For Charles Dickens, childhood was a time when ‘everything was happy, when there was no distance and no time,’ it was a period of life which provided for him ‘the best link between this world and a better.’

But what led to this fascination with the world of the child? What of Dickens’s own childhood experiences and those of his own children? And, why did Dickens focus so heavily on the effects of social evil on children in his campaigning for a fairer, more humane society?

In this performance, Surrey Care Trust trustee and Dickens’ expert, Ron Searle will answer some of these questions and introduce Dickens the novelist, the child, the parent and the social reformer. There will also be a post performance reception - view some rare Dickens editions and artefacts close up and enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles.

All profits will support the work of the Trust to tackle disadvantage, social exclusion and hardship in local communities.