

GASKELL SOCIETY
AUTUMN MEETING

SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2018 at Knutsford Methodist Church, Princess Street.

10.30 am Coffee

11.00 am The Joan Leach Memorial Lecture will be given by **Marie Moxon** taking as her title, “ **The Sounding Cataract and the Tall Rock: From William Wordsworth’s ‘Tintern Abbey’ to Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Ruth***”

Writing to her Sister-in-law Lizzie in 1836, Elizabeth Gaskell is enthusiastic about the Lakeland poet. Sitting ‘in a shady corner of a field gay with bright spring flowers’ and with the air so full of sweet sounds’ the surroundings provide ‘ a fit place’ for study of his works. It is a rural idyll, calm and pleasant, and evocative of the joys of nature.

Wordsworth’s influence on Gaskell’s fiction is clear and has been well documented but in this paper, Marie will examine more specifically how Gaskell uses the inheritance of Romanticism to take *Ruth* beyond its designation as an industrial novel laced with romance. Gaskell makes ‘Nature’ the key to *Ruth*’s narrative travails and, ultimately, her rehabilitation.

Marie is a postgraduate researcher at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge and her doctoral thesis examines British and continental space in Elizabeth Gaskell’s fiction and journalism. Her research suggests new ways of looking at Gaskell’s fictions by exploring their wider spatial contexts, and considers how the author’s lesser-known short stories and non-fiction add significantly to Mid-Nineteenth Century debates on migration, nationhood and location.

!2.30 (approx) Buffet Lunch

2.00 pm **Geoff Scargill** will speak on “ **Edward Elgar- the Real Enigma**”

3.30pm Finish

NB The Annual Gaskell Service at Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford will be held on Sunday 23rd September 2018.

10.45 am Lay flowers on the Gaskell grave and Joan Leach’s grave

11.00 am. Gaskell service – Elizabeth Gaskell and family.

I/We will/ will not attend the **Autumn Meeting** £16.50 (including lunch) £10 (talks only)
Non-members £18.50 including lunch. £12 (talks only) Please make cheques payable to The Gaskell Society and send to Mrs Pam Griffiths, 37, Buckingham Drive, Knutsford, Cheshire. WA16 8LH by 23rd September 2018.

I/We are interested in attending the **Sheffield Conference 19th-22nd July 2019**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL/EMAIL

PTO for Conference information

GASKELL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2019
19-22nd JULY

Our next conference will be held at Tankersley Manor Hotel, near Sheffield, a hotel recently acquired by Q Hotels, with whom we have been extremely satisfied, in the past.

The theme will be “Elizabeth Gaskell - working class politics and culture.”

The hotel is set in modest grounds with ample parking and easy access to the M1 motorway. It is also accessible by rail to Sheffield.

We are planning a varied programme of industrial themes and cultural content, the area being rich in both. The format will be similar to last year with two talks on Friday evening, two talks on one morning and three on the other.

Elizabeth Williams has kindly agreed to run a study session on one afternoon and, as usual, we will be running two trips each afternoon.

A coach will run from Manchester, Macclesfield and Knutsford and will call at Cannon Hall Country House Museum where we can lunch on the way to the hotel. We will visit Wentworth Woodhouse on our return journey on 22nd July, using the local garden centre for lunch.

As usual, it would be most helpful for us to gauge numbers if you could express an interest by indicating on the enclosed form or by emailing me: pamgriff54@gmail.com
Booking forms will be available with the Spring Newsletter, early next year.