

London Particular

The Dickens Fellowship Newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of The Dickens Fellowship will be held at the Hotel Casa 400 in Amsterdam at 9.00 am on Saturday 29th July 2006, during the Centenary Annual Conference to transact the following business:

- (a) to receive and to consider the report of Council on the activities of the Fellowship;
- (b) to receive and to consider the annual accounts and balance sheet of the Fellowship;
- (c) to elect the Honorary Officers;
- (d) to confirm the recommendations of Council in respect of membership subscriptions and affiliation fees;
- (e) to transact such other business as Council may decide is appropriate for a General Meeting;

The **Agenda** for the meeting will be published on the Fellowship website in due course.

There are three resolutions proposed by Council.

1. **The following subscription rates are recommended for 2007 onwards.** The last increase in the rates was agreed at the 2003 Conference for implementation in 2004. Current rates are shown in parentheses.

Dickens Fellowship Central Membership Subscription: £14.50 (£12.00)
 Other member at same address: £9.50 (£8.00)
 New Member in first year of membership: £8.00 (£6.00)
 Subscription to *The Dickensian* for DF Members: £12.00 (£10.00)
The Dickensian: Individual non-DF member in UK: £16.00 (£13.50)
The Dickensian: Individual non-DF member **not** in UK: £17.50 (£14.50)
The Dickensian: Institutional subscriber in UK: £25.00 (£16.00)

The Dickensian: Institutional subscriber **not** in UK: £28.00 (£18.00)
 Branch dues for affiliation to DF: £30 (no change).

2. **It is proposed** that Mrs Lee Ault and Mrs Joan Dicks will be appointed as Joint Honorary General Secretaries of The Dickens Fellowship with effect from July 2006. **It is proposed** that Mrs Dicks will become the *ex officio* Trustee on the Board of Trustees of The Charles Dickens Museum.
3. **It is proposed** that, with effect from October 2006, members of the Central Fellowship would be asked to submit nominations, with a proposer and seconder, for the six Council places representing them as stated in the Constitution Part A Section VII. Those elected would serve for three years. Those currently fulfilling this role will be eligible for re-election if they wish.

Every member of the Dickens Fellowship is entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting, or to inform the Honorary General Secretary (or, in the case of Branch members, the Branch Secretary, who will then notify the Honorary General Secretary) in writing seven days before the meeting, of the way they wish to vote, on any specific resolution before it.

Every resolution put to an Annual General Meeting shall be decided by a show of hands together with any votes lodged with the Honorary General Secretary 7 days beforehand. The chairman of the meeting shall be the sole and absolute judge of the validity of every vote. Each member shall have one vote and the chairman of the meeting shall have an additional, casting, vote.

This notice of the Annual General Meeting has been sent by the Honorary General Secretary to the Honorary Secretary of each branch, and to individual members who are not associated with any branch, at least thirty days before the meeting, stating the agenda and giving members the

opportunity to register a proxy vote. It is the responsibility of Branch Honorary Secretaries to inform branch members and to notify the Honorary General Secretary of any matters arising therefrom, including the identity of proxy votes.

Thelma Grove and Tony Williams, Joint General Secretaries, 19th April 2006

Change of Programme

The 11th September Meeting in London will be a talk by Lee Ault: "1837: A Young Man Came to Broadstairs"

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Chop House Walk: Dr Tony Williams will lead a free guided walk starting from the Charles Dickens Museum at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23 May. The walk, lasting around one hour, will explore the area between Doughty Street and Farringdon and will end at the Quality Chop House, a historic eating house on the Farringdon Road, where participants will buy their own meal.

House Party. The Museum's annual House Party will take place this year on Friday 9 June at 6.30pm. Catering, including vegetarian food, will be provided by an in-house team, lead by Pat York. Cost £15 (£10 Friends and members of the Dickens Fellowship.)

Boat Trip to Greenwich. On Saturday 1 July there will be a round trip by boat from Temple Pier to Greenwich, during which three speakers will describe different aspects of London's 19th century riverscape. Tickets £18 (£15 Friends and Fellowship members)

EVENT AT FREEMASONS' HALL

Every summer the Library and Museum of Freemasonry hold a summer exhibition. This year the theme is the history of the Hall, with which there are some Dickensian connections including a mention in *Sketches by Boz* and a dinner held for Dickens prior to his departure for the USA. The evening event is called "A Celebration of Freemasons' Hall". The history of the Freemasons' Hall site from the eighteenth century to the 1930s is marked by an evening reception with wine, cocktails and music from Mozart to the Jazz Age. There will be an opportunity for a private view of the

exhibition, talks about aspects of the history and tours of the building. Thursday 7th September, 6pm-8pm. Tickets £12.50. Please collect booking forms from Gayle Jackson at The Charles Dickens Museum or contact her on 020 7405 2127 ext. 202, info@dickensmuseum.com

DICKENS IN THE NEWS

Unfortunately, pressure of space means that there is room for just one item of Dickens news in this issue.

David Warland and Elsie Sadler both submitted an article from The Worthing Herald and Gazette of 13 April on the lodging house at Number 10 Bath Place, Worthing where Dickens installed his mistress Ellen Ternan, from December 1868 to June 1869. The article noted that, in a local directory of 1870, it is listed as a lodging house owned by Thomas Moore: could this have been a 'cover' used by Dickens to keep his ownership secret?

If you see something you would like to share with other members, please send it to the editorial address: Stephen Jarvis, 116 Riverbank Point, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1JL, UK
Or by Email: stephenjarvis@hotmail.com

GRAHAM STOREY BOOK BEQUEST

The editors of the *Pilgrim Letters* have kindly donated a substantial part of the book collection of the late Graham Storey to The Charles Dickens Museum. Some of the titles will be added to the collection, but a selection will be sold in aid of the Museum. Many of the titles are annotated and signed by Madeleine or Humphrey House. If you would like to register your interest in purchasing any of these books please contact the curator, Sophie Slade, by email: sophie.slade@dickensmuseum.com or by phone 020 7405 2127 ext. 214

A Final Thought...

"I make my way to the gates through a little quiet grove of trees, shading the quaintest of Dutch landing-places..."

- Charles Dickens, *The Uncommercial Traveller*