

# The Victorian Society in Manchester

Registered Charity No. 1081435

## Autumn Newsletter 2010

### EDITORIAL

This Autumn Newsletter of the Manchester Group of the Victorian Society is the vehicle for many good news items. It seems that the work of many people over recent years is achieving some positive results.

In particular Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council is to be congratulated on passing the first round of funding for the development of Edgar Wood's, Long Street Methodist Church. The award, from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Town-

This project will involve repairs to the key buildings and restoration of architectural features, as well as placing Middleton firmly on the heritage map through the creation of an Edgar Wood Architecture Trail and a conservation skills training scheme.

London Road Fire Station is also a much loved building by Mancunians and will be remembered by those members of the Victorian Society who were able to visit shortly after it closed in 1986. Since then it has been used for storage but despite

highlights the collection at the Manchester Art Gallery. The exhibition opens on 9 October 2010 and will explore Manchester's role as a national centre of ceramic innovation and design in the early 20th century, showcasing 150 significant pieces of Pilkington pottery and tiles from 1890-1930.

A series of related events will also be taking place in association with the Manchester Literature Festival. The Art Gallery will host poetry events including, *Odes on Lancashire Vases* and a *Poetry Workshop and Performance* with John Siddique in October 2010. Manchester Literature Festival is also organising Elizabeth Gaskell tours of Manchester and Knutsford. In addition there are a number of events celebrating the bi-centenary of Gaskell's birth, including an exhibition at The University of Manchester, John Ryland's Library on Deansgate.

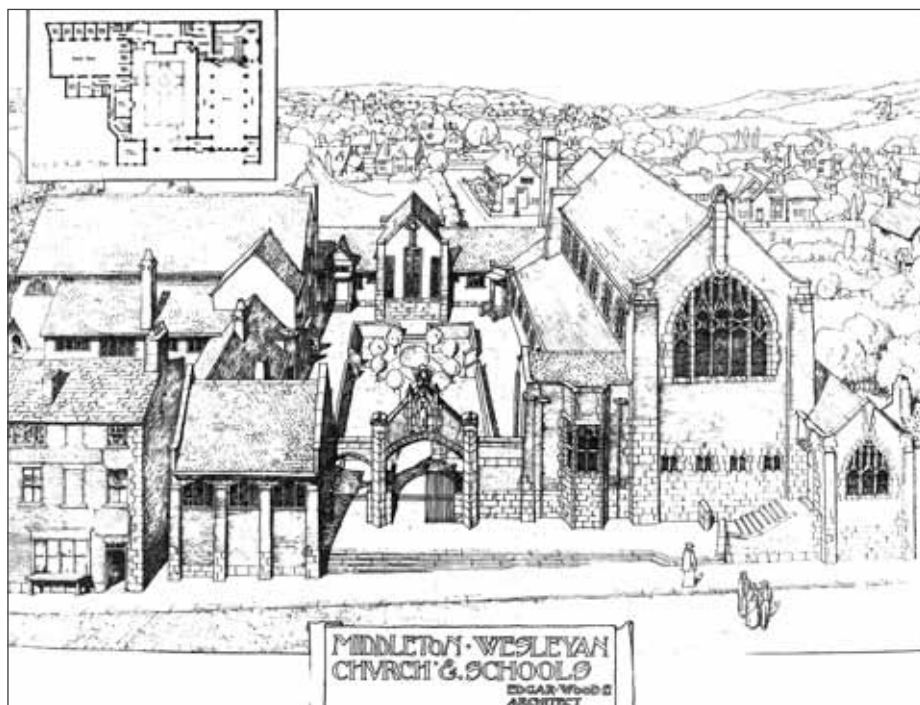
Meanwhile the Manchester Group continues to offer a regular monthly programme of events which we hope reflects the range of interests of the membership. The 2011 Events Card is published with this newsletter and both the events and newsletter can now also be found on the Victorian Society's main site at [www.victorian-society.org.uk/manchester/](http://www.victorian-society.org.uk/manchester/). Further details about the events and the speakers can be found on pages 8 to 15. The agenda for the AGM in January 2011 is also included.

*Diana Terry*      *September 2010*  
Newsletter Editor

[manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk](mailto:manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk)

The Manchester Victorian Society  
c/o Portico Library  
57 Mosley Street  
Manchester M2 3HY

The Victorian Society is the champion for Victorian and Edwardian buildings in England and Wales.



**Edgar Wood's pen and ink drawing and plan of 1902 exhibited at the Royal Academy: reproduction courtesy of Long Street Methodist Church**

scape Heritage Initiative Programme (THI), Greater Manchester is the only THI in the North West to be approved this year. This recent exciting news is significant progress in the midst of funding cuts and will be announced in the press soon. It is most appropriate that 2010 marks the 150th anniversary of Edgar Wood's birth. There are also currently exhibitions of Wood's work at Mills Hill Baptist Church, Middleton and Huddersfield Art Gallery.

this the interior fittings remain as impressive now as when it first closed. Alex Baldwin, Conservation Adviser for the Victorian Society has written an account of her experiences on a visit to the building which can be found on page 3.

A number of exhibitions and events related to Victorian design are about to take place in Manchester. In particular, *Exporting Beauty: Pilkington's Pottery and Tiles*,

## NEWS

### **An Edgar Wood Centre in Middleton**

Volunteer members of the Middleton Heritage and Conservation Group have worked tirelessly for six years with David Morris, of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, to raise the profile of Edgar Wood and the importance of his work. Their dreams of an Edgar Wood Centre are now coming to fruition in the 150th Anniversary year of Edgar Wood's birth in Middleton in 1860.

Even more importantly a new use has been found without abandoning the building and letting it fall into decay. As Ian Serjeant, the Conservation Officer for the Methodist Church says *'This is one of Methodism's most important historic buildings by an architect of international standing. Happily it retains original furnishings and fittings designed by Wood which remain almost unaltered. The proposal will showcase this special building to full advantage to the wider public yet at the same time retain its original function as a place of worship and mission. This solution may well provide a model for other similar 'problem' buildings'.*

Six years ago Edgar Wood's Long Street Methodist Church in Middleton was threatened with closure. The rebirth of this famous Grade II\* Church has come about through the intervention and support of a building preservation trust.

In 2003 the outlook was bleak. Church Treasurer, Andrew Slim reported that the reserves were dwindling and, with a declining congregation, there was insufficient income to maintain the building. In these circumstances, the local Managing Trustees decided that they could no longer afford Edgar Wood's beautiful building, and began to consider the future of the Church family in new affordable premises and the Grade II\* being sold.

Members of the congregation were horrified at the thought of the building being sold to an unsympathetic developer and feared it might all end

in tears. This had happened just round the corner in Market Place when the Providence United Reformed Church (Grade II) was closed twenty years ago. After being sold to a succession of developers, all of whom have failed to restore the building, the Chapel is still unoccupied and unused and in an advanced state of decay. To restore it will now cost a fortune.

At a public meeting in Long Street Church in 2005, Heritage Trust for the North West agreed to commission an Options Appraisal and obtained funding for this from Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, the Friends of Long Street and the Architectural Heritage Fund. A study team was appointed including the Minister, Rev Malcolm Wetherby, Church Stewards, Geoff and Christine Grime, Andy Marshall of the Friends of Long Street, John Archer, authority on Edgar Wood, Andrew Slim representing the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes and David Morris from Rochdale Metropolitan Borough

Council. Advice was also sought from the Methodist Conservation Officer Ian Serjeant.

Conservation architects, *Calls Architecture*, from Leeds, were appointed to investigate options, including disposing of the building. After protracted debates and discussions with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes and their professional advisors, it was agreed that the ideal option would be for a Building Preservation Trust to take ownership of the building and bring its expertise in raising funds and knowledge of dealing with historic structures.

The Church congregation having been relieved of its maintenance problems now lease back the Church, excluding the Sunday Schools, to enable worship to continue. The Trust's plans are to use part of the building for a conference centre and as a focus for the understanding and appreciation of Edgar Wood.



**Group outside Long Street Methodist Church, 13 May 2010, after the lecture by John Archer to mark the 150th Anniversary of Edgar Wood's birth. Left to right John Miller (HTNW), John Pierce (Chairman Greater Manchester BPT), Peter Rowlinson (Rochdale MBC), Christine Grime (Church Steward), John Archer, Cllr Terry Linden, Cllr Peter Williams.**

Finally on 27 August 2010 the transfer of the building to the Heritage Trust for the North West was completed. Under the terms of the Agreement the Long Street congregation will use the Church for worship on Sundays, have the use on Saturdays for Weddings and one day each week, if required, for funerals. At other times it will be used by the Trust for conferences and meetings. This is a very imaginative development and a most generous gesture by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

The long term development and day to day management of the building will be the responsibility of the Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust. This is a new Trust and a wholly owned subsidiary of Heritage Trust for the North West. Its aims are to care for buildings at risk within the ten Boroughs of Greater Manchester. John Pierce, formerly Chief Executive Officer of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council is the Chairman of the Trustees. Other trustees are Les Coop (Oldham), Warren Marshall (Manchester), Mark Watson (Manchester), Steve Little (Stockport) and John Graham (Stockport).

Whilst it is an exciting development, in the current economic climate progress may be slow. However, there are already some positive signs. Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, through the support of Peter Rowlinson and David Morris, has secured a Stage I Lottery Pass with the promise of substantial Lottery money. When Stage II is approved it will help restore not only the Edgar Wood Centre, but also other Wood properties.

*John Miller*                      *September 2010*  
*Chief Executive of the Heritage Trust*  
*for the North West*

For further information on the Edgar Wood Centre please contact Christine Grime [gpg@talktalk.net](mailto:gpg@talktalk.net) or John Miller of Heritage Trust for the North West on 01282 877686 or [john.miller@htnw.co.uk](mailto:john.miller@htnw.co.uk)

### ***Alex Baldwin comments on the campaign to save Manchester's iconic Fire Station***

I first saw this building three years ago when I started as Northern Conservation Adviser at the Victorian Society. On my first trip to Manchester for our Northern Buildings Committee meeting, my colleague David Garrard, a native of the city, pointed it out as we left Piccadilly Station. I was surprised to see such an impressive building in the heart of Manchester sitting empty and looking so neglected.

London Road Fire Station, designed by Woodhouse, Willoughby and Langham, was completed in 1906. Many of you will know the building

This is high accolade but one that I think is well deserved. The building housed not only the fire station but also an ambulance station, a police station, a coroner's court, a bank and a gas meter testing station. On the upper floors there were flats for the firemen and their families as well as a laundry, a gymnasium and a billiard room. The accommodation is arranged around an open courtyard with balconies running around all sides.

The fire station was shut in 1986 and the site was bought by Britannia Hotels in 1993. The coroner's court continued in session up until 1998. The building is used as workshops and storage for the hotel chain and



***London Road Fire Station by Woodhouse, Willoughby and Langham, completed in 1906: photograph by Mark Watson, 2010***

already but for those that don't, the fire station sits on a triangular site bounded by London Road, Minshall Street South and Fairfield Street. The building is constructed of red brick and yellow terracotta supplied by the Leeds firm, Burmantofts. The listing describes the building as 'ebullient Edwardian Baroque style, with turrets, domes and corner tourelles and a tall south-east tower with domed belfry'.

According to the Conservation Area Appraisal the grade II\* listed former fire station is '*arguably the world's most important building of its type*'.

the rooms are piled high with bedsteads, chairs, lights, TVs, towels and soaps.

It sounded as though there wasn't much hope for the building; over the years the owners had put in a number of planning applications to convert it, with varying success, but had never carried out any of the schemes. Occasionally Manchester City Council would threaten to take action, but never did. After three years in the job I have learnt what a terrible situation this is: when the owner does not have the will to look after the building and the Council

lacks the resources to take enforcement action. This stalemate has been the downfall of far too many buildings.

Finally though, last year Manchester City Council agreed to issue a Compulsory Purchase Order which spurred Britannia into action once again. In July of this year the Victorian Society was consulted on a listed building consent application to convert the former fire station into a hotel. The application was unexpected but the biggest surprise of all is that the scheme by the in-house architectural team at Britannia seems to be incredibly sympathetic to the historic building. All the principal rooms on the ground floor are to be kept intact and historic fittings and decorative treatments are to be retained or restored. The biggest changes proposed are the subdivision of the upper floors to create bedrooms and bathrooms, a small extension within the courtyard to provide enough bedrooms to make the scheme viable and the glazing over of the courtyard to create a more useable space.

The proposals have been considered by our Northern Buildings Committee which welcomes the scheme in principle. Our only reservation is the design of the glazed canopy which will be supported on large, inelegant columns. We have asked whether the canopy could be supported on the walls of the existing building, as they are at the British Museum and the National Maritime Museum, or failing that, whether the supports could be re-designed to be less obtrusive.

I was shown around the site by one of Britannia's in-house architects. I was surprised by the intactness of the interiors. Among the highlights were the complete set of coroner's court furnishings, the Art Nouveau tile work in the court waiting room, the original drying racks in the laundry and the fireman's pole cupboards in the flats (all of which are to remain). We were also treated to a trip up the tower and some of the best views over Manchester. It came as a relief to see that the building is in a reasonable condition, despite years of underuse. There have been

problems with water ingress, mostly due to the silting up of internal drains, but the damage is localized and repairable. Luckily, Britannia carried out water proofing works a few years ago that are now helping to keep the rain out and allow the building to dry out.

We hope that this scheme will go ahead as it offers the former fire station a viable long-term future, but having had our hopes raised so many times in the past we remain a little sceptical that this scheme will be realised. As does the Council, it would seem, as they are pressing ahead with the Compulsory Purchase Order. This is probably a sensible decision as it puts pressure on Britannia to see this conversion through, but if they fail to start work within a reasonable period then the building can be passed on to someone else, already lined up by the Council, who has the will and the resources to revive one of Manchester's finest historic buildings.

A decision on the listed building consent application is due later in September and we will be watching what happens next with great interest.

Alex Baldwin August 2010  
Conservation Adviser at the Victorian Society.

**Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme** Even the Archbishop of Canterbury was unable to secure assurance from the former Prime Minister over the future of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme beyond 2011. Gordon Brown's reply of 27 April declared: *"I know how important the LPOWGS scheme has been and very much share your commitment to ensuring that our churches can continue to play their pivotal role at the centre of so many communities right across the UK"*. But he would not make any commitment until the forthcoming spending review has concluded. Since 2001, the grant scheme has reimbursed congregations of all faiths for VAT incurred on the repair and maintenance of listed places of worship by over £100 million and attracted four times that amount to

the benefit of community projects. But the change in VAT rules at European level in 2009 did not include the option for a lower rate on repairs and maintenance of cultural assets. The Heritage Alliance is campaigning hard for the scheme's retention; see the Places of Worship campaign library <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/library-2/>

**Latest Government response to the petition 2 August 2010** The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPOWGS) is well liked and has played a significant role in supporting repairs to places of worship. It has helped repair many buildings throughout the UK and recent research, published by English Heritage, shows that 90 per cent of listed churches are in good or fair state.

However, the scheme is currently due to end at the end of 2010/11 and any decision about its extension can only be taken as part of wider discussions about Government priorities in the next spending round.

Alongside the LPOWGS Scheme, listed places of worship receive support through other Government initiatives. English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund made grants totalling £22.7 million to help 222 listed places of worship in 2009-10.

In addition, under new proposals by the Government, the share of Lottery money going to each of the arts, heritage and sport good causes will increase to 20 per cent. The Heritage Lottery Fund is looking at how it will distribute the additional money it expects to receive as a result of the change in Lottery shares. It has said it will take account of the needs of places of worship in England, along with needs in other heritage sectors.

**Heritage Open Days 2009 clocks up over one million visits** This year's evaluation of Heritage Open Days reports the *'most successful event in the fifteen year history of England's annual celebration of local architecture, history and culture'*. A record 4100 properties and events attracted over one million visits over four days. New regional hotspots

emerged, such as Brighton & Hove, Oxford and Cambridge; although the most active region remains the South East, which contributes over a quarter of the national programme. Roughly a third of properties taking part were religious buildings, but the range continued to grow reflecting the diversity of local communities' heritage. Of the properties opening up for Heritage Open Days, 45 per cent were not usually accessible to the public, 15 per cent waived their admission fees and 40 per cent usually opened free of charge. 1443 organisers registered a total of 4100 events. Organisers and volunteers spent around 655,000 working hours to make HODs happen, which equated to a staggering in-kind value of £3,799,000. For the full report visit [http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/documents/HODs\\_report\\_2009](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/documents/HODs_report_2009)

### **Victorian Society to launch annual endangered buildings appeal**

The Victorian Society is calling for help in tracking down the ten most at risk buildings in the country. An appeal to find the ten most endangered historic buildings in the country has been launched by the Victorian Society. The Society is calling on historians, enthusiasts and local campaigners across the country to nominate Victorian or Edwardian buildings that are at risk in their local area.

The endangered buildings campaign, now in its fourth year, aims to highlight the problems facing many of our historic buildings. *'People expect us to be obsessed with the past, but the reality is we are obsessed with the future. We want to ensure that the best examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture are still there for future generations to enjoy'*, said Dr Ian Dungavell, Director of the Victorian Society. *'To do this we need to know what is most at risk; so if you know of a vulnerable Victorian school building, or an empty pub, a disused swimming pool or a crumbling chapel, we want to hear about it.'*

Buildings that have been nominated in the past also include mills and factories, public baths, churches and town halls *'We have been left an extraordinary legacy of beautiful buildings but sadly even the finest*

*architecture is no match for sustained neglect or poor planning.'* Buildings don't have to be listed to be nominated but they should be at risk, perhaps of demolition, from insensitive development or simply neglect. They need to have been built between 1837 and 1914.

The nominations will be considered by the Society's experts on architecture and conservation, and a Top Ten will be published in the autumn.

Buildings can be nominated in the following ways:

- Via the website at [www.victoriansociety.org.uk](http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk) <<http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk>>
- By uploading a photograph and a description to flickr; [www.flickr.com/groups/thevictoriansociety](http://www.flickr.com/groups/thevictoriansociety) <<http://www.flickr.com/groups/thevictoriansociety>>
- By emailing [katie@victoriansociety.org.uk](mailto:katie@victoriansociety.org.uk)
- By post: 1 Priory Gardens, London, W4 1TT

One last thing: good photographs of the building make a huge difference!

### **Reviving Britain's Terraces - Life After Pathfinder**

A new report entitled *Reviving Britain's Terraces: Life After Pathfinder*, commissioned by SAVE Britain's Heritage (a member of The Heritage Alliance), looks at the aftermath of New Labour's Housing Market Renewal (Pathfinder) Initiative and presents a new vision for healing and reviving the communities across the north of England that were left shattered by house clearances. To date the Pathfinder programme has cost over £2.2 billion and has resulted in the demolition of at least 16,000 houses - four times as many as have been built as replacements. The programme also left thousands more houses empty and decaying at a time of soaring council waiting lists. The report, produced by Mark Hines Architects, looks at how terraced housing earmarked for demolition can be adapted, upgraded and remodelled to a high standard of energy efficiency, creating a range of accommodation and forming exemplar 'eco-communities' of the

future. The report is available direct from SAVE <<http://www.savebritainsheritage.org/>> at the special introductory rate of £10 (£8 to Friends of SAVE) email [office@savebritainsheritage.org](mailto:office@savebritainsheritage.org) or ring 020 7253 3500.

### **Pennine Lancashire Northlight Weaving Shed Study published**

Members interested in northlight roofed buildings and former weaving sheds might find this report useful. It was commissioned by Design and Heritage Pennine Lancashire with the support of English Heritage, Heritage Trust for the North West, Lancashire County Council and the local authorities of Pennine Lancashire to raise aspirations and to help dispel some of the commonly held myths about the limitations of this building type for repair and reuse. It aims to provide a practical guide to all those involved in the conservation and development of the unique north light weaving sheds of the region and to generate enthusiasm for their retention and future use. For further details and to download the full report, go to <<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/index.asp>

### **New Churches Conservation Adviser at the Victorian Society**

The Victorian Society is pleased to announce the appointment of a new conservation adviser, with special responsibility for historic churches.

Edmund Harris, who comes to the Victorian Society from SAVE Britain's Heritage, will be responsible for all ecclesiastical casework across England and Wales. This marks a change in approach as for the last year church casework has been split between the society's three caseworkers. Now Alex Baldwin (Conservation Adviser for Northern England) and Heloise Brown (Conservation Adviser for the south of England and Wales) will concentrate solely on secular casework.

*'We are delighted to welcome Edmund,'* said Dr Ian Dungavell, Director of the Victorian Society. *'He has an extensive knowledge of churches and chapels of all denominations and will be a great*





**Edmund Harris 'up on the roof' of Wakefield Cathedral**

*addition to the team at the Victorian Society as we campaign to save the best of our Victorian and Edwardian heritage for future generations.'*

## JOE MARTIN 1952-2010

The sad news of the death of Joe Martin, Salford City Council's Conservation Officer, was announced in March.



**Joe: photograph by Pete Martin**

Joe was Salford City Council's longest serving officer, having been with Salford for almost 40 years. He joined Building Control in 1970, becoming a Building Conservation Officer in 1993, and a Conservation Officer in 2003.

Joe was incredibly committed to and enthusiastic about Salford's history, and its buildings. The City may have an image (largely gained from LS Lowry's paintings) as a densely built up industrial city at the heart of the industrial revolution, and that is of course central to understanding Salford now, but in fact its history goes back centuries before the industrial revolution brought so much change. It was this tremendously varied history that Joe loved, combined with a deep attachment to the place itself – after all the modern Salford Quays with the Lowry and Media City was formerly the Manchester Docks at the head of the Ship Canal, from where as a boy he travelled on a ship all the way to Canada.

Joe's background in Building Control gave him a practical understanding of buildings and structures which was invaluable, and he particularly loved the hands on nature of the job and finding practical solutions to problems. His long time at Salford, combined with the high regard in which he was held, meant that he was able to use fantastic networking skills to get things done, and he will be irreplaceable.

It would be difficult to sum up all of Joe's achievements over such a long and illustrious career. He loved Ordsall Hall (now undergoing major restoration) and Worsley Court House, was excited by recent archaeological digs at Exchange Greengate, and in past months even helped a local Councillor out in a campaign to save and find a place for Salford's very own totem pole – a link with Native Americans going back to the 19th century.

Joe will be missed by all his many friends and colleagues at Salford and beyond – he was liked, loved and respected by so many. He leaves a very large and loving family, including

his wife Carole and their three children.

Chris Findley,

May 2010

Assistant Director, Sustainable Regeneration,  
Salford City Council

## LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

### ***Exporting Beauty – Pilkington's Pottery and Tiles***

#### ***Manchester Art Gallery***

**9 October 2010 - 9 October 2011**

Manchester Art Gallery holds the largest and best examples of Pilkington's lustre pottery in a public collection. The exhibition, opening on 9 October 2010, supplements this fantastic collection with examples from the Peter Scott Gallery at Lancaster University. This group includes pieces and photographs from the John Chambers collection, who was the first designer to be employed at Pilkingtons. The inclusion of his pieces is, therefore, significant. Several exemplary pieces from Manchester Metropolitan University's Special Collections and a large lapis vase from the Whitworth Art Gallery are also included - this exhibition is special.

Four brothers Alfred, Charles, Edward and Lawrence, started the Pilkington Tile & Pottery Company in 1893. It was located in Swinton near Manchester. The brothers were the owners of the Clifton and Kearsley Coal Company and it was explorations for coal that led to the discovery of copious amounts of clay. Their company secretary, James Lee Wood, suggested that samples be sent to William Burton at Wedgwood. He had already begun to establish a reputation as a chemist-potter and ceramic historian, lecturing regularly at Manchester School of Art. Several of his lectures had been re-printed in The Pottery Gazette, then the main journal of the pottery trade. Pilkingtons began tile production in 1893. They rapidly expanded the factory and were soon showing tiles at the Manchester's Arts and Crafts Exhibition (1895) and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society. A succession of tile exhibitions and considerable publicity elevated the company to world acclaim and they soon became worldwide exporters. In

1904 Pilkingtons exhibited their first commercial range of pottery at the gallery of Henry Graves in London. The exhibition was a huge success and fame was confirmed when Walter Crane personally selected fourteen items for the ceramics collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Following on rapidly from the Graves exhibition the company began to produce a range of signature coloured glazes, including kingfisher blue and orange vermillion, as well as some splendid flambé and crystalline glazes. However, it was the production of iridescent lustre pottery after 1906 which was to make Pilkingtons so successful.

Burton brought his own expertise and that of his younger brother, Joseph, also a chemist and a student of ceramics, and enticed others to join the new firm. Foremost amongst these was John Chambers, already a skilled tile artist who joined from Doultons. Several jobbing artists came as did William Salter Mycock, a tile artist, and Joseph Kwiatkowski, a modeller. In addition a skilled kilnman and a senior paintress also joined the firm. The combination of the expertise of the Burton brothers and Chambers together with the financial investment provided by the Pilkington family quickly built up the firm's success.

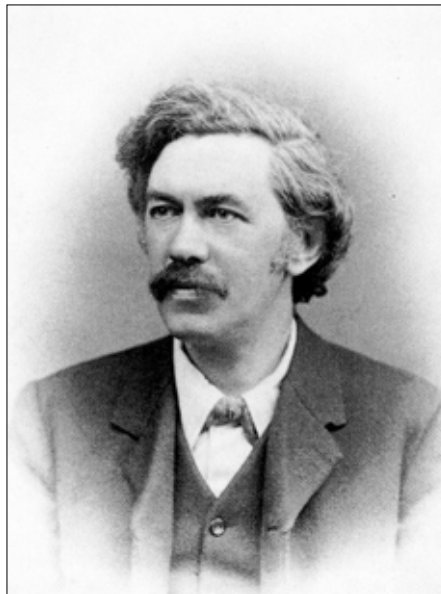
Pilkingtons had won awards at the Paris Exhibition in 1900 confirming their growing reputation. Burton's strategy for the firm involved publicity contributing to growth. He commissioned skilled designers, most celebrated amongst whom was Lewis Foreman Day, eventually engaged on a permanent and exclusive contract. Other designers lent prestige. These included Walter Crane, Alphonse Mucha, CFA Voysey, Edgar Wood and Frederick Shields. Increased capacity allowed Burton to rapidly establish an export business in Europe, South America and Canada. By 1930 the company was selling its products on every continent.

The early tiles produced by Pilkingtons tended to conform to

popular taste, reflecting classical tradition and including landscape imagery. Their Persian range of tiles in blues and greens were splashed with coral red. A combination of designs, such as the handmade Persian style and lustre tiles used in the Franco-British Exhibition in 1908,



**Joseph Burton**



**William Burton**

and dozens of affordable designs for moulded tiles ensured profits up until the First World War.

The decision to make pottery, in 1904, came after the culmination of several years of research. The first experimental pottery ware pieces were shown in the 1898 Northern Art Workers Guild exhibition at the Manchester City Art Gallery. The first pottery clays were acquired

from the Firths, of Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. In 1903, Burton secured the services of E.T. Radford, an accomplished potter who had worked on the wheel for many of the major Staffordshire companies. By 1904 Pilkingtons had developed a range of pottery shapes, promoting them under the name of *Lancastrian Ware* at the Graves Gallery in London. For the first two years the main emphasis was on glaze effects which Burton called transmutation, crystalline, opalescent, and textured. There was immediate acclaim for these ceramics from the pottery press.

Glaze experiments were at the forefront of product development and over the next few years several glazes were developed but Burton's ambition was to produce lustre pottery. To this end Gordon Mitchell Forsyth, who had been art director at Minton Hollins, joined in 1906. Forsyth encouraged a Hispano-Moresque style of decoration but he also allowed the artists considerable freedom with their designs. All the artists were allowed to use their own marks, reinforcing the idea of handmade production. The strategy of employing well known designers was also continued including Walter Crane, for example, who designed around a dozen pieces.

Exhibitions dominated and successive international awards followed: Franco-British 1908, Brussels 1910, Turin 1911, Ghent 1913 and Paris 1914 with tiles and pottery complementing each other. Pilkington's tile success was recognised in the commission to design several huge tile panels for Liverpool Museum. The firm's pottery skills were acknowledged by the award of a Royal Warrant in 1913. Thereafter the pottery was named 'Royal Lancastrian'.

The First World War, economic and social change affected consumer taste. William Burton retired in 1915 and the band of artists eventually broke up. The most significant departure was that of Forsyth in 1920 to become head of the Stoke-on-Trent School of Art.

Joseph Burton stayed on and in 1928 he introduced a brief revival in pottery fortunes when he discovered *lapis* a new underglaze decoration. Popular taste and industrial modernisation by Joseph's son, David, had already driven the tiles business into a routine range only differentiated by the brilliant tube-line work of Edmund Kent. Pottery production ceased in 1938 and shortly afterwards almost all production ceased during the Second World War.

A brief resurgence of the pottery in the 1950s lasted only ten years but tile production continued to the present day, although, sadly, the firm went into administration a few weeks ago. Its future is uncertain.

*Angela and Barry Corbett – August 2010*

*The images of William and Joseph Burton published courtesy of the Pilkington's Tile and Pottery Society*

**Industrial Revolutionaries  
Harris Museum and Art Gallery,  
Preston**

**26 June–6 November 2010**

This is a major new exhibition spanning 150 years of Preston's history, looking at the personalities that helped create the modern world. Preston was the setting for great invention, protest, social reform and commercial success. *Industrial Revolutionaries* documents the people who created, experienced and tackled a new industrial world. In this major new temporary exhibition visitors can see fascinating objects, view long forgotten archive film and hear street music from 150 years ago.

[www.harrismuseum.org.uk/current-exhibitions](http://www.harrismuseum.org.uk/current-exhibitions)

**Death and the Working Class  
People's History Museum,  
Manchester**

**23 October 2010 - 03 May 2011**

This fascinating exhibition charts how funeral traditions and customs have changed over the last 200 years, exploring how people's notion of a 'good send off' has evolved as our culture and society have developed.

[www.phm.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.phm.org.uk/whats-on/)

**MANCHESTER GROUP - EVENT  
REVIEWS**

***Splendour in the North: the  
Architecture of Paley & Austin.  
by Dr Geoff Brandwood, Architectural Historian  
Wednesday 21 April 2010 YHA***

Dr Geoff Brandwood started his lecture on the historically rather complicated Edmund Sharpe/ E.G.Paley/ H.A.Paley (son) and H.J. Austin architectural partnerships of Lancaster in a rather intriguing way. He passed round an image of what he called a 'corner shop', albeit in a much grander architectural setting than is usual. In this way, he made the initial point that, because it was a provincial practice, the architects turned their hands to a much wider variety of commissions than would have been the case had it been a London practice. Whilst the mainstay

The practice, under the differing names of the partners at the time, started in the 1840s under Sharpe, and (disregarding the fact that E.G. Paley married Sharpe's sister) later became Paley & Austin and it existed in total for almost a hundred years. They undertook some major secular commissions, e.g. the Neo-Gothic facade of Leighton Hall and the Tudorbethan rebuilding of the west wing of Holker Hall following the fire of 1871.

However, they are noted mainly for their Anglican Gothic revival churches built mostly between 1840 and 1890 to satisfy the perceived need for the established church to cater for the increased populations of the North West's rural areas and towns. Whilst the majority of these churches exemplified in some ways the early Gothic architectural style favoured by followers of the Cambridge Camden



***St John, Birkdale, Paley & Austin 1889-1903 (enlarged 1903-1909):  
photograph by Mark Watson 2010***

of the firm throughout was Anglican churches, even apart from the corner shop, its designs included both a canteen and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Lancaster.

Society, Dr Brandwood emphasised that there was not a definable practice house-style. All these churches had to recognize the increased importance of preaching



(in terms of congregational sight lines to the pulpit etc) but there was great individuality, not only in the church designs but in the interior furnishings & fittings. This point is easily demonstrated by reference to three local examples- Holy Trinity, Platt Lane, Platt Fields with its terracotta decoration; the perhaps French influenced St John's, Waterloo Road, Cheetham and the massive and decidedly English perpendicular St George's, Heaviley, Stockport. The latter, in common with many of the practice's churches, offers particularly superb examples of pew-end carving.

In 1875 Edmund Sharpe was awarded RIBA's Gold Medal for his architectural writings. He died two years later. The last known usage of the practice name Paley & Austin was in 1944, two years before the youngest Paley, Henry Anderson, himself died. In the course of his very well illustrated lecture, Dr Brandwood without doubt proved his case that Paley & Austin was "An Exceptional Practice".

David Astbury

May 2010

***Weaste Cemetery : a Grand Victorian Necropolis led by Peter Kilvert 26 June 2010, Weaste Cemetery, Salford.***

Peter Kilvert met the Manchester Group at the gates at 2 p.m. on a hot summer afternoon, with a useful booklet, *Weaste Cemetery Heritage Trail*. He is Secretary of the Salford Cemeteries Trust and the associated Friends group which started in 2000.

One-and-a-half miles from Salford Quays, and bordering on BBC Media City, Weaste Cemetery is a peaceful place for visitors to learn about Salford's history. The Victorians considered cemeteries to be amenities like parks and gardens and were usually designed in a similar way. Weaste Cemetery is no exception and its beautiful design made it the most desirable resting-place for well to do Salfordians and Mancunians.

On the tour of twenty eight graves there were many examples of the great and good who are buried there.



***One example of the many ornately carved memorial stones in Weaste Cemetery***

Weaste is the oldest of Salford's cemeteries. Since it opened in 1857 over 332,000 interments have taken place in its 39 acres. It was Salford's first municipal cemetery to implement the 1853 Burials Act, when churchyards could no longer provide sufficient burial places. At that time the Non Conformists controlled the council so that when the land was separated by sectarian divisions they were able to choose the best location in the park. This was an unusual situation at the time.

Internments include a veteran of the Charge of the Light Brigade, Salford's first MP, the founder of the Hallé orchestra, a victim of the Munich air disaster, a local hero and members of a circus dynasty. Ferdinand Stanley who was immortalised in Alfred Lord Tennyson's epic poem *Charge of the Light Brigade*, after surviving the battle in 1854 was interred in 1898 and was one of four local survivors.

Joseph Brotherton became the first

MP for Salford in 1832 holding the position for twenty four years. In 1849 he was instrumental in making Salford the first municipal authority in Britain to establish a library, a museum and an art gallery, and later with William Ewart Gladstone persuaded Parliament to pass the Public Libraries Act. His belief in clean living and a clean environment for working people made him a prime motivator in the establishment of Peel Park in Salford. He played an important role in the campaign for factory legislation and also helped set up the vegetarian movement.

Sir Charles Hallé who founded the longest-established professional symphony orchestra in Britain is commemorated as is.

Eddie Colman, a Busby Babe who died tragically in the Munich air disaster in 1958. Also Mark Addy, a renowned local figure who worked in a factory near the River Irwell, and during his life saved around 53 people from drowning is celebrated. A memorial in the cemetery dedicated to him, was erected by grateful local people.

Amongst colourful local characters was Elizabeth, the wife of William Kaye who called himself Buff Bill and together with their family ran circus acts all over Britain. Six of the beautiful memorial stones at Weaste have been given Grade II listed status by English Heritage, in recognition of their ornate structure and significance.

It was with thanks to Peter Kilvert that we were able to find our way around the cemetery to the relevant sites. He was a font of information about the cemetery and its inhabitants. He recommended joining Friends of Salford Cemeteries whose website is <http://www.salford.gov.uk/friendsofthecemeteries.htm> [info@weasteheritagetrail.co.uk](mailto:info@weasteheritagetrail.co.uk) 0161 748 3123

Diana Terry

July 2010

### **Port Sunlight Excursion led by Michael Shippobottom 17 July 2010**

Michael Shippobottom's tour of Port Sunlight in July was a logical



***Housing at Port Sunlight photographed on the Manchester Group's recent visit July 2010.***

supplement to his visit (with Matthew Hyde) to Leverhulme's Bolton and Rivington in July 2006, and featured the work of a number of the same architects. Port Sunlight gave Leverhulme the opportunity to implement his ideas about town planning, architecture, and philanthropy, resulting in an unusual combination of part formal Beaux Arts plan (of the kind he failed to implement in Bolton) with arts and crafts housing.



***Manchester Group Chair, David Harwood, Julie Ashdown and Helen Holmes at Port Sunlight***

We started at Christ Church (now the United Reform, formerly Congregational Church) by William and Segar Owen, of red sandstone with a spacious interior and elaborate woodwork, including a well-executed recent glazed enclosure of part of the aisles. Outside is a richly detailed loggia with monuments to Lady Lever

(1913), and Lord Leverhulme (1925) by Goscombe John, who also designed the village's war memorial of 1921.

There followed a brief look around the village, concentrating on the older part (1889-97) with works by Grayson and Ould, Douglas and Fordham, William Owen, and J J Talbot who were among about twenty-five architects later involved in Port Sunlight. Over two-thirds of the village is now privately owned, but the Village Trust generally has done a good job of maintaining its character and integrity.

After lunch, and a chance to look round the Lady Lever Art Gallery, we visited a later part of the development: the housing at Brombrough Pool, dating from around the First World War which has a more austere style. Many houses have suffered from unsympathetic alterations, as the area, unlike Port Sunlight, has no statutory protection.

After a brief look at Thornton Manor, where Leverhulme transformed an early Victorian house into a neo-Elizabethan mansion, with a gatehouse by James Lomax-Simpson, we moved on to Thornton Hough. This is another model estate village, adapted by Leverhulme, employing many of the same architects as at Port Sunlight. At the

centre of the village is St. George's United Reform Church (originally Congregational), designed by James Lomax-Simpson in 1906-07 in the then unfashionable Norman/Romanesque style. The interior has rich stone and woodwork depicting biblical and mythological scenes, with each carved stone capital unique in design. On the return to Manchester a select group looked at the remains of Leverhulme's Lymm estate development. Three avenues laid down as part of a scheme for residential development and centred on a magnificent reinforced concrete bridge are now sadly overgrown and decaying.

Michael's knowledge and enthusiasm were enriched by contributions from people with special knowledge of Leverhulme and his work: Sheila Lemoine, whose grandfather, Dr. Barnish, was Leverhulme's doctor, told of his generosity; Brian Kay gave insights into life in the office of Ernest Prestwich (part designer of the central layout of Port Sunlight) and Gavin Hunter, who guided us around Christ Church in the morning, popped up later in the day to talk in detail about the heraldic symbols in the windows in St. George's.

David French

August 2010

*A Guide to Port Sunlight Village* by Edward Hubbard and Michael Shippobottom, Liverpool University Press, 2006, ISBN 9780853234555

## MANCHESTER GROUP 2010 - 2011 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2010

An Illustrated talk

#### **The Road from the Isles: the Rise of Birkenhead**

By Elizabeth Davey

7 pm for 7.15 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

This talk traces events that changed an insignificant rural hamlet into the bustling 'new town' of Birkenhead. In

particular it focuses on the question as to why it was that the Scottish architect, James Gillespie Graham [1777-1856] famous for his work in Edinburgh New Town, undertook his one commission south of the border when he drew up plans for Birkenhead's gridiron pattern of streets and designed the impressive Hamilton Square, which claims to have the largest collection of grade I listed buildings in close proximity, anywhere outside London.

The talk charts the growth of the town from the building of St Mary's Church designed by Thomas Rickman, the founding of the Laird boiler works, the opening of the shipyards, the creation of the docks, the laying out of the first publicly funded park by Joseph Paxton, and the establishment, a hundred and fifty years ago of George Train's 'street railway'. Parallel with these 'highlights', it will look at the human face of the town and the part played in its history by ordinary individuals.

The lecturer, Elizabeth Davey, well known for her talks on local history, is the author of *Birkenhead - A History*, recently published by Phillimore. Her enthusiasm for her subject was fired as an undergraduate by W.G. Hoskins, Reader in Economic History at Oxford. Since then her interest has never waned. In particular her family links with Skye have given her a particular perspective on the Scottish connection with Birkenhead's early years.

### WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2010

A mini bus trip to the exhibition

#### **'William Morris: a Sense of Place'**

at Blackwell, South Lakes followed by a visit to Broad Leys. Led by Mark Watson. John Archer will also be joining us on this visit.

10 am at Store Street under Piccadilly train station. We aim to be back in Manchester in the early evening.

Cost: £20 per person including return transport from Store Street and entrance to the exhibition - does not include lunch which can be purchased at Blackwell.

Blackwell, built as a rural holiday retreat for the Manchester brewer Sir Edward Holt, was designed by M H Baillie Scott between 1897 and 1900 is a superb example of Arts and Crafts architecture.

Broad Leys, built in 1898 on the shores of Lake Windermere as a holiday home for A Currer Briggs of Leeds and designed by CFA Voysey, is now the home of the Windermere Motor Boat Racing Club.

This is an 'added extra' trip and does not appear on the events card. A few places are still available.

Please contact Mark Watson  
18 Thomas Telford Basin,  
Manchester M1 2NH.  
Tel 07831 267642  
to reserve your place.

---

### WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2010

An illustrated talk

#### **Randolph Caldecott 1846 - 1886: a Great Victorian Illustrator**

by Peter Boughton, BA FSA FRSA AMA

7 pm for 7.15 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

Randolph Caldecott, one of the most important children's book illustrators of the late nineteenth century, was born in Chester. The talk presents a thematic exploration of his work within a broadly chronological framework - his early work, the picture books, work for the Graphic, sculpture, later illustration, paintings and watercolours.

Peter Boughton is Keeper of Art at the Grosvenor Museum in Chester. His field of interest is Western Art from Late Gothic to Post-Modernism. Working at the Grosvenor Museum since 1983, he has created the Art Gallery, the Silver Gallery, eight period rooms and has acquired over 600 works of art. He has also curated more than 80 exhibitions ranging from Old Masters paintings to contemporary art.



### **WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2010**

An illustrated talk

#### **Rows and Rows**

by Matthew Slocombe

Deputy Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)

7 pm for 7.15 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

Joint event with SPAB

Matthew Slocombe, Deputy Director of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, will offer two talks in one: a brief history of row and terraced housing and an overview of the history, work, ideas, campaigning, arguments of the SPAB since its foundation in 1877.

---

### **SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 2010** **Christmas Dinner & Excursion to Rochdale**

With Peter Howell, Linda Walton.  
Matthew Hyde and David Morris

Cost: £30.00 per person.

Please complete the booking form and menu choice form on pages 16 and 17 of the Newsletter to reserve your place.

The deadline for return of booking form and menu choice is

**26 November 2010**

We shall be holding our Xmas Dinner at William Henry Crossland's magnificent Rochdale Town Hall of 1871, preceded by a visit to J N Comper's St Mary in the Baum.

We will be starting the day at St Mary in the Baum. Please arrive at St Mary by 10.30 a.m. prompt when tea and biscuits will be served prior to the talks

If you are travelling by train St Mary in the Baum is approximately 20 minutes walking distance from Rochdale Train Station and 10 minutes from the Town Hall. We recommend travelling by train

from Victoria Station, Manchester. St Mary in the Baum, St Mary's Gate/Toad Lane Wardleworth Rochdale OL16 1DZ.

St Mary the Baum, Rochdale, a plain brick church of 1740, was completely transformed in 1908-12 by Ninian Comper (1864-1960 - knighted in 1950). It has been described by Father Anthony Symondson as 'after Wellingborough, the most ingenious church of Comper's maturity'. He synthesises classical and Gothic in the manner he called 'unity by inclusion'. The lofty interior is made glorious by the great rood-screen and stained glass. The talk will consider how Comper, after his pupilage with G.F.Bodley, reached his mature and highly individual manner, and will set St Mary the Baum within the context of his work as architect and as designer of ecclesiastical fittings and stained glass.

At St Mary we are being joined by Peter Howell who will give an introductory talk after which we will have time to look in detail at the splendid stained glass, fine woodwork and impressive rood screen which this church has to offer.

Linda Walton (Design Lights) a stained glass window restorer and designer will also talk on her extensive restoration of the windows at the church.

From St Mary in the Baum it is a short walk to Rochdale Town Hall for our Christmas dinner in the Reception Room (formerly the Council Chamber) at 12.30 pm. The Reception room is decorated with painted friezes depicting textile processes and inventors, carved stone fireplaces and splendid architectural details. Following dinner we will be guided around some of the principle rooms in the Town Hall, including the Great Hall, by Matthew Hyde and David Morris

Matthew Hyde is an architectural historian and co-author of *Lancashire: Manchester and the South-East* / by Clare Hartwell, Matthew Hyde and Nikolaus Pevsner Yale UP, 2004 isbn: 0300105835

Peter Howell, a member of the Victorian Society Buildings Committee since 1965, and a former chairman of the Society, has a particular interest in 19th and 20th century church architecture.

Linda Walton is a Director of Design Lights, with overall responsibility for restoration/conservation. After obtaining a BA (Hons) degree, Linda Walton worked and trained at Goddard and Gibbs Studio in London for two years. Design Lights was set up in 1987. Since 2007 the company has been involved with many projects including the restoration of many of the windows at the Victoria Baths, Manchester.

David Morris MCD MRTPI IHBC is the Conservation and Design Officer, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council.

***The Victorian Society Manchester Group is most grateful to Shaws of Darwen for generously supporting this event.***

[www.shawsofdarwen.com/terracotta/](http://www.shawsofdarwen.com/terracotta/)

---

### **SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 2011**

Annual General Meeting and talk  
**Making the Past Part of our Future**  
by Katie Gunning, Campaigns Officer, Victorian Society.

1.45 pm - 4.30 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Free of charge - no need to book in advance.

The Victorians shaped our world. Their massive investment in infrastructure is all around us and has created the template into which our modern towns and cities fit. Many of these fine buildings are a good deal more popular now than they were during the second half of the Twentieth century, but the cases we deal with at the Victorian Society reveal how much is still at risk. We are contacted about stations and town halls, libraries and swimming baths, bridges, hospitals, schools, factories and mills, the list goes on. We are often accused of wanting to

set these buildings in aspic, but actually our obsession is not with the past, but with the future. We want to ensure that the best examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture are still there for future generations to enjoy. Increasingly the arguments we use are green ones. The talk will focus on how we try to persuade people that these are buildings worth recycling.

Katie Gunning is the Campaigns Officer for the Victorian Society. Before joining the Society she worked as a journalist for the BBC.

---

#### **THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2011**

An Illustrated talk

##### **The two cultures: Statuary and Machinery in the Victorian Municipal museum.**

By Robert Snape

7 pm for 7.15 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

The origins of the Victorian municipal museum are found in the reform of education for art and design in the eighteen thirties and the need for Britain to maintain its economic competitiveness by producing desirable consumer goods. After the *Great Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations* in 1851 and the founding of a national collection of industrial art at the South Kensington Museum in 1857 there was a growth of interest in establishing local collections of industrial art in municipal museums to educate artisan designers. This was followed by a further wave of interest in the development of more general industrial collections of, for example, the raw materials of production and samples of machinery in order to support commerce and manufacture at a local level. However, this interest was not shared by those curators and critics who believed the purpose of a museum was to stand as a bulwark against industrial society by disseminating fine art and high culture. Using case studies of municipal museums from

the Midlands and the North West, this paper explores the ways in which the competing claims of industrial and fine art collections in municipal museums foreshadowed the "two cultures" debate of the twentieth century and led to very different types of museum provision. It shows how the long-standing nineteenth century debate on the meaning of knowledge exercised a direct impact on museum provision that can still be observed today in the architectural style of Victorian buildings.

Dr. Bob Snape is a Reader at the University of Bolton. He has published widely on the history of Victorian and Edwardian libraries and museums. His publications include *Leisure and the rise of the public library* (Library Association Publishing, 1995), *The National Home Reading Union*, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, (2002) and a chapter on fiction in public libraries in the *Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland* (2006).

---

#### **WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2011**

An illustrated talk

##### **The Architecture of Sir Ernest George**

by Hilary Grainger

7 pm for 7.15 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

Ernest George (1839–1922) emerges as one of the most significant of late Victorian practitioners, by virtue not only of the quality of his work in partnership with Thomas Vaughan, Harold Ainsworth Peto and Alfred Bowman Yeates over a period of sixty years, but also the fact that over eighty assistants and pupils passed through his office including Edwin Lutyens, Herbert Baker, and E Guy Dawber. This lecture examines a range of commissions designed during the course of George's long and distinguished career.

Professor Hilary J Grainger is a Dean of the London College of Fashion,

University of the Arts, London, having taught the history of architecture and design for over thirty years at the Universities of Leeds, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Keele and Wolverhampton. She is a leading authority on George and also on the architecture of British crematoria. Her book *Death Redesigned: British Crematoria, History, Architecture and Landscape* was published in 2005 and *The Architecture of Sir Ernest George* is to be published by Spire Books Ltd in late 2010. Hilary is the Chair of The Victorian Society and a council member and Trustee of The Cremation Society of Great Britain.

---

#### **THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2011**

An Illustrated talk

##### **Manchester and Chicago: Shock Cities- an architectural answer?**

By Steve Little

7 pm for 7.15 pm

YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

This talk is inspired by a book published recently by Harold L. Platt comparing Manchester and Chicago as 'Shock Cities'. Both were provincial industrial centres with a history of social deprivation; Platt looks at this and how the two cities dealt with the problem. Steve's talk will expand upon Platt's comparison insofar as both cities were also hosts to a particular brand of architecture.

Steve Little has been a self-employed industrial archaeologist for the past decade. Until recently he was a member of Manchester's Historic Buildings and Conservation Area Panel, has sat on the Victorian Society's Northern Casework Committee and was formerly Chair of the Manchester Group of the Victorian Society.

Steve Little has a special interest in the history and development of Manchester which he taught at the City's College of Arts and Technology. Chicago is his second city of choice and the place he visits as often as possible.



## **SATURDAY 7 MAY 2011**

A conducted tour, Manchester book launch and discussion.

### **J A Hansom and the Holy Name Church of Jesus.**

with Father Ray Matus, Penny Harris & John Pritchard

1.45 p.m. for 2 p.m. at the Holy Name of Jesus Church

Cost: £10

Advance booking required - please complete the booking form on page 16 and return by **1 May 2011**

The Grade 1 listed Holy Name Church was designed by J A Hansom in 1868. It is regarded as one of his finest churches. Construction began in the 1870s but became somewhat troubled as funds began to run out. The resulting building, whilst spectacular was part completed without tower, high altar and chapels. The remaining work was completed by Hansom's son J.S.Hansom, J.F. Bentley and Adrian G. Scott who completed the tower in 1928.

One of the most extraordinary aspects of Hansom's design was the incorporation of hollow hexagonal terracotta pots to form the nave, aisle and sanctuary vaulting. The use of these pots, in lieu of the traditional solid masonry, ensured that the structure was comparatively lightweight, enabling the aisle arcade columns to be surprisingly slender.

In 1993 Lloyd Evans Prichard undertook a detailed condition survey of the church in order to enable the successors of the Society of Jesus - for whom the church was built - to ascertain the extent of any defects. The survey report identified that the building was suffering with major problems, including structural roof issues, problems with high level masonry and dry rot.

Representatives of the Oratorians, who had taken over the running of the church, joined with Lloyd Evans Prichard to develop a phased programme with support from English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund.

The first phase of work was to overhaul the south side of the

building from ridge to pavement level. This was followed a couple of years later with a similar phase to the west side of the church. The work included whole-sale re-roofing including all leadwork and rainwater goods, localised rebuilding of masonry and stained glass windows, along with the re-building of critical elements of structure at low level.

The last phase of work includes extensive overhaul of the East end of the church including reslating with diaper pattern and replacing the filigree iron ridge based on Hansom's original drawing.

John Pritchard will lead a tour around the building, including the roof space where the terracotta vaulting can be viewed close up, and also provide an insight into the extensive conservation of the church. Drawings and plans will also be available on the day.

John Pritchard Dip Arch(Manc), RIBA is a conservation architect who has been involved with historic and listed buildings and landscapes since the 1980s. He is a partner in Lloyd Evans Prichard and carried out an extensive survey of the condition of the Holy Name Church prior to its conservation. The 2008 King of Prussia Gold Medal Award was awarded to John Prichard of Lloyd Evans Prichard for his work at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus

Penelope Harris, who has recently completed a brief biography of Joseph Hansom, will be joining us at the Holy Name to talk about her research. She is currently completing a PhD thesis on Hansom's dependency upon the Gothic Revival, Catholic Revival and gentry patronage. This will be followed by a more in-depth biography of Hansom.

We will also be joined by Father Ray Matus a member of the Clergy closely involved in the project to restore this important Manchester building.

**Church of The Holy Name Of Jesus, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PG**

## **SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2011**

A trip

Across the Pennines to the Wool Metropolis: Victorian Bradford 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'

Cost: £15 including afternoon tea but excluding lunch and transport to and from Bradford. We recommend taking the train from Manchester Victoria Station.

Full details and booking form in the Summer 2011 newsletter.

An architectural tour of Bradford City Centre and Little Germany. To include buildings and demolition sites from early Victorian to late 20th century. Not for the faint-hearted, with Christopher Hammond and Mark Watson

We will start the visit at Bradford Interchange Railway Station at 11 am. There will be a break at lunchtime after which the tour will resume. The visit will finish at approximately 3.15 pm when we will take afternoon tea at the Grand Victoria Hotel in the city centre.

Chris Hammond is a vice-chair of the NBC and was formerly case-worker for the West Yorkshire Group. He recently retired from the Institute for Materials Research, University of Leeds where he taught microscopy and crystallography.

---

## **SATURDAY 16 JULY 2011**

An excursion

### **Victorian Prestwich**

led by Ian Pringle and Mark Watson

1pm for 1.15 pm

Meet at the Church Inn, Church Lane, Prestwich.

Cost: £10 per person using own transport

Further details and booking form in the Summer 2011 newsletter.

---

## **SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 2011**

An excursion to the Seaside

### **Gothic and Exotic: Victorian and Edwardian Morecambe**

with Mark Watson and Peter Wade

Cost £15 including afternoon tea and excluding travel costs

Further details and booking form in the Summer 2011 newsletter.

---

### WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

*An Illustrated talk in memory of Edward Livesey (1938 - 2009)*

#### **Rodmorton Manor: the story of an Arts and Crafts house.**

by Mary Greensted, Curator & Writer

7 pm for 7.15 pm  
YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield  
Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.  
No need to book in advance  
Further details in the Summer 2011 newsletter

---

### THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2011

An illustrated talk

#### **"William Fairbairn (1789 - 1874) Journeyman Millwright to World Famous Engineer"**

by Richard Byrom, retired architect  
7 pm for 7.15 pm  
YHA Potato Wharf, off Liverpool Road, Castlefield Manchester M3 4NB

Cost: £5.00 per person.  
No need to book in advance  
Further details in the summer 2011 newsletter



---

## NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

Thank you to those members who have agreed to receive the Manchester Group's Newsletter by email. This has allowed us to reduce postage and copying costs. If you lose your email copy or it disappears from your computer a pdf of the Newsletter can now be found on the Manchester page of Victorian Society's main site as can the current talks and excursions. If you would like to receive an email version of the Newsletter please email [beryl.patten@virgin.net](mailto:beryl.patten@virgin.net).

---

## POTATO WHARF YHA

Our venue for talks in 2010-2011 will be the YHA, Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4NB (tel: 0161 839 9960)

### **Directions to the YHA by public**

**transport** From Deansgate or G-Mex (Metrolink) stations: turn right along Deansgate, then left along Liverpool Road as far as Castlefield Hotel (also known as the Y club – note this is not our venue). There, turn left along Potato Wharf. The youth hostel is on the left after you go under the railway bridge. This is approximately a 700 yard walk.

**From Piccadilly station:** take a train to Deansgate or a tram to G-Mex then follow the above directions. Alternatively, catch the number 3 free bus which runs every 10 minutes and the last bus is 19.00 from the forecourt - get off at the second stop on Quay Street (after the Opera House). From there go back along Quay Street and right along Lower Byrom Street to Liverpool Road. Turn right and proceed as above. This is approximately a 600 yard walk.

**From Piccadilly Gardens:** catch the number 33 bus which runs every 20 minutes, (currently at 18.28, 18.48, 19.08) to the second stop on Liverpool Road (opposite the Science Museum). Then go back to the Castlefield Hotel and follow the above directions. This is approximately a 200 yard walk.

**From Oxford Road station:** catch the number 2 free bus (times as for the number 3 above) from the forecourt to Liverpool Road (first stop only). From there follow the directions

above. This is approximately a 400 yard walk.

**From Victoria station:** catch the number 2 bus outside and get off at the second stop outside the Great Northern complex; continue down Deansgate, turn right along Liverpool Road and follow the directions as above. Address of the YHA: Potato Wharf, Off Liverpool Road, Manchester M3 4NB.

---

## PUBLICATION DATES: MANCHESTER GROUP

The next Manchester Group Newsletter will be published in May 2011.

The next Programme of Events card will be published in September 2011

**Disclaimer:** *You participate in Victorian Society events at your own risk and neither the Society nor its officers or servants accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, howsoever arising. The Victorian Society reserves the right to cancel, alter or postpone events if necessary.*

*Please note that buildings we visit may present a variety of hazards including uneven surfaces, stairs, low head heights, low lighting, building and demolition works.*

*We would like all our events to be accessible to everyone, but there may be stairs or uneven surfaces which cannot be avoided, and long periods of walking or standing. Should you have any questions about your ability to participate in an event, please contact us. Some of our events are unsuitable for children. If you have any special needs or ideas about how we can improve our events, please let us know.*

*Participants are reminded that the Victorian Society does not accept any liability of any kind whatsoever howsoever arising. The Victorian Society reserves the right to cancel, alter or postpone events if necessary.*

*The Victorian Society is a Registered Charity No 1081435 and a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No 3940996*

## Booking form : Manchester Victorian Society - Holy Name Church

**SATURDAY 7 MAY 2011**

**Tour of the Holy Name Church with John Pritchard, Penny Harris and Father Ray Matus**

Arrive at the Church by own transport at 12.45 pm for 1 pm - Cost: £5.00 per person excluding transport.

**CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS : 1 MAY 2011**

First name.....Surname.....

Address .....

.....Postcode .....

telephone numbers\* .....

\*mobile number preferable - please switch on your mobile and bring with you to the event

names of others attending

First name.....Surname.....

First name.....Surname.....

First name.....Surname.....

I enclose an S.A.E. (confirmation will be sent approximately 5 days before the event). Enclose your completed form, a stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £5.00 per person made payable to: *The Victorian Society* and send by **1 May 2011** to:

**Mark Watson 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester M1 2NH. Tel 07831 267642**

✂ .....

## Booking form : Manchester Victorian Society - Christmas Dinner

**SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 2010**

**Dinner and tour of Rochdale Town Hall and St Mary in the Baum - with Peter Howell, Matthew Hyde, David Morris and Linda Walton**

Meet at St Mary in the Baum at 10.30 a.m - by own/public transport

Cost - including three course Christmas dinner: £30.00 per person. Menu choices on page 17

**CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: 26 NOVEMBER 2010**

First name.....Surname .....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

telephone numbers\* .....

\*mobile number preferable - please switch on your mobile and bring with you to the event

Names of others attending

First name.....Surname .....

First name.....Surname.....

First name.....Surname.....

I enclose an S.A.E. (confirmation and a map and train times will be sent by 4 December 2010). Enclose your completed form, menu choices, stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £30.00 per person made payable to: *The Victorian Society and send by 26 November 2010* to:

**Mark Watson, 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester M1 2NH. Tel 07831 267642**

✂ .....

Disclaimer: You participate in Victorian Society events at your own risk and neither the Society nor its officers or servants accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, howsoever arising. The Victorian Society reserves the right to cancel, alter or postpone events if necessary. Victorian Society Manchester Group Committee Secretary email: manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk

# Manchester Victorian Society Christmas Dinner 11 December 2010

## **MENU CHOICES** Please return **one** separate form for **each** attendee

---

Forename.....Surname.....

### **STARTER**

(choose **one** and please tick your choice)

Homemade vegetable soup, warm bread roll and butter ( )

or

Smoked salmon and cream roulade, salad garnish, warm bread roll and butter ( )

### **MAIN COURSE**

(choose **one** and please tick your choice)

Roast Turkey dinner stuffing, chipolata sausage and bacon, roast potatoes, new potatoes and vegetables ( )

or

Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and potatoes ( )

or

Vegetarian option - Vegetable Filo pastry parcel with white wine sauce, potatoes and seasonal vegetables ( )

### **DESSERT**

(choose **one** and please tick your choice)

Christmas pudding and rum sauce ( )

or

Fresh fruit salad and cream ( )

Followed by tea and coffee with warm mince pies

A bar will be available – not included in the price of the Dinner

Please return your menu choices with your booking form and your cheque made payable to *The Victorian Society*

✂

✂

Forename.....Surname.....

### **STARTER**

(choose **one** and please tick your choice)

Homemade vegetable soup, warm bread roll and butter ( )

or

Smoked salmon and cream roulade, salad garnish, warm bread roll and butter ( )

### **MAIN COURSE**

(choose **one** and please tick your choice)

Roast Turkey dinner stuffing, chipolata sausage and bacon, roast potatoes, new potatoes and vegetables ( )

or

Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and potatoes ( )

or

Vegetarian option - Vegetable Filo pastry parcel with white wine sauce, potatoes and seasonal vegetables ( )

### **DESSERT**

(choose **one** and please tick your choice)

Christmas pudding and rum sauce ( )

or

Fresh fruit salad and cream ( )

Followed by tea and coffee with warm mince pies

A bar will be available – not included in the price of the Dinner

Please return your menu choices with your booking form and your cheque made payable to *The Victorian Society*

# Manchester Group of the Victorian Society

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 29 January 2010

1.45 p.m. YHA Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester. M3 4NB

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Membership Secretary's report
5. Conservation report.
6. Treasurer's report.
7. Chairman's report.
8. Election of Officers and Committee.
9. AOB

All members are entitled to attend and there is no charge for this event.

### NOMINATION FORM FOR A COMMITTEE MEMBER:

#### NOMINEE

Name of nominee: .....

Address: .....

.....postcode.....

Tel: .....Email: .....

Why do you nominate this person to the Manchester Group Committee?

.....  
.....  
.....

Your contact details:

Name: .....

Address: .....postcode.....

.....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

Return to: The Secretary, Manchester Victorian Society, c/o The Portico Library, 57 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3HY or bring along to the AGM.

Minutes of the 2009 AGM will be provided on the day.