

For a better Broadstairs



SEPTEMBER 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 Broadstairs Society present an annual Civic Award to encourage and reward projects which are considered, in the previous twelve-month period, to have improved the appearance of Broadstairs and St.Peter's. The scope is intended to cover new buildings, restoration and conversions, but not re-decoration alone. And community projects that reflect a broader understanding of the heritage elements of our town. This year for the first time we will announce nominees on Facebook and our new website so the public can vote.

Our first two nominees are THE BOTTLENECK and THE BAY CLINIC. Society members are encouraged to send us their nominations now, the deadline is 1 Feb 2024, public vote will commence 1 March 2024

Charles Dickens loved Broadstairs. But don't just take my word for it – take his... (Article by Ken Nickoll)

He visited the Kent fishing village 19 times between 1837 and 1862 and if you add all his stays together they total more than two years – writing, reading, rambling and relaxing.

As well as working on eight of his 15 major novels here, he also wrote dozens of letters to friends extolling the virtues of Broadstairs and inviting them to visit his favourite watering place. Here are three examples:

1841: "It is the brightest day you ever saw. The sun is sparkling on the water so that I can hardly bear to look at it. The tide is in, and the fishing-boats are dancing like mad. Upon the green-topped cliffs the corn is cut and piled in shocks; and thousands of butterflies are fluttering about . . . Here the Inimitable [Dickens's occasional nickname for himself], unable to resist the brilliancy out of doors, breaketh off, rusheth to the [bathing] machines, and plungeth into the sea."

1849: ". . . today is one of the most wonderful and charming days I ever saw – the air is so brisk and bracing as it is nowhere but at Broadstairs – the Channel so busy . . . with shipping as it is nowhere but off Broadstairs – the hotel so cosy and like a private house as it is nowhere but in Broadstairs. Veeve la Broadstairs!"

NEW DICKENS TOWN TRAIL

Dickens Town Trail

To mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Dickens House Museum, we invite you to follow in the footsteps of Charles Dickens. The world-famous author spent almost two years in Broadstairs – writing, reading, rambling and relaxing in his favourite English watering place.



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Dickens writing from Broadstairs to a friend in 1841

DICKENS HOUSE MUSEUM, BROADSTAIRS
1975 - 2023

DICKENS AND BROADSTAIRS continued

1850: “. . . I hope you . . . will come down and see us at Broadstairs this year, where I have a good bold house [Fort now Bleak House] on the top of the cliff, with the sea winds blowing through it, and the gulls occasionally falling down the chimneys by mistake.”

To celebrate the author's love affair with Broadstairs and to enable residents and visitors alike to follow in the great author's footsteps, Thanet District Council has produced a Dickens Town Trail. It starts and ends at the wonderful Dickens House Museum which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

This was once the home of Mary Pearson Strong, an eccentric spinster who waged a personal vendetta against the local donkey boys. The cheeky lads, who offered penny rides, would cut across Miss Strong's garden, causing her to rush out of the house, wielding an umbrella, to chase both the animals and their startled riders from her flower beds.

The Dickens had come to know Miss Strong well and were often invited for afternoon tea where they would witness the comic donkey dust-ups.

In 1849, whilst in Broadstairs writing his novel David Copperfield, Dickens transformed Miss Strong into one of his best loved characters, David's donkey-hating Aunt Betsey Trotwood.

The Dickens Town Trail guides pedestrians around the town, taking in the houses he stayed in and the buildings that he, his family and friends visited.

These include the old Library and Assembly Rooms (now the Charles Dickens bars and restaurant), The Cramptons Bathing Rooms (now Chiappini's ice-cream parlour and coffee shop), the harbour and pier and the house in Albion Street (now the Posillipo Italian Restaurant) where he wrote chapters of both The Old Curiosity Shop and Dombey & Son).

One of the buildings Dickens was most familiar with was the Albion Hotel. He stayed there (or adjoining properties that later became part of the hotel) many times. The plaque outside states he wrote parts of his his fourth novel, Nicholas Nickleby, there. In fact he also wrote parts of Barnaby Rudge, Martin Chuzzlewit, David Copperfield and A Tale of Two Cities there.

The Dickens Town Trail, which comes complete with a map and photographs of Old Broadstairs, takes less than an hour to complete. It is available, free of charge, from the Dickens House Museum, the new Broadstairs Information Kiosk or download it at www.visitthanet.co.uk/media/86126/dickens-house-town-trail-2023.pdf

BEST OF BROADSTAIRS

Autumn and Winter fun ahead

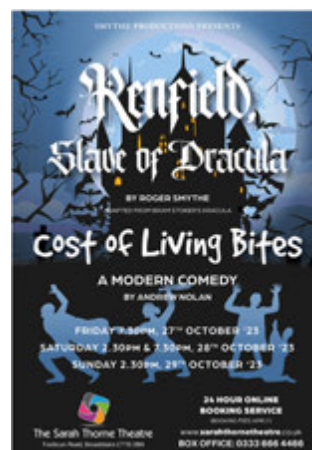
Fabulous **BROADSTAIRS FOOD FESTIVAL**

29 Sept - 1 Oct, Fri, Sat 10-6pm, Sun 10-5pm

THEATRE PLANS

Sarah Thorne has a full Autumn programme and of course you can book for their famous Pantomime now...

Oh No you can't , Oh yes you can !!



HOT POTATO PLANNING

A Local Plan is a **document which sets out planning policies and proposals for new development**. Local Plans are used **to help decide on planning applications and other planning related decisions**. In effect, they are the local guide to what can be built where, shaping infrastructure investments and determining the future pattern of development in the borough.

A Local Plan, as you can see, is a very important document and everyone will be affected in one way or another. The Government launched a consultation on a wide range of reforms to the Local Plan process. The consultation runs from 25th July to 18th October 2023.

Local Plan content and supplementary plans

The Government believes that Local Plans are too “wordy”, overly long and hard to understand and navigate. (The Broadstairs Society agrees with that but it needs to be pointed out Local Plans have been produced using a Government template). The new set of Local Plans will be “simpler, shorter and more visual.”

The principle of Sustainable Development (which the Government terms the, “golden thread,”) in addition to the, “Vision,” running through the Local Plan there will be key principles proposed for these new style Plans including:-

- all plans should contain ambitious locally distinctive policies linked to the “Vision”
- all plans should foster “beautiful” places and recognise the importance of design
- all plans should set out a detailed approach to monitoring including implementation.

The Local Plan “Vision” (usually set out in the introductory chapters of Local Plans) will be given a much greater role. New regulations will require the inclusion of a “Vision” within a Local Plan and set out the following principles in policy which planning authorities would need to have regard to when preparing their “Vision.”

- need for a locally distinct “Vision” to all Local Plans serving as a “golden thread”
- the “Vision” should set out measurable outcomes (you need to show that you have done what you say you can)
- the “Vision” should be supported by a key diagram (spatial planning)

New time frame

The Government proposed a new 30 month time frame for Plan preparation and adoption and will follow a process of key stages involving:-

- scoping and early participation should give 4 months notice (but no specified time period)
- Visioning and strategy development should take place within a 23-month period
- Evidence gathering and drafting should take place within the same 23-month period
- Engagement proposed changes and submission should take place within the same 23-month period
- examination should take 6 months
- adoption should take 1 month

Community Engagement

The Government want to increase engagement through-out the Plan-making process. There should be increased participation and reach out groups who are less represented alongside Digital Planning managing engagement opportunities more effectively.

Digital Planning

Digital Planning is a dedicated programme within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities working to modernise the planning system.

The Broadstairs Society has read the consultation paper (although reading the paper is a bit like wading through treacle) and intends to comment but will rely on the CPRE (Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England) before doing so.

If, however, you want to comment, please read the consultation paper from the Government's website and send your responses to the following email:-

planmakingconsultation@levellingup.gov.uk

CIVIC AWARD NOMINEES

THE BOTTLENECK, CHARLOTTE STREET



THE BAY CLINIC, YORK STREET



Our next meeting is 10th October, Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs @ 7.30pm, all are welcome

- The meeting includes speaker Ian Carter-Chapman who will give a talk on local cinema history.



The Broadstairs Society

www.broadstairsociety.org.uk