15 September 2018 ‘The Poetry of the Lancashire Cotton Famine’ Dr Simon Rennie

Dr Simon Rennie will speak about his current work as Principal Investigator on a large-scale project collecting and studying Lancashire Cotton Famine Poetry published between 1861 and 1865. As Simon has written on his website, ‘Gaskell and her husband, William, were active in relief efforts for the famine and were deeply engaged in working-class contemporary culture’. Simon’s talk will provide a literary context for the famine, a context that will have been familiar to the Gaskells and is therefore of interest to us. (The website is well worth a look, and I can recommend it: http://cottonfaminepoetry.exeter.ac.uk)


10 November 2018 ‘Prayer and Transformation in Elizabeth Gaskell’s Fiction’ Dr Elizabeth Ludlow

In her talk, Dr Ludlow will reflect how Elizabeth Gaskell imagines the embodied potency of prayer for her female characters, and consider the ways in which Gaskell describes how moments of prayer work to foster the kind of self scrutiny that leads to social action. Focussing particularly on Mary Barton, North and South and Sylvia’s Lovers, she will outline Gaskell’s Unitarian-inflected engagement with the Lord’s Prayer and with its precepts of a shared humanity. Lizzie is a Senior Lecturer in English and the MA Course Leader at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. Her passion is for Victorian novels and poetry, but she has a particularly soft spot for Gaskell, as her track record will show, and as she will confirm when she speaks to us.

9 February 2019 ‘Elizabeth Gaskell and the Legacy of Romanticism’ Marie Moxon

Marie will speak about an aspect of her doctoral research which examines the influence of Romanticism on Gaskell’s novel Ruth. She will discuss how the poetry of Wordsworth and that of the poet Felicia Hemans finds resonance in Ruth’s experience of wild nature in Wales. Marie is studying at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge and her doctoral thesis is based on Gaskell’s fiction and journalism. She is an avid Gaskell fan, as those of you who have spoken to her at our meetings will know!

11 May 2019 ‘Whose Line is it Anyway? William Gaskell’s Revisions on The Life of Charlotte Bronte’ Lucy Hanks

Lucy will explain her interest in Elizabeth Gaskell's literary relationship with Charlotte Brontë, and talk about her research at the John Rylands Library and the British Library. Lucy is a doctoral student at the University of Manchester who analyses the markings and revisions on manuscripts. She says she is honoured to be invited to speak to the London and SE group – I suggest that it is we who are honoured to have someone so enthusiastic about her work to speak to us, as you will discover in May.

Jenny Keaveney, 12 Salisbury Road, Canterbury CT2 7HH 01227 766532 jennykeaveney@gmail.com
Marie Moxon, 3 The Glades, Huntingdon, PE29 6JR 01480 531523 marie-moxon@pgr.anglia.ac.uk
All meetings are held at Francis Holland School for Girls, 39 Graham Terrace London SW1W 8JF. The school is a three-minute walk from Sloane Square tube station, which is on the District and Circle line.

Everyone is welcome any time after 12.45pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Talks begin at 2pm and usually last about an hour. Each talk is followed by questions, and then tea is served.

At each meeting there is a bring-and-buy book stall in aid of The Gaskell House in Manchester. Please bring any books that you wish to rehome and which will be of interest to other members, marked with an appropriate price. If, at the end of the meeting, your books have not been sold, we will ask you to take them away with you again.

We ask for a contribution of £5.00 to cover speakers’ expenses, a donation to the school and tea. Please contact Jenny Keaveney if you have any queries:

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**EXTRA EVENT – SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER 2018**

Edward Preston, whom many of you will know as a member of our group, will be conducting a literary ramble around Chelsea entitled “Writers’ Bloc” *(sic!)*. This is being organised on behalf of the Dickens Fellowship in association with the Gaskell Society.

Meet at Sloane Square tube station at 2.00pm.

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