

SUMMER COURSES

EXPLORERS AND ADVENTURERS

TUTOR –Keith Baldwin

8 weeks commencing Wednesday 4th May 2011

10.15am – 12.15pm – Church of Christ the King, Symonds Green, Stevenage

Cost £28

This course will introduce you to many different exciting explorers and adventurers; from the Real Pirates of the Caribbean to the Apollo Space mission

DICKENS – FROM PAGE TO STAGE AND SCREEN PART 2

TUTOR – Ros Connelly

10 weeks commencing Thursday 5th May 2011

10.15am – 12.15pm – Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg, Stevenage

Cost £35

Dickens later novels delve into the foggy, bureaucratic worlds of Chancery and the Circumlocution Office; the enclosed misery of the debtors' prison; the utilitarian, machine-driven cities of the industrial revolution and the murky secrets hidden at the bottom of the Thames. So where is the exuberant humour now? Are the comic characters all imprisoned in symbolic worlds of their own making? Is Dickens' writing driven by a different purpose or is its essential nature unchanged? Are they really all flawed masterpieces?

We shall explore the drama and melodrama, the comedy and suspense, the satire and indignation, and the 'tidy little women' of Dickens' four big 'serious' novels – *Bleak House*, *Hard Times*, *Little Dorrit* and *Our Mutual Friend* – through readings, film excerpts and lively discussion. We'll assess how well they translate to stage and screen and whether they have to be changed to engage a modern audience. We'll compare them in particular to *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations*, but no prior knowledge is needed and you can participate, or just listen, as you prefer.

ON WITH THE SHOW – THE STORY OF MUSICAL THEATRE

Tutor – Stephen Barnard

10 weeks commencing Wednesday 4th May 2011

7.30pm – 9.30pm – Trinity Church. Park Lane, Knebworth

Cost £35

How the musical evolved out of operetta, vaudeville and the legitimate theatre, with particular focus on landmark works such as *Oklahoma!*, *Guys & Dolls* and *Cabaret*.