

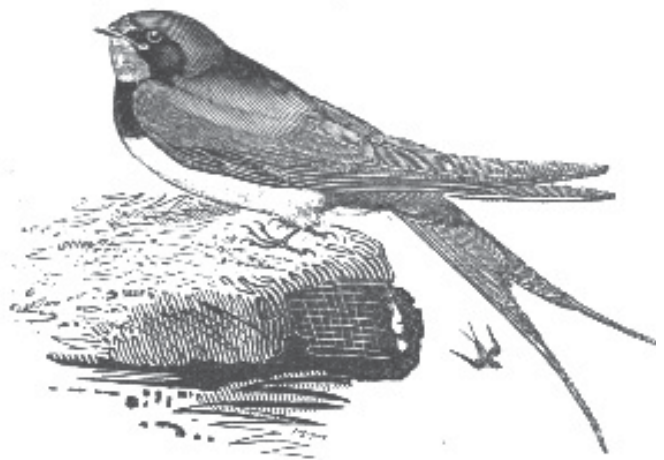
'The Baffling Swallow'

Gilbert White, Charlotte Smith & the limits of natural history

Chawton House Library Fellow's Lecture
on
1st May 2008

Where do swallows go in winter? The leading naturalist, Gilbert White, was obsessed with this question. Did swallows migrate? Or did they, as most scientists of the day believed, hide somewhere in England? And if so, where? Professor Anne K Mellor, University of Los Angeles, will discuss Gilbert White's efforts

to discover the mystery of his favourite bird and then turn to Charlotte Smith's brilliant response to White, *The Swallow* (1807). In this poem, Smith brings a woman's perspective to this question, which calls into question all of White's assumptions.



Lecture Tickets: £15 & £10 for friends/students (includes wine & canapés)

Supper Tickets: £45 (reception, lecture & two-course meal with wine)

6.30pm Reception with wine and canapés

7.00pm Lecture

8.15pm Literary Supper

Chawton House Library



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email info@chawton.net.