

skyscrapers now towering all around the down town area. No wonder nowhere much seemed familiar. The theatre I had worked in was still there (now sadly looking very seedy and lost), but the grassy little tree-lined square it had once looked over had completely disappeared as had all of the surrounding restaurants and shops I once knew... Once the Conference - so assiduously planned by Will Frank - began, there was no time at all for such frivolities as we were hurtled headlong into one amazing experience after another, with barely time to catch one's breath. There were 16 resident attendees (of whom approximately a third were American), joined from time to time by enthusiastic and attentive day visitors.

We started on the evening of Wednesday (July 15th) from our Beacon Hill residence with a walking tour of the immediate area, first visiting the Universalist Unitarian Headquarters and then gazing rather wistfully through the railings of the William Ellery Channing house, still much as it must have been in Harriet's day except that now, with its gardens sadly overgrown, the house, too, had rather a forlorn, neglected appearance. But it put the passing of time into perspective. It was, after all, I mused, more than 170 years ago that Harriet had visited New England and I was astonished at the changes I was seeing after a mere 46!

In the following few days, preceded by a most interesting selection of papers delivered by Society members every morning, we had a dizzying variety of visits every afternoon - always being thoughtfully provided with a packed lunch, which we ate either on the hoof or, aboard a bus. On Thursday, we visited the beautiful King's Chapel, originally founded in 1686, the first Anglican Church in New England and, after the American Revolution, becoming the first Unitarian Church in America; the old South Meeting House; the site of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society's meeting on Hollis St, where, on the evening of November 18th 1835, Harriet had publicly spoken out in the support of the Abolitionist cause, (while an angry mob outside pelted the windows with mud and stones, I remembered); the Massachusetts Historical Society, where I would have dearly liked to have spent at least a day and we had only about half an hour - since we were due to be bussed on to the Arlington St Church for a talk on Channing, the history of the church and tea. And, quite apart from the delicious tea, I'm sure that we shall all long remember such a heart warming experience. Greeted at the door by their gentle and kind minister and his assistant - a bouncy and enthusiastic young woman, I shall call "Sunny". We were led into a darkened church. Had they had a power-cut? As our eyes became accustomed to the gloom, we suddenly understood why they had decided to begin our visit in darkness. The only illumination was coming from both sides of the aisle as we perceived the light streaming through their exquisite Tiffany stained-glass windows. Sunny laughed delightedly as she heard our gasps of pleasure and astonishment. "We're very proud of our windows and we wanted you to see them properly", she gurgled...

Gathered in 1729, the congregation of Arlington St. Church is home to an enduring tradition of liberal religion with a commitment to social justice' their

brochure tells us. The charismatic William Ellery Channing 'the apostle of Unitarianism' was their minister for 39 years (1803-1842). He, instead of focusing



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH, BOSTON



William Ellery Channing

on the prevailing Calvinistic condemnation of the innate wickedness and depravity of humankind, emphasised human goodness, reason and tolerance in religion. Over tea, a sumptuous feast which Sunny and the minister had single-handedly rushed around buying and preparing for us, we were told how the 20th and 21st century congregation perpetuated their church's radical history. In 1967, for instance, the congregation hosted a 'draft refusal service' in protest against the Vietnam War and encouraged draft-dodgers to peaceably hand in, rather than burn their cards. They had also marched for civil rights for their Afro-American friends and neighbours. In the 70s, they welcomed the first gay groups to emerge in Boston. Recently, they'd celebrated a marriage service for 50 gay and lesbian couples. "My partner and I were Number 49!", Sunny joyfully announced. Now, they help to care for refugees, feed them and, if they are homeless, allow them to sleep in the church basement.

Before we left, the minister told us how, as a baby, he had been abandoned on the church steps. The Congregation cared for and educated him. While at Harvard, he and a fellow student had decided to mend and reinstall the 16 church bells, which are still rung by hand, from the high 190 foot spire every Sunday morning and on 'special occasions'. "O.K, why don't you play them out?" suggested Sunny. The minister disappeared. And, as we reassembled on the pavement outside) admiring the Channing statue and began wandering back up to Beacon Hill across the public garden and Boston Common, we were serenaded by the sweet sound of the Arlington Street Church bells playing for us. Friday morning began with two remarkable papers. Jennifer Lavery's "Unitarian Antislavery in Louisville, Kentucky" and Stuart Hobday's "Harriet Martineau's

influence on 'Darwin's Sacred Cause'", based on the findings of Adrian Desmond and James Moore and published simultaneously by Penguin in both England and America earlier in the year. The one difference was the illustration on the dust jackets, Stuart pointed out - as he showed us both of them on the lecture-room screen. This provoked some hilarity since the English one depicted a young, clean-shaven, bright-eyed Darwin and on the American version, he looked like an ancient, gloomy and very hairy monkey! "I'd love that book" muttered Will, who was sitting next to me, "but it would have to be the English edition!"

We had a packed programme of visits planned for the afternoon, so once more we were chivvied outside, carrying our boxed lunches for a bus was due at 12 to whisk us off again. Here fate intervened. The bus, which had been caught in a traffic jam around the narrow winding streets of Beacon Hill, was over an hour late. Poor Will, who had timed everything so precisely, was frantic.... Eventually, we reached Boston Public Library - a wonderful and unique resource for Martineau scholars - to be told we could only spend half-an-hour there at most, since we afterwards had appointments at Wellesley College (12 miles north of Boston), the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge where someone would be waiting at the Emerson chapel to talk to us, a bus again to Radcliffe Yard and the Schlesinger Women's Library, a walk to the First Church, Harvard Square, where another talk awaited us, and a walking tour of Harvard Yard before returning to Beacon Hill for dinner. Whew! We made it to Wellesley College, thank goodness, where my dear friends, Professor Marion Just and her husband, Hal, unruffledly welcomed us. (I'd first met Marion and Hal, now both members of the Society, more than 10 years before in France, where Marion had told me about Harriet's marble bust gracing the Wellesley Political Science Department and I'd longed to see it ever since). Now here it was - beautifully displayed and lit and - especially cleaned and dusted up for this occasion, apparently! We all gathered round, anxious to have our pictures taken next to Harriet!

We gratefully guzzled tea and then, off again, back to Harvard. We reached the Divinity Hall to listen to a young man talking from Emerson's pulpit and, to my enormous relief, round that Carol Chilton (who had a painful shoulder), had somehow found a mattress and two cushions (they were probably kneeler!) stored behind the pews at the back. We both furtively sank down and rested. We could hear from there perfectly well, but with our supine shame mercifully hidden from the sight of the speaker and dutiful congregation! We were running so late by this time that the Schlesinger Women's History Collection had to be cut out altogether unfortunately, but we did make the walk round Harvard Yard and, reviving in the fresh air, watched the energetic young students playing handball there before we climbed back into our bus.

Saturday dawned. A full day's trip to Concord was planned. A charming African American school teacher called Sylvie - who just drove buses at weekends, she told us - had her bus parked nearby well ahead of time - and off we went, boxed lunches, Will's wheel chair and all. Since this was our last full day and our

'farewell banquet' would be waiting for us in Boston in the evening, we were anxious to buy an appropriate thank you present for Will. But what and how? We were all agreed that "Darwin's Sacred Cause", would be ideal, but when on earth would we have time to find it? Sylvie joined the conspiracy and during the journey, after much surreptitious mutterings into mobile phones, and advice from Sylvie, Bruce finally managed to order it, to be collected later.

It was a wonderfully interesting day. A huge learning-curve, particularly for those of us Brits, like me, whose knowledge of the part the citizens of Concord so valiantly played in liberating themselves from us during the American Revolution, was hazy, to say the least! We first visited 'The Old Manse', where Emerson's forebears had once lived, and which he'd later kindly rented to the impecunious young newly weds, the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne and his artist bride, Sophia Peabody. Then we walked to The Emerson House (Harriet stayed there, briefly, with Emerson and his wife, Lidian, in 1836, while he also stayed with her at Ambleside in 1848). Looking through some dusty shelves of Emerson's books, Stuart discovered one by Harriet - which he pronounced "damp"! Then a short bus journey to The Orchard House - so evocative of the period - where the eccentric Bronson Alcott (often financially supported by the ever-generous Emerson) had raised his family including, of course his daughter Louisa May, who had written her first novel "Little Women" there. (All young girls of my and my mother's generations loved "Little Women"). We were shown the 'desk' where she had written it - just a rough and ready sloping board, fixed to the wall by her father. "Girls weren't allowed proper desks in those days", said our guide. Then we were bussed off to Henry David Thoreau's Walden Pond (Thoreau was yet another protégé of Emerson's) and afterwards walked (Will's wheelchair pushed, often uphill, by the valiant Rod) to 'Sleepy Hollow Cemetery' where Thoreau, Hawthorne and Emerson himself are all buried. People had touchingly scattered their pens around Emerson's grave. (I left mine there too).

Then off again for tea at the historic Colonial Inn, stopping briefly to look at Follen's Church in East Lexington. On the way back to Boston, Iris read us Harriet's charming account of little Charley Follen's Christmas from "Society in America". Sylvie first dropped our very weary group back at Beacon Hill, just with time for a welcome shower and change before dinner and then secretly whisked Bruce and Carol back into downtown Boston to pick up Will's present... We were all assembling again downstairs, cheerfully sipping our wine in anticipation of the feast to follow, when a distraught Stuart burst into the room. "Oh my God", he cried, "Bruce and Carol are back, "but they've left the book on the bus!" Gaby and I, I'm afraid, weakly dissolved into helpless nervous giggles at this point, while the others rushed around, trying to find out the bus company's phone number etc. Eventually, they succeeded. Sylvie had locked up the bus and gone home! Sylvie's number was somehow acquired. Dinner was delayed. Sylvie was reached. She rushed back to the bus station in her own car, found the abandoned book and drove back up to Beacon Hill again to deliver it. So Sylvie saved the day! (Meantime, Will was still resting, fortunately, so knew nothing of

all this excitement). A delicious farewell dinner followed and Bruce, now no longer red-faced with embarrassment, rose to his feet and with great aplomb and with the precious gift in hand, made an extremely witty and charming presentation speech to Will who was simply delighted not only to receive the book, but to discover that it had two dust-jackets, the English one - (which Stuart had selflessly sacrificed from his own copy) - with the American version craftily hidden underneath.

So, leaving the rest of the group to enjoy Gaby's, now annually popular 'pub quiz', I crept back up to my comfortable bed - leaving the cheerful sounds of happy hilarity and mirth behind me...

With especial thanks to Professor Willard C. Frank, the staff of the UUA's Residence at Beacon Hill and all our wonderfully kind American hosts in Boston, Cambridge, Wellesley and Concord, Massachusetts who made the first Martineau Society's Conference In the USA such a resounding success.

(Barbara Todd, a former Chair of the Martineau Society, is the author of "Harriet Martineau At Ambleside". Bookcase, Carlisle 2002. - Ed.)

The Martineau Society

Registered Charity No. 1064092

Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting, 20 July 2008

The **Martineau Society** met at 11am on Sunday 20 July, Luther King House, Manchester

17 members were present

1. **Apologies** were received from:

Maureen Colquhoun, Valerie Doulton, Howard Hague, Deborah Logan, Mollie Martineau, Valerie Sanders. Barbara Todd, John Warren and Bob Webb

2. **Minutes of 13th AGM: 16 July 2007**

Corrections:

The Minutes were circulated and the following corrections were made: Ruth and Rob Watts were included in the apologies, and Robu was altered to Rodd at point 8.2

The Minutes were then approved.

3. **Matters Arising not on the agenda**

10.3

Key Hill Cemetery: it was reported that friends of Key Hill Cemetery had contact

with a stonemason, who might be prepared to carve a headstone for Harriet Martineau.

Agreed: that the Treasurer will negotiate, with a ceiling of £2000. ACTION Rob Watts.

10.4 It was reported that there had been no action re-publication of the book by Violet Martineau on Gertrude since Sophia Hankinson had been informed that this was already being undertaken by someone else

10.5 *Harriet Martineau's plaque* in Norwich. Rod Voegeli reported that he had contacted someone who would be prepared to clean this up and that this was in process.

James Martineau grave in Highgate, London. Howard Hague reported that the area around the grave was relatively clear, and that it will cost the Society £12 per year or £150 for 'life' for the grave to be looked after on a regular basis by the Friends of Highgate Cemetery. Agreed: that the Society will take out a life membership. ACTION Rob Watts.

Valerie Doulton and Elisabeth Arbuckle will be visiting James' grave later in the year and will report back on its condition.

4. Chairperson's Remarks

In her absence, Chairperson's report was read out as follows:

1. Apologies first for not being here. I think this is the first Martineau Society AGM I've ever missed, but I was invited to participate in the opening panel at a conference at Exeter University on 'Artistry and Industry, 1830-1900,' where I'm talking about TH Huxley's artist daughter Marian. Had it been a bit nearer I'd have tried to attend both conferences, but couldn't face the extra 5 hours on the train. If anyone wants to oust me by people's uprising, I will entirely understand.

2. I hope you've all had a good time seeing Manchester: Many, many thanks to Ann for all her excellent arrangements, and to Gaby and Sophia for holding the fort in my absence. I would like to have joined in the various trips and heard this year's papers, but look forward to hearing more about it all afterwards. I hope someone won the pub quiz and that you enjoyed it.

3. I must also apologize for the hugely embarrassing misprint on the front of the latest 'Twenty-FORTH' Newsletter. Please don't assume I can't spell: I wasn't offered a proof by our print room, and I didn't notice it until Gaby pointed it out. Please feel free to alter it with a black pen - and apologies to Deborah: it certainly wasn't her spelling!

4. It has been a quiet year of consolidation and holding steady in the Martineau Society. It's not clear to me what initiatives we might be pursuing, other than the publications discussed last year. There are still good signs of thriving interest in Martineau: I examined a Birkbeck PhD 10 days ago by an Australian student who was comparing Martineau, George Eliot and Charlotte Bronte as translators.

4. I am open to suggestions about where we meet next year. Will Frank has proposed Boston if we want to go somewhere exotic with a strong Martineau connection; and Hull has been mentioned if we want to go somewhere that isn't exotic, and doesn't have any Martineau connections. The usual favourites of Newcastle and London have been suggested; Dublin remains on the shortlist. I will leave it to you to decide.

Agreed: to proffer thanks to Valerie for all her hard work and support for the Society over the past year

5. Annual Report

The Secretary circulated the annual report which summarises the main events of 2007, including the conference in Norwich and the papers presented.

Agreed: to endorse the report and thanks to be conveyed to Gaby Weiner for her work. A signed copy was to be passed on to the Treasurer (ACTION Gaby Weiner).

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 The statement of accounts for 2007 was circulated.

Agreed: that two signatures will be required for transactions involving more than £2000, and in such cases, that the 2nd signatory will be the Secretary

6.1 Noted: that the trustees for 2008 are as follows: Barbara Todd, Valerie Sanders, Alan Middleton, Deborah Logan, Elisabeth Arbuckle, Gaby Weiner, Sophia Hankinson, Shu-Fang Lai, Maureen Colquhoun, and Robert Watts.

6.2 *Resolution*: that the Martineau Society (Registered Charity No. 1064092) authorises the Treasurer, Mr Rob Watts of 26 Rosliston Road, Burton upon Trent DE159R, to operate the Society's account with CCLA, number 55195000IC, as sole signatory for transactions up to £2000 and with Dr Gaby Weiner of 9 Ferry Orchard, Stirling FK95ND as second signatory for transactions above £2000.

Agreed unanimously

6.3 Auditor: it was agreed that due to its relatively small expenditure, the Society needs an independent examiner rather than an auditor.

6.4 *Resolution*: that the Society asks Mrs Janet Finch to continue as Independent Examiner for the Society's annual accounts. In the event of Mrs Finch being unwilling to continue, the appointment of an Independent Examiner will be delegated to the Chairperson in consultation with the Secretary.

Agreed unanimously.

Agreed: to accept the Treasurer's report, and to convey thanks to Rob Watts for all his work during the past year.

7. Newsletter Editor's Report

No report had been received from the Newsletter Editor. However it was noted that two issues had appeared during the year.

Agreed: that thanks is conveyed to Deborah Logan for her work on the

Newsletter during the past year.

A number of points were also raised:

- that the email contact details on the back page are inaccurate. ACTION Gaby Weiner to send correct details to Deborah Logan.
- that larger type would be preferable
- that the subscription details on the front page should include lifetime membership. ACTION Deborah Logan

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following Committee members were proposed and agreed:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 8.1 Chairperson | Valerie Sanders (nominated by Iris Voegeli, seconded Alan Middleton) |
| 8.2 Treasurer/Membership Secretary | Robert Watts (general acclaim) |
| 8.3 Secretary | Gaby Weiner (general acclaim) |
| 8.4 Newsletter Editor | Deborah Logan (general acclaim) |
| 8.5 Other Committee members | Elisabeth Arbuckle, Barbara Todd, Shu-Fang Lai, Margaret Marks, and Alan Middleton (general acclaim) |

Agreed also:

- that further co-options would be possible.
- that the President is an ex-officio member of the Committee.
- that a vote of thanks is extended to the Committee for the actions they take on the Society's behalf.

9. Other Matters

9.1 *Harriet Martineau Sociological Society Meetings.*

It was reported that the next meeting of HMSS will take place at Boston College 30-31 July with Deborah Logan as keynote speaker.

Agreed: to seek a report of the proceedings. ACTION Deborah Logan

9.2 *Martineau Society Website*

This now seems to be working well. Sarah Lawson is prepared to continue in her role as webmaster. It was agreed that the Chair would arrange for a M&S £50 gift token to be sent, in appreciation. ACTION Valerie Sanders

9.3 *Publicity*

Agreed:

LEAFLET: - that the Secretary will email the leaflet electronically to the Membership and that members are encouraged to leave the leaflet in libraries etc. ACTION Gaby Weiner

- Copies of the leaflet were also made (by Ann Peart) and distributed at the meeting.

PORTABLE DISPLAY BOARD: Bruce Chilton reported that he had forgotten to arrange this but will do this year. ACTION Bruce Chilton

MEMBERSHIP: As noted in the Chairperson's and Treasurer's reports, numbers are similar to 2006-7. Enquiries continue to be received, often via the website, and we have recruited several new members this year.

9.4 Future events of the Martineau Society

Thanks were conveyed to Ann Peart for all her work as main organiser this year
Agreed: that the Secretary will develop a checklist for future conference organisation in order to avoid duplication of effort or omissions. Items to include in the checklist are: programme, trails, entertainments, accommodation and equipment, transport and disability and dietary requirements. ACTION Gaby Weiner

Agreed: to revise and improve the conference registration forms to include, e.g. disability and transport needs. ACTION Gaby Weiner, together with Rob Watts and Will Frank

9.4.1: AGM 2009

Agreed:

- Boston (local organiser, Will Frank)

Preliminary dates: 16-19 July 2009

AGM 2010

- Bristol (suggestion for local organiser, Lindy Latham; also a contact of Rob Watts)

AGM 2011

- Oxford (HMC/St Hilda's, local organiser Alan Middleton. With Rev. Frank Walker)

10. Any Other Business

Charity Commission: it was noted that the Charity Commission is placing greater emphasis on how charities benefit society generally, and that this needs to be highlighted in future annual reports.

Archives at HMC: Alan will pursue whether this is a possibility.

Model statue of James Martineau: this had been offered to the Society for £1000 by Patrick Martineau. Agreed: to decline offer. ACTION Gaby Weiner

Newsletter Indexing: it was reported that Sophia H. had provided the Index for issues 1-10, and that Alan M. was in the process of updating the rest. Thanks were proffered to Sophia and Alan for doing this on the Society's behalf. The aim is to include the index on the website. It was noted that Gaby and Alan are also planning to upload photographs taken at past meetings.

- *Pocket biography of Harriet Martineau*

Agreed: that Ruth Watts and Gaby Weiner will liaise over this with Barbara Todd and Rod Voegeli. ACTION Ruth Watts, Gaby Weiner, Barbara Todd, Rod Voegeli

GGW/22-July-08

Early Notice of the 2010 Conference – 15 July–18 July 2010 at Ambleside

The Society's Secretary has announced that the Conference and AGM will be held at Ambleside will be held between Thursday, 15 July and Sunday, 18 July, 2010.

The Conference will follow the usual, well-established format of a presentation on the first evening. Each full day will have the presentation of papers in the morning followed by "trails" or organised walks at historic sites in the afternoon. The evening will be "some kind of socialising activity". (This surely includes one of our Secretary's devilish quizzes on Martineau subjects and will demonstrate whether one has been paying attention in the Conference, to everyone's great entertainment. – Ed.)

Ambleside was, of course, the home of Harriet Martineau for 25 years and has been a particularly popular venue for the meetings of the Society. Details of how to register for the 2010 Conference will be issued to members and others by the end of this year.

If you would wish to give a paper or presentation at the Conference, please contact the Secretary, Prof. Gaby Weiner, at 9 Ferry Orchard, Stirling FK9 5ND, Scotland – Tel: 0044 (0)1786 462915.

The Martineau Society

Registered Charity No: 1064092

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Martineau Society Newsletter submissions of 2,500 – 3000 words or less may be sent to Bruce Chilton, Newsletter Editor:

*by email and as an attachment, preferably in Microsoft Word, to:
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*by post to: 22 Marston Lane, Norwich NR4 6LZ, UK
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*"The mind is ready, like a liquid on the eve of crystallization, to yield up its state on the touch of the first sharp point, and dart, over its surface and in its depths, into brilliant and beautiful forms, and from being turbid and weak as water, to become clear as crystal, and solid as the rock." James Martineau, *Endvrs*, 1, ix.*

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