

## Join the Gaskell Society

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### Subscription prices

Individual £23 / Joint £28 / Student £15

Please make cheques payable to The Gaskell Society

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Please return your completed form to:

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## The Gaskell Society

Patron: Sarah Prince

President: Dr Shirley Foster

Vice-Presidents:

Professor Francesco Marroni and Jenny Uglow

Secretary: Pam Griffiths

37 Buckingham Drive, Knutsford WA16 8LH

### Meeting and Study Session Contacts

#### North West

Pam Griffiths | [pamgriff54@gmail.com](mailto:pamgriff54@gmail.com)

#### London and South East

Marie Moxon | [marie@moxon-online.co.uk](mailto:marie@moxon-online.co.uk)

#### South West

Ann Brooks | [ab\\_botanic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ab_botanic@yahoo.co.uk)

### Venues for Meetings

#### Manchester - Cross Street Chapel

Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL

#### Knutsford - Brook Street Chapel Room

Adam's Hill, Knutsford WA16 8DY

#### London - Francis Holland School

39 Graham Terrace, London SW1W 8JF

(Nearest Tube: Sloane Square)

#### South West: BRLSI

16-18 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN

### Elizabeth Gaskell's House

Open to visitors at

84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester M13 9LW

[elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk](http://elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk)



[gaskellsociety@gmail.com](mailto:gaskellsociety@gmail.com)

The Gaskell Society @GaskellSociety

[www.gaskellsociety.co.uk](http://www.gaskellsociety.co.uk)

# The Gaskell Society



An active society, open to all

*"Any friend of our friend is welcome."*

Mr Harrison's Confessions (1851)

## Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell 1810-1865

The novelist and biographer Elizabeth Gaskell was born in London in 1810, but brought up by her aunt in Knutsford, Cheshire, after her mother's death in 1811. In 1832 Elizabeth married the Reverend William Gaskell, a Unitarian minister at Cross Street Chapel in Manchester. Four of their children, all girls, survived.

A remarkably independent, sociable and energetic woman, Elizabeth drew upon a wide range of experience in her writing. She was not afraid to tackle the pressing social problems of the day. Her literary output was varied, including many short stories, as well as *Mary Barton* and *North and South*, both dealing with the problems of industrial Manchester. She also wrote *Cranford* and *Cousin Phillis*, both set in Cheshire; *Ruth*, the story of an unmarried mother; *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*, a pioneering work of literary biography, and *Sylvia's Lovers*, a historical novel about Whitby.

Elizabeth Gaskell died suddenly in 1865, having almost completed *Wives and Daughters*.

The publication of *The Letters of Mrs Gaskell*, edited by J.A.V. Chapple and Arthur Pollard in 1966 marked the revival of interest in her work. This was supplemented by *Further Letters of Mrs Gaskell*, edited by John Chapple and Alan Shelston (2000). Jenny Uglow's biography, *Elizabeth Gaskell: A Habit of Stories* (1993) was a best seller. More recently, Alan Shelston's *Brief Lives: Elizabeth Gaskell* (2010) provides a fascinating insight into the author's life. Television adaptations of *Wives and Daughters* (1999), *North and South* (2004) and *Cranford* (2007 and 2009) have further widened Gaskell's following.

Cover image: Elizabeth Gaskell, by George Richmond RA, the frontispiece for *Mary Barton*, Knutsford Edition (Smith, Elder & Co, 1906).

## About the Gaskell Society

The Society was formed in 1985, after events to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Elizabeth Gaskell's birth. We now have an international membership, with branches in the United States, Italy and Japan, as well as in the North West of England, London & South East and the South West.

### Our Events

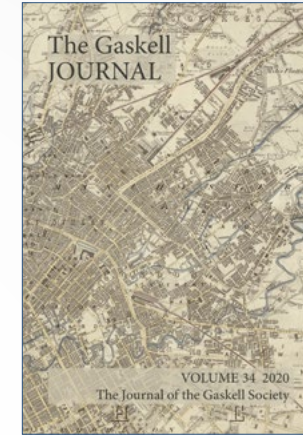
We are a lively, active and very friendly society with a busy schedule, including:

- A programme of meetings, lectures and study sessions, featuring Victorian history, literature and the works of women writers in addition to Elizabeth Gaskell. These take place in Knutsford, Manchester, London and Bath.
- We hold our Annual General Meeting in Manchester each Spring and our Autumn Meeting in Knutsford. Both include guest speakers and a lunch.
- We host a biennial Gaskell Society Conference.
- We organise visits and outings to places associated with Elizabeth Gaskell and her contemporaries, both in the UK and overseas.

### Find our full diary of events at [gaskellsociety.co.uk/events](http://gaskellsociety.co.uk/events)



## Our Publications



*The Gaskell Journal* is published annually with scholarly articles on all aspects of Gaskell studies.

*The Gaskell Society Newsletter* is published twice a year and features interesting articles and information about events.

The Journal and the Newsletter are free to members.

Our website carries regular features, blog posts and points for discussion on Gaskell and related subjects.

### Our Aims

- We promote and encourage the study and appreciation of the work and life of Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell (1810-1865).
- We record sources of information about the work of Elizabeth Gaskell and any other material relating to her life, family and memory.
- We foster and stimulate an understanding of her work and life.
- We promote and support special projects relating to her life and work, as well as encouraging republication of her works.
- We support and raise funds for Elizabeth Gaskell's House in Manchester (opposite).
- We co-operate with other societies having an interest in Elizabeth Gaskell and her times.

The Gaskell Society is a registered charity (1098017) and affiliated to the Alliance of Literary Societies.