

Manager's Report for the Settlement AGM on Tuesday 27th November 2018

We continue to be very busy and class numbers were up yet again. Members are making good use of the facility to book over the phone and online. We expect the latter to increase over the next few years.

Enrolments for 2017/18:

Total enrolments for all subjects were 2104, up from 1966 the previous year.

Of these enrolments:

691 were for special interest courses (incl, Creative Writing), an increase of 8%.

915 were for art and craft courses, an increase of 9%.

498 were for languages, an increase of 2.5%.

We ended the year with 943 Settlement members. This was 25 more than the previous year.

IT Developments

We are continuing to make improvements to the online booking system. The facility is being used much more, especially for tickets for events.

Lettings

Total rental income was down by 4% this year. This is due to various reasons – a loss of a regular hirer, some groups meeting less often and a policy decision to limit weekend party hirings.

Fund raising

We held a Quiz Night, a Christmas Raffle and the Settlement Fair last year which made £1,100, £1,450 and £1,940 respectively. We also made nearly £2300 on lectures by visiting speakers. My thanks go to everyone who helps in any way with these events. We couldn't run them without you.

Reaching Out

We are continuing with a diverse programme of workshops and daytime one-off lectures to tempt in people who can't commit to an ongoing course. I'm delighted to say that we had 584 enrolments on these over the last year, up 30% on last year. We had our biggest summer programme to date. We continue to forge good relationships with local schools and libraries and we have increased the number of local businesses signed up with our discount scheme.

Staffing

I must thank the staff for all their hard work over the past year. Those members of staff are Sally, Sue, Rachel, Diane, Iain and Laura. They are all very valuable members of our team and play their part in keeping the Settlement running smoothly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who do so much for The Settlement. Most of their work goes on behind the scenes and does not get the recognition it deserves. Volunteers that have helped us over the last year are: Carola Garvie, Roy Evans, Ivor Davies, Val Aitken and many more.

The Management Committee are all volunteers of course and without their many hours of work and wise counsel, my job would be considerably harder and The Settlement would not be the successful place that it is today.

Sonia Weston

Manager