



## 2018 BIRTHDAY DINNER

**Wednesday 7 February 2018** marks the 206<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Dickens's birth. The London Birthday Dinner will be held on that evening in The Prince's Room in the Headquarters of the British Medical Association in Tavistock Square, London, shown here: The venue will be available from 6.30 pm; pre-dinner drinks will be provided from 7 pm and dinner will begin at 7.30.



BMA House stands on the site of Tavistock House, Charles Dickens's home from 1851 to 1860. Dickens paid £1542 to the artist Frank Stone on 25 July 1851. Whilst living at Tavistock House Dickens wrote *Bleak House* (1852-3), *Hard Times* (1854), *Little Dorrit* (1855-7), and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859). He converted the large schoolroom in the house into 'The Smallest Theatre in the World' and it was there that the first performances of Wilkie Collins's play *The Frozen Deep* were performed in 1857. In 1858, while living at Tavistock House Dickens separated from Catherine. In 1856 he bought Gads Hill Place in Kent, but he did not sell the lease for Tavistock House until August 1860. Dickens's home is on the right in this contemporary photograph.



Tavistock House was demolished in 1901, though parts of the walls of the house as known by Dickens do survive and will be available for viewing from 6.45 on the evening of the dinner. Work began on the current building in 1911 with the BMA taking it over after the First World War. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and formally opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 13 July 1925.

The principal guest at the Birthday Dinner will be Professor John Carey, Emeritus Merton Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford, who will propose the toast to the Immortal Memory of Charles Dickens. Fellowship President Professor John Bowen will chair the proceedings. The 2018 Birthday Dinner offers Dickensians the very special chance to celebrate Dickens's birthday in splendid surroundings on the site of his former home. Early booking is advisable since places will be limited.

**Tickets for this event will cost £65 per person.**

**The Menu:**

Poached Scottish salmon, smoked salmon mousse, cucumber jelly, juniper berry, dill, rye crumb

Honey glazed duck breast, duck spring roll, potato fondant, pickled red cabbage and parsnips with a plum sauce

Apple tart, vanilla bean ice-cream, salted caramel, apple cider jelly and oat crumble

**There is a Vegetarian alternative Menu:**

Beetroot tart tatin, blue cheese mousse and golden beetroot salad (V) Salt baked parsnips, charred carrots and whipped feta with hazelnut dressing (V)

Goat's cheese fritters, butternut squash risotto, garlic fried kale, tomato and chilli jam (V)

Apple tart, vanilla bean ice-cream, salted caramel, apple cider jelly and oat crumble (V)

**Please print and complete the Booking Form which follows:**

**BOOKING FORM**

I wish to book.....ticket(s) (£65 each) for the 2018 Birthday Dinner

Name and Title.....

Address:.....

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Postcode:.....

Telephone:.....

E-mail contact:.....

Names of guests with whom you would like to share a table, if possible:.....

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**EITHER (A)**

I enclose a cheque (payable to The Dickens Fellowship) for...£.....

**OR (B)**

Card details if paying by card

<b>Amount to be charged : £ (Total Sum Due)</b>																			
<b>Type of Card: Please Tick</b>	<b>Visa</b>				<b>Mastercard</b>					<b>AmEx</b>				<b>Visa Electron</b>					
	<b>Delta</b>				<b>Switch</b>					<b>Solo</b>				<b>JCB</b>					
<b>Card Number :</b>																			
<b>Security Code: (Last 3 digits of the number on the signature strip)</b>																			
<b>Issue No./Start Date (Switch /Delta):</b>										<b>Expiry Date (all cards):</b>									
<b>Name on the card (Capitals capitals ) capital Caps):</b>																			
<b>Signature of cardholder :</b>										<b>Date:</b>									

Please indicate if you wish to select the Vegetarian Menu and if there are any other special diets.

**Please send the booking form, cheque or card details, and a stamped, self-addressed, envelope (marked 2018 Birthday Dinner) to:**

**The Dickens Fellowship, c/o The Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX.**