Where and when are Lyceum meetings held?

Most Lyceum groups meet in a Church and form an integral part of the Church activities. Most meet on a weekly basis. Some meet at other intervals and in some parts of the country every two weeks or monthly. Some parts of the country are more populated than others and Spiritualist Churches are not always plentiful. A Lyceum group can be formed anywhere in the world and can apply to the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union to become a recognised Lyceum group (Learning group).

What is the Lyceum Banner?

The Lyceum Banner is a magazine that reports on the activities of the Lyceums. It is accepted as the official organ of the SLU. It is published in the form of a magazine issued monthly in two parts:

- An Adult Banner
- A Junior Banner

Copies of both are sent to SLU members and Lyceums. The Adult Banner reports on Lyceum events. It contains articles on philosophy, the history of the SLU and healing; there is also a section for communication and contact details for the Central Committee of the SLU. The Junior Banner contains projects for the month for younger children and older children. It also has articles on nature, stories and a picture for the younger children to colour.

Education within the SLU

There is a Basic Education correspondence course which can be undertaken whether you are a member of a Lyceum or not. There is also a two-day Leaders course for students to gain the practical experience needed to become a Lyceum Conductor. The Basic course and the Leaders course together form two requirements towards attaining the SNU qualification CSNU(e). Within a Lyceum all are encouraged to learn at their own level, to study subjects they have not yet considered and to support each other in life.

SLU Publishing

The Spiritualists' Lyceum Union publishes

- new books written for a particular need within Lyceums;
- specially selected older books for reprinting.

There is a website for the Lyceum Union:
Go to: ***www.snu.org.uk/lyceum***
Information on the SLU can be obtained via this link.

Why join the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union?

Individuals and groups who join are able to have the support of the SLU in education, training and advice. Become a member of a Lyceum or of the Lyceum Union and you will become a part of the Lyceum family. Remember that the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union is part of the Spiritualists' National Union. We are one Union.

Contact: The Spiritualists' Lyceum Union
SLU Head Office, Burton End Lodge,
Stansted Hall, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8UD.
T: 01279 814158 **W:** www.snu.org.uk

SNU PUBLICATIONS © 2014

An Introduction to

The Spiritualists' Lyceum Union

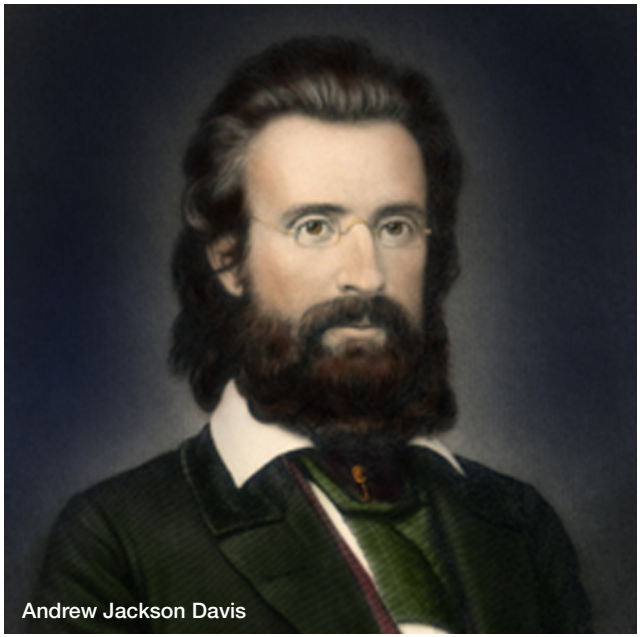
Founded in the UK in 1866

A Branch of the Spiritualists' National Union

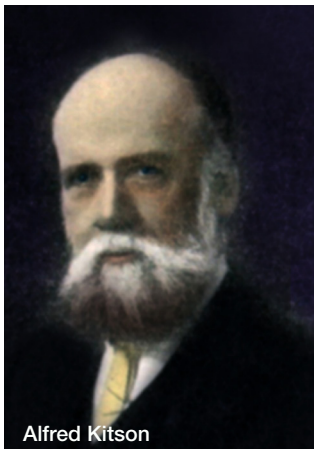
The Spiritualists' Lyceum Union

What is the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union?

The Spiritualists` Lyceum Union was founded in 1890 following conversations between Emma Hardinge Britten and Alfred Kitson. The movement became the British Spiritualists` Lyceum Union until 1948, when it became a Branch of the Spiritualists` National Union. It remains a branch of the SNU to the present day.



Andrew Jackson Davis



Alfred Kitson

Emma Hardinge Britten

How did Lyceums begin?

The formation of Lyceums in America and the UK was inspired by Andrew Jackson Davis, an American visionary and lecturer, who in 1863 spoke of the benefit of training youngsters in both worldly and spiritual matters. He was called in his time the 'Poughkeepsie Seer'. Whilst living in Poughkeepsie, he developed the ability to go into a trance state and could demonstrate his psychic ability. He called his altered state of consciousness the 'superior condition' and it is said to have induced within him a 'very active and intense psychic ability'.

In New York in January 1863 he gave a lecture to a Spiritualist audience and described a vision he had when in one of his 'superior condition' states of consciousness. He described seeing spirit children being taught and trained in the spirit world and suggested that a similar system of learning would be of great benefit to children on the earth. This lecture inspired some members of the audience and they established the first 'Children's Progressive Lyceum'.

The formation of the British Lyceum movement:

The first British Lyceum in the UK was opened in Nottingham in 1866, with a second one in 1870 in Keighley. A third followed in 1874 at Sowerby Bridge, near Halifax. In the early days there was a lack of education, both mental and physical, for children as well as adults. Lyceums were places for children and adults to come together and learn. The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union was formed when there was a coming together of the various Lyceums that sprang up in the succeeding years. The Lyceum became known as the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

In 1948 the BSLU became a Branch of the SNU and was incorporated into the SNU as the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Spiritualists' Lyceum Union

What is the Lyceum Manual?

This is a book which was compiled by Emma Hardinge Britten, Harry Kersey and Alfred Kitson. It contains hymns, readings and exercises which are of use in Lyceums and Churches.

Primary objectives

The primary objective of this first Lyceum was the cultivation and harmonisation of the individual by the development of the physical, the intellectual, the moral and the spiritual faculties of the young.

Now the Lyceum objectives are:

The promotion of truth, justice, fraternal love, purity, beauty, music, art, health, science, philosophy and spirituality.

Why do we have Lyceums today?

Education helps us to understand and develop in many ways. There are some subjects that we learn best through practice, such as meditation and the practical aspects of mediumship. Lyceums are set up for those who attend to learn in a friendly and enjoyable fashion. Remember the fraternal love within our objects. Where a Lyceum is associated with a Church, support can be given to that Church and its services by helping to develop speakers and demonstrators and to the Church Committee by helping to develop administrative skills.

Children's and Adults' Lyceums

The types of teaching depend not only on the age-group of the children but also on the knowledge and abilities of the adult students.

An interest in a wide range of subjects is encouraged. Both children and adults are encouraged to speak, research subjects and take part in Church services.