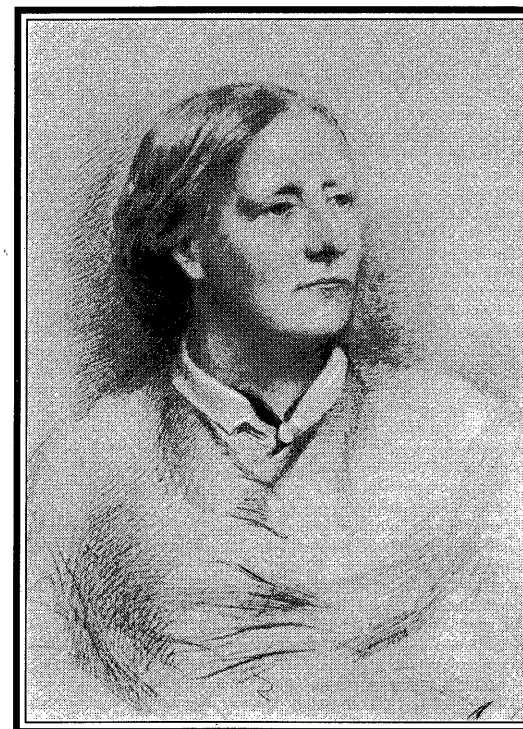
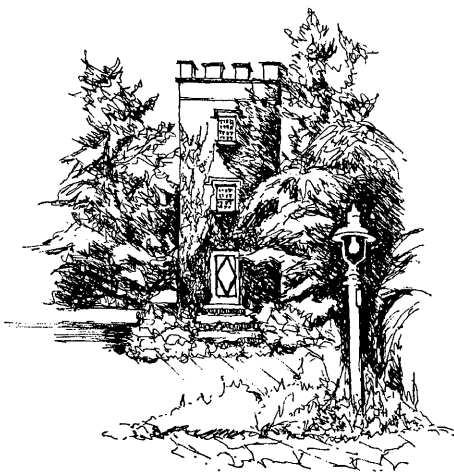


The Gaskell Society



THE GASKELL SOCIETY HOME PAGE has all the latest information on meetings.
<http://gaskellsociety.users.btopenworld.com>

If you have any material or suggestions for future Newsletters, please contact Mrs. Joan Leach,
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NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2002 - Number 34

Editor's Letter

Joan Leach

As I write this the Commonwealth Games are taking place in Manchester. One of the competitors from the Maldive Islands, who were entertained in Knutsford, told me he had lived at the Plymouth Grove house while a student at Manchester University. My part of the welcome to them was a sanding but it was washed away by heavy rain before they arrived! For a description of sanding see Letters pp 28 - 29. I did not have the temerity to invite the Maldivian to contribute to our restoration fund but I wondered about all the international students who used Plymouth Grove and might respond to our appeal. English Heritage is working closely with The Gaskell Society to restore the house, possibly as a study centre.

Members will have been saddened to learn of the death of Professor Arthur Pollard, President of The Gaskell Society for its first seven years. In his tribute to him John Chapple tells of Arthur's work in so many different fields and we know how much he will be missed by so many who, in common with our members, will be thankful for his life.

Details of our programme of events in Knutsford, Manchester, London and Bath can be found at the back of this Newsletter and, if you should happen to mislay it you can check on our home page: <http://gaskellsociety.users.btopenworld.com>: this can be done easily at most libraries.

Make a note in your diary for the 2003 conference at Durham, 1-4 August and AGM meeting in Manchester on 5 April.

The Alliance of Literary Societies held the AGM at Burslem on 27 April hosted by The Arnold Bennett Society with a varied weekend programme. Next year the Dylan Thomas Society will host the event in Swansea on the 26 April with further events on 27th. The ALS has a home page at www.sndc.demon.co.uk. I can supply a copy of The ALS Newsletter if desired. (SAE)

An exhibition at The Walker, William Brown St, Liverpool: *The Earl and the Pussycat* continues until 8 September when Kenn Oultram hopes to convene an inaugural meeting for those interested in forming the Lear Society - How pleasant to know Mr Lear!

Phone 01606 891 303 (day) or 01606 781731 (evenings).



Gaskell Society members at ALS AGM at Burslem 27 April 2002
L to R: John Yellowlees, Pat Barnard, Jean Yellowlees, Kenn Oultram,
Janet Allan, Lynda Stephens and Robin Allan.

Obituary Arthur Pollard

The Gaskell Society has recently suffered the sad loss of one of its founder members, Arthur Pollard, who died on 2 June 2002. As a former President of the Society, and a valued speaker, he was known to many of us.

Born at Clitheroe, Lancashire, on 22 December 1922, he was educated at its Royal Grammar School. After war service abroad and a First in English at Leeds University, he took a B.Litt. at Lincoln College, Oxford in 1953. In his academic career he progressed to become Director of General Studies in Arts at Manchester University, leaving on appointment as Professor of English at the University of Hull in 1967. He was a consulting professor of the University of Buckingham, which made him an honorary D.Litt. in 1982. He retired from Hull as Professor Emeritus in 1984.

This distinguished career by no means exhausted his energy and talents. Besides his university duties as a Professor and Dean of Arts, 1976-78, he was a Chairman of Examiners for the Manchester Joint Matriculation Board at A-level for 25 years, a Conservative politician particularly active in educational affairs at both local and national level, a Reader in the Church of England for no less than 50 years and a member of Synod from 1990 to 2000. In the 1990s he successfully took two degrees in Theology, a B.D. at London and a B.Th. at Hull, and was made an honorary LL.D. by the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside in 1999. After the death of his first wife in 1970, he married Phyllis Pattinson, who survives him, together with two sons of the first marriage, John and Andrew.

Throughout his life he was a prolific author of books and pamphlets. Politics led him to consider novelists like Anthony Trollope and W. M. Thackeray, religion to contemplate the learned defender of the Anglican tradition, Richard Hooker, and the Evangelical leader, Charles Simeon. In 1960 he gave a lecture on the novels of Mrs. Gaskell to mark the 150th anniversary of her birth and invited me to join him in editing her letters, which he greatly admired. Annette Hopkins had made excellent use of Gaskell's major correspondence with the publisher George Smith, the correspondence with Charles Norton had been published by Jane Whitehill in 1932 and Aina Rubenius had quoted from a number of the letters. Fortunately these were serious scholars; others had been deplorably cavalier in their treatment of the known texts. Also, many important letters had not been discovered, especially the early, intimate family correspondence owned by Marianne Gaskell's grand-daughter, Mrs. Trevor Jones.

Collaboration between the editors was ideal, as was the invaluable assistance freely given by a pertinacious young graduate student, Geoffrey Sharps. Whilst Pollard sought out and transcribed some hundreds of manuscripts in a small, neat hand, my main task was to crouch at the centre of the web and analyse material as it came in. However, when I came to check all the transcriptions against the original manuscripts in this country, I was amazed to find how exceptionally accurate he had been. The edition of Mrs. Gaskell's letters is therefore far more complete and faithful to the originals. No more than a handful of transcriptional errors have ever been found, thanks also to the double-checking of copy-texts by Ursula Pollard and Kate Chapple and the help with preparation for the press provided by those recorded in the acknowledgments.

Arthur Pollard was able to publish his sensitive and balanced *Mrs Gaskell, Novelist and Biographer* in 1965 on the anniversary of Gaskell's death, though *The Letters of Mrs. Gaskell* had to wait another year when material turned up at a late stage. In this context the admirable patience of the staff of Manchester University Press should not pass without notice.

The personal kindness Arthur Pollard displayed both to me and my family was utterly characteristic. Many younger colleagues at Manchester and Hull, too, are grateful for his aid and encouragement, and for the academic and publishing initiatives he devised in such unexpected fields as Commonwealth literatures in English, for example. The Gaskell Society can only be thankful that the works of the author we celebrate should have attracted his intelligent, energetic attention at an early stage of his career.

John Chapple.

WILMOTS

Christine Lingard

This year is the 500th anniversary of the King's School in Macclesfield. At the time of Elizabeth Gaskell's visit to the town in 1852 the school was still situated a few yards away from the chapel in King Edward Street where she attended service but it is another link which concerns me here — with one of its longest-serving headmasters, the Rev. Darwin Wilmot (1845-1935). In one of the earliest issues of the *Newsletter* Janice Kirkland enquired about a house Gaskell stayed at in December 1852, which she referred to simply as Hulme Walfield. Her hosts were a Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot whom she had met at Capesthorpe. She appears to have been impressed. 'This house is a large one & full of people; it stands just above Congleton and must be very pretty in fine weather', she wrote [GL 144].

Directories identify it as Daisy Bank, which was on the outskirts of Congleton rather than in the hamlet of Hulme Walfield a mile or so further north. The house unfortunately has been demolished but if you take the A34 northwards out of Congleton towards Capesthorpe you can locate the site. Just before the fork for Macclesfield at the Grove Inn you will see on the left hand side of the road a red brick house somewhat older than its neighbours that was possibly a lodge to the estate. If you walk round the avenues behind you can still indeed get an impression of the view over the town.

Mr. Wilmot was Edward Woollett Wilmot (1808-1864), fifth son of Sir Robert Wilmot, a Derbyshire baronet, and his second wife Emma (born in Lichfield c.1820, died 1898), daughter of Sir Francis Sacheverel Darwin of Breadsall Priory, Derby, who was a first cousin of Charles Darwin. The Wilmots were related by marriage to many of the leading industrial families of Derbyshire and Cheshire including Mrs. Davenport herself, the Arkwrights, the Strutts and the Ryles of Macclesfield. Edward was agent on the Capesthorpe estate and mentioned several times in the estate papers. The 'VD' mentioned in Mrs. Gaskell's letter is probably her Manchester friend Vernon Darbishire who was embarking on a career in agriculture. Wilmot would have been a useful contact as he was a skilled agriculturalist. He had previously worked for the Duke of Newcastle at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire (1839-1848).

In 1857 the couple moved to Buxton to a similar position with the Duke of Devonshire. Wilmot proved to be one of the most successful agents the Duke employed. During his tenure of office he improved sanitation and oversaw the arrival of the Savings Bank and the Railway. He was a major benefactor of the new church at Burbage (1861) where he is buried. The couple held annual New Year's Balls in the Assembly Rooms for about two hundred of the professional people of the town, regular oyster suppers and other parties for the townsfolk. I wonder if it was he who arranged the Gaskells' trip to Chatsworth in 1857. Her journey there was made via Buxton.

The friendship was particularly strong between their children. In 1859 she wrote to Marianne: 'Julia is *very* unhappy about Cherry coming. She says you never write to her or Flossy, but are always ready to write to Dar & Fanny Wilmott &c &c' [GL 448]. There were five Wilmot children — three boys (the youngest, Reginald, only a six-month baby at the time of her visit to Hulme Walfield), and two girls, Fanny and Emma (married 1866). Fanny was Flossy's guest in Manchester early in 1861. Her mother is worried that she might be bored, as they were considered too young to go sightseeing alone. They would have been about 18 at the time. Fanny did not marry and in 1881 was living with her mother in Friargate, one of Derby's grandest streets. Marianne was a bridesmaid in April 1861 in Buxton, possibly to a son of Edward Wilmot's first marriage, who married in that year the daughter of Dr William Robertson, Buxton's leading specialist in water treatment. Is this the Lily Robertson whose wedding her mother urged Marianne to go to in February 1861? [GL 484] Marianne was again in Buxton later in the year.

Darwin, the eldest son, was born in 1845. He was always referred to as Dar in the letters. He started his education at King's (then known simply as the 'Grammar School') before going to Winchester. In 1859 he was a fellow guest of Mrs. Lyall during the Gaskells' visit to The Close. 'I don't know if I told you that we asked Mrs Lyall to ask Dar to dinner one day & I kept Dr Moberly's [*the headmaster*] note in reply to send to Mrs. Wilmot, as though it says little that little is so nice. Mrs. Lyall says she will try & ask him again pretty often to her usual 2 o'clock dinner as that gives the boys the liberty of going out of bounds which they enjoy' [GL 484b].

After Oxford Darwin was ordained and became a teacher at Rossall School before returning in 1876 to become headmaster of his old school — a post he held for thirty-four years, to 1910. He was a chaplain to the local battalion and wrote a history of the school. His most celebrated pupil, Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury (nicknamed the 'Red Dean' for his championing of communist states and Marxist policies in the 1930s), wrote in his autobiography: 'I must have been fully twelve or thirteen before I went to school in Macclesfield Grammar School. I remember being much impressed by the austere look of the headmaster's study, part by the bright candlesticks on his desk and the gold watch at his waist. He was the Rev. R [sic] Wilmot the heir it was said to a baronetcy.'

This latter fact is possible. Though he was quite distantly related to the baronet, it is possible that descendants may succeed to the title if the baronet fails to produce an heir. The young couple who married in 1861 did not have any children.

Langham, Michael. *Buxton: a people's history*, Carnegie, 2001, gives more details of Wilmot's career in Buxton.

In Pursuit of Madame de Sévigné

Muriel Smith

John Chapple, in Newsletter No. 33, tells how Mrs. Gaskell collected material for a projected, never executed, memoir of Marie de Rabutin Chantal, Marquise de Sévigné, and, as early as 1855, had asked Hachette for a book on the subject.

She was in Paris in February of that year (Letter 230) and met the Duc de Broglie and his sister-in-law Madame de Staël: they were the son-in-law and daughter-in-law of the Madame de Staël. He was of the Académie Française, as were the distinguished guests that Mrs. Gaskell met in 1865 *chez* Madame Mohl: Guizot, Montalembert and Mignet (Letter 564). This was just after Jules Barbey d'Aurevilly had been publishing *Les 40 Médailles de l'Académie* in instalments in the satirical *Nain Jaune* ("Yellow Dwarf") during September and October 1863, bookforming them in 1864. (In December of that year the government of Napoleon III had the *Nain Jaune* closed down.) The Académie Française, Barbey declared, is an asylum for Ministers whose incurable Orleanism has left them unemployed and unemployable since the fall of King Louis-Philippe in 1848. But of that Mrs. Gaskell is unlikely to have been aware.

In 1862 (Letter 509b) she had headed for Brittany, to Vitré to see the Hôtel de Sévigné, Madame de Sévigné's town house, and on to her country house, Les Rochers. This has a chapel built by Madame de Sévigné in the 1670s and Mr Chapple remarks 'if you seek her monument, just look around this elegant little classical building'. Quite so. The current owners of Les Rochers, whilst keeping most of it private, naturally exploit the Sévigné connection, with a museum in the old tower and visits to the chapel and grounds.

Madame de Sévigné, however, has an actual monument in another part of France altogether: a plain stone slab giving simply her name and dates, in the chapel of the Château de Grignan, the home of her son-in-law the Comte de Grignan, where she died in 1696. There is also a terrible nineteenth-century statue of her in the main square of Grignan. It is in the province of Dauphiné, on the left bank of the Rhône, not very far north of Avignon. Mrs. Gaskell must have passed quite close in 1857 on her way to Rome via Paris and Marseille (Letter 342).

Another place connected with Madame de Sévigné is the château of her cousin and correspondent Roger de Rabutin, Comte de Bussy. Bussy-Rabutin, as he is generally known, had been elected to the Académie Française at the beginning of 1665 and had the election ratified by Louis XIV. A few months later, there was trouble over his scandalous *Histoire Amoureuse des Gaules*, which was circulating in manuscript. It particularly offended the Prince de Condé, the King's cousin, and Bussy-Rabutin was that year awarded thirteen months in the Bastille, followed by twenty-seven

years of exile on his estates. Bussy-le-Grand in Burgundy (population 382) contains Bussy-Rabutin's château, which is of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and is open to visitors.

The *Histoire Amoureuse des Gaules* was published as a Garnier-Flammarion paperback in 1967: it includes a very disobliging account of Madame de Sévigné.

Good Dog Fanny and Tuft the Canary, with other Stories, all True

John Chapple

Every now and again somebody notices what appears to be a forgotten book. An occasional catalogue lists Mrs Gaskell's *History of Good Dog Fanny and Tuft, the Canary, With other Stories, all True*, published with a coloured frontispiece in London, Edinburgh and New York by T. Nelson and Sons in 1881. We know that Elizabeth Gaskell wrote stories for children. Could some of them have turned up after her death and been sent to press by a descendant or an admirer? *History of Good Dog Fanny* is a rare book, but copies can be found in the British Library and Cambridge University Library. The style of life depicted in these stories, if not the precise details, certainly seems familiar. The teller is prosperous enough to travel abroad, to France and Italy. On one occasion she takes a Paris holiday lasting no less than two months in the Spring, whilst Dicky the canary is left behind with Cook. There is a French cat called Minet, a large dark grey Persian, which reminds us that in May of 1854 our Mrs Gaskell wrote to her youngest daughter Julia about a similar creature,

Do you know that we are going to have a little kitten sent us from Paris, with long hair, and a very pretty face, and is called Cranford, can you guess why? It is called an Angola or a Persian cat; and Minnie has seen it's mother!

But the little flurry of excitement soon dies down when one comes across a reference to the time when the baby Prince Imperial was christened, followed by a mention of his death in the Zulu wars. Eugène Napoleon, Prince Imperial, son of Napoleon III, was born in 1856 and killed fighting with the British Army against the Zulus in 1879. It is just possible that somebody found and updated stories by Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, but Boston Public Library contains a letter written on 12 March [1881] from Ingersley, Macclesfield, which transmits a Mrs. Gaskell's compliments to the Editor of a periodical, *The Queen, The Lady's Newspaper*. This was a large-size and rather splendid journal, full of engravings and lady-like information of many kinds. (Admirers of Amanda Vickery's splendid book, *The Gentleman's Daughter*, Yale U. P., 1998, will know what *that* includes.) In her letter Mrs. Gaskell calls attention to a misprint in a favourable review of the book printed on 'to-day Saturday March 12th', p. 263. The review itself was short but very sweet:

A dozen tales for children, charmingly told, in words that will be thoroughly understood by little folk, while their attention is riveted by the subject-matter. Mrs. Gaskell must be ranked among the very few who know both what and how to write for intelligent children of a very early age.

Unfortunately, the title as printed in *The Queen* for 12 March 1881 was slightly wrong, so she writes,

Her son's favourite and intelligent dog was named Fanny, not Nanny. Mrs. Gaskell is much pleased by the Editor's favourable critique, and will be obliged by his inserting it again in next Saturday's Queen, with the title of book corrected, for Fanny had a large circle of acquaintances and friends. The money received for the copyright, was devoted to a Children's Hospital, but this is of course a private affair.

The editor made a simple correction of the title only in the next issue, squeezing it in the bottom corner of page 287. More generally, one can say that an attractive hypothesis has been ruined by an inconvenient fact.

And who was this Mrs. Gaskell of Macclesfield? Library Catalogues, usually so informative, do not identify her. Fortunately, the 1881 British Census records John Upton Gaskell of Ingersley Hall, Rainow, Cheshire, and his wife Margaret E. Gaskell, aged 67. *Burke's Landed Gentry* (1921) has an entry for 'Gaskell of Ingersley Hall', which informs us that John Upton Gaskell was the son of Thomas Gaskell, who died in 1851. Margaret Emily Gaskell was the daughter of Samuel Grimshawe of Errwood Hall, Derbyshire. She had been christened in Manchester Cathedral on 15 July 1813 (International Genealogical Index) and died on 13 Feb. 1887. A daughter, Anne Theodora Gaskell, aged 36, was at home when the census was taken in 1881. Their son, John Francis Upton Gaskell, born in 1852, had married in 1877. No connection with our Elizabeth Gaskell has yet been found, but the old hall and its summer house of c. 1815, White Nancy, on the top of Kerridge Hill overlooking Bollington, must surely have been known to her.

I am happy to acknowledge the assistance of Ellen M. Oldham of Boston Public Library by courtesy of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library. I am also most grateful to Richard Renold for all the information in the last paragraph above.

Note:

I recognized the name Grimshawe of Errwood Hall (Margaret Emily Gaskell was born Margaret Emily Grimshawe): Errwood Hall is in Derbyshire (just), in the Goyt Valley, in the hills behind Bollington. The Grimshawes were Roman Catholics, with their own chapel at Errwood (which makes a christening in Manchester Cathedral a slight puzzle). But they had a Spanish governess, so continental travel might have been part of their lifestyle. John Chapple says that, according to the 1881 Census,

Margaret Emily was born at Mill Banl (for Mill Bank), Cheshire. It is likely that Mill Bank was in Bollington, since Samuel Grimshawe came from there and had Errwood built in about 1820 or 1830. Errwood Hall is a ruin now — knocked down in 1930 when the Goyt valley below it was flooded to make a reservoir.

There were Gaskells in Rainow, not far away from the Goyt Valley, since the seventeenth century at least. A friend of a friend is researching the history of Ingersley Hall and may have a family tree for the Gaskells; I hope to see it. Ingersley was sold by Anne Theodora Gaskell; in more recent years it was a Salesian College.

Mary Syner.

Ed.: The Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Vol 108 (1956) traces the history of the Gaskell family from Lawrence who purchased Clifton Hall, Lancs in 1654. From his second son descended Robert Clive's (of India) family and the Milnes -Gaskells; Richard Monckton-Milnes, Lord Houghton, was of this line; I was asked about provenance of The Gaskell Arms at Much Wenlock and found it linked to this branch. There is no certain proof but it is likely that William Gaskell's family descended from Adam, the third son of Lawrence Gaskell. No links have been found with the Gaskells of Ingersley Hall.



White Nancy, built by John Gaskell in 1817, possibly to commemorate Wellington's victory at Waterloo. Used as a summer house it had a round stone table inside and one theory about the name is that Nancy was the lead horse in the eight-strong team which hauled it to the top. The door has been blocked up. It stands on the boundary between Bollington and Rainow. John Gaskell built Ingersley Hall c 1775.

MANCHESTER BOTANISTS.

In Gaskell Newsletter No. 2 (August 1985) Barbara Brill wrote about the Manchester botanists and considered their relationship to *Job Legh* in *Mary Barton*. Barbara, as a thorough researcher, had looked for the graves of Edward Hobson (1782-1830) and his friend James Crowther, (1768- 1847) who had made a special request to be buried next to him in the graveyard of St George's Church, Hulme. Barbara had failed to find the graves but recorded the plaque to Hobson inside the church.

Now the church is being transformed into twenty-five luxury flats, including one in the tower. Dr Anne Secord of Cambridge, who is including a chapter about the real-life botanists and *Job Legh* in a book she is writing, had more success than Barbara in finding the graves and has ensured that they are preserved on a grassy bank. The plaque will be kept in the former church.

Crowther's grave-stone reads:

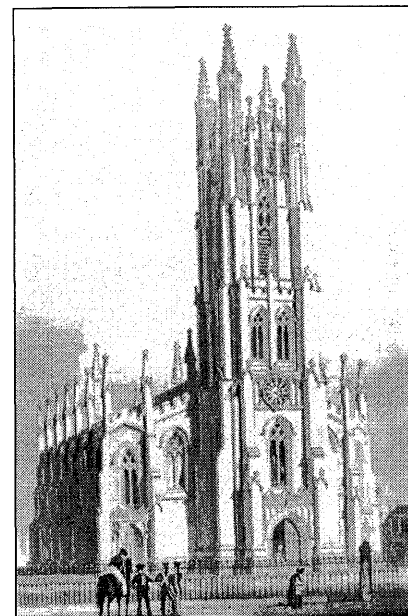
*And oft he roamed the ravine deep
To gain the plant esteemed as rare,
And pac'd the plain and scal'd the steep
Regarding neither toil nor fare.
For loved he nature in her storms
And in her soft and sunny hours
Admir'd her in her countless forms
But studied most her race of flowers.*

After reading about the gravestones (in a local newspaper) and Dr Anne Secord's work I was able to contact her to ask how she had succeeded in finding them. She replied:

'From textual sources I knew that Crowther had asked to be buried next to Hobson and that Hobson's grave was at St George's. . . I asked the Local Studies Librarian at Manchester Central Library whether St George's still existed and he told me that the graveyard was still intact but that he had noticed that after years of neglect it had recently been cleared of overgrown shrubs, etc. However, like Barbara Brill, I was not able to find the gravestones because they were laid flat on the ground and, as it turned out, over the years had been 'buried'; by a light cover of earth and grass. Because I was absolutely sure that the graves were there my husband (who had finished research he was doing in Liverpool and was with me) offered to hunt more thoroughly. Using an old slate that had dropped from the church roof to dig around a bit, after several hours he uncovered the first part of Hobson's grave - and then had to dig hard to uncover the rest and Crowther's next to it. (the graveyard

is surrounded by busy roads, so passing motorists began yelling at him thinking he was a vandal!) Anyway, after he had uncovered the graves and photographed them he found that someone had closed off the graveyard and put barbed wire over the entrance thus blocking his way out. Luckily the man who had done this work was still in his van and was very surprised to see a hot and muddy figure emerge from the graveyard. It turned out that this was the last day the place was open before a Manchester architecture firm and English Heritage were going to start work on converting the church.'

Ed: When Anne was told that the Church was to be redeveloped she petitioned the Bishop of Manchester to have the two gravestones saved at the site. Some of us visited the graveyard on one of Terry Wyke's walks.



BOOK NOTES

Christine Lingard

After a quiet winter there have been a number of new books expected this summer. Already available:

O'Gorman, Francis: *The Victorian novel*, Blackwell £14.99

A student's guide to the major Victorian novelists including Gaskell, the Brontës, Dickens Eliot, Hardy and Thackeray, analysing the critical response over the last one hundred years within a narrative framework.

Elliott, Dorice Williams: *The angel out of the house: philanthropy and gender in nineteenth-century England*, University of Virginia Press, £29.50.

A discussion of philanthropic discourse in the work of George Eliot, Elizabeth Gaskell, Hannah More and Anna Jameson, and the crucial role it played in defining gender roles.

And expected during the summer:

Clapp-Intyre, Ailsa. *Angelic airs, subversive songs: music as social discourse in the Victorian novel*, Ohio University Press, £41.95.

A detailed analysis of the use and importance of folk-songs, hymns and concert music in the works of Gaskell, Eliot and Hardy.

Archibald, Diana C.: *Domesticity, imperialism and emigration in the Victorian novel*, University of Missouri Press, £29.95.

An intriguing discussion of the dilemma facing women: whether to fulfil their imperial duty and go to the colonies or 'remain an untainted idol beside an English hearthside'. Gaskell, Dickens, Trollope, Thackeray, Charles Reade and Samuel Butler are treated.

Later in the year we hope there will be a new biography of Gaskell from Shirley Foster, promised from Palgrave for November. Do enquire in your bookshop about forthcoming titles. It could influence the number of copies of the book printed. Janet Allan has produced a list of books we have in stock and can supply by post. The list is available with SAE to Hon Sec. or see our home page.

NORTH WEST GROUP

North West members enjoyed a trip to Lichfield on 29th June, especially enjoyable as John and Kate Chapple, now living there, had helped with the planning and met us for our guided walk. The Cathedral with its attractive close, the Erasmus Darwin Centre and Samuel Johnson's birthplace gave us much to admire.

On 27 May Marie Moss arranged a pleasant tour linking Gaskell associations around the Macclesfield area, including King Edward Street Unitarian Chapel (1690); The Mount, home of Samuel Greg the younger and his mill workers' cottages, library and reading room. Marie will write about this in a future Newsletter.

A second tour on 14 August will include Dam Head House, Mobberley, where the Hollands first settled in Cheshire, Dean Row Chapel, Sandlebridge and the Apprentice House at Styal Mill where Peter Holland was attendant doctor.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

MANCHESTER AT CROSS STREET CHAPEL

8 October 2002 — Robin Allan on *Beatrix Potter*.

12 November 2002 — Alan Shelston on *Dickens and North-West England*.

11 February 2003 — Heather Sharps on *Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth*.

11 March 2003 — Peter Skrine on *Readers of Goethe in Manchester, with particular reference to the Gaskells*.

All talks start at **1.00.pm** with tea and coffee available at the chapel beforehand; a sandwich lunch may be purchased at nearby Pret-à-Manger.

KNUTSFORD MEETINGS AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH CENTRE

(A few minutes walk from the Railway station)

We shall be studying *Sylvia's Lovers* in our Knutsford meetings this year, following our usual pattern of a buffet lunch from twelve o'clock onwards, and a talk/discussion starting at about half past one on the last Wednesday in the month: dates are: **30 October, 27 November, 29 January, 26 February, 26 March and 30 April**. Oxford World's Classics edition *Sylvia's Lovers* is recommended but any edition can be used.

All welcome, at either series of meetings, or better still, both!

LITERATURE COURSES IN THE NORTH WEST

At the Methodist Church, Beach Road, **Hartford, Northwich**.

WEA course of 6 monthly meetings on the first Fridays in the month commencing 6 September

The Novels of Elizabeth Gaskell

Tutor: Elizabeth Williams, committee member of The Gaskell Society and leader of monthly Knutsford meetings.

For further information: Tel 01606 882418

At Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Hoghton St, **Southport**

Tutor: Dr Sue Garner-Jones (Society member)

20 meetings from Monday 7 October, 1.00-3.00pm

This course will attempt to examine the complex and intimate relationship between mothers and sons in four diverse novels: Dickens' *David Copperfield*, Elizabeth Gaskell's *Ruth*, George Moore's *Esther Waters* and D H Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. For further information phone 0151 794 2538 quoting course no. SP068-679

If members notify us of similar course or events likely to interest our members details can be posted on our home page: www.gaskellociety.users.btopenworld.com

Manchester Literary Club which has met regularly since 1862 is a club rather than a society. It is open to everybody interested in literature and those engaged in literary or artistic pursuits. Papers on literary subjects are read at meetings and then discussed informally.

Meetings are held at The Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street Manchester; monthly on Mondays from 7- 9pm. Phone 0161 434 5818 for details.

GENERAL AUTUMN MEETING 28th September, 2002

This meeting will be held at the Methodist Church, Princess Street, Knutsford beginning at 12 noon.

Our former President, Geoffrey Sharps will speak about two Gaskell scholars of 1920's and 30's: Gerald DeWitt Sanders, and Stanton Whitfield whom Geoffrey met and later he was entrusted with the Whitfield Collection which is now housed in **Knutsford's new Library** which you might choose to visit on the morning before the meeting. There is a fine display of Gaskell illustrators.

Buffet lunch will be provided at a cost of £10. Pay on the day

This meeting begins a little later than usual as the Church has a coffee morning until 12 noon which members may choose to join.

At 3.00pm the Society's Vice-President, Jenny Uglow will speak on:

Erasmus Darwin, the Lunar Society and Elizabeth Gaskell's upbringing

Some of us were fortunate enough to visit Erasmus Darwin's house at Lichfield recently and are looking forward to reading Jenny's Book: *The Lunar Men :Friends who made the Future*, due to be published in September and available at the meeting.

Jenny's talk is also on the programme for **Knutsford Literature Festival**, tickets cost £5 but Gaskell members do not pay for a ticket, instead use the Society's booking form.

Tickets for non-members are available at Jardine's Book Shop, 73 King Street, Knutsford Phone 01565 653622.

The Festival runs from 27 September to 8 October.

On Sunday morning, 29 September, Elizabeth Gaskell's birthday, we will lay flowers on the grave at Brook Street Chapel at 10.30, before morning service which will also be Harvest Festival, at 11.00am. We will look at the Holland family graves and check the progress of the mulberry tree planted in March.

You may be interested in the **Festival event** in the afternoon 2.30pm at The Little Theatre:

Emily Dickinson and I: The Journey of a Portrayal

This is the true story of an actress's struggle to write a one-woman play about her literary heroine the American poet, Emily Dickinson. A one-woman show written and performed by Edie Campbell. See Festival programme for booking details.

Gaskell Society *South-West: Excursion to Penzance*

Friday May 17th – Sunday May 19th 2002

We were very struck by the fact that we had members apparently so far away, and thought it would be very worthwhile to pay them a visit. Travel arrangements were made and ten members prepared to travel down on Friday May 17th, some of us even venturing to go by train. Nothing could have prepared us for the kindness with which we were received by Sheilagh Burlton and her small group of Gaskell members, most of them also members of the Bronte Society, very suitable as Charlotte Brontë's mother was born and brought up there.

Chapter 3 of Mrs. Gaskell's "The Life of Charlotte Brontë" takes on a whole new meaning when one has visited this pleasant prosperous seaside town where there is evidence of the Branwell family everywhere. She quotes from Dr. Davy who says that "there was only one carpet and there was not a single silver fork" in the whole town. The same source tells of the superstitious beliefs of the uneducated people and Mrs. Gaskell suggests that hearing these stories, perhaps from Aunt Branwell, could have strongly influenced the imagination of Charlotte and her sisters.

We stayed in a comfortable little hotel where Sheilagh came to meet us on Friday evening to tell us about the programme she had arranged. She had also arranged an evening meal for us at a nearby restaurant and came with us.

On Saturday, we were taken on a tour of Penzance including Mrs. Brontë's birthplace, the Assembly rooms in the Union Hotel (very like those in Knutsford) where the news of Nelson's death was first announced and Penlee, the home of John Richards Branwell, which is now a very modern museum. We particularly liked the small exhibition of work by the Newlyn School of painters. Sheilagh also took us to the Morrab Library, a subscription library founded at about the same time as Manchester's Portico Library. The Curator took us round and answered questions and it was extremely difficult to get the South-West Group to move on. The afternoon was free and fine, and many took the opportunity to visit St. Michael's Mount, only 4 miles round the coast. The day ended with a buffet supper given for us and the Penzance group by Sheilagh Burlton where Marie Moss spoke briefly about our

pleasure and gratitude for the welcome we had received. She also spoke about the progress of Plymouth Grove and the Knutsford Literary Festival.

On Sunday we separated; some visited the Eden Project – what an amazing place. Marie and Derek Moss went on with their holiday in St. Ives. Thank you for coming, Marie, it was much appreciated. Others made their way home. We all had a very pleasurable and interesting time and were very touched by our welcome. We hope to welcome some of the Penzance members and friends to our Autumn meeting on November 23rd.

Rosemary Marshall.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

August 18 Summer tea party at the home of Kate and Alex Crawford, Norton St. Philip. (Everyone is welcome but do let me know. R.M.)

November 23. Gwen Clarke will speak to us on “Elizabeth Gaskell: Escape from the City” at 2.30 p.m. at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, Queen Square, Bath.

THE LONDON AND SOUTH -EAST GROUP

All meetings will be held at the Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace, London SW1 8JF and will commence at 2pm. The school is a few minutes walk away from Sloane Square underground station (District and Circle Lines). Members who wish to meet for lunch should be at the underground station at 12 noon for a light lunch at The Royal court Tavern, on Sloane Square or join the group there. For further information please contact Dudley Barlow 020 8874 7727.

Saturday 14 September

‘Flannel waistcoats and long sleeves’:

Motherhood and Matrimony in Elizabeth Gaskell

Saturday 9 November

‘A Question of Trust’:

The Relationship between Elizabeth Gaskell and Patrick Brontë