia Hill and the meanings of nature**  
Chair: Charles Watkins, University of Nottingham

Elizabeth Baigent	University of Oxford	'How much intense enjoyment the day gives!' Working-class people in open space in late Victorian England
Paul Readman	King's College London	Octavia Hill and the English landscape

**5.00-6.00 Tours of Sutton House and Breakers' Yard**

**6.00-7.00 Reception hosted by Octavia Housing**

**Friday 28 September 2012**

**10.00 'A common inheritance from generation to generation': Octavia Hill and preservation**

Chair: Loyd Grossman, The Heritage Alliance

Astrid Swenson	Brunel University	'To every landless man, woman and child in England': Octavia Hill and the preservation movement
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Melanie Hall	Boston University	Octavia Hill and the National Trust
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**11.00 Coffee**

**11.30 'The loving zeal of individuals which cannot be legislated for by Parliament': Octavia Hill's vision in historical context**

Chair: Samuel Jones, Demos

Jane Garnett	University of Oxford	At home in the metropolis: feminism and ideals of social service
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Lawrence Goldman	University of Oxford	Octavia Hill: a mid-Victorian reformer
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**Concluding remarks**

Ben Cowell, National Trust

**12.45 Lunch**

**1.30-3.00 Field trip: William Whyte**

All registered field trip participants to meet outside Sutton House at 1.30 pm.

**The organisers record their grateful thanks to speakers and chairs for their enthusiastic participation, to Sutton House for their cordial hospitality, and to Octavia Housing for their generous sponsorship.**