

## Talk Outline

### **Breach of Promise to Marry** **The Real Miss Havishams** by **Denise Bates**

***Breach of Promise to Marry*** investigates the social and cultural history of broken engagements between 1780 -1970 and why the law allowed the person who had been jilted to claim damages from the person who had broken the engagement.

The book is based on my original research in contemporary newspapers and literature to discover who were the real Miss Havishams, why they found different endings to their fictional counterpart and what their experiences reveal about social attitudes towards broken engagements.

I offer talks about some or all of the subject matter covered in ***Breach of Promise to Marry***, tailored to the interests of the audience and the time available and illustrated by relevant cases.

#### **Components of a talk**

- Why did breach of promise develop?
- Why women brought claims for breach of promise
- What the damages for breach of promise meant to a woman
- What types of women sued a man for his breach of promise
- Why men hated being sued for breach of promise
- Women who lost a claim for breach of promise
- The experiences of men suing a woman for breach of promise
- Social benefits of the claim for breach of promise
- The negative aspects of breach of promise
- The end of the claim for breach of promise

As an alternative approach, I can

- focus on one or more of the above components in greater depth
- provide a more detailed talk about one or more cases
- discuss breach of promise in relation to fiction

#### **My credentials**

- History Graduate (MA)
- Author of *Breach of Promise to Marry* (published January 2014)
- Author of *Pit Lasses* (published 2012)
- Author of *Historical Research Using British newspapers* (published 2016)

[www.denisebates.co.uk](http://www.denisebates.co.uk), or email [postbox@denisebates.co.uk](mailto:postbox@denisebates.co.uk)