

The Victorian Society in Manchester

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Spring Newsletter 2011

EDITORIAL

The Victorian Society named Oldham Town Hall as one of its Top Ten endangered buildings in 2009. This enormously effective campaign highlights the plight of neglected Victorian and Edwardian buildings. As a result of this crusade the council were forced to act, and commissioned a Conservation Management Plan and voted to spend more than £1 million on the building to attract a suitable developer.

We are reproducing an article printed in the Oldham Chronicle in December 2010 after Dr Ian Dungavell, Director of the Victorian Society, and Oldham councillors toured the building. It reinforces the need for vigilance and celebrates examples of good practice.

The Society has helped turn the tide of public opinion about Victorian buildings. In the decades following the Second World War many were facing demolition. Publicity and recruitment are important for the work to continue. With this aim the *Saving a Century* exhibition compiled in 2008 has toured the country extensively. Steve Roman, National Membership Trustee and the Manchester representative on the national committee has written explaining his work and the success of the retrospective exhibition.

In March, we were able to welcome Hilary J. Grainger to Manchester. She is the new Chair of The Victorian Society and a council member and Trustee of The Cremation Society of Great Britain. Her entertaining account of the work of Sir Ernest George was enjoyed by all.

Manchester Metropolitan University is organising another Histories Festival in 2012. We remember the terrific success of the last Festival in 2009 and how it drew in the wider public and demonstrated an immense popular appetite for history. In 2012 it

will be held from 25 February to 4 March. The Manchester Victorian Society will be contributing and we hope the members will support these activities. We would like to encourage members to attend our events throughout the year as they are entirely self-financing and represent excellent value for money.

We are pleased to be able to showcase new research. Helene Connor from New Zealand submitted an article about Geraldine Jewsbury who lived in Manchester 1818-1854. She wrote novels that portrayed many aspects of the city in her lifetime. Helen's critique gives insights into the cosmopolitan life being led by the literary circles in Victorian Manchester. If any readers would like to submit articles for consideration please send them to the contact address at the end of this editorial.

It was with much sadness that we heard about the death of Margaret Donohoe. She had served on the committee of the Manchester Group for many years and there have been numerous letters sent expressing affection and regard for her. A dinner to commemorate her will be held at the former Reform Club (now Room Restaurant) on Monday 4th July at 7.00 pm. A separate letter has been posted to all members but if you have not received it and would like to go then please contact Steve Roman 0161 434 2908. It is open to everyone.

Diana Terry
newsletter editor

May 2011,

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

NEWS

New Chair of the Victorian Society

Professor Hilary J. Grainger is Dean of Academic Development and Quality Assurance at the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London. An architectural historian with a particular interest in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, she is the leading authority on both the late Victorian domestic architect, Sir Ernest George and the architecture of British crematoria. She has lectured and published widely in these areas.



Professor Hilary J. Grainger
photograph © Karin Askham/Pace Chen

Her book *Death Redesigned: British Crematoria, History, Architecture and Landscape*, published by Spire Books in 2005, was jointly commended in 2006 as an outstanding work of reference by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. She is Co-Investigator in a team based at Durham University, funded by a Leverhulme Trust Research Award, writing the history of cremation in modern Scotland. She is a council member and trustee of The Cremation Society of Great Britain.

Her book *The Architecture of Sir Ernest George* was published by Spire Books on 11 May 2011.

Ernest George (1839 – 1922) was one of the greatest late Victorian domestic architects who, with his three successive partners, carried out over 200 works at home and abroad. Widely acclaimed in his own time, he was also a watercolourist and etcher of significance. This is the first full study of George's career, art and buildings and will firmly establish his reputation as a leader of his profession. Magnificently illustrated and including new photography by leading architectural photographer Martin Charles, the text is scholarly yet highly readable. A full catalogue of works and an important new account of the 79 pupils and assistants known to have passed through his office, including Edwin Lutyens, Guy Dawber, and Ethel Mary Charles, the first female RIBA member, add considerable value to this pioneering work.

Charity launches nationwide search to find the ten most endangered buildings

The Victorian Society has launched an appeal to find the nation's top ten buildings at risk. It is now calling on people living in Greater Manchester to nominate endangered Victorian or Edwardian buildings in their local area.

The campaign aims to highlight the problems facing many of our historic buildings and nominations in previous years have included Victorian schools, mills, former workhouses, pubs, stately homes and chapels.

'We want to make sure the best Victorian and Edwardian architecture survives for future generations to enjoy, but to do this we need to know what is most at risk from demolition, development, or simply neglect', said Dr Ian Dungavell, Director of the Victorian Society. 'At the moment wide-ranging council cuts mean certain building types are under threat as never before; we've been told about some of the libraries, town halls or swimming pools now facing an uncertain future but there will be

many more and we would like to hear about them.'

'In many cases the money for restoration simply isn't there, but these buildings mustn't be left to rot. The cost of weather-proofing a building and protecting it from vandals need not be huge, but it can make a massive difference. Without this sort of help some buildings may be beyond repair by the time the economy picks up again.'

Buildings don't have to be listed to be nominated, and many good Victorian buildings aren't listed, but they should be at risk, perhaps of demolition, from insensitive development or neglect. They need to have been built between 1837 and 1914.

'All over the country there are wonderful examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture. If you live near a building at risk that you think is worth saving, then we want to hear about it.'

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 By emailing katie@victoriansociety.org.uk

By post: 1 Priory Gardens, London, W4 1TT

The deadline for nominations this year is 17th July 2011.

A hall lot of history brought back to life

The Victorian Society has given Oldham Council a big thumbs-up for carrying out vital work to take the old town hall off the nation's top 10 endangered buildings list. Three officials from the society toured the building by torchlight to see the steps taken to make it structurally sound, weatherproof and watertight. They dodged scaffolding supporting some of the buildings treasured features which date back more than 170 years. And they marvelled at the austere court room which for the most part is in tact, and lies

unused at the heart of the neglected structure.

Oldham Council pledged £700,000 in April to secure the future of the iconic building, which was in danger of deteriorating to the point where it was impossible to save. Work began in July and is now finished. It is now waiting for the next phase — the offer of a partner to carry out a £900,000 development to bring it back into use, possibly for retail or leisure.



Mark Watson, Ian Dungavell, Chris Costelloe, Kay Knox and Mike Buckley visit Oldham Town Hall

The Victorian Society champions the country's Victorian and Edwardian buildings, seeing them as a vital and irreplaceable part of Britain's heritage. Dr Ian Dungavell, was part of the trio who toured the Grade II-listed building with Councillor Kay Knox, Cabinet member for leisure, culture, heritage and tourism services, and Councillor Mike Buckley, Oldham's heritage champion.

He said it was rare for a local authority to step in to this extent and congratulated Oldham Council on its foresight. Celebrating its removal from the top 10 on the endangered list, he was making his first steps inside the old town hall. He said: 'I'm amazed. It is such a solid building. It's important both culturally and for its craftsmanship, and for its part in local heritage. It's one of the buildings that make Oldham,

Oldham. Some areas have been damaged by water, but the council quite rightly seized the moment to ensure the building will be here in the future.'

The Victorian Society raised the alert just over 12 months ago following concern from conservationists, campaigners and members of the public. It also highlighted the importance of the building's history, which includes Winston Churchill standing on the steps to make his acceptance speech when he was elected MP in 1900.

Councillor Knox said it was now in a condition where it offered a viable redevelopment opportunity, but admitted there was no "quick fix" solution. She said: 'The old town hall should not be a symbol of neglect — it should be a source of civic pride. We will not rest in our efforts to make this a more attractive and marketable development opportunity.'

Marina Berry 7 December 2010
Oldham Chronicle

Salford Good Design Awards 2010

The first Good Design Awards Ceremony sponsored by Ask Property Developments took place at The Lowry Theatre on Wednesday 10 November 2010. The night saw six categories of awards including the *Joe Martin Conservation Award* named after Salford's Conservation officer who sadly died in 2010. The conservation award was presented to Bate and Taylor Architects and Salford R.C. Diocesan Trustees for the Salford Cathedral Centre. This major project involved the conversion of a Grade II listed building (formerly part of the Salford Education Office and before that a Victorian school) to provide pastoral/administrative headquarters for the Diocese of Salford. The scheme includes a variety of uses including a bookshop, heritage centre, lecture/seminar rooms, offices and ancillary facilities all arranged around a landscaped courtyard

New English Heritage guidance: new uses for former places of worship This document provides

advice on the conversion to new-use of historic former places of worship. go to <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/new-uses-former-places-of-worship/> to download the guidance, or for a hard-copy email customers@english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage has launched the start of its annual Heritage at Risk research, which this year will focus on industrial heritage at risk such as textile mills, coal mines, canals, railways, warehouses, brick works, potteries, breweries, gas works, wind and watermills, ports, docks and harbours.

EH will look at how much of the country's industrial heritage is at risk of neglect, decay or demolition in order to raise the debate about what needs saving and how. It will reveal the results of its *Industrial Heritage at Risk* research, including what the public think about our industrial past, in October this year at the launch of the annual Heritage at Risk register. You can get involved now by posting photographs and comments at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/industrialheritageatrisk>

Bolton Council accused of shameful attempt to remove heritage safeguards

A proposal by Bolton Council to remove the Conservation Area status of the Horwich Loco Works has been condemned by the Victorian Society,

The Horwich Loco Works is a key part of the heritage of the Bolton area, which is why it was designated as a Conservation Area only five years ago. Removing this status would make it easier to demolish the Loco Works, as there would be no need to apply for specific consent.

'Bolton Council is taking a very cynical approach to its heritage by attempting to bypass an important level of heritage protection', said Chris Costelloe, Conservation Adviser for the Victorian Society. 'Conservation Area status doesn't prevent change; it just means that any demolition must be carefully considered in order to get the balance right between the need for change and the need to preserve

buildings of special architectural and historic interest.'

Developer, Horwich Vision Ltd, wants to build 1600 homes on the site, as well as offices and shops in a move which will expand the town of Horwich and create up to 4000 jobs.

The Horwich Loco Works was built in 1886 by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway to build and repair engines. At one stage the factory was the largest employer in the town. The site, which closed down in 1983, is home to an impressive office building as well as a series of long brick-built workshops with full-height arched windows.

'Many of these buildings could be adapted and reused and it is shameful that instead of seeing its heritage as an irreplaceable asset, Bolton Council seems to view it as an impediment to development.'

The Victorian Society is calling on Bolton Council to change its approach and press for a conservation-led development of this important site.

MARGARET DONOHOE 1931-2010

Manchester Group members pay their tributes to Margaret

I first got to know Margaret Donohoe when we became members of the Manchester branch of the Victorian Society, and discovered that we had both been born and brought up in adjoining suburbs of Manchester. She subsequently became the most loyal of friends.

She was one of the most supportive and generous people I have ever known, energetic and always busy and active. She was also extremely generous with her time, and her hospitality knew no bounds, entertaining frequently in her lovely flat in Altrincham, gathering a variety of people about her, often including myself and my husband Graham.

She introduced me to the Bowdon branch of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine

Arts Society); I went to my first lectures with her, and subsequently became a member. She invited me, together with other members, to Christmas gatherings at her flat - cheerful and jolly occasions. She was always the life and soul of any party! Her love of smart clothes was always a most attractive quality too!

She was also an intrepid traveller (and accomplished linguist) organising visits abroad for the Victorian Society; I remember particularly visits to St Petersburg, Nice (where she had a second home) and Brussels.

I feel honoured to have known her, and I miss her more than I can say.
Ann M Redford April 2011

Margaret Donohoe was an active member of the Manchester Group of the Victorian Society. She was a committee member and membership secretary for many years; giving a warm welcome to new members. The many events she organised or helped to organise were thoroughly planned and always interesting. Margaret was very cosmopolitan and she drew on her wide knowledge and experience to organise trips abroad. The Berlin holiday for instance, was a great experience for all the participants – a varied mixture of visits, good fellowship and one came away with a very memorable overview of a great European city.

Margaret was a “traditional” lady but also interested in and responsive to new ideas. She enjoyed good food and wine, was a lively conversationalist and her own hospitality was very generous. To me personally, she was a valued and much respected friend, in good times and bad. Her bright presence will be very much missed.
Jill Matthews May 2011

Being Secretary for the Manchester Group for many years, I'll focus on my memories of Margaret's contribution in administrative terms. When Margaret was planning a trip, and promised to contribute its outline for the newsletter, her copy would arrive on time, concise and well written, not needing any alteration. This happened on many occasions

and I was very grateful! Further, she would promise to my anxious ears, that her trips would break even and there would be no call on the Group's hard earned resources to subsidise them. Quite an achievement as they were complex and included many elements! As an event organiser in my work life, I know that you are only as good as your last event, and Margaret managed not to put a foot wrong and developed the confidence of her fellow travellers. Margaret was Membership Officer for many years. I



Margaret with her trade mark scarf and smile on the Berlin trip.
Photograph: Margaret Clarke

could always rely on her report for the AGM being concise, on time and well written: and she also contributed to the newsletter production. In conclusion, though I'm focusing on backroom operations, her contributions to the workings of the Committee were consistently reliable and, consequently, the Manchester Group as a whole benefited greatly. Thank you Margaret.
Sue Dawson April 2011

Betty and I have been saddened by the news of Margaret Donohoe's sudden death and the shock will have been felt across the whole of the membership in Manchester, I'm sure.

We were among the many members who benefited from her thorough organisation, industry and care she put into the tours she undertook over the years and we shall recall the valuable experiences and happy moments we were able to share with her. Through her attention to the important travel details that she took care of so diligently, we went home with most enjoyable and happy and enlightened memories.

Tony and Betty Wakefield March 2011

I first met Margaret when I joined the Manchester branch of the Victorian Society and soon found myself helping the then editor of the newsletter with useful tasks, some of which took place in her roomy flat in Altrincham that she shared with her mother. We liked each other immediately and had many interests in common - she coming occasionally with me to musical events and me accompanying her to the Royal Exchange Theatre, where we frequently enjoyed matinees. These would be followed by a pleasant evening meal. Other meals took place in Altrincham's cafes, whilst our visits to Tatton Park flower show became regular events, both of us admiring the many small gardens presented to our gaze that we felt we could relate to. Our conversations flowed easily from topic to topic within, and outside of our experiences, me finding her range of professional positions impressive in themselves, and contributing much to her recollections 'du temps perdu'.

Much to my regret I could never accompany her on the many foreign holidays that she organized so expertly, but I shall always remember her with the warmest thoughts and affection, admiration and respect and as one of the most valiant, interesting, kind and generous of persons. I shall never forget her and will continue to miss her loving presence very much.
Sheila Lemoine April 2011

We first met Margaret at a VicSoc meeting at Manchester Town Hall in the mid-nineties and since she lived in Altrincham we travelled home together.

Margaret was a private person, and

apart from discovering that she had recently retired from work at the EU in Brussels and was now living near her elderly mother, we learnt little of her earlier life. The Victorian Society was an important part of Margaret's life in retirement, and she enthusiastically joined the Manchester Committee and became famous for organizing overseas trips. Over an eleven-year period from 1998 to 2009 she organised seven trips usually lasting four days, and we were privileged to join her on six of these. The first was to Brussels which, of course, she knew like the back of her hand, where she had many friends and we greatly enjoyed visiting privately owned *art deco* houses. We were also given our first introduction to the euro, since she had contacts who provided specimen coins for us to inspect.

Her next venture was rather more local but still 'abroad' as we visited the Isle of Mann, where she arranged for the IOM Victorian Society to guide us, through the good offices of their Chairman, Peter Kelly. The event culminated with a visit to the Mayor's parlour at Douglas Town Hall, where we were greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress and Minister for Transport and Tourism. Despite rather indifferent hotel accommodation the trip was voted a great success with visits to a Victorian model farm, churches and of course the Victorian steam railway.

Margaret enjoyed a second home in Nice, which she would visit as often as possible after the death of her Mother, and it was therefore no surprise to hear she was planning a trip there in 2001. We all enjoyed a splendid holiday with visits to the casino in Monte Carlo and across the Italian frontier to Bordighera. Memories of the little café there, where we all pooled what little Italian currency we could muster will long be remembered. Margaret was a devout Anglican and it was no surprise that she was on friendly terms with the Anglican vicar in Nice, where we shown around his church.

An entirely new departure was in August 2003 when Margaret organised a most memorable trip to

St Petersburg. The city was celebrating its 300th anniversary but there were still many signs of the long period of Communism and finding restaurants was not always easy. Our local guide was a pleasant woman but very much in the mould of the previous era and one result was a very long wait to view the Peterhof Palace as she refused to pay a bribe to the custodian! Another memory of this visit was the number of members who had their purses



Jill Matthews and Margaret Donohoe at the final dinner during the Berlin trip. Photograph: Tony Wakefield

and wallets stolen on public transport and in the street, and Margaret suffered as well. Typically, she shrugged it off lightly, and the very next day we had to point out that her handbag was wide open in a busy street!

Our next visit was to Barcelona in 2005 where we visited the great unfinished Sagrada Familia and other Gaudi works. A visit to Budapest was undertaken in 2007, the only trip we missed, and then finally in October 2009 we had a wonderful visit to Berlin. Despite non-stop rain until the last morning, we covered all the great sights and went out to Potsdam as well.

For all these trips Margaret would do a recce a few weeks earlier at her own expense, and this undoubtedly

led to a problem free trip. Where appropriate she would also organise a visit to the British Council which greatly enhanced our insight into the country. Prior to a trip we would also be invited to her flat in Altrincham to enjoy a delicious buffet and drinks and discuss the itinerary. Margaret was famous for her late arrivals at airports and railway stations where she would arrive totally unflustered and quite oblivious to the agitated state of those already assembled.

Margaret will be very sadly missed at the meetings, at the Christmas event and, of course, especially for those overseas visits. No more shall we see that radiant smile and those lovely scarves which she wore to such great effect. Thank you Margaret for your great service to the Victorian Society in Manchester.
Michael & Joan Davies. May 2011

A commemorative dinner in memory of Margaret Donohoe will take place on Monday 4 July 2011 at 7.00 pm at Room Restaurant, the former Reform Club on King Street, Manchester. The cost is £25. Bookings close on 24 June 2011.

If you haven't received a booking form by post contact Steve Roman for details on 0161 434 2908 or email steve.roman@phonecoop.coop.

GERALDINE ENDSOR JEWSBURY (1812-1880)

Nineteenth Century Mancunian, Novelist and Literary Critic and her connections with Aotearoa, New Zealand

Introduction

I developed an appreciation and interest in Geraldine Jewsbury since reading her novels, *Zoe* (1845), and *The Half Sisters* (1848) in the early 1990s. My relative, John George Cooke (1819–1880) had been a close friend of both Geraldine Jewsbury and Jane Carlyle and a frequent visitor to the famous Carlyle parlour, Cheyne Row in Chelsea. This brief article provides an overview of Geraldine Jewsbury's life in Manchester, her friendship with Jane Welsh Carlyle and her connections with Aotearoa, New Zealand, via her two friends, John George Cooke and Walter Baldock Durrant Mantell.

A Manchester Heritage

In 1818, when Geraldine was six years old, her family left Measham and moved to Manchester where her father became the Manchester agent for the West of England Insurance Company (Howe, p. 29). Their first home in the industrial city was at 6 George Street and then later the family moved to 42 Grosvenor Street, (Howe, p. 6). Manchester at this time was a boom town with many migrants coming to Manchester seeking to make their fortunes. The Jewsbury family were part of this migrant influx.

Geraldine's sister, Maria Jane was 19 years old when their mother died and she became responsible for the management of the household and the care of her father and five siblings. Despite her heavy domestic load, Maria Jane also managed to find time for writing and struck up a friendship with William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy. Shortly after the family's move to Manchester, Geraldine's brother, Henry, was apprenticed to a pharmacist, a Mr J W Gaulter. In 1826, Henry, aged 23, formed the partnership of Jewsbury and Whitlow with another former apprentice and the two young men supplied the city with soda water,

ginger beer, drugs, and perfumery. Jewsbury and Whitlow was eventually dissolved and in 1845, the company became known as Jewsbury and Brown which went on to become a Manchester landmark and Jewsbury's toothpaste, a 'national institution'.



Geraldine Jewsbury (1850s) Mantell Album, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, Photographer unknown

Maria Jane Jewsbury married in 1832 and Geraldine took over the reins of household management, caring for her father and her younger brother, Frank who took an active role in Manchester affairs, serving on the Council and also as Governor of the Athenæum.

In 1843 Geraldine and Frank transferred their household to 30 Carlton Terrace, Greenheys where they lived close to the Gaskells who resided at 42 Plymouth Grove. Their little sitting room was to become a social and intellectual hub of Manchester where Geraldine provided supper, coffee, cigars and cigarettes. Guests to this sociable home included individuals such as Thomas Ballantyne (Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*); Alexander Ireland (editor of *The Manchester Examiner and Times*); Francis Espinasse (writer); Hepworth Dixon (editor of the *Athenæum*); John Stores Smith (writer) and many other

interesting and erudite Mancunians and visitors. It was not uncommon for guests to the Jewsbury household to mingle with company from France, Italy, Germany and Greece. One prominent Greek family, the Dilberoglues, were particularly close to the Jewsburies.

Theatrical folk would also frequent the Jewsbury drawing-room including the well-known American actress, Charlotte Cushman. Thomas Carlyle and his wife Jane also visited Geraldine in Manchester. During Jane's first visit, Geraldine introduced her to Samuel Bamford and organized visits to foundries, printing mills and warehouses so Jane could take in the sights of the bustling city in all its industrial reality (Howe, p. 60). Thomas Carlyle visited the Jewsburies in 1847 and also met Samuel Bamford (1788-1872) and other friends of the Jewsburies at several small parties held in his honour. He was a Lancashire author of several popular poems; a weaver and was well respected in northern radical circles as a reformer.

In November 1850 Geraldine and Frank moved to a larger house at 2 Birchfield Terrace at Ardwick. During this period her third novel, *Marian Withers* (1851) was serialised in the *Manchester Examiner and Times* and then later was published in three volumes. *Marian Withers* was set in Manchester and explores themes of industrialism, entrepreneurship and unrequited love. It was frequently viewed as a counter novel to Mrs Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (1848) 'where the manufacturer is restored to his pedestal' (Howe, p. 111). *Marian Withers*'s father, John Withers, is portrayed as a model employer, improving his machines and paying his workers well. *Marian Withers* was critiqued as portraying many aspects of Lancashire and Manchester life realistically and credibly (Howe, p. 114).

At the age of 42, in 1854, some eighteen months after her brother Frank's marriage, Geraldine left her Manchester home and moved to London, initially lodging at 3 Oakley Street, Chelsea, so she could be close to Jane Carlyle. Geraldine was

a frequent visitor to the famed abode at Cheyne Row where the Carlyles welcomed many literary figures, philosophers and social critics of the time including: Leigh Hunt, Erasmus Darwin, John Stuart Mill, Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Ruskin, Sir John Millais, Alfred Tennyson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning and many others.

Connections with Aotearoa, New Zealand

Both Geraldine Jewsbury and Jane Welsh Carlyle had a close friendship with John George Cook who lived in New Zealand during the 1840s. He had entered the Royal Naval College at Portsmouth in 1832. He records visiting his Austen relations here: 'Admiral Sir Francis Austen and Captain Charles Austen - own brothers to my beloved Jane Austen, whose works I know by heart' (Stevens, 1969). In 1841 John George Cooke, sailed for New Zealand where he farmed land at New Plymouth and was a local magistrate. He returned to England in 1851.

John George Cooke introduced his friend Walter Baldock Durrant Mantell to the Carlyles and Geraldine Jewsbury in 1856. She corresponded with Walter Mantell for over twenty years asking him for a Maori name and he had suggested Manu, meaning bird. During the three year period (1856-1859) Mantell was in England, Geraldine wrote to him incessantly, sometimes on a daily basis, signing herself as Manu and addressing him as Matara, a transliteration of Mantell. John George Cooke had the Maori name of Ku and the three friends would write to each other using these Maori nick names.

Concluding Comments

Geraldine Jewsbury died on 23 September 1880, aged 68. During her life time she had enjoyed a diverse and productive career as a professional writer, a significant achievement for a Victorian woman. She wrote six novels, three previously mentioned, and also, *The Sorrows of Gentility* (1854); *Constance Herbert* (1855) and *Right or Wrong* (1859). She also wrote two

children's stories: *The History of an Adopted Child* (1852) and *Angelo* (1855); edited *Lady Morgan Memoirs*, (1862). She contributed to a variety of periodicals including: *Douglas Jerrod's Shilling Magazine*, *The Westminster Review*, Frances Espinasse's *Inspector*, Dicken's *Household Words*, *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper* and she also wrote over 2,300 reviews for the *Athenæum* which was a widely read literary and scientific periodical, published between 1828 and 1923. It grew to become one of the most influential periodicals of the Victorian period eventually metamorphosing into *The New Statesman*.

Geraldine Endors Jewsbury was a Mancunian literary figure of considerable esteem and repute yet both she and her sister, Maria Jane Jewsbury have all but been erased from the Manchester landscape. Visiting Manchester in December 2009 I went to the Manchester Visitor Information Centre where I came away very much disappointed. Not only was there no exhibition or monument to Geraldine but on further investigation I was able to find a few of her old letters and at the John Ryland's Library, Deansgate, some of Maria Jane Jewsbury's letters and writings have been archived. Likewise, research into histories of Manchester invariably mentions Mrs Elizabeth Gaskell but Geraldine Jewsbury rarely seems to merit so much as a footnote.

What she achieved was the establishment of a niche and career for herself where she could live an independent and intellectually stimulating life while earning a respectable income as a single woman. Given Geraldine Jewsbury's prodigious output as a novelist, literary critic and publisher's reader, her erasure from her home city is surprising and indeed, somewhat poignant. It is hoped this short article will in some perceptible way address this omission and Geraldine Jewsbury will come to be remembered and celebrated by Mancunians with much the same pride as her contemporary, Elizabeth Gaskell.

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Helene Connor Auckland 2011

MANCHESTER GROUP - EVENT REVIEWS

***The Road from the Isles: the Rise of Birkenhead By Elizabeth Davey*
Wednesday 29 September 2010
YHA**

The Wirral peninsula is now dominated by the town of Birkenhead which faces Liverpool across the estuary of the River Mersey. The town's name derives from a 12th century Benedictine Priory built on a headland then called Birchen Head on account of its birch trees. After the dissolution of the monasteries the land was bought back from the crown and eventually, at the start of the 18th century, came into the hands of a Liverpool merchant. That arguably was the start of modern Birkenhead and specifically its relationship to Liverpool.

In 1817 a paddle steamer ferry service started across the Mersey, initiating the development of Birkenhead as a salubrious residential suburb for Liverpool merchants. One such was William Laird from Greenock who had moved to work in the family rope works in Liverpool. In 1824 he moved to Birkenhead, founded his ironworks and brought the Dunblane architect



Hamilton Square, Birkenhead in the 1950s. Photographer unknown

James Gillespie Graham to design Hamilton Square, reminiscent of his work in Edinburgh's New Town. The architect had also worked on a modest New Town development for Laird at Kyleakin on Skye. This is the reason for the Birkenhead/Scottish connection reflected in the lecture's title.

In 1828 William Laird's son John joined the business and triggered diversification from boilers into iron steamships. These were quickly utilised as packet boats to serve Ireland and the Lancashire and Welsh coasts. As the 19th century progressed, Liverpool developed its docks and became a major maritime city. Alongside it, Birkenhead flourished as its "West End" – lying down wind to the south west as were the salubrious suburbs of all of England's growing Victorian cities. In the Regency period it had also started building hotels to cater for the new fashion of visiting the seaside. In 1840 the railway came and that business, as elsewhere, increased rapidly, assisted by the establishment in the town of gas and water supplies.

In 1847 Joseph Paxton's park (now listed Grade I by EH) remarkable as the first municipally funded one, was added to the town's amenities. In the 1880s Charles Ellison's neo-classical Town Hall was built on a site made

available for it when Hamilton Square had been planned.

That square now has a statue of John Laird, Birkenhead's first mayor and first M.P. following the creation of the Parliamentary Borough in 1861. The firm which he had founded eventually became Cammel Laird.

Following family history, geographical and commercial threads Elizabeth Davey's talk wove a rich tapestry to tell the tale of this Wirral town.

David Astbury February 2011

**Randolph Caldecott 1846 – 1886:
a Great Victorian Illustrator
by Peter Boughton, BA FSA FRSA
Wednesday 27 October 2010 YHA**

Randolph Caldecott was born in 1846 in Chester and was educated at the King's School. He is now most famous for his book illustrations for children which in quality are fully comparable with those of his almost exact contemporaries, Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane. As a child, Randolph showed precocious artistic talent and at the age of 15 had a sketch of a major fire at the Queen's Hotel in Chester published in the *Illustrated London News*. Both as a youngster and as a mature artist he had the ability to create action (and often humour) with a few strokes of the pen.

At the age of 21 Caldecott came to

work for the Manchester and Salford Bank and studied at the School of Art, Royal Manchester Institution in Mosely Street. Some of his drawings were published in the magazine *London Society* which enhanced his career prospects and he moved to London in 1872. Some of his work was also published in New York including illustrations for Washington Irving's *Old Christmas* and *Bracebridge Hall*.

The Victorian Christmas in England was developing into a great opportunity to sell illustrated children's books often having nursery rhyme themes. In 1877 Caldecott was asked by Edmund Evans to illustrate two such books, taking over from Walter Crane whose services the publisher had lost. This represented a tremendous opportunity which Caldecott as usual capitalised on. The two books were a success and Caldecott produced two more every Christmas (each with increasing sales) right up to his early death.

The last two Christmas books in 1885 were *The Great Panjandrum* and *Mrs Mary Blaize*. Throughout his



**Family Servants, Bracegirdle Hall
by Washington Irving, illustrated
by R Caldecott, 1877**



**'and at the same time a great
she-bear, coming down the street,
pops its head into the shop' from
The Great Panjandrum Himself
by Samuel Foote illustrated by R
Caldecott, 1885**

life he had suffered poor health and frequently travelled to the continent for the sake of his health. But again, to Caldecott, this represented an opportunity and not a threat and he illustrated such books as *The Harz Mountains & North Italian Folk*.

On a winter visit to Florida shortly before his fortieth birthday he died and was buried there. Because of that connection and his fame in the USA he is commemorated by the American Library Association awarding annually the Caldecott Medal for the most significant illustrated children's book. In London he is commemorated by a monument by Sir Alfred Gilbert in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral

David Astbury November 2010

**Annual General Meeting and talk
Making the Past Part of our Future
by Katie Gunning, Campaigns
Officer, Victorian Society.
Saturday 29 January 2011**

The speaker explained her role in the Society. She was not one of the caseworkers but presented their work in a way that would appeal to journalists, who were often not aware of what the Society did. She would become involved after the Society had responded to the letter from the local authority about a planning application, and identify aspects suitable for a press release. An example was a pump house near Battersea Power station where the emphasis was in refuting the applicant's claim that the building could not be re-used.

Katie explained that thinking about conservation had become more sophisticated since the early days. There was more emphasis on the wastefulness of demolishing old buildings that could be re-used. The unavoidable buzzword was 'sustainability'. The importance of getting local communities involved was also recognised and the Society's press releases reflected this. Some local examples where the threat had receded, at least for the time being, were Sale Hotel (listed after a belated Building Preservation Order), Clitheroe Hospital (unlisted)

and Mitchell's Brewery (locally listed). There were of course cases where this approach had not worked and Katie cited several examples in London. The usual problem was that the applicant for demolition was successful in claiming that the building could not be adapted, although the Society disagreed. It was also possible for developers to argue that conservation could not proceed if detrimental enabling development did not go ahead. If the building was unlisted, developers sometimes succeed in achieving demolition before a campaign could get under way, as happened at a Sittingbourne paper mill.

Some types of buildings were at particular risk. Schools were a case in point. Many of the examples shown were in London but a local one was Leigh Girls' Grammar School, currently being demolished. Some campaigns had been successful, as with Elm Court School in Lambeth where the floor was being raised at great expense. Hospitals were also a problem because they had often been much altered. A current example was the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Sometimes the threat was not from plans but from neglect. There were several local examples: Oldham Town Hall, St Ignatius of Antioch in Salford and the Welsh Baptist Chapel and London Road Fire Station in Manchester. The problem lay in getting the owner or the local authority to take action. Fortunately progress had been made at Oldham and London Road. The problem of neglect was likely to get worse as the slump in demand for property had caused many development schemes to lapse, for example Kinmel Park near Abergele.

Katie also mentioned the activities of urban explorers, who made frequent incursions into buildings such as the Royal Liverpool Seamen's Hospital and Barnes Hospital, Cheadle, where the security staff could not cope. On the one hand they could provide photographs that helped the Society to make a case for retention, as had happened at Wadhurst in Sussex, but they could also encourage other trespassers with less benign intentions.

David Astbury January 2011

**AGM Conservation Report
Ken Moth, Chairman of the Northern
Buildings Committee (NBC)**

Ken Moth outlined the structure and operation of the two casework committees, noting that the objective of conservation was not to prevent change, rather to avoid unnecessary loss and damage by ensuring that proposals were both justified and appropriate. He went on to summarise Greater Manchester cases dealt with by NBC in 2010.

The Memorial Hall, Albert Square (II*:Thomas Worthington, 1864-6) is an important building which was in poor condition. The proposal was for refurbishment but with the addition of a new recessed upper storey. We supported repair, and felt that the proposals were better than earlier ideas. We were not opposed in principle but could not fully assess the impact with the information provided. We asked for a proposed view from Albert Square so that we could assess the visual impact of the proposed copper roof. We said that reinstatement of chimneys would help as it would draw attention away from new roof. We also asked what was originally intended by Worthington and how this had informed the current design. This information was subsequently provided to our satisfaction.

**London Road Fire Station (II*;
Woodhouse, Willoughby &
Langham, 1901-06).** The Society was consulted by Manchester City Council on an application submitted by Britannia Hotels to convert this building to a four-star hotel. Despite almost 20 years of neglect it is in reasonably good condition and very intact with original fittings still in place. The principal rooms on the ground floor would be kept undivided. New openings would be created to give access to the courtyard and to link the currently separated parts of the building. There would be very little change to the exterior appearance and the approach was largely one of repair rather than replacement. The main changes would be the subdivision of the upper floors to provide bedrooms, an extension to the east end of the courtyard and glazing over the

courtyard. The upper floors were originally used to accommodate the firemen. We welcomed the sensitive approach. Our only concern was for the design of the glazed roof over the courtyard. We felt that the columns were too large and obtrusive. These views were conveyed to the Council and consent was given, conditional on various points including those made by the Society. Notwithstanding this consent the City Council is proceeding with a compulsory purchase order and seeking a development partner and hotel operator to replace Britannia.

St Edmund the Martyr, Falinge, Rochdale (I: J. Medland Taylor, 1870-3). The Society was invited to comment on proposals to convert this church to a nursery. The church has been redundant since 2009. Work needed to be done on the fabric and a grant application to English Heritage (EH) would have been contingent on the church being kept open for another 10 years. It is now in the three-year interim period between redundancy and the pastoral measure. There is no parking nearby and its listing (it was upgraded in August 2010) means that only very limited alterations to the interior are possible. An evangelical church was briefly interested in the building but was put off by these constraints, as well as by the Masonic symbolism. The Local Authority's conservation officer pressed for vesting in The Churches Conservation Trust, but this was refused.

The prospective applicant has already set up a nursery in Temple Street Baptist Church in Middleton (Edgar Wood, 1889). Doing the same at St Edmund's would not require a formal change of use, but would necessitate the installation of temporary partitions and removal of the nave pews. These appear to be later and are not very good and we would not be likely to object to their removal, but toilets and a kitchen could be more difficult to accommodate. EH's inspector suggested housing them in the cellar, which is in fact at ground level. Retaining the organ cases and converting them into 'pods' to

house these facilities had also been suggested. Substantial flights of stairs to all entrances make providing disabled access a problem. The Committee did not object in principle to the scheme, given that alternative uses could be difficult to find, but felt that using the church as a nursery would be unlikely to provide enough money for the ongoing maintenance of the building. More information was requested about how toilets and wheelchair access would be provided, as well as the date and designer of the pews.

David Morris, Rochdale MBC's conservation officer, was subsequently approached by the pastor of a non-Anglican denomination who is interested in using the church for worship, but would probably wish to undertake internal alterations. This is an important case which is going to run and run.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Rusholme (I, Edgar Wood, 1903). John Archer reported to the NBC on unauthorised works carried out at the church by the new evangelical religious organisation that occupies the building. Works include putting up partitions in the organ loft/gallery and in the reading room, covering over the reredos, knocking down original partitions and erecting large notice boards in front of the building. There had been a meeting last January to discuss the unauthorised alterations, attended by the Council's enforcement officer, and an agreement had been reached about what to do. Unfortunately there now seems to be a stalemate with nobody doing anything at all. These are serious incursions in a Grade I-listed building, regarded as Edgar Wood's major work. We contacted the Council and ask them when enforcement action is going to be taken, so far without response.

Holy Trinity Platt Lane Rusholme (II*, Edmund Sharpe, 1845-6). We received details of the reordering scheme for this church following a tip-off from a Manchester Group member. The proposals were still at a very early stage. The church is located in an area with a large number of students and therefore has

a high turnover of congregation. The current entrance is through the base of the tower on the opposite side of the building to Platt Lane making it look uninviting and the parish would like to make the entrance more visible by bringing the west door back into use and erecting a glass porch in front of it. The existing doors, which are fairly plain, would be kept in place. Glass doors and an internal draught lobby have been ruled out as space for seating is at a premium inside the church. Inside it was proposed to remove all the existing pews, level the pew platforms and overlay a new floor with carpet of an as yet unspecified colour. The pew ends have decorative cusped terracotta inserts to the same design throughout, grained to look like wood. Some of the pews have been stripped of their original varnish, making them much lighter, and the state of preservation of the terracotta inserts varies considerably. Apart from the pulpit, dating from a reordering of 1884, the chancel was completely stripped of furnishings including the organ in the 1970s. A dais was put in and the floor was carpeted, although good encaustic tiling survives in the sanctuary. The pews were to be replaced with Treske seating (heavy, wooden, upholstered chairs), although some of the decorative ends would be retained and put on display. Bespoke fittings would be produced for the chancel. The ancillary buildings of the 1960s/70s, which completely surround the chancel to well above sill height, would be remodelled and the 1980s extension to them facing Platt Lane raised by a storey and clad in terracotta panels. An internal redecoration was also proposed.

In our response we stated that the building had been generally degraded externally and internally at a time when its importance was not understood and we stressed that the current scheme ought to be used as an opportunity to undo damaging alterations from then. Removing the pews would remove the 'landscape' of the floor and carpeting the interior could adversely affect the acoustics. Any alternative seating needed very careful justification and selection. The new furniture in the chancel needed

to have the same quality and dignity as the pews, and should respond to the architecture of the building. The nave currently has wood block flooring. This is tough and long lasting, has a good acoustic and an architecture which responds to the building. The wooden pew platforms could be just lowered, salvaging and reusing the original materials. We encouraged the architect to research the evolution of the interior and take paint samples to establish the original decorative scheme.

St Paul, Sale (II; HR Price, 1883-84; tower by Bird and Oldham, 1911).

The vicar consulted the Society on preliminary plans to remodel the interior of this church and sell off the post-war church hall for redevelopment by a housing association. Under the draft scheme all the fittings in the nave would be removed, a mezzanine would be inserted at the west end and the space below subdivided to provide community facilities. The resulting worship space would be square, which it was felt would work against the natural focal point of the building. The chancel would be partitioned off with a glass screen that would be opaque below the springing of the chancel arch so that the altar could not be seen behind the proposed nave altar. It was agreed that the scheme was misguided and should be discouraged and that the parish should be advised to commission a feasibility study before pursuing its plans, as well as consulting an architectural practice with more experience of listed buildings.

Church of St Ignatius of Antioch, Ordsall (Unlisted, Alfred Darbyshire, 1903). The Society was contacted by a representative of the group campaigning to save this redundant church - which was featured in the Top Ten list of endangered buildings for 2009 - to say that the condition of the fabric had deteriorated markedly, damp being a particularly serious problem, and the developer who was planning to convert it into flats appeared to have lost interest in the scheme. The altar painting and mosaics in the sanctuary were giving cause for concern and the

roof of the privately owned parish rooms had collapsed. The Society is working on a listing application for the building, whose surroundings - the New Barracks Estate - were proposed as a conservation area a few years ago, although this did not proceed. Darbyshire is a very important local architect and little of his work is listed. It was suggested that the Society could write again to Salford about the conservation area designation and ask when the city's conservation areas had last been reviewed.

Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens.

Whilst obviously not Manchester cases, members will be interested to know that these Grade I and Grade II* buildings have been acquired by Blackpool Borough Council. Conservation Management Plans have been prepared and a gradual process of repair and improvement has begun.

Mark Watson Manchester Victorian Society's NBC representative gave the following report

Oldham Town Hall is in the Victorian Society's *Top Ten Buildings at Risk 2010*. Further information is in an article reproduced in full from the *Oldham Chronicle* on page 2.

Langworthy School (demolished 2010) and ***Seedley School*** (awaiting demolition) Both rejected for listing by English Heritage despite such listing being requested by the City of Salford.

The Victorian Society is submitting listing applications for ***Queen Street*** and ***Varna Street***, both Manchester Board Schools following the non-listing of the earliest surviving example, ***Nelson Street*** which is currently awaiting demolition.

Ancoats Hospital & Dispensary, owned by Urban Splash, faces an uncertain future after £1 Million grant withdrawal following NWRDA's abolition. The same reason may also affect the future of ***Jactin House***, Ancoats although that has already been repaired and re-roofed.

The roof-less ***Upper Brook Street***

Unitarian Chapel, architect Charles Barry, which is probably the most neglected important listed building owned by Manchester City Council. No plans for its rescue currently in sight.

Agecroft Cemetery Chapel, architect Sharp. Salford Council has come to an agreement with The Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust to restore this. The remaining ***Philips Park Cemetery Chapel*** is in a deplorable state although the cemetery gatehouse has been restored.

Alexandra Park has received a Heritage Lottery Fund Stage 1 Pass for restoration.

Holy Name Church Hall, now known as the pub, ***Jabez Clegg***, the conversion plans for this building did not meet with the Victorian Society's approval but are to go ahead.

Restoration progress at ***Victoria Baths*** continues to be painfully slow although the roof repair over the Gala Pool is now complete. The Friends of the Victoria Baths are raising further funds to restore more of the Gala Pool's stained glass windows.

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

By Robert Snape
Thursday 24 February 2011

The theme of Dr Snape's talk was the attitude towards fine and applied art in the Victorian period and how this expressed itself in the contents and architecture of municipal museums. The poor design of industrial goods had been recognised in the 1830s and led to the growing importance of applied art in an attempt to increase economic competitiveness. The Great Exhibition included industrial objects such as locomotives as well as fine art. The Museums Act of 1845 and Libraries Act of 1850 gave local authorities the discretion to create collections, and thus led to debates about the purpose and appropriate contents of museums, in particular the distinction between fine art and applied art. The two cultures were expressed in a number of ways, for

instance: high culture versus practical knowledge and commercial design; and literary intellectuals versus humanists and scientists. Ruskin made a further distinction between industrial art, of which he approved, and machine art, of which he did not.

While most museums didn't have industrial collections, and some felt there should be separate museums for fine art and applied art, many combined the two. Dr Snape's three case studies showed how the competing ideas were expressed in the museums.

Birmingham, with its industrial base, reflected the interests of local manufacturers by including examples of glass and metalwork. Blackburn's curator was also keen to establish a museum relevant to the industrial character of the area, but requests for donations of industrial art got little response. In 1874 the museum moved to purpose-built premises in a building that included fine art (Turner and Reynolds) and industrial artefacts such as steam gauges. The friezes, by GW Seale showed agriculture, industry and commerce, as well as the usual references to literature and art, to reflect the history of Blackburn. However by 1887 there was little industrial art despite the intent shown in the murals.

A very different approach was taken in Preston. After Harris left £100,000 for a museum, Alderman James Hibbert, also the architect, had a clear vision that a municipal art museum should be a bulwark against materialism. He felt that the inhabitants of Preston were 'absolute barbarians' who would be improved by the elevating influence of art. The museum was built on Greek principles in both content and design, and intended to dominate the town. Unlike at Blackburn, there were no references to industry in the murals and inscriptions. Curiously, reproductions of classical art were preferred to original works. Dr Snape's well-illustrated talk gave an interesting insight into the origins of municipal museums.

David French

March 2011

The Architecture of Sir Ernest George by Hilary Grainger Wednesday 23 March 2011

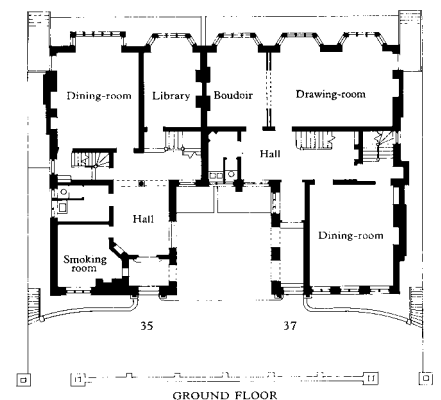
This lecture began on a hilarious note, Dr Grainger reading a letter from the then owner of Eynsham Hall, Witney, Oxfordshire (who happened to be the Lord Lieutenant of the county) regretting his parent's decision to demolish their Georgian house and replace it with 'this fellow George erecting a soul-less barracks, beastly cold and entirely without charm or character'. In a further letter the complainant described the architect as a 'disastrous old nincompoop'. Dr Grainger's thesis was essentially to beg to differ!

Sir Ernest George, architect and artist, was highly thought of in his time. He was president of RIBA from 1908 to 1910. He is now mainly known for the houses he designed for numerous illustrious and wealthy clients. Some of these were town houses in parts of London's west end but mostly they were country houses in various Queen Anne and Tudorbethan styles, many reviving the medieval great hall as a central feature. One such house was Batsford in Gloucestershire built for Lord Redesdale, grandfather of the famous Mitford sisters, another house at Rousden in Devon for Henry Peek, the biscuit manufacturer.

A more modest example was The Knoll near Burton-on-Trent built for the Johnnie Walker whisky family.

Some images of George's sketches done on trips to the near continent were shown (he built two churches in Switzerland) and many perspectives of proposed schemes. He was an accomplished artist, an exhibition water colourist and eventually became a Royal Academician.

George's London practice lasted for 40 years, initially partnered with T. Vaughan and then more significantly with Harold Peto and later Alfred B. Yates. His office was known as the 'Eton of Architects', his pupils and



Ground floor plan, 37 Harrington Gardens, 1881-2 (English Heritage/Survey of London).



35-37 Harrington Gardens, Kensington, 1881-2 RA perspective drawing by George.

assistants totalled around 80 and included Herbert Baker, Guy Dawber and Edwin Lutyens. In addition to successful careers, all three further followed his example by becoming Knights of the Realm. There can be little doubt that if the audience had been asked to guess who the architect of several of George's domestic designs, many of us would have said Lutyens.

The partnership with Harold Peto in particular was noted for respecting vernacular building traditions and employing local builders and craftsmen to design fittings and furniture for some of their buildings. This practice, to some extent, anticipated the conventions of the Arts and Crafts movement.

In the later part of his life, in a final flourish of eclecticism, George designed London's new Southwark Bridge and also Golders Green Crematorium – the latter in Dr Grainger's words 'creating a new landscape of mourning for the then relatively new alternative to burial'.

David Astbury

March 2011

THE WORK OF A VICTORIAN SOCIETY TRUSTEE

Unlike the defined responsibilities of other executive trustees of the Society, such as the Treasurer (Andrew Coleman) and the Casework Trustee (Ken Moth), my role as Membership Trustee is more flexible. The Society's membership has remained steady at around 3300 for many years and it was decided at the first Trustee meeting that I attended in 2008 that rather than setting a major recruitment drive I would find ways of raising the Victorian Society's profile.

The opportunity arose to celebrate fifty years of campaigning activity. The golden anniversary exhibition, *Saving a Century*, curated by leading architectural historian, Gavin Stamp, illustrates some of the Victorian Society's most remarkable campaigns, among them the battles for St Pancras, Liverpool's Albert Dock, the Foreign Office and the much-regretted Euston Arch. It was

first exhibited at RIBA in London and I was able to tour it around England and Wales.

It has been surprisingly straightforward to find suitable libraries through local authority websites, and sending them an email, accompanied by a brief background to the exhibition, and photographs of civic openings. I have also had positive responses from other types of venue, including Erddig, a National Trust

property in North Wales, and Leeds City Museum. I have been surprised by how successful and popular it has been. I chose to target those places where the Victorian Society doesn't have a regional group. Mark Watson and I transport the panels to these venues, and it usually takes two to three hours to set up the exhibition. It is rewarding seeing so many people from venues across the country stop and study the exhibition in depth, and take a copy of the

SAVING A CENTURY

A photographic exhibition celebrating the work of the

Victorian Society

6 – 27 July

THE DOME, DEVONSHIRE ROAD, BUXTON SK17 6RY

This exhibition of photos from around the country shows examples of the best Victorian and Edwardian buildings and structures that the Society has campaigned to save, and some that have been lost.

It demonstrates the Society's success in changing public attitudes towards the architecture of the nineteenth century, and its continued relevance for the twenty-first century.

The Victorian Society is the national charity campaigning for the Victorian and Edwardian historic environment.

Tel. 020 8994 1019 or go to
www.victoriansociety.org.uk



**THE VICTORIAN
SOCIETY**

The exhibition is supported by
Listed Property Services, Shaws Terracotta,
J & J W Longbottom Ltd

catalogue. There are also photographs of buildings lost or saved in North Wales and the North West of England. Those I have spoken to invariably mention local Victorian buildings that have been lost or altered. The visitor book comments attest to the pleasure that the exhibition has brought them.

In 2011 it will be on display this summer at two venues accessible to members of the Society in the North-West. One is the famous Devonshire Dome in Buxton during the Buxton Festival, from 6 – 27 July, including the Dome Fair on the last weekend. It is open every day without charge. It is also on show at Radnorshire Museum, Llandrindod Wells in Powys, from 4 – 31 August, covering the town's Victorian Festival from 20 August. The museum is open from Tuesday to Saturday and there is a small charge.

In my role as Trustee I have visited all seven regional groups of the Victorian Society and prepared a report for the Trustees to explain the different ways each group works. As a result of this report their representatives meet the Chairman, Director and Casework Trustee of the national Victorian Society, which has improved communication and understanding.

I attend and contribute to the bi-monthly meetings of the Trustees in London, after which I circulate a note of the meeting to the regional chairs. We have documents to read before the meetings, in particular on the Society's finances, and currently on Colin Cunningham's work on preparing a scheme of Victorian Society Awards to recognise positive conservation of Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

Recently I prepared the appeal for volunteers to assist the work of the Society, which came on a yellow sheet with the Society's magazine, *The Victorian*. I have received no responses! If any members would like to volunteer, then please contact me.

Steve Roman

April 2011

London Road Police & Fire station – Watch this space:

It is now ten years since Clare Hartwell, in her revision of Pevsner's Architectural Guide to Manchester, described this building as shamefully neglected and dirty. For the last twenty five years the building has been owned by Britannia Hotels and in April a public enquiry commenced into Manchester City Council's desire to acquire the building with a Compulsory Purchase Order. The building's present owners were granted planning permission last year for a scheme to convert the building into a hotel (with the approval of Manchester's Historic Buildings and Conservation Panel) but no work had taken place before the end of 2010.

This public enquiry is not a planning enquiry, it is purely a legal tussle between Britannia Hotels and the City Council as to whether the Compulsory Purchase Order can be enacted. However, the proceedings have been adjourned until the last week of May so, given that the Inspector will almost certainly reserve judgement in the case, the outcome will not be known for some time.

MANCHESTER GROUP - 2011 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2011

An Excursion - **Across the Pennines to the Wool Metropolis: Victorian Bradford** with Christopher Hammond and Mark Watson.

An architectural tour of Bradford City Centre and Little Germany. To include buildings and demolition sites from early Victorian to late 20th century. 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. You may wish to bring a packed lunch. The visit will finish at approximately 3.15 pm when we will take afternoon tea at the Great Victoria Hotel in the city centre. Please wear suitable walking shoes

and be prepared for the weather.

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.

Meet at Bradford Interchange Station at 10.45 am for 11 am start

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

Booking form on page 17

SATURDAY 16 JULY 2011

An Excursion to Prestwich and Kersal led by Ian Pringle, Mark Watson, Anthea and Neil Darlington

After the popularity of the visit to Weaste Cemetery this tour examines the extensive Victorian monuments and graveyards at St Mary's Church (quite hilly), Prestwich (Grade I) and St Paul's, Kersal Moor in which are interred many Manchester luminaries. At St Paul's we will take afternoon tea prior to a diversion to St Margaret, Heaton Park (Travis and Mangnall, 1851) where we will see Simpson of Kendal woodwork and carving believed to be the best example of Simpson's ecclesiastical work. We will return to St Mary's where we will complete the visit with a tour with Ian Pringle who has extensively researched the history of the churchyard. No doubt we may finish the afternoon in the Church Inn.

St Paul's Church, Kersal Moor, Salford (Grade II) was consecrated in 1852. It was designed by Andrew Trimen in the decorated Gothic style of 4 bays to the nave with side aisles and transepts with a small chancel. Its tower and spire are based on Magdalen College, Oxford, and Carisbrooke parish church, Isle of Wight. It is a large building originally seating 1100 people and was attended by many well-known

Mancunians and Salfordians in its heyday. It has a large churchyard with over 8,500 burials including many notable Mancunians, eg. Sir Edward Holt the brewer and Lord Mayor of Manchester, Edwin Waugh, the dialect poet known as 'the Lancashire Burns' and Robert Neill, contractor for Manchester Town Hall and the Assize Court. There are 163 war burials and memorials, including 31 official war graves. It has associations with the Byrom and Clowes families and is the parish church of the Bishops of Manchester.

Meet outside the Church Inn, Church Lane, Prestwich at 1 pm for 1.15 pm start -

Cost - including donations and afternoon tea - £10 per person.

Booking form on page 18

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 2011

An excursion to the Seaside
Gothic and Exotic: Victorian and Edwardian Morecambe
with Mark Watson and Peter Wade

Morecambe, like many seaside resorts, owes its existence to the arrival of the railways which brought visitors, income and investment. The 1890s in particular were a boom time for Morecambe and the surviving buildings from that time have become memorials to a lost era. Areas of regimented terraces (the private houses and boarding houses of the day) and villas are dotted with music halls, churches (several by the Lancaster architects Austin & Paley), schools and larger hotels. Presiding over these is the Grade II* listed Winter Gardens or Victoria Pavillion (complete with quirky mis-spelling), a variety theatre by Mangnall & Littlewood, and the largest and last of the pleasure palaces.

Out itinerary may include Promenade Station (1907), Trinity Methodist Church (1897), Devonshire Hall (1897), St Barnabas' Church (1898-1910), Alhambra (1901), Victoria Pavillion (1897), St Lawrence's Church (1878), Art & Technical School (1912) and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, (1876).

After the event some of us will take tea at the Art Deco Midland Hotel and we hope you will join us. There are trains to Manchester at 3.44 pm and 5.30 pm.

Meet at Morecambe Rail Station at 11.45 am for 12 midday -

Cost: £15 per person. - including donations and excluding travel cost

Please note afternoon tea is not included in the price.

Booking form on page 17

WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

An Illustrated talk in memory of Edward Livesey (1938 - 2009)
Rodmarton Manor: the story of an Arts and Crafts house.
by Mary Greensted, Curator & Writer

Rodmarton Manor, near Cirencester is the most complete Arts and Crafts Movement house open to the public. It was designed by Ernest Barnsley for Claud and Margaret Biddulph to provide them with a home on their Cotswold estate but it was much more than that. For both architect and clients it was an Arts and Crafts experiment. This talk will look at the background to the building, its furnishing, the layout of the garden and its subsequent history.

The speaker Mary Greensted is a freelance curator, lecturer and writer. She worked at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum for many years and built up its nationally important Arts and Crafts Movement collections. She has written widely including most recently *The Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain* published by Shire in 2010

She is a trustee of the Court Barn Museum, Chipping Campden and chairman of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen.

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

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2011

An illustrated talk
William Fairbairn (1789 - 1874)
Journeyman Millwright to World Famous Engineer
by Richard Byrom, retired architect

William Fairbairn (1789-1874) was a largely self-educated Scot from a humble background, who served an apprenticeship as a millwright at a Newcastle coal-mine. With fellow-Scot, James Lillie (1786-1862), he started a millwrighting business in Manchester in 1817. The partnership was successful, but the differing temperaments of the partners led to its dissolution in 1832. Thereafter Fairbairn expanded and diversified, building turn-key textile and corn mills, steam engines, iron steamships, railway engines, wrought iron railway bridges, dockside 'Fairbairn' cranes, and iron framed buildings and roofs. The common factors linking his many areas of work were (1) iron, and (2) innovation. At its height the business employed over 2,000 people. Its products were exported to every continent. Fairbairn himself moved into high social circles and became a baronet - but always lived within walking distance of his Manchester works."

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

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2011

An illustrated talk
A Co-operative Christmas Carol
by Gillian Lonergan, Head of Heritage Resources, Co-operative College

Co-operators have always worked hard and during the Victorian era the Christmas period was no exception.

Meetings to discuss co-operative business, to establish new organisations, as in the case of the Co operative Wholesale Society, or to celebrate the opening of the

Manchester Ship Canal might well be followed by concerts in the Co-operative hall and eating Christmas fare bought in the Co operative stores.

Using materials from the National Co-operative Archive in Manchester this illustrated talk will examine the two central aspects of a Co-operative Christmas: celebration and business, an interesting comparison with today.

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

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2011

Christmas Lunch & Excursion to Halifax
full details and booking forms in the Autumn 2011 newsletter

SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2012

Annual General Meeting and talk
An Uphill Struggle: the Fight for Historic Moscow,
by Edmund Harris, Churches Conservation Advisor, 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. Further details in the Autumn 2011 Newsletter.

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

Thank you to those members who have agreed to receive the Manchester 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 visits. If you would like to receive an email version of the Newsletter please email 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 and Programme of Events will be published in October 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 - Morecambe Visit

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 2011

Gothic and Exotic: an Excursion to Victorian and Edwardian Morecambe led by Peter Wade and organised by Mark Watson. Meet at Morecambe Rail Station at 11.45 am for 12 midday - Cost - including donations and excluding refreshments and travel costs - £15 per person. CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: 31 July 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 and train timetables to/from Piccadilly will be sent by 3 August 2011). Enclose your completed form, a stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £15.00 per person made payable to: *The Victorian Society* to: **Mark Watson, 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester M1 2NH. Tel 07831 267642**

I/we are coming by car (there are several car parks near to the station).....()

I/we are coming by train.....()

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Booking form : Manchester Victorian Society - Bradford Visit

SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2011

An Excursion - Across the Pennines to the Wool Metropolis: Victorian Bradford with Christopher Hammond and Mark Watson. Meet at Bradford Interchange Station at 10.45am for 11am start - cost - including donations and afternoon tea, excluding travel to and from Bradford - £15 per person. CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: 28 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 and train times from Victoria will be sent by 1 June 2011). Enclose your completed form, a stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £15.00 per person made payable to: *The Victorian Society* to: **Mark Watson, 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester M1 2NH. Tel 07831 267642**
Please wear suitable walking shoes and be prepared for the weather.

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

Booking form : Manchester Victorian Society - Prestwich Visit

SATURDAY 16 JULY 2011

An Excursion to Prestwich and Kersal led by Ian Pringle, Mark Watson, Anthea and Neil Darlington. Meet outside the Church Inn, Church Lane, Prestwich at 1 pm for 1.15 pm start - Cost - including donations and afternoon tea - £10 per person. CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: 9 July 2011

Firstname.....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.....

Firstname.....Surname.....

I enclose an S.A.E. (confirmation and map will be sent by 13 June 2011). Enclose your completed form, a stamped self-addressed envelope and a cheque for £10.00 per person made payable to:

The Victorian Society to: **Mark Watson, 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester M1 2NH. Tel 07831 2676**

You may travel to Prestwich on the Bury tram from Manchester, alight at Prestwich - allow 10 minutes to walk (see map) to the Church Inn.

However, as we will be travelling to the three churches by shared car transport we need enough cars to do this. So please indicate if you are coming by car or could bring your car below.

I/we are coming by car and can offer lifts. How many spare places?.....()

I/we are coming by public transport and require a lift. How many places()

I/we are coming by public transport but could bring a car if required. Please tick.....()

Please wear suitable walking shoes and be prepared for the weather.

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