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# London Particular

The Dickens Fellowship Newsletter

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**“Lor! ejaculated that lady, starting at the sudden nature of the communication.”** (*The Pickwick Papers*, Chapter 46)

We trust that, unlike Mrs Bardell, members of the Dickens Fellowship will not be jolted by sudden communications – and, specifically, by emails. Accordingly, all future issues of *The London Particular* will be available in email, as well as in paper, format – **and the Management Committee would prefer members to take the electronic version of *The London Particular*, thereby saving postage costs and trees.**

**To make the change, simply send an email, showing your name, and the email address to which you would like your *London Particular* to be sent, to:**

**stephenjarvis@hotmail.com**

**Clearly mark the subject-heading of the email: “London Particular Email, Please”.**

Because of the volume of emails this is likely to generate from members, please do not expect an individual acknowledgement. Thank you.

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**“Publicity! Why, Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company is painted on the very coal-scuttles.”** (*Martin Chuzzlewit*, Chapter 27)

Because the marketing and publicity practices of the Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company are not an *infallible* guide to promoting our organisation’s public image, the Dickens Fellowship is looking for help with its marketing and publicity.

If you have recent consultancy experience in this field, and have some practical experience of preparing publicity material, and can spare a little time, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact Joan Dicks, Tel: 020 7242 8575  
email: joan@dickshg.freemove.co.uk

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**“I did renew it, and I wrote my letter.”** (*Bleak House*, Chapter 64)

Are you quite certain that you have **renewed your Dickens Fellowship membership for 2010?** If not, you do not need to write us a letter, merely complete the enclosed form and send us the appropriate remittance....

**AND PLEASE NOTE: A printing error was made on the 2010 membership cards, regarding the dates of the London meetings:**

**15<sup>th</sup> November is a Monday (not Thursday) and 9<sup>th</sup> December is a Thursday (not Tuesday).**

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**“The master of everything confided to him....”** (*Bleak House*, Chapter 16)

**THE NEW DICKENS FELLOWSHIP WEBSITE** was launched on Dickens’s birthday, 7 February 2010. Don Varney, the new webmaster, is working to develop the site to include more information and more news. Please visit it at:

**[www.dickensfellowship.org](http://www.dickensfellowship.org)**

We would like to record our thanks to Derek Mortimer for all his wonderful work on the website over the past ten years.

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**“This being a true copy of the same....”** (*Our Mutual Friend*, Book 4, Chapter 4)

**Do you have a copy of the 1970 supplement to *The Dickensian* which contained the texts of the spring lectures given at The Royal**

Society of Arts to mark the centenary of Dickens's death? The archivist at the RSA does not have a copy of this publication and would be immensely grateful to any DF member who would be prepared to donate their copy to the collection of the RSA. If any noble person is willing to part with their copy, please contact Joan Dicks, 020 7242 8575 joan@dickshg.freemove.co.uk

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**“That punctual servant of all work, the sun, had just risen, and begun to strike a light on the morning of the thirteenth of May...(*The Pickwick Papers*, Chapter 2)**

Plans for the City Dickens Day on Thursday 13 May are progressing well. The City of London Guides are organising a series of Dickensian walks which will converge on Leadenhall Market, where Dickens Fellowship members and invited guests will be reading passages from Dickens. There will be some geese (Leadenhall was a poultry market) and a Beadle to keep the crowds in order. Members of the Fellowship who arrange to come in costume will be able to claim travel expenses. Please notify Joan Dicks 020 7242 8575 joan@dickshg.freemove.co.uk

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#### **A Reader Writes...**

Bob Pykett recently wrote to *The London Particular* with a query, which perhaps could be answered by a member living or working near Haringey in London. In an old issue of *The Home Owner* (published by Halifax Building Society) Bob saw a reproduction of a painting showing a mail coach “The Glasgow to London Royal Mail” – an illustration which appears courtesy of the London Borough of Haringey. Bob would like to know more about this painting – whether it is still in Haringey, who painted it, and, most important of all, is it intended to be a depiction of the journey made by Boz and Phiz, to Greta Bridge or of Nicholas Nickleby's corresponding fictional journey? If any reader can answer these questions, please contact the *London Particular*.

**“The small waxen form from which so much solemnity diffused itself...” (*Bleak House*, Chapter 8)**

The Fellowship has been contacted by a Mr Martin Craighill, who wishes to sell a unique Dickensian objet d'art: a bas-relief, in wax, showing Mr Pickwick addressing the Club, sealed in a glass display case. Its age is unknown, but when Mr Craighill obtained the item it was stored in a case which was lined with a newspaper containing an article about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. For further information, contact Mr Craighill via email: martin@craighill.plus.com

#### **DICKENS IN THE NEWS**

**Brian Frear spotted a letter in a December issue of *The Daily Telegraph* which quoted Dickens's complaints about street-musicians in Broadstairs, when Boz could not “write half an hour without the most excruciating organs, fiddles, bells, or glee singers.” Jan Recknell-Turner spotted another CD perspective on the town in the September issue of *South East Walker: the Inimitable* once described Broadstairs as “one of the freshest and freest little places in the world”. It was also noted that a historic walking route between Margate and Broadstairs has just been revived and renamed the Turner & Dickens Walk.**

#### **A Final Thought....**

“The last line of Swift's self-written epitaph – ‘Imitate him if you dare: he served human liberty’ – would do for Dickens's tablet as well.” (Professor Richard Rorty, *Essay on Heidigger and Others*)

Please send any contributions, news clippings etc to the *London Particular* editorial address: **Stephen Jarvis, 1 Riverine, Grosvenor Drive, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8PF, UK. Email: stephenjarvis@hotmail.com**