



Charles Dickens' statue, Guildhall Square



Beneficial Hall, now home to Groundlings Theatre



John Pounds Memorial Church

**2 Charles Dickens statue, Guildhall Square, city centre**

This statue by the sculptor Martin Jennings was unveiled on the 202nd anniversary of Dickens' birthday in 2014. It is the first large-scale public statue of Dickens in Britain and was partly funded by donations from members of the public. Portsmouth History Centre, located in the Central Library just off Guildhall Square, has a Dickens collection of 1,500 volumes - available to view by appointment only.

**3 The Pay Office, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, HM Naval Base**

John Dickens, father of Charles, worked at the Pay Office from 1807 to 1814.

It now houses part of the Mary Rose Trust's reserve collection of artefacts.

-when the hotel suffered bomb damage and the premises were subsequently demolished. A plaque on the wall marks the spot where it once stood.

**10 The Portsmouth Theatre, High Street, Old Portsmouth**

This was Dickens's inspiration for the theatre in 'Nicholas Nickleby' in which Vincent Crummles's company performed. It was closed in 1854 and replaced by the Cambridge Barracks which have been occupied by the Portsmouth Grammar School since 1926.

**11 38 Wish Street, Southsea**

This street is now Kings Road. The Dickens family lived here from Christmas 1813 before moving to London a year later. Dickens' brother, Alfred, died here aged five months. The area was completely redeveloped after the Second World War.

**12 Highland Road Cemetery, Highland Road**

This historic graveyard is home to a number of Dickens-related graves:

- Ellen Wharton Robinson née Ternan d. 1914, actress and mistress of Dickens from 1857 to 1870.
- Maria Taylor née Ternan d. 1904, an actress who later became a suffragette.
- Frances Trollope née Ternan d. 1913, opera singer and sister-in-law of Anthony Trollope.
- Sarah Pearce d. 1902, daughter of John Dickens's landlord. She lived in 393 Commercial Road until her death, after which the council purchased it to become the Birthplace Museum.

**4 16 Hawke Street, Portsea**

The Dickens family moved here in June 1812. The house was badly damaged in the Second World War and later demolished. Codrington House now occupies the site.

The George pub, on the corner of Hawke Street and Queen Street, has a commemorative plaque.

**5 The Hard**

On The Hard, just outside the Dockyard's Main Gate, Nicholas Nickleby and Smike found cheap lodgings above a tobacconist, up "two pair of stairs and a ladder".

**6 Beneficial Hall, 42 Kent Street**

Elizabeth Dickens reputedly had to leave a dance here on the evening of 6 February 1812. Charles was born the following morning.

The hall was built in 1785 and is now home to the Groundlings Theatre Company.

- Maria Winter née Beadnell d. 1886, was Dickens's first love. He later made her the model for Dora in 'David Copperfield'.
- Alfred Seale d. 1924, was a world expert on Dickens and the first curator of the Birthplace Museum.
- Sir William Thomas Dupree d. 1933, as Mayor a driving force behind obtaining the Birthplace for the city.
- Georgina Hayman née Bridges d. 1910, the daughter of Dickens's solicitor. She claimed that Dickens told her she was chosen as the model for Little Dorrit.

**13 St. Mary's Church, Fratton Road,**

On 4 March 1812 Charles Dickens was baptised in the Norman church which originally stood on this site. Dickens' sister, Fanny, was baptised here in 1810, as was Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1806. The church was replaced in 1843 and again, by the present building, in 1887-9.

**14 St. Alban's Church, 104 Copnor Rd**

Copnor's Parish Church was built in 1914 and since then has housed the 15th century font at which Charles was baptised. A commemorative service is held annually to mark the anniversary of the baptism.

**Guided walks and talks**

Portsmouth Visitor Services offer a series of guided walks and talks on literary themes including Dickens.

For full details of these and all other information:

Phone: **023 9282 6722**

Email: [vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Web: [www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk)

**7 St. George's Hall, St. George's Square**

Millgate House stands on the site of St. George's Hall where Dickens gave readings on 11 November 1858 and 24 and 25 May 1866 to great acclaim.

**8 John Pounds Memorial Unitarian Church, High Street, Old Portsmouth**

When Dickens came to Portsmouth in 1838 he would have known about John Pounds (1766-1839) and his work for the poor children of Portsmouth. This inspired the Ragged School movement which was promoted by Dickens with the support of Angela Burdett Coutts of the banking family.

**9 The George Hotel, 29-30 High Street, Old Portsmouth**

This famous, imposing old hotel was popular with Dickens's father John. The proud history of the George came to an abrupt end in 1941-







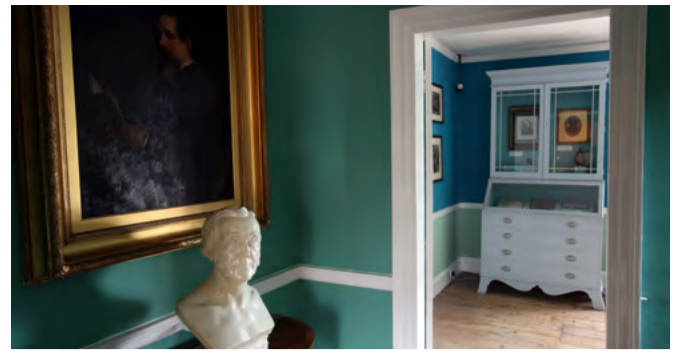
Charles Dickens' Birthplace

## 1 Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum, 393 Old Commercial Road

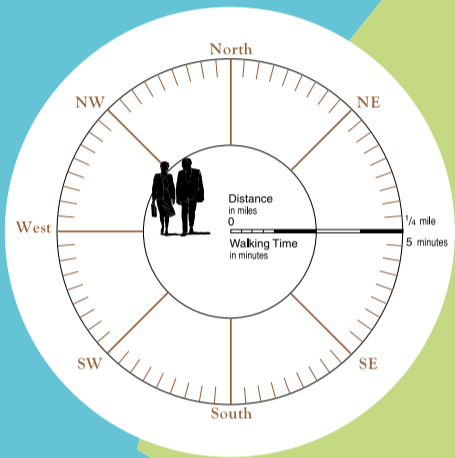
Charles Dickens was born here on 7 February 1812 and lived here until his family moved to Hawke Street. The house was built about 1808, the year before John and Elizabeth Dickens moved in and has been in the care of Portsmouth City Council since 1903.

The museum collection includes the couch on which Dickens died at Gad's Hill Place on 9 June 1870.

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 9.30am-5.30pm, April to September plus occasional seasonal openings. For more information on Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum and literary events in Portsmouth, please visit [www.charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk](http://www.charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk)



# The Dickens Trail



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