

# 2025-2026 Program

## Tuesday, 14 October, 7:00 p.m.

**Reading:** Chapters 1 - 13 of *Barnaby Rudge*

**Program:** Discussion led by Carrie Corcoran

**Co-Host/Refreshments:** Joan Townsend in the Elms Library at Briarwood

## Tuesday, 11 November, 7:00 p.m.

**Reading:** Chapters 14 - 27 of *Barnaby Rudge*

**Program:** Discussion led by Anita Fenton

Presentation: "Barnaby: An Autistic Hero" written by Barbara McCarthy

**Co-Host/Refreshments:** Anita Fenton in the Elms Library at Briarwood

## Saturday, 13 December, 12:30 p.m.

Holiday Luncheon in the Pumpkin room at The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA  
Gift exchange and skit

**Hosts:** Kathy McFarland and Kit Polga.

## Saturday, 7 February, 2:00 p.m. Dickens's Birthday Tea

**Reading:** Chapters 28 - 41 of *Barnaby Rudge*

**Program:** Essay by Fellman Prize winner.

Chapter discussion led by Mike Badger.

**Hosts/Location:** Emily O'Brien and Gillian McCuiston at the WPI Library, Worcester (Fellman Reading Room), (refreshments provided by Fellowship members)

## Tuesday, 10 March, 7:00 p.m.

**Reading:** Chapters 42 - 55 of *Barnaby Rudge*

**Program:** Selection from BBC video "*Barnaby Rudge*"

Discussion led by ???

**Co-Hosts/Refreshments:** Mike Badger and Anita Fenton in the Elms Library at Briarwood

## Tuesday, 14 April, 7:00 p.m.

**Reading:** Chapters 56 - 69 of *Barnaby Rudge*

**Program:** Chapter discussion led by Mike Badger.

**Co-Host/refreshments:** Anita Fenton in the Elms Library at Briarwood

## Tuesday, 12 May, 7:00 p.m.

**Reading:** Chapters 70 - 82 of *Barnaby Rudge*

**Program:** Presentation by Joel Brattin: "'Secrets Inside . . . to Strike to Your Heart': New Readings from Dickens's Manuscript of *Barnaby Rudge*, Chapter 75" followed by chapter discussion led by Joel Brattin.

**Planning 2026-27:** Selection of book and nomination of officers

**Co-Host/Refreshments:** Kathy McFarland at the Elms Library at Briarwood

## **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Karen Sasha Tipper  
Barbara and Gene McCarthy

## **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

Robert Armstrong, Briarwood Circle, Worcester, MA 01606

Michael Badger, Piccadilly Way, Westborough, MA 01581

Joel Brattin, Humanities and Arts Dept., WPI, 100 Institute Road,  
Worcester, MA 01609

Richard and Anita Fenton, Nipmuc Road, Paxton, MA 01612

Kathy McFarland, Union Street, Holden, MA 01520

Cynthia Parker, Briarwood Circle, Worcester, MA 01606

Kit Polga, Dover Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106

Robert Steele and Carrie Corcoran, Worcester Rd., Charlton, MA  
01507

Joan Townsend, Winfield Road, Holden, MA 01520

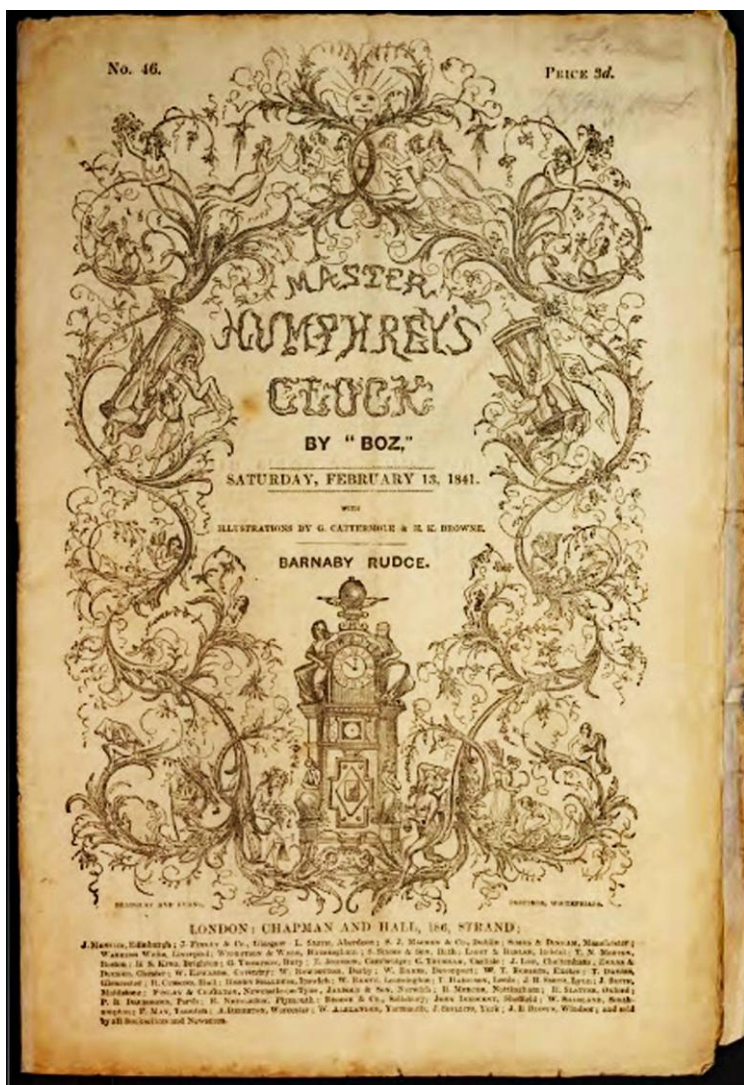
# The Dickens Fellowship

Worcester, Massachusetts

Branch 119

2025-2026

Book of the Year: *Barnaby Rudge*



## Officers and Committees

President	Richard Fenton
Vice President	Robert Steele
Treasurer	Michael Badger
Corresponding Secretary	Anita Fenton
Recording Secretary	Carrie Corcoran
Membership	Kathy McFarland
Skits	Joan Townsend (Chair), Joel Brattin, Robert Steele
Holiday Luncheon	Kit Polga, Kathy McFarland

### Illustration:

The novel appeared in weekly installments in Dickens's journal, *Master Humphrey's Clock*, from 13 February to 27 November 1841 (no.46-no.88), with illustrative woodcuts by *George Cattermole* (who designed the wrapper for *Master Humphrey's Clock*) and *Hablot K. Browne*.