

# THE SETTLEMENT PLAYERS

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

Welcome to another Settlement Players newsletter. We are currently having a very busy time with no less than four plays in rehearsal at the Settlement and many of our talented members working on productions in Knebworth, Hitchin, Welwyn and other venues.

**Cliff Francis'** *After Midnight, Before Dawn* was very well received at the Sawston drama festival, picking up several nominations and being named 2<sup>nd</sup> best play overall. They are now back in rehearsal for our one act play night. To accompany Cliff's play on April 11<sup>th</sup>, **Helen Faulkner** is making her Directorial debut at the Settlement with two short plays, *Doggies* and *Cupboard Love*. She is currently working very hard rehearsing her very talented cast. As well as all this activity, the June production, *The Ladykillers*, is now cast and is in rehearsal too.

So, we are currently suffering from a lack of space but it is wonderful to have so much creativity and hard work going on.

Jim Anderson



Huge congratulations to Jenn and James Pickstone-Groves on the birth of their daughter.

Welcome to the world, Saskia!

**The Letchworth Settlement Players Present  
An Evening of One Act Plays**

After Midnight - Before Dawn.

By David Campton. Directed by Cliff Francis.



Six Prisoners. One Witch. No Hope.

This amateur production of "After Midnight-- Before Dawn" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

**AND**

Two 'Deckchairs' Playlets -  
With a Twist in the Tail

Doggies &  
Cupboard Love

Directed by Helen Faulkner

An amateur performance by arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



**By Jean McConnell**

**11th April 2015**

**Curtain up 7.45 pm**

**Little Theatre, The Settlement,  
Nevels Road, Letchworth, SG6 4UB**

**Tickets £5 Available from David's Music, 12 Eastcheap, Letchworth, 01462 475900**



**[WWW.SETTLEMENT-PLAYERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.SETTLEMENT-PLAYERS.CO.UK)**

## ***The Ladykillers* by Graham Linehan**



Well, the auditions are over and the June production is now in rehearsal.

Cast

Constable Macdonald

**Nicole Ashbrook**

Mrs Louisa Wilberforce

**Wendy Watts**

Professor Marcus

**Douglas Harding**

Major Courtney

**Stephen Charles**

Harry Robinson

**Glenn Wylds**

One-round

**Vince Cook**

Louis Harvey

**Stuart Cocks**

Mrs Wilberforce's friends

**Val Barber, Jo Roskilly, Alison Muir and Claire Hogan**

I'm very excited to be working with this extremely talented cast. In addition to being a member of the cast, **Stephen Charles** will also be working with me in the role of Artistic Director.

We have also been scouting locations for a little bit of filming that we are doing as part of this project under the expert guidance of **Albert Clack**.

**John Baskerville** is currently working on the design of yet another amazing set for this production. I'm looking forward to seeing the finished product very much.

The Ladykillers will be on at the Settlement from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Tickets will be £8 and are available from David's Music from the middle of May.

**Jim Anderson**



I'm very pleased to be able to say that the work that we have been doing on the website is far more advanced than I had hoped it would be by now. A lot of what we wanted to do is either now done or being done.

We still need the lists of credits from those of you who haven't sent them yet to make our site more complete.

Our work is already paying dividends. People are using it and finding it more informative than it was.

We shall continue to keep it up to date as well as adding new pages as they are required.

There are now a few documents in the members' area and if you've paid your yearly subscriptions, I hope to send you the password soon.

As with all other things, if you have any suggestions for the website, I would be happy to hear them.

Jim.

**Helen Faulkner** will be making her Directorial debut at the Settlement on April 11<sup>th</sup> at our one act play night. She is directing two short plays from the *Deckchairs* collection by Jean McConnell.

*Cupboard Love* will star **Sonia Weston** and **Val Barber**.

*Doggies* will star **Jo Roskilly** and **Alison Muir**.

I'm sure that, like me, you'll be looking forward to seeing the fruits of her labours.

I am pleased to announce the Settlements production of '*After Midnight Before Dawn*' was very well received at the Sawston drama festival.

There were nominations for the following awards:

*Technical Excellence*

*Best supporting actor/actress* – **Abigail Sage** for Girl

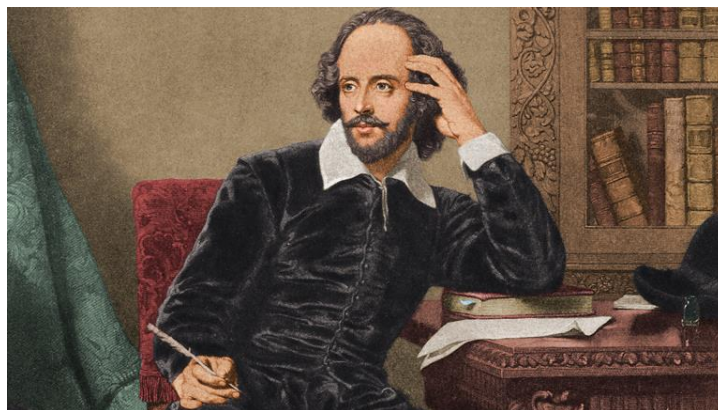
*Best Actress* – **Sonia Weston** for Calm Women

*Best Actor* – **Graeme Bussey** for Man

And finally, I am very happy to announce that '*After Midnight Before Dawn*' won the 2nd place trophy for overall best play.

Congratulations to everyone.





Several of our members will be appearing in the Bancroft Players' production of *Much Ado about Nothing* by William Shakespeare at the Queen Mother Theatre from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**David Smith** will be playing the Messenger, **Ian Mutton** will be playing Friar Francis, **Jo Roskilly** will be playing Georgina Seacole, **Sam Powell** will be playing Hilary Oatcake and **Cliff Francis, Amy Walker** and **Stephen Charles** will be in the chorus.

It should be good.

The Bancroft Players are running a series of workshops that you may be interested in. They will be led by Jessica Turner, an actress with 40 years' experience in Theatre, TV, Film and Radio, plus 10 years teaching and directing at London Drama Schools.

These Workshops will be on all aspects of acting and will be held each month at the QMT on Friday 27th March, 24th April, 22nd May and 19th June at 7.45pm.

The cost per 2 hour session is £5.00 and there is no need to pre-book. Pay on the door.



In this newsletter, we always let you know which Settlement Players productions are coming up. It is a fact, however, that our members are so talented that they often spread themselves and work with other groups. It is very easy to miss these shows if we don't know that they're on and then we miss seeing our friends shine in other arenas. So, I'd like to promote any play that any of our members is involved in in any way in this newsletter. To do this I need your help. If you're reading this, you're a member of the Settlement Players. If you're involved in anything anywhere please let me know so that I can put it in here.

My e-mail address is [james.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.anderson@ntlworld.com)

## **Committee report 26<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

We had committee meetings on 26<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015. This is what we have been talking about.

We talked about our February production, *My Own Show*. Once again we produced a play that we can be proud of.

We discussed the one act play; *After midnight, before dawn*, at both meetings. This play has now been to the Sawston drama festival. It did very well, winning several nominations and being chosen 2<sup>nd</sup> overall best play. The play will be performed on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Settlement.

**Helen Faulkner** is now rehearsing two other short plays to go on on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The June production, *the Ladykillers*, is now cast and in rehearsal

We talked about the possibility of running some workshops at the Settlement. We are going to try and arrange a stage combat course in June and then another workshop of some kind in the autumn.

We talked about publicity. We have prepared some posters and have placed some adverts for the one act play night in April. Our June production has been included in the programme for the Letchworth Festival so will benefit from their advertising.

We discussed the website. I reported that we were very pleased with how things were going and that we had managed to do a lot more than we had expected to by now. There are now a few documents in the members' area and I shall be sending the password to those people who have paid their subscriptions.

We talked about social events but everyone is so busy with rehearsals at the moment that it is unlikely that we will sort anything out before June.

We talked about on-line ticketing. We are the only theatre group locally who don't sell tickets on-line and if you live outside of Letchworth it can be difficult to get tickets for our productions. So, some of us would like to start selling our tickets on-line perhaps via our website. We are looking into several different ways of doing this and hope to bring a proposal to the AGM for the membership to vote on. We feel that this will be a major step and the decision should be made by us all.

It was decided that after show parties would always be held in the hall rather than the Brunt room. This would make it much easier to tidy up afterwards and wouldn't involve having to pay Settlement staff to come in and clean up after us.

We looked at various types of cushions for our seats. The seats in the hall can be quite uncomfortable so we are thinking about buying cushions for them to make coming to see us a little more comfortable for our audience.

**Jeni Gosling** may be going on a theatre costume workshop. This would be of great benefit to the Players and the productions we put on.

Finally, we discussed the arrangements for the one act play night and are now confident that everything that needs to be done is in hand and we are sure that the one act play night will be a great success.

Official minutes of our meetings are now available.

Our next meeting will be on at the beginning of May. If there is anything that you want to be discussed by the committee then please let me or any of the committee members know.

The committee is:

**Jim Anderson** - Chair

**Rob Evans** - Treasurer

**Jeni Gosling** - Secretary

**Cliff Francis**

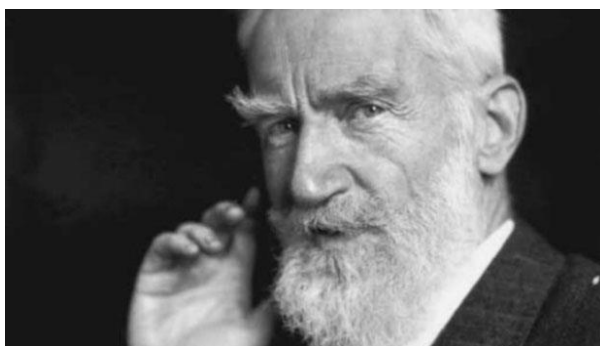
**Sam Powell**

**Nicole Ashbrook**

**Stephen Charles**

**Pat Baskerville** – Theatre Club Secretary

Settlement Players member **Albert Clack** will be appearing for the second consecutive year in the open-air summer season of plays by Bernard Shaw at Shaw's Corner in Ayot St Lawrence for Michael Friend Productions. This year he will be playing Barny Doran, the miller, in *'John Bull's Other Island'*.



Thank you to those of you who have made suggestions. I would still welcome any further comments or suggestions.

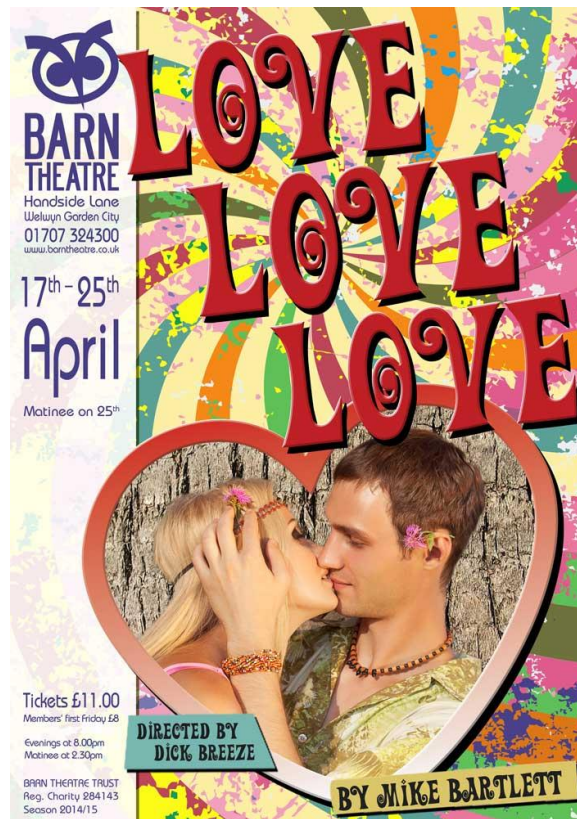
A very big thank you **Facebook** and **Google images** for the pictures in this newsletter. Several people made the suggestion that I put some pictures in it. I've been able to put a few in this one but I'd like to put in more. I need your help to do this. Please send me any pictures that you take at the Settlement that you think other players might like to see.



## Do you want to Direct?

Is there a play that you would like to put on at the Settlement?

We are now considering a couple of proposals but we are still looking for plays for our September 2015 - September 2016 season. For this, we need three full length productions. We are also looking for one act plays. If you have a play that you'd like us to consider, please contact any member of the committee.



Our very own **David Smith** is starring at the Barn in Welwyn from 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April in their production of *Love, Love, Love* by Mike Bartlett.



**Movie quote Quiz** - Here are the answers to the quiz in the last newsletter. There are no winners because no-one sent any answers in. This may be because the questions were too hard or it may mean that nobody was interested. I'm not going to do another quiz this month but I shall do another one next time if you want me to. Email me and let me know.

1. Here's looking at you, kid. **Casablanca**
2. There's no place like home. **The Wizard of Oz**
3. I see dead people. **The Sixth Sense**
4. At my signal, unleash hell! **Gladiator**
5. Houston, we have a problem. **Apollo 13**
6. Every man dies. Not every man really lives. **Braveheart**
7. Yo, Adrienne! **Rocky**
8. We're bigger than US Steel. **The Godfather**
9. Poor Catherine, tick tock, tick tock, tick tock. **The Silence of the Lambs**
10. To deny our own impulses is to deny the very thing that makes us human. **The Matrix**
11. Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it. **Ferris Bueller's day off**
12. You talkin' to me? **Taxi Driver**
13. I feel the need, the need for speed. **Top Gun**
14. As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again. **Gone with the Wind**
15. Say hello to my little Friend. **Scarface**
16. A boy's best friend is his mother. **Psycho**
17. Made it Ma, top of the world. **White Heat**
18. You're gonna need a bigger boat. **Jaws**
19. It's 200 miles to Chicago, we've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark and we're wearing sunglasses. **The Blues Brothers**
20. You ain't heard nothin' yet. **The Jazz Singer.**

And just as a bonus, can you also tell me what was very special about number 20?

**Spoken by Al Jolson, these were the first words heard on any film, it was the birth of the Talkies!**

If you haven't already done so, please could you send me the list of Settlement Players Productions that you've worked on, along with any photographs that you would like us to use, for the website? We also need your contact details and permission to use them if you haven't already sent them.

We need this information to complete our work.

**Some dates for your diary:**

One act play evening	11 April 2015 ( <i>After Midnight, Before Dawn,</i> <i>Doggies;</i> <i>Cupboard love</i> )
June production	11 – 13 June 2015 ( <i>The Ladykillers</i> )
Open evening	5 September 2015
November production	12 – 14 November 2015
February production	18 – 20 February 2016
One act play evening	13 April 2016?
June production	16- 18 June 2016

If there is anything that you would like to share with your fellow players in this newsletter, please send it to me at [james.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:james.anderson@ntlworld.com)

The next newsletter will come out on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. If there is anything you want included, please let me have it before then.

I hope to see you soon at the Settlement.

Jim



**Stop Press.**

I have just heard that *After Midnight, before dawn* has now been entered into the Welwyn Drama Festival at the Barn Theatre in Welwyn and is provisionally booked for the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015.