
London Particular

The Dickens Fellowship Newsletter

“On this day of the year...” (*Great Expectations*, Chapter XI)

The focus of our meetings in 2011 will be *Great Expectations*, which was completed in August 1861.

The full programme of the year is not quite complete, but will be when you receive your membership card in the New Year! To help with your forward planning, the dates of the first four meetings of 2011 are given below, with some other dates of interest.

NB: ALL THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN JANUARY AND MAY 2011 WILL BE HELD AT THE CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM. We return to the Artworkers Guild for the Autumn meetings.

JAN Wed 19: “*Great Expectations*: An Introduction.” Talk by Tony Williams and readings

FEB Mon 7: Celebrating Charles Dickens’s 199th birthday at the National Liberal Club

FEB Tue 8 at **3pm** at the Charles Dickens Museum: “Earth, Air, Fire and Water: The Struggle for Pip’s Soul in *Great Expectations*.” Talk by Dickens Fellowship President, Professor Grahame Smith.

FEB Tue 8 at **6pm** (approx): Dickens 2012 Launch at the BFI, with archive screening.

(Please see www.dickensfellowship.org for further details as they become confirmed.)

MAR Tue 15: “The Rustle of an Angel’s Wing: queer gentle relationships in *Great Expectations*”. Talk by Holly Furneaux

APR Thur 21: *Great Expectations* on Screen: film evening with Tony Williams.

APR 14-19: Dickens Fellowship Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand

“Draw your chair up to the table, Sir.” (*Pickwick Papers*, Chapter III)

(And ladies!)

In the last issue of *The London Particular*, we appealed for volunteers to join the Management Committee. We are delighted to say that Committee now has three new members, and an associate member, and the line-up of the Management Committee is now as follows:

Michael Rogers (Chairman), Professor Malcolm Andrews (Editor, *The Dickensian*), Anita Fernandez Young (Treasurer), Lee Ault (Joint Hon Gen Secretary), Joan Dicks (Joint Hon Gen Secretary), Peter Duggan (Social Secretary), Stephen Jarvis (Editor *London Particular*, *London Ivy*, Membership Database) and Brian Johnson, who are joined by new members Dr Florian Schweizer (Director of the Charles Dickens Museum), Sandra Faulkner (Former President New South Wales Branch), Maggie de Vos (President, Eastbourne Branch) and associate member Sylvia Oliver (member, Central Fellowship.)

“You’re quite a powerful speaker, sir.” (*A Christmas Carol*, Stave 1)

...but probably NOT as powerful as Professor Michael Slater, who will be giving his ever-popular *Christmas Carol* readings at the Charles Dickens Museum on 15 and 21 December at 6.30pm. Book early to avoid disappointment!

“In came a fiddler with a music-book” (*A Christmas Carol*, Stave 2)

A new musical work *Scrooge* for narrator and orchestra, by Bryan Kelly, will be performed for the first time on 5 December at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, to be published by Encore Productions and available to other orchestras after that date. For further information go to: www.encorepublications.com

“A goodly show for sixpence” (*A Christmas Carol*, Stave 3)

But the price will reflect over 150 years' inflation if you wish to see Giant Olive's production of *A Christmas Carol* at The Lion & Unicorn Theatre, London NW5 this Christmas. For further details: www.giantolive.com

“I only know he's dead.” (*A Christmas Carol*, Stave 4)

James Hyland's acclaimed one-man show *A Christmas Carol, as told by Jacob Marley (Deceased)* is now on tour across the UK. For further information, go to: www.jameshyland.co.uk/achristmascarol

“Walk-ER! exclaimed the boy.” (*A Christmas Carol*, Stave 5)

The City Guides' *Christmas Carol Walks* are now taking place every day until 2 January, except 25 and 26 December, exploring the City of London and its links with Dickens, Victorian architecture, and Christmas traditions. Start 11am from City Information Centre, south of St Paul's Cathedral. Duration c. 2 hours – finish at Leadenhall Market. Tickets £6, £4 concessions, accompanied children under 12 free.

“You just pay us, d'ye hear?” (*David Copperfield*, Chapter XI)

We hope that you have enjoyed your membership of the Dickens Fellowship in 2010. We hope too that you will complete the enclosed membership form for 2011 and send the appropriate remittance...

“Do(-e) and Roe.” (*The Battle of Life, Part the Second*)

The 'Do' being Boz's birthday – and 'Roe' being the conference "Get Ready for Dickens's Birthday" at ROEhampton University on 19 February 2011. The programme includes talks by Claire Tomalin, Malcolm Andrews and Michael Eaton and a collaborative seminar on "How to read a page of Dickens". Cost £49.95. More details at www.roehampton.ac.uk. To book, contact: Julia.Noyce@roehampton.ac.uk

“Mr Weller turned and began wending his way towards Leadenhall Market...” (*Pickwick Papers*, Chapter XXIII)

Dickens in the City: Dosh & Nosh will be held in Leadenhall Market on 9 June 2011, featuring the themes of money and food, with walks by City of London guides and lunchtime entertainment. The day starts at 11am. For further information go to www.cityoflondon.gov.uk or the Dickens Fellowship website.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION

Two vacancies will arise on the Board of Trustees when the term of office of Andrew Sanders and Leon Litvack ends in April 2011. Leon wishes to stand for re-election and the Trustees wish to nominate Carol Bailey. Statements from these two candidates are attached to this issue of the *London Particular*, together with a statement of the Duties and Responsibilities of Trustees. If any member of the Dickens Fellowship wishes to nominate another candidate who is willing to serve for a 4-year term from April 2011, please ring Joan Dicks on 020 7242 8575 or email joan@dickshg.freemove.co.uk

“We are bound for Portsmouth” (*Nicholas Nickleby*, Chapter XXII)

Could members who are intending to go to the Portsmouth Conference in 2012 please contact Geoffrey Christopher: geoffreychristopher132@btinternet.com

Geoffrey needs an estimate of numbers (for the lecture hall) and also wants to keep interested parties posted.

“I want some reading – some fine bold reading.” (*Our Mutual Friend*, Book I, Chapter V)

Stop press! Starting in January – a new reading group, based at the Charles Dickens Museum, beginning with thrillers by Boz and others, plus tea. Contact the Museum for further details.

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**