

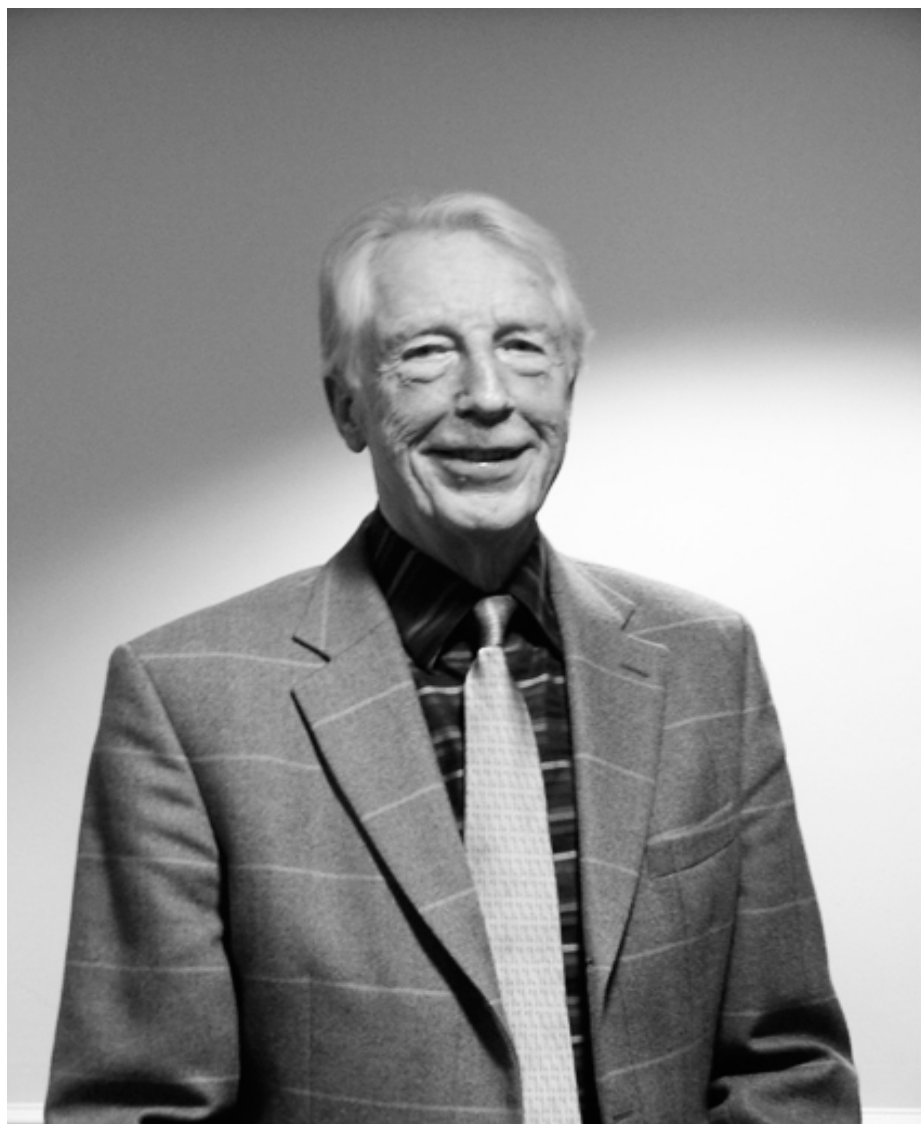
Summer Newsletter 2010

Introducing David Harwood Chair of the Manchester Group

Through my life I have migrated North: born in the illustrious town of Watford (actually once an ordinary but pleasant place before developers, planners, and councils dismembered it in the Sixties), lived in Oxford as student and research assistant, and thence to Manchester where I

to start looking at the man-made world around me. As a result I became engaged in an untutored sense with buildings and architecture.

One of our book recommendations at school aimed at us Philistine scientists was Pevsner's 'An Outline of European Architecture'. That helped, and I still have it. The sense of Victorian times has always been



was appointed to a Lectureship in Zoology at the Victoria University of Manchester in 1967.

And so to the Victorian Society-trained from an early age to look at shape and form in animals requires observational skills so it was natural

with me because my parents were essentially Victorian in many of their attitudes to life.

From the time I was a student I have always lived in Victorian houses. However, I also take great pleasure in the artistic achievements of ancient

civilisations, Mediaeval Europe, the Renaissance and on to our friends the Hanoverians. Perhaps, too, the Victorians were the last to understand this historical context. We must not lose sight of the fact that the most satisfactory towns and cities are those that have a delicious mix of all or most of these historical, and hence architectural, periods. I believe that the work of the Society, by saving and conserving our Victorian and Edwardian fabric, inevitably aids the preservation of older buildings. In thinking along these lines, I feel that the Society, where appropriate, should more frequently join forces with other conservation bodies to preserve the collective historical fabric. Why not assist the Georgian Society in saving a Georgian building - there is sure to be a Victorian one nearby?

I am pleased to take the reins of your local group, and I would like to point out that you have an able and committed group of volunteers on your committee. Each person brings their own strengths to the table and collectively we are a strong group. We will continue to provide what we hope is an interesting and congenial programme of talks and visits, and, naturally, we welcome suggestions from you, the members.

David Harwood March 2010

Editorial

There have been many changes to the committee of the Victorian Society in Manchester. As many of you know, Sue Dawson has retired from the Group board after twenty years of sterling service, during which time she served on the Pub Working Group and the Programme Committee and as Conservation Secretary from 1993, Chair from 1999 to 2002 and, from then, as Secretary.

Her thoroughness, eye for detail and systematic planning skills will be missed. As well as thanking her

for all her hard work for the Society, we are aware of the great debt all members owe her. Her partner, David also supported her in this work. The work of Newsletter Editor was undertaken by Liz Dobson who is also Group Leader, Design and Heritage, Sustainable Regeneration Directorate at Salford City Council. Previously, Liz ran The Architecture Bookshop, specialising in new, scarce and out of print books on architecture and design.

The new committee realising the complex nature of the secretary's responsibilities has divided some of them into more manageable tasks. Beryl Patten is responsible for designing and publishing the newsletter and hopes that you enjoy the change in style and content. Hilary Poole arranges its distribution amongst the membership and Mark Watson has compiled the programme for another year with a rich variety of speakers and tours. All of the Manchester Group committee hope that you will support as many items on the programme as you can. They are entirely self-financing.

Following the lead from our Chair, David Harwood we would like to encourage members to become more involved in the Society. This could mean suggesting visits or speakers for our future programme. We are also hoping to develop cooperation with other society's events and listing them in future newsletters and programmes.

Articles or book reviews about relevant subjects could also be submitted for possible inclusion in the newsletter. We have a regular display at our talks and we would be delighted to have member contributions, such as photographs or drawings of buildings or events. We are also happy to include appropriate press cuttings or advance flyers of relevant events. Deadline for the next issue in September will be 23 August 2010 and should be sent in the first instance to Diana Terry, newsletter editor.

The membership subscription goes entirely to fund casework at Head Office. This means that all our activities have to be self funded and we would like to promote the

Manchester Group to increase our relatively healthy membership numbers. Recruitment can take place at events and it is hoped that approaches to the student population in Manchester will be successful. Perhaps the best way of encouraging membership is with associates who attend our events and being impressed by what the Society does. Please bring your friends.

It is 150 years since the birth of Edgar Wood on 17 May 1860. He was a remarkable architect and the Middleton Heritage and Conservation Group, Link4Life and Rochdale MBC has produced a summer long programme of exhibitions, talks, guided walks and band concerts. The programme with contact details can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. John Archer is giving the first talk on 13 May at the Long Street Methodist Church, Middleton. The committee would also like to apologise to John for wrongly attributing the obituary to Edward Livesey on the front page of our Spring Newsletter to him. It was, in fact, written by Steve Roman.

The change of venue for our talks to the YHA at Castlefield has been a hit with most of our regular attendees but there have been some problems serving hot drinks due to the physical layout of the building. We therefore wish to ask members to arrive earlier than usual to buy their drinks at the café downstairs. No tea or coffee will be served at the entrance to the upstairs room. This will also enable an easier flow of people to pass the reception table and into the lecture room.

Contact details:

manchester@victoriansociety.org.uk

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

Diana Terry

April 2010

WARDLE CENTENARY UPDATE

Thomas Wardle's dye samples found in India.

The centenary of Thomas Wardle's death was celebrated in 2009 with four exhibitions and a book. In

the middle of all these activities I received what was to prove a very interesting email from a complete stranger. It came from Jenny Balfour Paul, a renowned expert on Indigo dye; while I knew of Jenny's research we had never met. Jenny had learnt that thousands of dye samples, produced by Wardle in Staffordshire, had turned up in Kolkata. She realised that I, as curator of the Wardle exhibitions, just might be interested in this news. How right she was. I had searched for these dye samples for over ten years and given up hope of ever finding them. I knew a set had been sent to India but thought they would never have survived the extremes of India's climate.

Thomas Wardle began research on India's wild silks in the 1860s and Indian dyestuffs in the early 1870s. He swiftly earned a reputation as an expert and in 1873 received a request from the Secretary of State for India. He was asked to examine India's dyestuffs and assess their suitability for dyeing wild silks. Wardle agreed on condition that he would only study indigenous dyes and not aniline dyes, which were increasingly used in the sub-continent. He was concerned, as was William Morris and many others, that India's dyeing expertise was in danger of vanishing. Subsequently vast quantities of dyestuffs were shipped to Leek, where Wardle had his dye works. Over a period of eight years, with one assistant, he analytically examined more than 181 different dyes and mordants; each was tested on different cloth samples. While this huge project was on-going Morris worked in collaboration with Wardle to produce his first fourteen printed textiles. Wardle also supplied A. L. Liberty with vast amounts of dyed and printed textiles. It was an astonishing time.

Wardle produced 3,500 dye samples, mounted onto 360 sheets. Three duplicate sets were produced; one was sent to India. I never succeeded in finding any trace of these remarkable specimens and never knew what they looked like. In February this year I was able to view them in Kolkata, where they were discovered along with other

interesting documents. It was a revelation. Each of the 14 volumes is huge; approximately 90 cm by 38 cm hard-bound in dark green covers. Each textile specimen, roughly the size of a post card, is carefully mounted; there are also examples of dyed yarns. The samples are annotated indicating the dyestuff used along with other brief notes.

The authorities in India are taking this find very seriously indeed. Already there has been a well-attended symposium, and funding has been released for conservation and digitalization of the samples. They are seen as a valuable resource for those interested in the indigenous dyes of India and a unique record of India's historic dyestuffs.

Now I know what they look like I find it difficult to believe that the two sets of 14 volumes kept in Britain are not somewhere. The remarkable condition of the Kolkata volumes would indicate that those in the UK would have stood the test of time and not been discarded. Wardle also produced an accompanying volume which detailed his research notes; this is vital for a complete understanding of the dye samples; so far this crucial publication has not been found. The search continues both in India and the UK.

Brenda King *March*
2010

GASKELL HOUSE NEWS

Update on Restoration of The Gaskells' House, 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester

"And we've got a house. Yes! we really have. And if I had neither conscience nor prudence I should be delighted, for it certainly is a beauty." Thus wrote Elizabeth Gaskell to her friend Eliza Fox in April 1850, and her comments might equally apply to the present owners of the building, the Manchester Historic Buildings Trust. Building preservation trusts are often the last hope for important listed but uneconomic edifices, whose restoration costs far exceed their market value when restored.

The Gaskells' House (as it is now called) was built about 1838 on



84 Plymouth Grove in the Early Twentieth Century.

Photograph courtesy of Janet Allan elizabethgaskellhouse.org

a greenfield site on the edge of Manchester, as part of a commercial development of substantial rentable properties, possibly to general designs by Richard Lane. It is a detached regency-style villa, three storeys high with imposing public rooms on the ground floor and commodious domestic offices and bedrooms. A coach-house wing overlooks the yard at the side of the property, and besides the garden immediately round the house, this extended on one side parallel to Plymouth Grove.

From 1850 until her death in 1865, the writer Elizabeth Gaskell lived in the house with her family, who stayed on until the death of the last unmarried daughter in 1913. After this it was bought by the Harpers, who remained there until the 1960s. In 1952 the house was listed grade II*. This saved it from demolition when the rest of the area was flattened and earlier houses replaced by council property. In 1960s the house was purchased by the University of Manchester and became the New International Club, and for 30 years it was a social centre for their overseas students. By 2000 it was in the Buildings at Risk Register and the International Society moved out.

In 2004 a new era began when the Manchester Historic Buildings Trust obtained the freehold. Some urgent repairs were undertaken immediately and in 2009 the Trust commissioned

Phase 1 of the major restoration work on the exterior and structural defects, which is due to be completed in mid-May 2010. This was funded by English Heritage, Biffa, the Bowland Trust, the Oglesby Trust and other donors, and overseen by our architect Peter Hatfield of the Bernard Taylor Partnership.

In spite of an exceptionally cold winter the lime render which replaces the previous defective cement render has been completed to a very high standard, including the restoration of the pilasters and capitols. Careful repairs to the woodwork, including the original sash windows have been completed in hardwood. The roof has been replaced, the original chimneys, which were demolished by the University, have been carefully copied in stone, and dry rot and structural repairs undertaken.

The first open day will be on Sunday 6 June from 12-4, when access to the (unrestored but safe) ground floor will be available.

The Trust has applied to the Heritage Lottery for a million pounds (half the total cost) for the restoration and conversion of the interior to open the building to the public for historic, educational and community events.

Janet Allan

April 2010

To become a Friend, help with a donation and also to find out about forthcoming events go to <http://www.elizabethgaskellhouse.org>

LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

Elizabeth Gaskell: A Connected Life



Mrs. Gaskell - From the Portrait by George Richmond, R.A. 1851

www.gutenberg.org/files/19222/19222-8.txt

Elizabeth Gaskell was a prolific correspondent and stood at the centre of a wide and varied social network. Her personal connections extended to people in many different walks of life - from some of the most famous figures of the day to the poorest factory workers in her home town of Manchester.

This exhibition, which marks the bicentenary of her birth, draws on the Library's world-class Gaskell collections to explore her place in these diverse communities. It looks at how her social networks influenced her fiction and the worlds she depicted in her books. It also considers the worldwide community of readers past and present who have found enjoyment in Gaskell's work

Christie Gallery
The John Rylands Library,
150 Deansgate,
Manchester,
M3 3EH

14 July 2010 to 28 November 2010

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/yourvisit/openinghours/>

The Manchester Indian: Thomas Wardle and India to Summer 2010
Scintillating silk saris and sample lengths collected from India are amongst the textile treasures on display in this exhibition which marks the centenary of the death of Thomas Wardle (1831 - 1909). Still perhaps best known for his collaboration with William Morris, Wardle also made great efforts to reinvigorate the silk industry in India. During a visit there in 1885-6 he collected sample lengths of fabric which yielded intricate Indian designs and fabulous silks. These are featured in the exhibition together with fabrics printed and dyed by Wardle's company in Leek, Staffordshire, and which reveal the profound influence of Indian design on British textiles of the Arts and Crafts Movement

This exhibition has been curated by Dr Brenda King, author of *Silk and Empire*, lecturer at the University of Salford and independent scholar.

Whitworth Gallery
Oxford Road
Manchester M15 6ER
Opening times
Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm,
Sunday 12- 4pm

Gallery of Costume reopening
The Gallery of Costume at Platt Hall reopened on 13 March following a £1 million renovation project. Funded by Manchester City Council, the Grade II* listed Georgian house has undergone essential repairs and improvements behind the scenes.

The public facilities have been updated. The costume displays have been refreshed and there's a new changing exhibitions gallery, improved disabled access and a lecture room and workshop space.

The Gallery of Costume houses one of the most important costume collections in Britain. It contains over 20,000 fashion items from the 17th century to the present day. The gallery continues to collect pieces to enhance the collection.

Gallery of Costume
Platt Hall
Rusholme
Manchester M14 5LL
Tel: 0161 245 7245

Opening times
Wednesday-Saturday 1.30-4.30pm.

Visions of an Industrial Age features a unique series of images of Preston captured on camera in the 1850s, taken only 70 years after the first cotton mill was built. The exhibition offers visitors a rare glimpse of a medieval market town that was undergoing a radical transformation. The photographs reproduced in this exhibition are the oldest known photographs of Preston and were purchased by the museum in 1978 with the assistance of a 50% grant from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund.

Harris Museum and Art Gallery
Market Square
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 2PP

27th June 2009 - 5th Sept 2010

Opening Hours
Monday-Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm
except Tuesday 11.00am - 5.00pm
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

John Mercer: Lancashire's Curious Chemist
John Mercer (1791-1866) of Great Harwood is one of Lancashire's unsung heroes. A Victorian man of science, his interests in chemistry and photography, printing and dyeing raised the game for the Lancashire textile industry.

His name is captured in the very production method he invented 'mercerized cotton' and also in many of the public buildings of the area - Mercer Hall and Mercer Park - for instance .

Mercerisation is the treatment of cotton in order to improve the lustre, handle and other properties. It also increases the ability to absorb dyestuffs.

He exhibited the process at the Great Exhibition and was awarded a 'special commendation'. The process was not utilized at the time, but once mercerisation could be mechanised it became basic to the whole cotton manufacturing process and is still in use today.

Find out more about this amazing



John Mercer of Great Harwood

man in this family friendly mini-exhibition at Queen Street Mill on the outskirts of Burnley, the world's only surviving 19th century steam powered weaving mill.

This is a partnership project and is part of the Royal Society's 350th Anniversary 'Local Heroes' celebrations. The exhibition will tour libraries and galleries of the area.

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum,
Harle Syke,
Burnley,
BB10 2HX.

23 August 2010 – 22 November 2010

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues>

NEWS

Downing Street Petition

Places of Worship at The Heritage Alliance (POWAlliance) has joined forces with the Church of England and English Heritage in the campaign to preserve the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond its planned expiry date of March 2011

This grants scheme enables listed places of worship to claim back the VAT (17.5%) on all costs incurred for repairs and maintenance to the building, professional fees and repair works to fixtures such as bells and organs. In real terms this has meant over £100 million since April 2001. Such financial support has not only helped safeguard our national heritage (churches receive no other government funding or grants), but has also ensured that cathedrals

and churches across the country can continue to be vital community resources, meeting people's spiritual, social and educational needs. If the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme is allowed to expire, many communities will struggle to keep their churches open and in good repair, thus jeopardizing the valuable service those buildings provide as well as our national heritage.

There is now a petition available for signing on the 10 Downing Street website. It can be found at:-

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/VAT-refundscheme/> .

Please sign it as soon as you can, and pass the link on to interested parties Deadline to sign up by: 29 August 2010

Number of conservation posts hit new low in 2009

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation's (IHBC) annual analysis of local authority conservation recruitment in England paints a worrying picture for the sector. The research showed a further drop in 2009, with the number of jobs advertised falling to a new low (since the IHBC began the annual evaluation in 1998). There has been a continuing decline from a peak of 158 in 2003-2004 to just 43 in 2009. As IHBC comments: "The new low in figures also underpins anecdotal evidence from the Institute's network of frozen

recruitment, disestablishment or the downgrading of posts as a result of local government restructuring and public expenditure cuts. This is all despite the statutory nature of much of the work being undertaken and the progress of heritage protection reform, the success of which relies on local authorities delivering effective services."

IHBC Director Seán O'Reilly said: "We have here a worrying indicator of a wholly unsustainable situation in England, and we have no evidence from our own network that things are much different elsewhere across the UK."

For more information visit http://www.ihbc.org.uk/news_update.htm

New guidance champions historic schools

On 25 January English Heritage launched a new guidance document, *Refurbishing Historic School Buildings*, which highlights the value and potential of refurbishing older school buildings instead of replacing them. The guidance indicates that refurbishing old school buildings is often the best use of resources and the most environmentally sensitive way to modernise school estates and cites case studies such as Elm Court School in Lambeth, London, and High Storrs School in Sheffield.

For more information visit <http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.1754>.

SAVING A CENTURY celebrates fifty years of The Victorian Society. The photographic exhibition, curated by noted architectural historian and author Gavin Stamp, shows the best Victorian and Edwardian buildings and structures from around the country that the Society has campaigned to save for the nation.

The exhibition demonstrates the Society's success in changing public attitudes towards the best architecture of the 19th century, and its continued relevance for the 21st century.

'The true saviour of St Pancras [Station] was the Victorian Society, which single-handedly fought ministers and railwaymen' (Simon Jenkins *The Guardian*)

If you missed *Saving a Century* in Manchester, Preston or Chester, or you want a pleasant day out, you can catch the Victorian Society's golden anniversary exhibition in Hawarden, from 10 May to 4 June. The photographs will hang at the Flintshire Record Office, Rectory Lane, Hawarden, CH5 3NR from Monday to Friday during office hours.

Hawarden is a few miles west of Chester and the Record Office is 10 minutes' walk from Hawarden Station. Next door is St Deiniol's Library, the country's first residential library, founded by William Ewart Gladstone in 1889, part of which you can visit; there is also a café.

The Victorian Society has run a long-standing campaign against the replacement of historic schools. Its Director Ian Dungavell said: "Listing of these schools is great news, but there are a lot of really good Victorian and Edwardian schools which will never be listed. The real challenge for educational authorities is maintenance and refurbishment rather than the throwaway approach to historic schools encouraged by the Government's school building programme." Visit <http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/news>

MANCHESTER GROUP - EVENT REVIEWS

Victorian Indian Architecture Colin Cunningham - 24 February 2010, YHA

Despite having to deliver his talk without the benefit of illustrations, Colin Cunningham, chair of the Victorian Society, gave an impressive lecture in which he painted a vivid word picture of High Gothic architecture in India, especially the Victoria Railway Station in Bombay. This is now called Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai. This city along

introduced to the British public at the Great Exhibition of 1851. From that start, India had an influence on British design. This can be seen at the Thomas Wardle exhibition at The Whitworth Art Gallery until Summer 2010. Unlike previous invaders of India, the British always thought of the UK as home. From 1850 there was also a conscious decision to administrate the entire Indian sub continent by a civil service and of course military power. The buildings required to control India were town halls, education establishments and above all railways.

The train station in Mumbai built in 1860, three years before St. Pancras, is now a World Heritage Site. The Victoria Terminus, as it was formerly known, designed by Frederick William Stevens combines the architectural language of High Victorian Gothic with the stone carvings of richly decorated Hindu temples.

The stone in Mumbai was particularly suited to carving being a hard yellow limestone with good working properties. The station has animal carvings on every capital.

imagery of lions, dignitaries and peacocks. In the film, *Slumdog Millionaire*, the Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus, was used as a location. There was an opportunity for the packed audience of over fifty people to share their experiences of buildings from the British Raj in India and to benefit from Colin's expertise on the subject.

Diana Terry

28/03/2010

***Speechless with Grief: Death and Poverty in late Victorian and Edwardian Britain.* Julie-Marie Strange, 24 March 2010 YHA**

Set within the current context of cemeteries in crisis, flattened headstones and endangered churches and chapels this was a timely presentation. However, Julie-Marie Strange's talk turned a potentially gloomy and serious subject into an engaging, thought provoking and, at times, humorous account. Her presentation challenged the negative stereotypes of working class funerals, reckless expenditure and lack of dignity, presenting a wider narrative of death amongst the poorer classes which drew on newspaper accounts, diaries and her exhaustive research of over 300 working class autobiographies. These revealed expressions of loss among the bereaved which were complex, multi-faceted and far removed from popular stereotype.

In reality the poor were often buried in common graves, relegated to the isolated edges of a cemetery, devoid of headstones and in makeshift parochial coffins. Rudimentary burial services, lacking in ritual, often sufficed. One literary source from the talk sums up the wretchedness of pauper death:

The Pauper's Drive

There's a grim one-horse hearse in a jolly round trot;
To the churchyard a pauper is going, I wot:
The road is rough, and the hearse has no springs,
And hark to the dirge that the sad driver sings:

Rattle his bones over the stones;

He's only a pauper, whom nobody owns...

Poor pauper defunct! he has made some approach
To gentility, now that he's stretched in a coach;
He's taking a drive in his carriage at last,
But it will not be long if he goes on so fast!

Rattle his bones over the stones;

He's only a pauper, whom nobody owns...

But a truce to this strain! For my soul it is sad
To think that a heart in humanity clad
Should make, like the brutes, such a desolate end,
And depart from the light without leaving a friend.

Bear softly his bones over the stones,

Though a pauper, he's one whom his Maker yet owns

Thomas Noel, c.1839



'The world's most artistic railway station'

from *East of Suez* by Frederic Courtland Penfield, De Vinne Press, 1907

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/27260/27260-h/images/136.jpg>

with two others is known as the Manchester of India due to it's being a centre of the textile industry. The British had been in India since the 1600s under the trading arrangement of the East India Company but Indian culture was first

The designs for these were a hybrid concept which was the result of the training at the School of Art in Mumbai under the directorship of Lockwood Kipling. In order to get government commissions craftsmen were trained to produce British

Edgar Wood “that remarkable Manchester architect”



150th Anniversary Events in Middleton

Thurs May 13th at 7pm: ‘Edgar Wood and Middleton’

An illustrated talk by JOHN ARCHER at Long Street Methodist Church, Middleton M24 5UE. Potato Pie Supper. Tickets £5 available from Jon Miguel, Middleton Shopping Centre or S Wellens & Sons. 121 Long St. Middleton or by emailing enquiries@edgarwood.com

Fri June 4th 1-4 pm: Open Day at Elmwood School

Elm Street. Middleton, M24 2EG. Architectural Tour at 2 pm by David Morris, Historic Building Specialist. Booking not necessary.

Sun June 27th 2-4pm: Celebration Band Concert 1

At the Bandstand in Jubilee Park. In conjunction with Friends of Jubilee Park and Middleton Band. Free entry

Sun Aug. 1st 2-4 pm: Celebration Band Concert 2 Details as above.

Fri Sept 10th at 7pm: ‘Edgar Wood in Context’

An Illustrated Talk - by local historian GEOFF WELLENS. Long Street Methodist Church M24 SUE. Potato Pie supper. Tickets £5 from Jon Miguel. Middleton Shopping Centre. S Wellens & Sons. 121 Long Street. Middleton. or by e mailingenquiries@edgarwood.com

Fri Sep 10th-Sun Sep12th: Heritage Open Days

Edgar Wood’s beautiful building, LONG STREET METHODIST CHURCH will be open to visitors: Friday 10th and Saturday 11th: 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 12th: 12.30 - 4 pm. Guided walks to some of Edgar Wood’s other buildings at 2 pm on each day.

May - August: ‘The Life and Works of Edgar Wood’

Exhibition. Daily: Middleton Arena. M24 1 AG. Free entry.

Tel: 0161 6435228

website: www.edgarwood.com

email: enquiries@edgarwood.com

Guinea graves, where headstones and graves were shared with strangers, were one step up from common graves and so a hierarchy of death developed across the classes. Strange’s research revealed that, in opposition to the ostentation of national funerals and the growing conspicuous consumption of mourning paraphernalia amongst the wealthier classes, the poor were more likely to borrow or dye clothes or wear shoddy for a funeral than indulge in expressions of overt display. Moreover the poor were required to live in close proximity to their dead until a funeral could be arranged and paid for. Makeshift coffins and the smell of death would, therefore, have been an all too familiar reality in the crowded courts of towns and cities.

Dealing with this intimacy of death was, however, an accepted aspect of the process of bereavement in poor communities. Strange’s uncovering of contemporary accounts of grief, mourning and reaction to loss by both men and women gave her talk an added element of poignancy, contributing significantly to our understanding of this aspect of social history in Victorian and Edwardian Britain.

Beryl Patten

March 2010

Julie-Marie Strange is the author of *Death, Grief and Poverty in Britain, 1870–1914*

Cambridge University Press 2005
(ISBN-13: 9780521838573)

THE NORTHERN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Ken Moth provides an insight into the work of the Committee. Since the Victorian Society was founded in 1958 Casework has been the Society’s most important activity. As one of the six national amenity groups the Society is entitled to be notified by planning authorities about planning applications involving the substantial alteration or demolition of listed buildings.

In order to deal with its large volume of casework the Society employs conservation advisors or caseworkers (currently three) who work under the Director of the Society Dr Ian Dungavell.

Caseworkers examine notifications and decide whether the case merit a response (many do not for various reasons, for example the case is not in our period).

For many years the Society has divided cases into two geographical areas – the North of England and the South of England, with Welsh cases usually allocated on the basis of location in North or South Wales. One caseworker is assigned to each area, and the third caseworker deals with applications relating to churches and other places of worship.

Caseworkers may decide that a case is straightforward and that they can deal with it unaided. However, if a case is complicated, very contentious or of special interest they will take the case to the relevant Casework Committee. There are two committees corresponding to the geographic areas – the Northern Buildings Committee and the Southern Buildings Committee. These committees are made up of people who usually have special skills. They may be architects, town planners, conservation officers, architectural historians or people with detailed local knowledge of a particular area. Members of the Northern Buildings Committee come from Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Newcastle and various places in between. The Committee meets on a monthly basis in Manchester.

Cases are presented to the Committee by the caseworker and are debated. The Committee comes to a view on the key issues and formulates a response which is then set down and issued by the caseworker. The response is summarised in the Committee Minutes. These are subsequently circulated to the Board of Trustees which is ultimately responsible for all of the Society's activities. The Society is very lucky to be able to call on the voluntary time and skills of committee members who are able to give informed insights into both the significance of buildings and the quality and justification of proposals. The system has worked well, being both transparent and consistent.

Ken Moth

April 2010

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

One suggestion discussed at the last AGM was the possibility of saving costs by distributing the quarterly Newsletter by email. Our Chair explained that at present the newsletter was sent out by post only, as attempts to email it had met with technical problems. These are now being resolved and it is planned to increase circulation by email and so reduce outlay. A straw poll at the meeting indicated that there was support for the idea and now this change is being put into practice.

Newsletters will only be emailed to individuals at their own request. The potential savings to the Group are substantial, and we ask you to consider receiving future Newsletters via this method. Other advantages of emailing include the possibility of increasing typeface sizes on your screen for ease of reading and the eventual use of lavish colour in the Newsletter layout!

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by email, please contact Beryl at beryl.patten@virgin.net.

POTATO WHARF YHA

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

The new venue has significant advantages with parking on site and larger rooms. We have also used it already for events that proved popular. Many of you will be aware of the recent problems of overcrowding at our talks at the Friends Meeting House and of the lack of parking nearby. We were also uncertain for some time about the timing of its refurbishment.

To assist you getting there by public transport, our Treasurer has written detailed directions.(below) If you feel you need any further information or assistance getting to or back from the YHA, please contact Steve Roman on 0161 434 2908 or Email: steve.roman@phonecoop.coop.

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.

MANCHESTER GROUP 2010 - EVENTS

THURSDAY 13 MAY 2010

An Illustrated talk

Edgar Wood and Middleton

By John Archer

6.15 pm for 7 pm

Long Street Methodist Church,
Middleton, Manchester M24 5UE

Cost £5. Telephone Christine
Grime on 0161 653 0512 or email
enquiries@edgarwood.com in good
time so that catering can be finalised.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of 'that remarkable Manchester architect Edgar Wood', begins with a talk at the church by the renowned architectural historian Dr. John Archer. John has had a lifelong interest in the work of Edgar Wood and has recently completed an architectural survey of the church. In doing so he has become interested in the history of the town, and its influence on its famous son. The title of his talk 'Edgar Wood and Middleton' reflects this research.

The evening will begin with tea and coffee served from 6.15pm for people arriving early. The illustrated talk will follow at 7pm in the church (about 35-45 minutes), then supper of potato pie, cheese pie and dessert will follow in the church hall. The whole of this beautiful church complex will be open for people to wander around.

After supper there will be the opportunity to ask questions. Long Street Methodist Church is on Long Street, Middleton. M24 5UE. There is a good car park at the rear.

SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2010

A Guided walk

Weaste Cemetery:

a Grand Victorian Necropolis

with Peter Kilvert, Secretary of the Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust

Meet at 1.45 for 2 pm at Weaste Cemetery.

Cost: £5.00 per person.

No need to book in advance

Weaste Cemetery, one of the country's first municipal cemeteries, was opened in 1857. It covers over 39 acres and has over 330,000 internments. The visit will be led by Peter Kilvert of the Friends of

Salford Cemeteries who have been responsible for establishing a Trail and researching many of the notable people interred in the Cemetery. Six of the memorial stones at Weaste have been given Grade II listed building status by English Heritage, in recognition of their significance. Important monuments include those to Joseph Brotherton, Mark Addy and Sir Charles Halle. A illustrated booklet, *Weaste Cemetery Heritage Trail*, will be provided on the day.

The cemetery is formally laid out but some of the paths and burial areas are uneven so please wear appropriate footwear. If you are travelling by car there is adequate parking on Cemetery Road and in the Cemetery itself. You can also access Weaste Cemetery by public transport. Get off the tram at the Langworthy stop on Eccles New Road (A57) and walk in the direction of Eccles to Cemetery Road, turn left into Cemetery Road and walk through the cemetery gates. This should take about 10 minutes.

The Eccles Metrolink trams leaves the City centre every 12 minutes so we suggest you leave the City centre by 1.00 pm. Please arrive at 1.45 pm for a 2 pm start. The tour will take approximately 2 hours

The Victorian Society is now calling for help from the public to document the state of Cemetery chapels. It's asking people to go out and explore their local cemetery and report back on the condition of chapels. Whilst Weaste has long since lost its three chapels, Agcroft Chapel is derelict and is already on the Victorian Society's radar.

You can find more information at:
<http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/news/category/cemetery-chapels/>

SATURDAY 17 JULY 2010

An Excursion

Port Sunlight

with Michael Shippobottom MA, BArch, RIBA, conservation architect

Meet at 10.45 for 11 am at Port Sunlight - Lady Lever Art Gallery

Cost: £15.00 per person.

Please complete the booking form on page 11 of this newsletter if you wish to take part in this event.

The model industrial village of Port Sunlight was founded by the soap manufacturer W.H.Lever (later Lord Leverhulme) in 1888 for the factory workers of his firm of Lever Brothers. The village was acclaimed from the first as exemplifying the best in English town planning and house design, and greatly influenced subsequent industrial villages such as Bournville, and the garden city movement. Development was gradual and at times intermittent with work on the village proper continuing up until 1938 with the building of Jubilee Crescent. This evolution reflects the changes of taste of the period, extending from the simple arts and crafts inspired early cottages by William Owen (1846- 1910), through to the flamboyant and lavish ranges by Douglas and Fordham and Grayson and Ould, to simpler softer designs by James Lomax-Simpson (1882- 1977) including all the blocks in the central area flanking The Diamond - the central planned vista of the village.

Planning similarly developed from the picturesque and informal layout of the early Dell to the grand classical formal planning of the central area, the result of implementation of a project which was the subject of a Lever Prize awarded in 1910 to students at the Liverpool University School of Architecture where Lever was an active patron. This design by the young student Ernest Prestwich (1889 - 1977) was modified in execution by Lomax-Simpson and T.H.Mawson. Expansion of the village was catered for by adjoining planned developments particularly on the Woodhead and Bromborough estates, the latter planned on a huge scale in the manner of early trading estates.

Recent changes in the village (some good and some less so) will be seen and the effects of the policy to sell off houses will also be looked at. The day will also include brief visits to Bromborough, Thornton Hough and, in returning to Manchester, for the enthusiastic, the little known Lever estate development at Lymm.

The tour will be led by Michael Shippobottom, joint author with Edward Hubbard of *A Guide to Port Sunlight Village*. Michael began his

researches on the work of Lever as a student at Manchester, latterly with John Archer. He was fortunate to meet regularly over a period of seven years up until his death, James Lomax-Simpson, (the architect of so much of the central part of the village as well as much private work for Lever) and also to meet Ernest Prestwich and to visit the offices of William and Segar Owen in Warrington and T.H.Mawson in Lancaster. Michael is a director of Donald Insall Associates, Architects who specialise in conservation work.

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST 2010

An Excursion

The Dorothea Restoration Works, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

led by Mark Watson

Meet at 12.45 pm for 1 pm at the Works

Cost: £5.00 per person.

Please complete the booking form on page 11 of this newsletter if you wish to take part in this event.

The work carried out at the Dorothea Works is extremely varied, ranging from the restoration of genuine wrought iron gates, railings etc; to the reproduction of cast iron railings, gates to match existing pieces or those previously removed; The restoration of canopies, rooflights, cast iron, wrought iron and bronze windows through to the renovation of steam engines, water wheels and wind mills is also undertaken

The Buxton train to Whaley Bridge leaves Piccadilly at 11.52 am and arrives at 12.31 pm. (Please check this on new timetables published in May.) This gives 20 minutes to walk to the Works. Alternatively you may prefer to drive. Further details of the event will be supplied on the Confirmation sheet. Please ensure that you wear strong footwear suitable for industrial premises.

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 the events that changed an insignificant rural hamlet into the bustling 'new town' of Birkenhead. In particular it focuses on the question as to why 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 will chart 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, 150 years ago, of George Train's 'street railway'. Parallel with these 'highlights', it will examine the human face of the town and the part played by ordinary individuals in its development.

Elizabeth Davey, well known for her talks on local history, is the author of *Birkenhead-A History*, 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 links with Skye have given her a particular perspective on the Scottish connection with Birkenhead's early years.

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 lecture 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, watercolours and paintings.

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

We look forward to dinner in the impressively ornate Reception Room in Crossland's Rochdale Town Hall. Full Details to follow in the Autumn 2010 newsletter

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.

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Booking form : Manchester Victorian Society - The Dorothea Works

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST 2010

Visit to The Dorothea Restoration Works, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

Led by Phil Lomas and Mark Watson.

Arrive at the works by 12.45 pm for 1 pm - by own transport or train from Piccadilly (leaves 11.52 am)

Cost: £5.00 per person excluding transport.

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS : **Saturday 31 July 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, a map, train times and travel arrangements will be sent on receipt). Enclose your completed form, a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque for £5.00 per person made payable to: *The Victorian Society* and send by **31 July 2010** to: **Mark Watson, 18 Thomas Telford Basin, Manchester M1 2NH. Tel 07831 267642**

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Booking form : Manchester Victorian Society - Port Sunlight

SATURDAY 17 JULY 2010

An Excursion : Port Sunlight

with Michael Shippobottom MA, BArch, RIBA, Conservation Architect

Meet at front of Lady Lever Art Gallery at 10.45 pm for 11 pm start - by own cars - plentiful free parking

Cost: £15.00 per person.

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS : **Saturday 3 July 2010**

First name _____ Surname _____

Address _____
_____ Postcode _____

telephone numbers* _____

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

Please indicate below if you require a lift to Port Sunlight or you can offer a lift. Train travel is unsuitable for this visit.

I/we require a lift to Port Sunlight How many places required? ()

I am able to offer a lift to Port Sunlight. How many places available? ()

Names of others attending

First name _____ Surname _____

First name _____ Surname _____

First name _____ Surname _____

I enclose an S.A.E. (confirmation, a map, train times and travel arrangements will be sent on receipt). Enclose your completed form, a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque for £15.00 per person made payable to: *The Victorian Society* and send by **3 July 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