

Rochester & Chatham Dickens Fellowship
Secretaries "What's on Guide"
19 August 2021

Medway - The Empty Chair Poetry Trail

For Dickens 150, Wordsmithery commissioned 10 poets with links to Medway to write new poems inspired by Charles Dickens' life and works. The poems have been printed on boards which form a trail, then placed in locations around Medway and nearby with links to Charles Dickens' life. For information visit <https://www.wordsmithery.info/chair>

The Last Dream of My Soul – Dickens 150 Print Exhibition 26 June to 25 September 2021

'The Last Dream of my Soul' brings together the beautiful and varied work of 50 printmakers from all over the UK created especially for the exhibition. It explores death in Dickens' life and novels, and his long association with Medway. It includes 100 new prints and delves into the Victorian obsession with mourning etiquette with unseen Victorian funerary treasures loaned from the Guildhall Museum collection. The exhibition is in Rochester Art Gallery inside the Medway Visitors Information Centre 95, High Street Rochester - 01634 338141

WELCOME TO CLOISTERHAM - MONDAY 30th August

A one day literary event in Rochester Castle grounds 11am to 4pm on Monday the 30th of August. The event will include; poetry, storytelling, drama and music. For each of these events, they have used Charles Dickens' life and works as their inspiration, but put a firmly twenty-first century twist to them. We have been asked if we would like to join in and support the event being put on for Medway Council. *Wordsmithery* is an independent literary arts organisation and publisher run by Sam Hall and Barry Fentiman. www.wordsmithery/info - volunteers names to Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Mystery of Edwin Drood Novel Tours – 4th and 25th September.

The City of Rochester Society guided walking tours are running more of these tours on 4th & 25th September to coincide with the Drood themed exhibition at the Art Gallery in the Visitor Information Centre. Branch member Rosemary Dymond is one of the guides. Starting from the Visitors Information Centre at 10 am and 12.30 pm, bookings - rochesterdickens@gmail.com

Branch Annual General Meeting - Thursday 16th September

Thursday 16th of September meeting is the branch Annual General Meeting (AGM), no speaker at the AGM and details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Salute to the 40's - Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September 2021

The Chatham Historic Dockyard Salute to the 40's event is scheduled to take place 18th and 19th September 2021. Members can let the public know how the Dickens family were involved in WW2. I have been in contact with the organisers and expect to be provided with a small number of tickets. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Kettner Club Dickens Lunch – Wednesday 22nd September

I have been asked (As a member of the Kettner Society) if any R&CDF members want to again, attend a Kettner Club lunch in The National Liberal Club on Wednesday 22nd September, preferably in costume but this is not mandated. This is subject to it being allowed under covid rules so TBC. It is my Dickens sponsored themed lunch and the speaker is Dr Tony Williams. Details from Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com Steve.

Royal Harbour of Ramsgate 200 Anniversary Festival Friday 24th to Sunday 26th September

Members have been invited by Broadstairs branch to attend in Victorian or Regency costume. Costumed people are needed for Friday walking around, **Saturday the Parade** and Sunday - Recreating the 'A Day at the Seaside' by William Powell Frith. Most members are planning for a Saturday trip. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

The Making of Dickens – planned to open in October

The Making of Mr Dickens is a brand new permanent exhibition which is planned to open at The Guildhall Museum in Rochester later this year. Visitors will enjoy an exciting and immersive journey through Dickens' life in Medway, while exploring the people and places which shaped his complex personal and public life and inspired him to create some of the best loved stories in English literature. Further details visit, <https://www.visitmedway.org/attractions/rochester-guildhall-museum-2132/>

Dickens Pickwick Club Visit - Fri 1st to Sun 3rd October 2021

The rescheduled visit by members of the Dickens Pickwick Club to the Medway area is provisionally 1st to 3rd October 2021. It is hoped that several members of the Dickens family will be on the visit. [There may be a few places available for R&CDF and Rochester Pickwick Club nearer the time for the Saturday evening meal at Oliver's in Rochester or other planned events and visits.](#) Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Branch Meeting - Thursday 21st October

Thursday 21st of October meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Branch Meeting - Thursday 18th November

Thursday 18th of November meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Dickens and the Ghosts of St Andrew's – 27th and 28th November

An immersive experience for all the family at St Andrew's Arts Centre Gravesend. From 10am to 3pm half hour bookable slots per household £5 per person. Booking via www.woodville.co.uk or 01474 337500

A Christmas Carol – Friday 3rd December

Mr Charles Dickens presents A Christmas carol. A heart-warming evening in the presence of the author himself! Actor John O'Conner faithfully recreates Charles Dickens famous performance of his best-loved ghost story. Friday 3rd December at 7.30 pm St Andrews Arts Centre Gravesend, £54 for a table of four. Booking via www.woodville.co.uk or 01474 337500

Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival – Saturday 4rd and Sunday 5th December 2021

Provisional dates for the 2021 Rochester Christmas Dickensian Festival are the 4rd and 5th of December. During a recent Rochester City Centre Forum, A Medway Council representative said they would confirm if the event is to take place in August.

Branch Christmas Meal - 16th December

Thursday 16th of December meeting will be the Christmas Meal, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

A Dickensian Christmas Carol Concert December TBC

I met with the owner of the Leather Bottle recently and he is keen for the carols to take place again, if possible. A Dickensian Christmas charity Carol Concert in the Leather Bottle at Cobham. Like pre COVID, come along, preferably in Dickensian costume, and join Cobham Church singers 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

Branch Meeting - Thursday 20th January 2022

Thursday 20th of January meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Dickens Birthday Branch Meeting - Thursday 17th February

Thursday 17th February meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Branch Meeting - Thursday 17th March

Thursday 17th March meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Dickens Fellowship Council Meeting 16 April

The next meeting of the Dickens Fellowship Council will take place on Saturday 16th April 2022.

Branch Meeting - Thursday 21st April

Thursday 21st April meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Branch Meeting - Thursday 19th May

Thursday 19th May meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Rochester Dickens Festival Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June 2022

Provisional dates for the 2022 Rochester Dickens Festival are the 4th and 5th of June 2022. Medway Council to confirm dates.

Branch Meeting - Thursday 16th June

Thursday 16th June meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

Dickens Fellowship Conference 14 to 18 July 2022

The Dickens Fellowship conference will be held at Haarlem in Holland between the 14th and 18th of July 2022. Visit the DF web site for further news and details.

Branch Summer Outing - Thursday 21st July

Thursday 21st July meeting, details to be announced. Further details, Steve Martin 01474 560250 or stevemartin54@hotmail.com

**Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival – Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th
December 2022**

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Notes:

Blue text denotes new events or amendments to existing events.

NOTE - Due to COVID restrictions all meetings will be held via ZOOM for the foreseeable future

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