

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP 117th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Portsmouth: Monday August 5th to Thursday August 8th 2024



Portsmouth, UK. The 117th Annual Conference will be hosted by the Birthplace Branch. The broad theme will be “Dickens on Holidays”. Come to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, meet other Dickens enthusiasts from around the world, enjoy the lively conference and also many historic places Portsmouth and the Island have to offer. Consider staying till Friday morning for that purpose.

Visit Dickens’ Birthplace and other sites related to him.

There will be a day on the Isle of Wight. We shall cross the Solent by a cruise boat we’ll call “The Fellow Ship” We shall visit Bonchurch where the Dickens family stayed in the summer of 1849 and visit Osborne House which Prince Albert designed as a holiday home for Queen Victoria and their family.

There will be a reception and banquet on board HMS Warrior and in the Historic Dockyard, where John Dickens worked, on Thursday evening.

The conference is non-residential.

Further information and advice about accommodation will be posted on the Dickens Fellowship Website in due course.



Portsmouth Harbour with the Solent and Isle of Wight in the background and Portchester Castle in the foreground

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PREAMBLE

Why come to Portsmouth for the Conference this year?

The theme “Dickens on Holidays” may seem a strange choice, considering how active Charles Dickens was throughout his life. Was he ever “on holiday” in the vulgar modern sense of the word – lying doing nothing on a beach or reading the latest “airport” pulp fiction paperback? I do not think so. He had so much energy and such a capacity for observation and such a memory for all he saw and such a creative mind that I think he was always ‘working’ on some project or more than one, even sub-consciously. Our conference will deal with anything Dickens was up to when he was staying *away from his home*, whether alone, or with his family or with friends. If he was working on *The Chimes* while in Genoa or on *David Copperfield* while in Bonchurch or gathering material and inspiration while in the north of England, that will still count as him being “on holiday”. It can also include any opinions he may have had about holidays in general. In the end we do not wish to exclude anything of interest from our conference, but the theme serves to give it some focus and shape. That will be the priority.

While you are visiting Portsmouth, we think you would like to explore the city and, if possible, its surroundings. There are several museums and galleries – for example the Historic Royal Dockyard with the resurrected Tudor warship, flagship of Henry VIII’s navy, the *Mary Rose*, and Nelson’s Flagship HMS Victory. We shall be having a tour of HMS Warrior, 1860, the pride of Victoria’s navy as part of the grand banquet on Thursday evening. But there is also the D-day Museum, and the other city museums. We suggest you find out more by looking up

<https://portsmouthmuseums.co.uk/>

https://www.getyourguide.com/-12843/-tc132/?cmp=bing&ad_id=78340408677274&adgroup_id=12534439

<https://gunwharf-quays.com/your-visit>

You may enjoy a refreshing stroll along the sea front, the old fortifications or visiting one of our two cathedrals, and, of course, the Spinnaker Tower. There is the Gunwharf Quays shopping centre and *much* else to see. If you have a car and stay a little longer you may explore further afield. For example, the view from Portsdown Hill, Palmerston’s forts, Portchester Castle, and the nearby city of Chichester. There are lovely coastal walks - which are mainly flat- and woodland walks.

Do not forget we will also have a day in the Isle of Wight with its lovely scenery. We will take “The Fellow Ship” to the island from Gunwharf Quays on Wednesday. Look at our programme for that day.

Will you sign up for a walk with us round Dickensian sites in Portsmouth, starting from the Guildhall Square at 16.00 on **Monday 5th August** and getting back in time for the **Registration** and reception in the **Guildhall at 17.30?**

Programme for Dickens Fellowship Conference August 2024

Broad Theme of the Conference **“DICKENS ON HOLIDAYS”**

Monday 5th August

- 16.00 Optional conducted walk round some Dickensian sites
 in Portsmouth
 Meet at the Dickens Statue in Guildhall Square
- 17.30 Welcome reception and registration at Portsmouth Guildhall
- 20.00 Entertainment with a light supper at The Royal Maritime Hotel

Tuesday 6th August

- 9.00 Fellowship AGM In a lecture theatre in the Eldon Building
 of Portsmouth University.
- 11.00 First session of two lectures
- 13.00 A buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided

The early afternoon is free to allow you to please yourself and perhaps explore other attractions in Portsmouth, for example the various city museums (including the **Dickens Birthplace**) or the Historic Dockyard. You may prefer a refreshing walk along the sea front. Museums close at 17.00 with last admission at 16.30.

- 16.30 Tea and Pastries in the Eldon Building
- 17.00 Second Session of two lectures.

The evening is free but informal social events might be arranged if there is a demand. See Notes and Questions on page 9

Wednesday 7th August

- 8.45 Meet at Gunwharf Quays landing stage. Please be In good time.
 A leisurely trip on “the Fellow Ship” cruise boat to the Isle of Wight
 landing at Cowes.
- By coaches to guided visits both to Bonchurch and to Osborne House. Lunch at Osborne House. Choose your own from the café menu. The price of your lunch is *not* included in conference fee.
- 18.00 From Cowes, a leisurely return by boat to Portsmouth Gunwharf Quays. There may be Dickensian entertainment and cocktails on board.

The evening is free but informal social events might be arranged if there is a demand. See Notes and Questions on page 9

Thursday 8th August

- 9.00 Six lectures in three sessions in the Eldon Building.
A buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided.
- 15.30 End of the lecture programme but with tea afterwards.
- 19.00 Reception and tour of HMS Warrior followed by
- 20.15 A grand conference banquet in the Princess Royal Gallery
in the Historic Dockyard.

The official conference ends.

The following have accepted invitations to deliver lectures:

Dr Emily Bell, Marzia Dati, Michael Eaton, John Edmondson, Emma Harper, Paul Lewis, Dr Pete Orford, Prof. Carolyn Oulton, Dr Jeremy Parrott, Prof. Cathy Waters.

Accommodation will be able to be booked by arrangement with the conference organisers in self-catering student residences close to the conference venues or independently at one of the many hotels in Portsmouth. (See page 5)

The price for the conference £250 Grand Banquet £ 120

A non-returnable deposit of £100 by 1st April will secure your place.

Please pay in full by 1st July

It is hoped that some visitors will remain in Portsmouth on Friday morning and that visits to other places of interest may be arranged on an informal *ad hoc* basis.

Osborne House <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/osborne>

HMS Warrior 1860 Follow this link to learn more about this ship.

<https://www.nmrn.org.uk/visit-us/portsmouth-historic-dockyard/hms-warrior>

The Historic Dockyard has other famous ships including HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar of 1805, which secured superiority of British sea power for the next century, and the ill-fated pride of Henry VIII's fleet, *Mary Rose*, sunk in the Solent in 1545. Recovered in 1982, it is now presented with thousands of artefacts recovered from the wreck- a Tudor time capsule – in its own museum.

<https://www.nmrn.org.uk/visit-us/portsmouth-historic-dockyard/hms-victory>

<https://maryrose.org/about-the-mary-rose>

There is much else to visit and explore in the Portsmouth area and on the Isle of Wight

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE 2024

ACCOMMODATION in PORTSMOUTH

The conference is non-residential, but you will see three boxes on the application form.

You are asked to select ONE to let us know what you will be doing.

Student Residence

If you tick this box, **we** shall book a single or double occupancy room (please indicate in the **additional notes** space which) for you *through Portsmouth University* in one of the student residences close to the Eldon Building which is on the corner of Winston Churchill Avenue and Middle St. and near Guildhall Square. The residences may be viewed online using the links below. *The University* will contact you *directly* and ask for payment for this accommodation after we have booked it for you.

Rooms have their own private bathrooms and shared kitchen. Possible choices “Studio Classic”, “Ensuite Classic”. They are “self-catering, but food shops are very near. The price is £50 per night.

<https://www.unitestudents.com/portsmouth/chaucer-house>

<https://www.unitestudents.com/portsmouth/greetham-street>

Hotel

If you prefer hotel accommodation the following hotels lie conveniently close to all the venues of the conference - i.e. The Guildhall, The Eldon Building, The Royal Maritime, Gunwharf Quays and The Historic Dockyard. We leave it to **you** which you choose and to make your own reservation.

Premier Inn Portsmouth City Centre 1 Isambard Brunel Rd PO1 2BX (0333 321 9358)

<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/hampshire/portsmouth/portsmouth-city-centre.html>

Travelodge Stanhope Rd PO11FB (087198 848 484)

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/670/Portsmouth-City-Centre-hotel?sb=0>

The Royal Maritime Hotel Queen St PO13HS (023 9298 2182)

<https://www.royalmaritimehotel.co.uk/contact-us>

Premier Inn Portsmouth Dockyard Queen St PO1 1EE (0333 003 8101)

<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/hampshire/portsmouth/portsmouth-dockyard.html>

Ibis Central Winston Churchill Ave, PO1 2LX 023 9264 0000

https://www.vio.com/Hotel/1061343?ad_group_id=1180876499947560&ad_id=73805008041603&bid_match

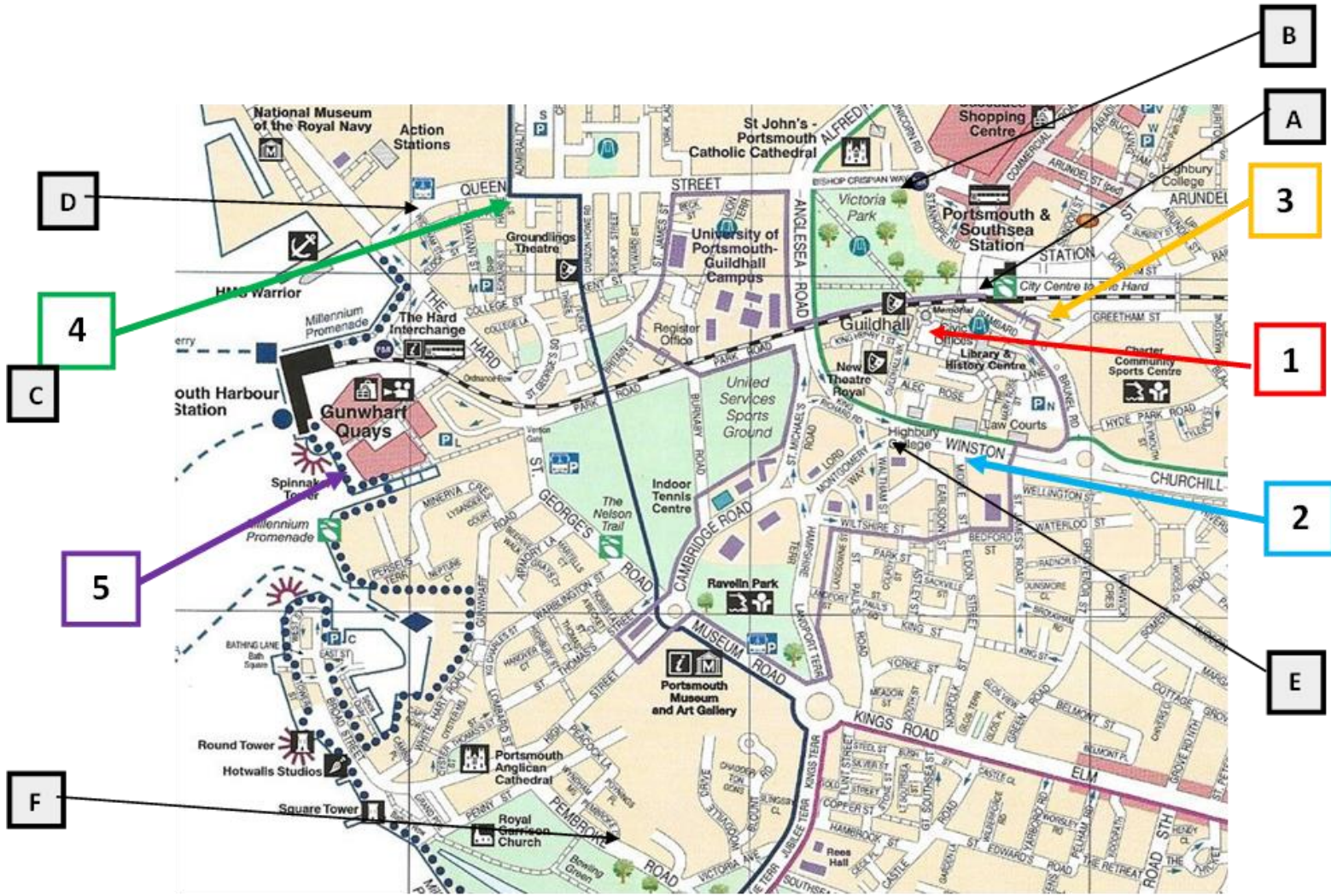
Holiday Inn Pembroke Rd PO1 2TA (023 9285 6306)

<https://www.hiportsmouthhotel.co.uk/>

Other

You may prefer to stay in a B&B or an Airbnb, a private guesthouse, or a camper van or with friends. We leave that all to **you** to arrange for yourself.

Central Portsmouth and Conference Locations



- 1 Guildhall Square
- 2 Eldon Building
- 3 Chaucer House and Greetham Street Residences
- 4 Royal Maritime Hotel
- 5 Gunwharf Quays Landing stage


- A Premier Inn City Centre B Travelodge Stanhope Rd C Royal Maritime Hotel
- D Premier Inn Dockyard E Ibis Hotel Winston Churchill Ave.
- F Holiday Inn Pembroke Rd.

For those who are unsure

How to fill in and send Application Form and The Notes and Questions

This is a pdf file. You have already downloaded it. You may like to download it twice, so you have a back-up copy easily accessible if anything goes wrong.

Scroll to the Application Form .

1. Left click on the fifth icon down  in the upper left column of 7 icons on your window. It should turn blue when you click. If it is another icon, don't worry. Keep your cursor on it and click again to get a menu of 6 choices.
2. Click on the top one "Type text" and look for a small blue tick which shows this option has been selected.
3. Now move your cursor to where you wish to type and fill in your answers. **IAb** appears . When you left click, a little menu box above and a box on the line saying "Type text here" comes up. (Sometimes there is also a blue bar along the line where you are going to type . I am not sure why, being a novice at this myself but it is no bother. Click again and it disappears when you type.)
4. Type your answer. You can delete mistypes in the usual way from your keyboard or remove the *whole line* of your typing by clicking on the dustbin (trash can) in the little menu box. You will see you can also select the font size, making it larger or smaller by clicking on the large or the small A.
5. When you get to the Accommodation boxes and need to tick one, go back to the left side menu and click on the "Check mark".
6. Move your cursor over the box you want to tick and left click. A tick will appear in a box with a blue dot in the right bottom corner. If you make a mistake and want to change your tick, left click again and a little box of options will appear. Click on the dustbin (or trashcan) and try again. When you have ticked the box you need, move the cursor away. It will leave the tick behind without the surrounding box and dot. A new tick will appear where your cursor stops, and you click. As before, it will be surrounded by the box and with a blue dot. Remove the surplus tick by clicking on the dustbin (trashcan).
7. Now go to Notes and Questions page 9 and use the same techniques to put in your answers.

When you are satisfied you have completed the forms, you need to **SAVE** your work.

Look for the SAVE icon at top right of your window. Click on it and a menu of options should appear. Choose where you want the file saved.

Name the file **DFConf24 and your surname**. Once the file saved is on your computer and you can find it, you are ready to email it as an attachment to our secretary, Geoff. Christopher.

Application Form
 Dickens Fellowship 117th Annual Conference
 PORTSMOUTH AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT 2024

Please complete this form and email to geochr36@gmail.com
 or post to Geoffrey Christopher, 39, Northern Parade, Hilsea, PORTSMOUTH PO2 9PB, UK

Title _____

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Additional Person Name _____

Address: _____

Country of Residence : _____

Branch Name: (If applicable) _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number (Mobile) _____ (Landline) _____

Dietary Requirements: _____

Mobility Issues: _____

Emergency Contact Details: _____

Accommodation Please tick **one** box Student Residence Hotel Other

Note: "Other" might mean, for example: own camper van, staying with friends or at home

Additional Notes: _____

e.g For a Student room enter *single* or *double* occupancy OR the name of your hotel if you know it.

Options	Price £ (GBP)	Number of People	Sum Due (£)
Conference	£250		
Warrior Banquet	£120		
Total			

Payment
 Please pay in £ Sterling

1) Cheque made payable to "The Dickens Fellowship Birthplace Branch"
 Or 2) Bank Transfer: Sort Code 52-41-32 A/C no. 54777445
 IBAN GB73NWBK 52413254777445 BIC NWBKGB2L

N.B. Please write DFConf.24 **and your surname** in the payment reference field.

Notes and questions

Lunch buffet at Eldon Building

The caterers offer various cold platters. Please rank these from most-liked =1 to least-liked = 6 and mark with X any you would refuse. This will enable us to order in advance.

Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mediterranean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Accommodation Additional Notes line .

If you are applying to stay in a self-catering room in a Student residence, please specify whether you require **single or double** occupancy

If you are booking into a hotel, please write the name of the hotel if you know it at this time.

Social events

We have a full programme during the day, but Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are free for you to find your own pleasure. It might be possible to arrange extra events *ad hoc* if there is sufficient uptake. These would be at your own charge, for example for refreshments. Here are some suggestions. If you would be interested in any of these please tick the boxes.

Gathering in a pub for conversation, drinks, and a buffet

Meeting for readings from Dickens' works chosen by you.

A Discussion led By Prof. Pointon "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"- Look at the evidence.

Showing of The DVD of the recording the 2012 Alchemy production at the Kings Theatre, Southsea of *Barnaby Rudge*

A trip to the theatre* if there is something on you would like to see. (A group booking may gain a discount on ticket prices)

*There are two theatres in Portsmouth but neither has yet announced their programme for August.

Car Parking

If you are coming by car, please check with your hotel what parking arrangements they have.

If you are staying in a **Student Residence** OR if you are a **Scheduled Speaker** you may use the University's Eldon Building Car Park free of charge for the duration of the conference.

Otherwise, you will probably use the Civic Multistorey Car Park in Mary Rose St.

Parking Charges: 1hour-£1.60 2hours-£2.70 3 hours- £3.60 4hours-£4.60 5 hours-£8.20 All day £12.40

Walking times

You will need to allow time to walk from your accommodation to the events. Please try to arrive in time. This is especially *important* for the Wednesday trip to the Island! These times were based on a moderate walking pace between locations.

Guildhall Square and Royal Maritime Hotel - 15 minutes.

Guildhall Square and Eldon Building – 6 minutes

Guildhall Square and Gunwharf Quays landing stage -30 minutes. Guildhall Square and Dockyard Main Gate -20 minutes.

Greetham St./ Chaucer House and Eldon Building – 10 minutes.

Greetham St./Chaucer House and Guildhall Square – 5 minutes

Banquet dress code

We would like the banquet to be a smart formal affair. Please would gentlemen wear either 'black tie' or jacket and long trousers, a shirt with a collar and a tie. Ladies may wear trousers but not jeans nor shorts. No denim, no trainers nor gym shoes, please.