

## GASKELL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2024

**Sketchley Grange Hotel and Spa, Hinckley Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

“*A Passport to Freedom: Women Travellers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*” is the theme of this year’s long-awaited Conference to be held at Sketchley Grange Hotel and Spa, Hinckley. The site is easily accessible with ample parking and the hotel offers full leisure facilities, including a pool.

Our programme begins on Friday evening with a presentation by Dr Diane Duffy on the use of real locations in the writings of George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell. As Hinckley is in the heart of George Eliot country, we hope this talk will set the scene for our conference on women travellers and encourage an enthusiastic response to the writings of George Eliot who was influenced by Gaskell.

On Saturday and Sunday mornings, we have, as usual, a total of five speakers- Gaskell Society President Dr Shirley Foster has again agreed to speak to us, as has Dr Carolyn Lambert. Other speakers include Dr Edwin Marr, Alice Jackman a PhD candidate from Anglia Ruskin University, and Jane Baxter, a Trustee of Elizabeth Gaskell’s House and herself an enthusiastic traveller

Elizabeth Williams has once more offered to hold one of her popular study sessions focusing on close readings of selected extracts from Gaskells writing which emphasise the importance of location. This study session will be offered as an alternative to one of the trips, either on Saturday or Sunday (the exact day will be confirmed later).

As usual we will be offering two excursions; on Saturday afternoon we plan to visit Nuneaton, the birthplace of George Eliot, followed on the Sunday afternoon by a visit to Lichfield, home of Anna Seward, Erasmus Darwin and Samuel Johnson. More precise details of these visits will follow shortly. The Conference dinner will be held on Saturday evening following a drinks reception. We are planning entertainment on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

A coach will be arranged to Hinckley from the North West. Check in at the hotel is 4pm.

Furthermore, on our journey back to Manchester, plans are in progress for a lunch stop at Newstead Abbey where we can explore the home of Lord Byron. Check the website for updates.

**Please return form** to Mrs Jackie Tucker, 210 Astley Street, Dukinfield, Cheshire SK16 4QD  
or send by email to [jackietucker11@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackietucker11@hotmail.co.uk) Telephone enquiries: 0161 330 4188

**Gaskell Society members will be given priority but non-members are welcome. Non-members please contact Jackie Tucker for prices and further information.**

Name(s):

Phone No:

Address:

Email

CONFERENCE FEE includes accommodation, meals & afternoon trips on Saturday and Sunday <i>Please enter amounts in the boxes.</i>		COACH FROM NORTH WEST <i>If you wish to use the coach, please tick pick up point.</i>	
Conference Fee - Single Occupancy Room (may be twin or double) at £450		10.00am from Chorlton Street Bus Station, Manchester	
Conference Fee - Twin Room – Two <b>sharing</b> at £350 each		10.45am from Queens Hotel, Macclesfield	
		11.30am from Knutsford Bus Station	
TOTAL DEPOSIT ENCLOSED		Delegates from outside the North West are welcome to join the coach at the above. <i>Price will be advised later, when numbers known.</i>	
Any special access or dietary requirements:			

**To confirm a place**, please enclose a non-refundable £75 deposit by cheque, payable to THE GASKELL SOCIETY by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The balance will be required by Saturday 1st June 2024.

**Overseas members.** Please email Jackie Tucker for details of payment by Paypal or internet transfer.

**Personal travel insurance** is advised for all delegates.