

**Rochester & Chatham Dickens Fellowship**  
**Secretaries "What's on Guide"**  
**13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Branch Meeting – Thursday 19th October**

Members reading Steve Martin - Dickens as remembered by Percy Fitzgerald - then a talk by Ian Porter on Suffragettes. Ian is a novelist, historian and walks guide. His first novel 'Whitechapel' was set in the East End slums of 1888. He has since published a book 'Suffragette Autumn Women's Spring'. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Royal British Legion 2017 Poppy Appeal 28<sup>th</sup> October – 11<sup>th</sup> November**

We have again been asked to take part and support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal at Bluewater shopping centre. [There will again, not be a launch ceremony this year.](#) Members are invited to take part in Victorian, WW1 or WW2 period costume or uniforms. Further details and volunteers names to Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Branch Meeting – Thursday 16th November**

Branch meeting, members reading then then Anne Graydon performing a play 'The last days of the first Duchess' accompanied by Clare Graydon-James. The story is centred on the First Duchess of Northumberland, who rebuilt Alnwick Castle and was the jewel of eighteenth century London society. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Bryony School Rainham Visit – Wednesday 22nd November**

Members have been invited to return to Bryony school in Rainham and take part in a Victorian lesson in costume; the theme will be Charles Dickens book 'A Christmas Carol' and children's life in Victorian times. They request a similar event to what we put on for them last year. Further details from and volunteers names to Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Dickensian Costume Bring and Buy Sale – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

A Dickensian costume bring-and-buy costume sale will be held on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. It will be in the Princes Hall, Rochester High Street, Rochester between 10 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Rochester's Christmas Lights switch on & Santa Fun Run Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

R&CDF have been invited by the Rochester Traders and Medway Council to take part in this year's switching on of the Rochester Christmas lights celebrations between 12 noon and 5pm. They request Dickensian costumed characters promenade along the High Street enjoying themselves for as long as you want to (TBC). Due to a lack of available Saturdays, the Rotary Clubs charity Santa's Fun Run takes place on the same day. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Sittingbourne Christmas Lights Switch on Parade, November 25th.**

This year's Sittingbourne Christmas Lights Switch on Parade is on Saturday November 25th.

Meet at the Costa Coffee in the Forum, Sittingbourne, in the afternoon, refreshments on Colin Benson.

Early to mid-afternoon., actual time to follow.

Further details from Colin Benson.

### **Ellenor Hospice Christmas Fair Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

We have been invited to go to the Ellenor Hospice Christmas Fair on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> November starting at 11 am in Coldharbour Road, Gravesend. DA11 7HQ. They want us to promenade to add a little Christmas colour to the charity fund raising event. Further details and volunteers names, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Rochester Dickensian Christmas Costumed Ball Saturday the 2nd December**

The Rochester Dickensian Christmas Costumed Ball takes place in the Queen's Hall, Corn Exchange on Saturday the 2nd December 7 for 7.30. Dancing to Tony Ellingham and his band Unit 5 (mix of styles catered for) and a choice of menu including Christmas Dinner. Cost £38 per person and there is a pay bar and raffle.

Those already on the email mailing list will receive details soon. Those not on the list should email [mail@rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk](mailto:mail@rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk) for details. Those that want information by post should contact Dickens Festival, c/o 46, Trevalle Road, Rochester ME1 3PA

### **Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3rd of December 2017**

R&CDF will provide public [readings in the adult library \('Christmas Morning at Dingley Dell' from the 'Pickwick Papers'\)](#), participate in the parades and other events yet to be confirmed. Further details of R&CDF involvement, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

For more details of the festival, see the web site [www.rochesterfestival.org.uk](http://www.rochesterfestival.org.uk) or [whatsonmedway.co.uk](http://whatsonmedway.co.uk) or from the Medway Visitor Information Centre 95, High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LX. Phone: 01634 560250.

### **A Dickensian Christmas Carol Concert Tuesday 19th December**

A Dickensian Christmas Carol Concert will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in The Leather Bottle at Cobham from 7pm. Like the last few years, come along, preferably in Dickensian costume, and join Cobham Church Choir for a wonderful evening to celebrate the festive season. Hot Mince Pies & Hot Chocolate Available (TBC). What better place for a Carol Service than an Inn frequented by Charles Dickens, described by him in Pickwick Papers and full of Dickens memorabilia. Details from and volunteers names to Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Branch Meeting Christmas Meal – Thursday 21st December**

The branch December meeting and Christmas Lunch will take place in The Knowle Country House. School Lane, Higham, Rochester. Kent ME3 7HP The venue is ideal for our Christmas meal due to the buildings Charles Dickens connections. It is 12:30 for 13:00 start and the dress code is Dickensian or lounge suits. £32.90 per person. Send your completed booking form and cheque, payable to The Rochester and Chatham Dickens Fellowship, to:

Colin Benson 72 Woodberry Drive Sittingbourne Kent ME10 3AX

Closing date for bookings, Wednesday 6th December 2017. Further details and booking form from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Branch Meeting – Thursday – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Dr Jeremy Clarke will give a talk - 'The Battle of Medway: Upnor Castle and the Dutch Raid of 1667'

Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Saturday January 20th - A Dickens Extract (TBC)**

Joint Broadstairs and R&CDF chalet and charity fund raising night. The Broadstairs Dickens fellowship drama group, the Declamers, have offered to perform a Dickens extract (TBC) in Eastgate House, Rochester on the afternoon of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. This is envisaged to be a joint effort in fund raising for the chalet and their branch charity. TBC

Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Dickens Birthday Branch Meeting – Thursday – 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Irina Fridman from the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre with a talk The Barnards of Chatham - music hall proprietors Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or [stevemartin54@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemartin54@hotmail.com)

### **Gad's Hill School Literary Festival - 6th March 2018**

The branch has been invited to take part in the Gad's Hill School Literary Festival on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Details to follow.

Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Branch Meeting – Thursday – 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Cinema and film historian Nick Walker with a talk 'The Making is Davis Lean's Dickens Films'. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Festival of Steam and Transport – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

The Festival of Steam and Transport takes place over the Easter weekend of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April in Chatham Dockyard. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Branch Meeting and Presidents Night – Thursday – 19<sup>th</sup> April**

Our branch President and the great, great grandson of Charles Dickens, Gerald Dickens with a performance of 'To Begin With' the play about the Life of our Lord. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Branch Meeting and Chairman's Night – Thursday – 17<sup>th</sup> May**

The Chairman's Night is envisaged as a film and social night. Details TBC. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Dickensian Costume Bring and Buy Sale – Saturday TBC**

A Dickensian costume bring-and-buy costume sale will be held on Saturday TBC. It will be in the Princes Hall, Rochester High Street, Rochester between 10 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Rochester Dickens Festival – Saturday 2 June – Sunday 3 June**

This year Rochester Dickens Festival takes place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Members will take part including public readings from Dickens works and take part in parades. For information on the 2018 Rochester Dickens Festival visit - [www.visitmedway.org](http://www.visitmedway.org)

Further details of Fellowship involvement from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Branch Meeting – Thursday – 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Former President of the Dickens fellowship Dr. Tony Williams with a talk 'Charles Dickens 160 years ago' There was lots going on in Dickens life in 1860, a very turbulent time. Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

### **Branch Summer Outing – Thursday – 19<sup>th</sup> July**

Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or  
stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Rochester Dickensian Christmas Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd  
December**

Dickensian Christmas will be Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd December 2018.  
Further details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or  
stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Notes:

**Blue text** denotes new events or amendments to existing events.

Branch meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, 7:15 for a  
7:30 start between September and June. The new venue is Gad's Hill School  
Hall. Gravesend Road, Higham ME3 7DS (School car park entrance via  
Crutches Lane).