

*Thus history repeats itself and it's a funny thing
Although our name's now Rochester, it's for Medway that we sing.*

We've celebrated Dickens' birth in his 200th year
And his love of Rochester; and places he held dear
His heritage has great appeal, to laymen and to purists
And with "Dickens Experience", for international tourists

*Yes, history repeats itself, in customs we hold dear
And so it's right and proper that we celebrate them here.*

But let us not be solemn, as Christmas is awaited;
The season of goodwill to all will soon be celebrated.
And, as we think of presents, that we'll place around a tree,
Let's spare a thought for those who are less fortunate than we;
For those who lack material things, or the love of someone dear;
May the miracle of Bethlehem help bring *them* comfort, *here*.

*Yes, may history repeat itself; what started in a manger
Inspire us all to charity, to friend and kin and stranger.*

For charity means more than giving presents or big meals
A word of kindness, in distress, may be the thing that heals
And music, good for every soul, is what we know appeals.
So we singers of the RCS, who've come to entertain
All thank you for your company and hope you'll come again.
Good friends may every heart be glad, your Christmas full of laughter
A Merry Christmas from us all, and many more hereafter!



Dickens: born 7 Feb. 1812 in Portsmouth; died 8 June 1870 at Gad's Hill

RCS: The Rev. Canon W H Nutter, Precentor of Rochester Cathedral, founded the "*Rochester, Strood, Chatham and Gillingham Choral Society*" on 29 July 1873. First concert: Mon 8 December 1873 in the Corn Exchange, to a "packed audiences"; other details unknown. Source: *A History of Rochester Choral Society 1873-1973* by Vera L Black, who joined in 1923 and was Treasurer from 1940.