



The latest Newsletter of the Mark Rutherford Society will be out in March 2014 in a new A5 format. It will contain a 'Review of the Year's Activities' (2013) by Nick Wilde, 'Researching Mark Rutherford in the 1940s – A Letter from Wilfred Stone', 'Complaint of a Forsaken Civil Servant' by Mark Crees, 'A Very Exciting Time: Arthur Smith in search of William Hale White' by Michael Brealey, 'Dorothy Vernon White and her Help to William Hale White Biographers' by Nick Wilde, Pierre Leyris's Introduction to the French Edition of The Autobiography of Mark Rutherford, introduced and translated by Nick Jacobs, a review: 'Bedford's Victorian Pilgrim – William Hale White in Context' by Michael Brealey, by Catherine Harland, and on the front cover a previously unknown photograph of The Cottage, Groombridge, the house in which Hale White died, with a note by Bob Owens. Existing members will receive a copy automatically.

Membership of the Mark Rutherford Society costs £10.00 a year. New members will receive this issue of the newsletter with their membership. To join, please send a cheque payable to Mark Rutherford Society for £10 for your first year's subscription. Subscriptions are renewable on 1st June each year. To launch our new format newsletter take out a membership now and you will receive membership until May 31st 2015. Your cheque together with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address should be sent to John Monks, Membership Secretary, Mark Rutherford Society, 1 Colleton Hill, Exeter EX2 4AS Tel: 01392 493559 Email: jbmonks@btinternet.com.

Existing members will also receive a free copy of Bunyan Studies 2013, due out in March which contains papers presented to the symposium held on 22nd June 2013 and other papers. New members can obtain a copy by joining The International John Bunyan Society, a society dedicated to the study of the life and times of John Bunyan (1628-1688) by going to www.johnbunyansociety.org.

Four essays deal with the novels. W. R. Owens's introductory essay emphasises the central role of the individual conscience in Clara Hopgood; Valentine Cunningham discusses White's relationship to earlier Dissenting writers, particularly in their shared engagement with the English Bible; Roger

Pooley focuses on *The Revolution in Tanner's Lane*; and Max Saunders explores the early novels as examples of 'autobiografiction'. Two essays take as their subject White as a literary critic. Catherine Harland provides an overview of his range and interests as a critic, while Vincent Newey considers the significance of John Bunyan in relation to three major nineteenth-century studies of Bunyan. The question of White's religious thinking is taken up by Jean-Michel Yvard, who argues that it may best be described as 'religious agnosticism'. Early scholarship on White is discussed by Nicholas Jacob, who draws attention to two European studies, and by Michael Brealey, who writes about the first PhD thesis on White in English. The collection of essays ends with a reflection by Mark Crees on what White's life and work mean to him, prompted by a visit to his grave.

Some of the essays originated as papers delivered at events organized during 2013 to mark the centenary, in particular a Symposium held at Dr Williams's Library, London on 22 June 2013 organized by the Mark Rutherford Society.