

# Gaskell Society Conference 2026 - Literary Links

Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, West Yorkshire Friday 10 – Monday 13 July

We're delighted to be able to welcome you to Ilkley for our 2026 Conference. Craiglands is a grand Victorian hotel, set in beautifully landscaped grounds in a charming spa town on the edge of Brontë Country.

Our programme begins on Friday evening with a presentation by our Chair, Dr Diane Duffy, which will set the scene for our conference. We have a diverse line-up of international speakers this year, with a range of perspectives on Elizabeth Gaskell's Literary Links. They'll explore links not only with other writers, but publishers and other disciplines. We have a total of eight speakers - Raffaella Antinucci, Marie-Gaëlle Drouet, Caroline LaPlue, Scarlett-Electra LeBlanc, Kate Raine, Ben Moore, Tracy Stobbe and Hannah Trifunovic. Full details of their talks are on our website.

As usual we will be offering evening entertainments, plus two excursions. On Saturday afternoon we plan to visit the Brotherton Library, the main library of the University of Leeds. After the John Rylands Library in Manchester and the Manchester Central Library, the Brotherton is the third most important repository of Gaskell material, and some of the items will be specially displayed for us. On the Sunday, we plan to visit the house in Thornton where Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne Brontë were born, when their father, the Rev Patrick, was serving as a curate before moving to Haworth. The house has been recently restored, and was opened by HM Queen Camilla in May 2025.

Coach transport will be arranged (at extra cost) to Ilkley from the North West, with a choice of pick-up points.

On our journey back to Manchester, plans are in progress for an additional trip to East Riddlesden Hall, a National Trust historic manor house. Check the website for updates.

*Please complete the form below - you can type into it, or print it and use a pen*

To book your place, save, then email your completed booking form to - [gaskellconf26@gmail.com](mailto:gaskellconf26@gmail.com)

Send a non-returnable £75 deposit (per person) by bank transfer to The Gaskell Society, Sort Code 30-99-50, Account 50571762. Please use your surname as the payment reference.

Alternatively, print and post your completed form with a cheque for £75 (made payable to The Gaskell Society) to Geraldine Hughes, 19 Marsh Green Road, Elworth, Sandbach, CW11 3BQ.

Please send your deposit by 1 April 2026. The balance will be payable by 29 May 2026.

Overseas members: please contact Clive Heath - [clive.heath@virgin.net](mailto:clive.heath@virgin.net) - for international payment options.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Phone number .....

Email .....

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| <b>CONFERENCE FEE</b> includes accommodation, meals and outings  | <i>Please enter amounts in the boxes.</i> | <b>COACH TRAVEL</b><br><i>If you'd like return coach travel, please tick pick-up point. Times and costs will be confirmed when we know numbers.</i> |  |
| Single Occupancy Room (may be twin or double) at £475            |   | Chorlton Street Bus Station, Manchester   |  |
| Twin Room<br>Two sharing at £370 each                            |   | Queens Hotel, Macclesfield  |  |
| TOTAL DEPOSIT ENCLOSED   |   | Knutsford Bus Station   |  |
| Please tell us about any special access or dietary requirements: |   |   |  |

**Please note that personal travel insurance is advised for all delegates.**