

For a better Broadstairs



NOVEMBER 2023

BROADSTAIRS SOCIETY WAS FORMED IN 1964 to do everything possible to keep the look and feel of the Broadstairs we know and love. Join us and help keep that heritage intact for generations to come.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The Dickens House Museum is one of the oldest buildings in Broadstairs, starting as a small cottage in Tudor times. A second house was built on the adjoining land around 1700 and by the time Charles Dickens began visiting in 1837 the two buildings had been converted into one with the addition of a first floor hooded balcony with iron railings and a new front door with wooden porch.

The first known owners of the house were Stephen Nuckell and his wife Ann (if you have been on St Peters Village Tour you will have learnt about this family.) Following their deaths, the house passed to Ann's unmarried sister Mary Pearson Strong. She was befriended by Dickens and would invite him and his children to visit and take tea and cakes with her in the parlour. She was such a character that Dickens, when writing David Copperfield, created the role of the great aunt, Betsy Trotwood. She plays an important part in Copperfield's life and is always remembered for the way she would have the donkeys chased away from the lawn in front of her house.

After the death of Miss Strong in 1855 the house passed through several hands until it was bought by the Tattam family in 1919. Dora Tattam was a keen Dickens enthusiast and when she died in 1952 she bequeathed the house and gardens to Broadstairs on the understanding that it would be run as a museum. The building was granted a Grade II listing in 1950.

The museum was opened in 1973 and celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Local resident Joyce Smith who was a founder member of the Dickens Fellowship and the Dickens Festival bequeathed money for the upkeep of the museum and its gardens when she died in 2008. The house and gardens are now maintained by Thanet District council.

(Article, Lisa Hunt with input from local historian Ken Nickoll)



If you would like to get involved in one of Broadstairs most famous landmarks you can join the friendly team of volunteers next season which will begin at Easter.

Contact us at Broadstairsociety.org.uk and we will pass on your details

HOT POTATO PLANNING

Application for a Development Consent Order at Minster Marshes

Article by Peter Lorenzo

I am sure many of you have visited Minster Marshes and quietly enjoyed walking through it. The area is rich in wildlife. The proposed development would swallow a large chunk of farmland and run two new lines of pylons over Abbey Farm, where so much conservation work has been carried out and some 700 acres are in the government's Higher Level Stewardship environmental management scheme, and across the River Stour to join another line.

Minster marshes is a critical ecological super highway connecting a site of special scientific interest with the rest of the country. It is home to hundreds of bird species many of which are on the endangered list. The National Grid are proposing to build across this vital landscape devastating the local ecology.

The planned converter station is substantial enough – 100 feet high and covering some 15 acres – but National Grid could ultimately take more land for additional battery storage (it already has planning permission for battery storage nearby on the site of the former Richborough power station).

No-one is against the idea of net zero emissions but why have they chosen Minster Marshes?

Why not an off shore development?

A small group of people have developed a Facebook Page (Save Minster Marshes) and are campaigning against the proposals. Let's give our support by joining. It's time to be a Broadstairs Influencer!



WANTED someone to take over examining all planning applications submitted in Broadstairs and St. Peter's every week, sending comments to the District Council and the Town Council and preparing a report to the Executive Committee and the Broadstairs Society every month.

For further details contact Peter Lorenzo at etcpapers@gmail.com

This is your chance to be a Broadstairs Influencer and help us preserve the heritage, look and feel of the Broadstairs we all love

MOSAIC-TASTIC !!



Congratulations to Kyla who won the Society's Facebook competition earlier this year.

The challenge was to identify the artist and the sites where 5 of his works are on view to the public in Broadstairs. The artist was of course Martin Cheek who has created the fabulous mosaics on display around Broadstairs. He very kindly offered a fabulous prize too - a free session to the winner to work with him in his workshop to produce their own piece of artwork.

And here are the stunning results.

BEST OF BROADSTAIRS



Christmas Market and Broadstairs Lights

25 NOVEMBER PIERREMONT HALL 12-7pm

Market with local food and artisan produce
Children's mini fun fair and Santa will be there too

Lights switch on 5pm



PANTO SEASON AT SARAH THORNE

7-31 DECEMBER BOOK NOW

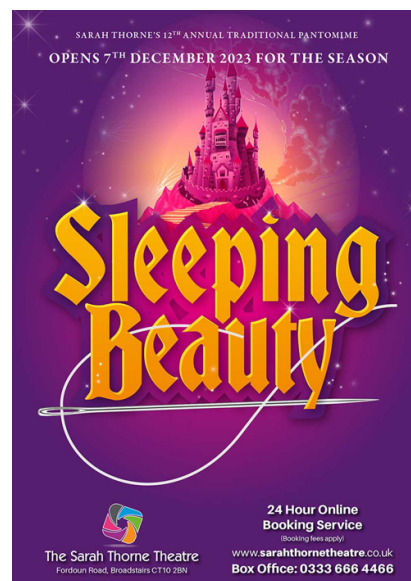


A CHRISTMAS CAROL, CHARLES DICKENS

Performed by The Dickens Declaimers

The Pavilion, Broadstairs 10 DECEMBER @ 3pm

FREE ENTRY, donations welcomed for NSPCC



BROADSTAIRS, DICKENS AND CHRISTMAS

We all know Dickens loved Broadstairs and waxed lyrical about it in many a letter to friends inviting them to join him here at his 'favourite English watering place'. Bleak House (Fort House in Dickens' day) sits proudly above Broadstairs harbour, and is Dickens' most famous place of residence here and where he wrote 'Our English Watering Place' in 1851, as an affectionate tribute to our beautiful seaside town.

You'll see many a plaque on buildings in Broadstairs pointing out where he wrote parts of his 15 novels while taking in the sea air. At this time of year though there is one of his books that is internationally famous for its important message and symbolism - 'A Christmas Carol'

So we thought you'd enjoy some Christmas Carol factoids about the original story of a Christmas Grinch !

- ❖ It's been a holiday staple for nearly two centuries.
- ❖ It was such an immediate hit, that barely a month after its debut, Dickens was embroiled in a legal fight against a publishing company that had printed pirated copies!
- ❖ A Christmas Carol was just one of several Christmas-themed stories written by Dickens. The novella's full title is A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas.
- ❖ He wrote it in just six weeks, under financial pressure. Reportedly Dickens wrote the story while taking hours-long nighttime walks around London.
- ❖ It was first published on December 19, 1843, with the first edition sold out by Christmas Eve. By 1844, the novella had gone through 13 printings and continues to be a robust seller 178 years later.
- ❖ Dickens didn't make much money from early editions of A Christmas Carol. Though it was a runaway best seller, he was very particular about how the book was bound, and the price of materials took a big chunk out of his potential profits.
- ❖ Like many of Dickens' other works, A Christmas Carol was written as a work of social commentary. Dickens had a lifelong devotion to helping the underserved due to his own family's experiences with debtors prison, which forced him to drop out of school as a boy and work at a factory. As Dickens' biographer Michael Slater described, the author thought of A Christmas Carol as a way to, "help open the hearts of the prosperous and powerful towards the poor and powerless...."
- ❖ There are more than 100 movie versions of A Christmas Carol
- ❖ While A Christmas Carol was received favourably by many of Dickens' author peers, a 32-year-old Mark Twain was not a fan. Credited as the first writer to do reading tours of his work, Dickens read it to American audiences during his second visit to the U.S. Twain's review of the now-iconic book - "There is no heart. No feeling—it is nothing but glittering frostwork."

Sorry Mark T but we are going to have to disagree !

HEAR THE WONDERFUL DICKENS DECLAIMERS read 'A Christmas Carol' in the same manner that Dickens did on his tours @ THE PAVILION, BROADSTAIRS 10 DECEMBER @ 3pm FREE ENTRANCE, donations welcomed for NSPCC

GET INVOLVED

Our next meeting is 12th December , Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs @ 7.30pm, all are welcome



The Broadstairs Society

www.broadstairsociety.org.uk