

**West Yorkshire Group of the Victorian Society**

**2011-12 Programme: Autumn and Winter**

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Gorton Monastery and Ford Madox Brown in Manchester**

Gorton Monastery is hardly a hidden treasure as anyone travelling by train to Manchester can vouch. One of the finest examples of High Victorian architecture, it was designed by E. W. Pugin for the Franciscan order between 1866-72. The church closed in 1989 and but for the commitment of a group of local activists, it was likely that it would have been demolished. Much vandalised the Trust set up in 1996 embarked on a successful £6m restoration which was completed eleven years later. We will have a tour of the building in the morning lasting an hour followed by a lunch of soup, sandwiches, cakes etc. Total cost £15.

In the afternoon (2pm), we will have a bespoke tour of the Ford Madox Brown Exhibition at Manchester City Art Gallery which has brought together 140 paintings and drawings. The cost of entrance to the exhibition and the tour will be £13 or £11 for seniors. The tour lasts an hour and after a quick drink in the café, we will have time to look at Brown's murals in Manchester Town Hall.

For those travelling by train from Leeds should catch the 9.40 train which arrives in Manchester at 11.08 and we will take the 205 bus from Piccadilly which stops outside the church. If taking a train from elsewhere, or for those travelling by car, we all meet outside the church at 11.30am.

**Saving the Century: Victorian Society Exhibition is on show at the Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square from 1st November to 22<sup>nd</sup> December in the Arena**

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November: a Talk by Ian Dungavell: Saving the century: how the Victorian Society helped us love Victorian Architecture, 12.30-1.30, Denny Room (no booking required)**

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November: Book launch of 'Building A Great Victorian City: Leeds Architects and Architecture 1800-1914' 5.30-7pm, Leeds City Museum (no booking required). The Launch will be followed**

by a reception and dinner at the Club LS1, Albion Place. See attached booking form for the dinner

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December: Chris Webster and Susan Wrathmell: 'Some of the Men who made Leeds what we see today' 12.30-1.30pm. Leeds City Museum, the Denny Room (no booking required)

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January: Vic Soc AGM and talk on 'Passionate Lives: Effie, Ruskin and Millais'**

The AGM will begin at 7pm and will be followed by a talk by Dr Suzanne Fagence-Cooper entitled, 'The Model Wife: Effie, Ruskin and Millais'. Dr Fagence-Cooper is a writer and lecturer who works for the V&A and Buckingham New University, and her talk will be based on her recent book, 'The Model Wife: the passionate Lives of Effie Gray, Ruskin and Millais' published by Duckworth in 2010 and about to appear in a paperback edition.

Venue: The Leeds Club, Albion Place, the bar will be open from 6.30pm

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March: Adel's Victorian Villas: a walk with Ann Lightman and Janet Douglas**

George Corson told the Leeds Architectural Society that when he first came to Leeds in 1849, 'to think about building a house at Weetwood or Adel was sheer insanity'. Twenty years after his arrival, in search of an unspoilt environment and greater social exclusivity, a number of wealthy families moved from Headingley to build new homes amongst the fields, farms and woods of Adel. The pioneers of this northern migration were the Eddison family, in 1838 Edwin Eddison of Headingley Hill opened a model farm and though he never moved to Adel, many members of his large family did. Along Adel Lane and Long Causeway, a number of High Victorian villas were erected set in large grounds and with accompanying lodges and gardener's cottages.

Meeting place: Isabella Ford's bench close to the junction of Adel Lane and Long Causeway, 2pm. Cost: £5

**Bookings for events:** Stephen Walker at [stephen.walker34@btopenworld.com](mailto:stephen.walker34@btopenworld.com)

Tel: 01274 58605

## Other forthcoming events of interest

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October: The Inaugural Meeting of The Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery,

The meeting will be held at Lawnswood Cemetery Chapel at 5.30pm

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October: Heavenly Bodies: the Pre-Raphaelites and Stained Glass

A talk by Dr. Suzanne Fagence Cooper, 3pm at Thorpe Prebend Hall, High St Agnesgate, Ripon. £4

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October: Edgar Wood's Lancashire Buildings

A talk by David Morris, Conservation Officer for Rochdale MBC at Lindley Methodist Church, East St., Lindley, Huddersfield, 7.30pm

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Frank Matcham Study Day at Leeds City Varieties

The theme of the study day is 'Your Very Own! Use it or Lose It!', and will focus on theatres and music halls at risk

10am, £15

Booking on line: [www.cityvarieties.co.uk](http://www.cityvarieties.co.uk)

WEA Course on The Architecture of Dissent (Alan Petford)

Starts 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 10am at Shipley Library. Ten sessions

17<sup>th</sup> March, Colloquium at Trinity and All Saints College on Victorian Spiritualities. See college website for details

## Booking form for Leeds book launch dinner

After the event at the City Museum, there will be a celebratory dinner at Club LS1 to which all those attending the launch are warmly invited. Club LS1 – the former Leeds Club – is in Albion Place, and is one of the finest of the mid-nineteenth century public buildings in Leeds. The club is a five minute walk from the museum.

The three course dinner will offer a choice of dishes and include a vegetarian option. The club, which already has links to the Victorian Society, has generously offered this at the special price of £13.95 per person. There will be complimentary *Prosecco* reception; thereafter there will be a pay bar.

Places for the dinner are limited and must be booked in advance, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October. Those wishing to attend should complete the form below and send it with a cheque for the full amount, payable to Christopher Webster, to:

Christopher Webster  
The Old School  
Aberford Road  
Barwick in Elmet  
Leeds  
LS15 4DZ

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Please reserve me ..... places for the dinner on 10 November 2011, at £13.95 per person.

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... which I understand is not refundable unless cancellation is made before 31<sup>st</sup> of October.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Email address: .....

Telephone number: .....