

Although Broadstairs have, wrongly in my view, claimed that the inspiration came from the home of one of their local characters, in reality, it was based on a cottage on what was then Pilots Meadow, at the top of what is now Adrian Street. Pilot's Field was a favourite resting place of Dickens when walking the cliffs and there was a double fronted cottage with a small walled in garden, just as he describes.

As for the character of Betsy Trotwood, there is no doubt in my mind, that she was based on Sarah Rice, a formidable lady

who was the mother of Dover's MP, (1837 - 1857), Edward Royds Rice. She lived in the area of the present petrol station on Townwall Street.

Nearby a Mr Golder kept a stud of donkeys that visitors to the town would hire for riding on the seashore. Sarah objected vehemently about these donkeys especially as they often went into her beautifully kept garden and ate the plants! Sarah was a business associate of John Minet Fector, on whom the hero of *Tale of Two Cities* was based!

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2012

Subscriptions Are Due

The usual reminder:- Subscriptions remain the same remarkable value at £6 single or £10 for two members living at the same address. Please pay by cash or cheque either at the AGM or by post or through our letterbox. Thankfully cheques are not going to disappear but an alternative method of payment is to set up a standing order and hopefully save yourself from further trouble - forms are always available from me.

It is remarkable that many Dovorians are still unaware of the Society's existence in spite of Terry's regular articles in the local press, Mike's work on our website, our posters publicising our meetings and the placing of Newsletters in the waiting rooms of local surgeries.

Perhaps we have a member willing to explore the possibilities of local radio? Nevertheless personal introduction remains the surest method of recruiting new members and we are very grateful to those who bring friends along. At our meetings there are always spare copies of the recent newsletter available in the lobby at St Mary's Parish Centre for distribution to potential members.

Currently we have 453 members and have recently welcomed:- Mr B & Mrs J Powell, Mrs B Henry, Mr G Wiltshire, Mr D Rhys, Mr B & Mrs N Cameron Ward.

This is also the time of year when we express our sympathy to the families and friends of the members who have recently died:- Mrs Muriel Mellanby, Mr Ken & Mrs Delysia Berry, Mrs Brenda Lee, Mr John Turnpenny, Mr David Pike, Mrs Jean Steed, Mr Maurice Sayers.