



Oxen Park Cinema Club

Secretary's Annual Report 2014 – 2015 (read at the 2015 AGM)

I have great pleasure in presenting the secretary's report for 2015

Before I went away for a month last Christmas I hurriedly but carefully put together a Lottery application for just over £9,000 to cover the costs of completing the fitting out of our technical equipment. In February we heard that we had been successful and by the end of March it was all fitted and working. We have 2 synchronised DVD/Blu Ray players, a link with the editing computer, a lap top presentation connection, a hearing loop and top quality sound system. These with a new ceiling projector from the BFI equipment fund have given us a tremendous facility of which we are quite proud.

I would like to quote from our lottery application which requested: 'the change or difference your project will have on the local community'

Our problem of rural isolation is continually being challenged by this very creative community. Film shows, linked with the pub over the road bring together a core group who look for social events combined with the arts, whether its film, painting, music, dancing or drama. With more volunteer time available we will be able to work even harder to bring people together with many different interests to use our audio visual community space.

The biggest difference will be made in the pride we have in showing off our unique facility - a superb, purpose built community cinema, run by volunteers - and consequently bringing it to the attention of a wider community and offering more seats to more people who enjoy such a sociable experience. Releasing volunteer time also means that more of us will be able to respond to requests for our mobile unit to show films to village groups further afield. More access to more films and more social gatherings.

Over the past season we showed 14 main films. 10 in the Carthouse and 4 in village halls. Our highest attendance was 93 at Greenodd where we enjoyed The Last Great Climb, a film by Alistair Lee with local climbers Leo Holding and our own Chris Rabone who introduced the film and responded to questions at the end. The lowest attendance was 18 but our average is up by two to 35. The total number of seats was just under 500 over the season which is up from 432 the previous year.

We continued to show 2 children's films each term at Leven Valley Primary School with average attendance of 43. We have planned an increased number of children's films this

season and will see how these are enjoyed as well as monitoring the extra time demanded from volunteers.

Back to The Carthouse: we are conscientiously continuing to keep records of parking in the village, checking noise levels and thank all audiences who have cooperated so well with requests.

The Manor House seem happy with extra custom, especially the Saturday suppers. We haven't had any complaints.

In planning this year's programme to make more of our facility we decided to try a new programme of Film On The Fringe. This is a great opportunity to show films by new directors, independent films, more foreign films and more challenging topics. These will give our supporters a wider choice, provide more films with less distance to travel and more films in this relaxed social setting.

Whether it works remains to be seen. We need to be sustainable and this brings me to thanks all who support us – as advertisers, film sponsors and members.

Film making continues – we ran our annual summer holiday workshop for Leven Valley children who made 5 films to be entered in our annual Rusland Show film class. The show attracted 7 entries. We have sold quite a lot of DVD's of our 2 films of The Lost Industries of the Leven Valley; the third, the Backbarrow Iron Works is still in progress.

Your committee continue to meet monthly and enjoy the film selection process; they are also learning film showing technical skills so that everyone could run a film show single handed if this was necessary. There always seems to be plenty to do and talk about so thanks to John our chairman who excels at keeping us in order and finishing meetings on time.

All the committee plus local supporters have helped with our 2 fund raising efforts: the Coro coffee morning and a cycle orienteering Lanequest. These two events bring in nearly £1000 which makes them well worthwhile.

Special thanks to Sue McKinnon our webmaster for all her work in revising the website, keeping it up to date and so user friendly

As always: Do keep coming. Enjoy the films. Bring your friends.

Thank you.

Carol McNeill September 2015