



# LETCHWORTH ADULT EDUCATIONAL SETTLEMENT

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*Registered Charity, Number 311085.*

## NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 27 OCTOBER 2006

LETCHWORTH SETTLEMENT

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
at 7pm**

In the Kincaid Hall

The Settlement is run for and by its members. Please come to find out what is going on and help to shape & plan our future.

The Settlement  
Players present



THE ANNIVERSARY

A comedy by Bill MacIlwraith

Directed by Ruth Ferguson

**Thursday 16 to Saturday 18  
November, 7.45pm**

Tickets available from David's Music,  
price £5

## Chairman's Report

The Settlement is again a very busy place with all classes enjoying a good attendance. We owe thanks to Sarah and the Management Committee for this on-going success. We hope the new car park is making life easier for you. Brian Osborne has done a superb job in filling the flower bed between the car parks and keeping the whole place looking attractive.

There will be further changes this year. We are very sad that Joan Cave has decided to retire. Joan has been at The Settlement for a long time and is our fount of knowledge. We will miss her for that but even more for her wonderful friendship and pleasant nature. Joan is everybody's friend.

I know that Jan Hall has decided to resign from the Management Committee and she will be missed too. For quite a few years Jan was our Secretary on Committee and kept us on the straight and narrow. I am pleased to tell you that she has agreed to do specific tasks for us so she is not totally lost to us. We will therefore be looking for new people to join the Management Committee.

As I write this, the Management Committee is already getting to grips with plans for creating a new classroom by incorporating the workshops into the existing small classroom. If we are successful with fundraising, we hope that this might go ahead in February/March, so if you see building going on we have achieved our aim. This may mean moving some classes in the short term, but we hope that it will not be too much inconvenience. The benefits should outweigh the disruption.

We want to extend the range of courses we provide and would appreciate suggestions from users as to what you would like to see offered. We are very aware that we need to create new interest for our members as well as attracting new users, so a chat with your friends and families might create some thoughts.

Enjoy the year!

**Pat Ellis, Chairman**

## The Skittles Centenary

Plans are now well under way for the 2007 centenary celebrations. On **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March** (two evenings to allow space for all our members) there will be a special dinner with entertainment from the Phoenix Singers. The organisers are encouraging members to don a suitable 'Skittles Centenary hat' and prizes will be awarded! Details on how to book will follow. Invitations have now gone out to all groups and classes to start preparing for the special **Settlement exhibition from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May**. This is a chance to tell the world - and each other what we do. Then on the weekend of 7th September we will be taking part in the national/local Heritage Open Days events hoping to have a new display and photographs for this and later events. Please look out for further information about these events.

We need a title to the **Centenary Exhibition**, which will be celebrating 100 years of the *Skittles Inn* and its home as The Settlement since 1925. **Suggestions please on a postcard** to The Settlement Office by 15th November. A prize will be awarded to the winner: a mounted watercolour by Ken Woodruff, together with a year's free Settlement membership.

**Settlement Membership** It is time to renew your annual Settlement Membership fee (£18 or £13 if you are over 60). This is a much needed part of The Settlement's income and don't forget that your membership card will entitle you to a wide range of discounts at local shops and businesses, so you can easily recoup the cost. Also, if you are an income tax payer and you sign a gift aid declaration we can claim a further sum back from the taxman.

Ken Woodruff would like to thank all who helped to make the Art Auction a success with particular thanks to Clive Schofield, John Bird, Joyce Bandy and Georgean Lochhead. Also to Sarah Carrick and her staff who all helped with the mechanics of the sales. You will probably have heard that the total taken was over £900 all of which went to Settlement Funds.

## Volunteer Opportunity

I am looking for some more regular volunteer help in The Settlement office, for 2-3 hours per week. It would largely involve clerical work and some experience of using a computer would be helpful. Please let me know if you are interested. It need not be every week and I can assure you that it is always lively and fun in the office!

**Sarah Carrick.**

## New Courses from January 2007

It's not too early to start thinking about next term. Nearly all the courses are listed in the current brochure but it is worth mentioning:

- Gillian Sheail's Geology course 'The **Building Stones of England**' on Wednesday mornings.
- Paul Palmer's '**The Story of London**' on Wednesday afternoons.
- James Day's '**Music and the Theatre**' on Thursday afternoons.
- Alistair Walker will be running a new course on **Edwardian Literature** on Wednesday mornings.
- For something completely different, Bridget Poulter will be starting up a traditional **Egyptian dance** class in the Kincaid Hall on Monday mornings.
- We have the offer of an experienced native-speaking **Greek** teacher and will therefore be offering a beginner's class, probably on Tuesday evenings, if we get enough people to sign on.

For further information on these and other classes please call in at the office.

## Occasional Workshops

We have an excellent range of workshops planned (mainly Saturdays) for this term and are always open to new suggestions if there is something that you would particularly like to try out.

Coming up this term are:

- **Glass Painting** on 11<sup>th</sup> November
- **Introduction to Mosaics** on 25<sup>th</sup> November
- **Christmas Floral Decorations** on 14<sup>th</sup> December

Then in the New Year we are offering:

- **Lino Printing** on 10<sup>th</sup> February;
- **Introduction to Digital Photography** on 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- **Machine Embroidery** on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Please contact the office for further information.

## News from Settlement Groups

**Settlement Players.** There will be a play reading of *A Month of Sundays* by Bob Larbey for the February production in the Spinks Room on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm. Contact Edith Pratt on 01462 625081 if you are interested.

The February Production will be on 22<sup>nd</sup>—24<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

**Letchworth Art Society:** The Annual Exhibition will be held at Letchworth Museum & Art Gallery, Broadway, from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. 10am to 5pm daily, except Wednesdays and Sundays.

## Gardening Club

Monthly Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

**28<sup>th</sup> November:** Talk by William Armitage of David's Bookshop

**5<sup>th</sup> December** Talk : "Flowers by Design"

**23<sup>rd</sup> January** Member's Evening

## Letchworth Natural History Society

- **Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>** - *A Year in the Life of a Cambridgeshire Gravel Pit* presented by Trevor Gunton
  - **Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Party for members and friends, past and present.
  - **Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>** - *The Birds of Hertfordshire* - Brian Sawford.
  - **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**—*A Drop in the Ocean*—Anita Marshall
- Meetings at 7:30 pm in the Kincaid Hall.

## Letchworth Recorded Music Society

Meetings on Fridays at 7:30 pm

- **10<sup>th</sup> November** : "Elgar's Women" presented by Dave Colbeck.
- **24<sup>th</sup> November** : "New Discoveries and Old Favourites" - Dawn Bridges
- **8<sup>th</sup> December** : 'Let's Drink' - Iris Satterthwaite
- **12<sup>th</sup> January** - AGM & Members Choice

## VISIT : VELÁZQUEZ and CÉZANNE IN BRITAIN at The National Gallery, London

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007.** There is some urgency about booking as final ticket numbers need to be confirmed very shortly. Details in the Common Room or telephone 01462 686321 for further information. The 2007 programme is being planned and will be circulated once ready. If you would like to be added to the VISITS mailing list please telephone 686321 or leave your details in The Settlement Office.

Roy Evans, Visits Department

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2006/2007

Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> -Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Art Society Exhibition	Letchworth Museum & Art Gallery, Broadway	10am - 5pm
<b><u>NOV</u></b>	10 <sup>th</sup>	AGM	<b>Settlement Annual General Meeting</b> 7pm
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop	Glass Painting
	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Settlement Players	“The Anniversary” 7:45pm
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop	Introduction to Mosaics
<b><u>DEC</u></b>	14 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop	Christmas Floral Decorations
<b>2007 <u>JAN</u></b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Visit	Velázquez and Cézanne at the National Gallery
<b><u>FEB</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Workshop	Introduction to Digital Photography
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop	Lino Printing
	22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	Settlement Players	Settlement Players Production 7:45pm
<b><u>MAR</u></b>	9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>		Skittles Inn Centenary Celebrations
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop	Machine Embroidery

### Student News - by Ken Woodruff and David Wilson

University Courses run during term times by staff from Madingley Hall, Cambridge have been a successful venture at The Settlement for many years now.

Have you experienced any? If not you may like to consider joining one. I have attended several over the years that I found very informative and enjoyable. So what stops us attending? Are we reticent and worried that our lack of knowledge may inhibit us or can we not afford the time or the cost? If like me you are advancing in years and did not benefit from the opportunities available for learning and career advancement in my early years that are available today you can not only improve your knowledge but also gain credits towards certificates and diplomas in several fields.

So far, I have studied Psychology, Genetics, Geology and other science courses; there are other routes to be pursued of which Art History is one. In the next newsletter I will try to give a little of the details of one of the courses and if you find it useful I will ask others to record some of their experiences. **KW.**

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About six years ago having an interest in Family History my wife suggested that I join her at The Settlement to study the Family History course. Taking the plunge to re-enter education after aeons I found the course very useful for pursuing my family history research.

The study of family history in this formal way opened up the door to wanting to find out how the ancestors lived i.e. their living conditions, work environment etc. So, at the end of my first year with The Settlement I joined a class of about 20 mature students with similar ambitions on the Cambridge University course also held at The Settlement. I found all my fellow students to be keen to learn with many being avid participants in open discussion which formed a major part of each lesson.

Day trips were organised to various sites of medieval through to Victorian places of interest with a specialised tutor to explain the sites; building construction, field topography etc to us. I have achieved the award of Diploma of Local History awarded by Madingley Hall and the “Lord Award” for excellence in historical studies. Following completion of the diploma course there are opportunities to proceed through to PhD in Local History or transfer at any lower level to other history based course held at The Settlement.

For me the past few years have been a wonderful learning and socialising experience which I would recommend to anyone with an interest in family research and/or history. **DW.**

**Visit the new Settlement Website : <http://www.letchworthsettlement.org.uk/>**