



Oxen Park Cinema Club

Secretary's Annual Report 2011 – 2012 (read at the 2012 AGM)

I have great pleasure in presenting the secretary's report for 2012.

This report celebrates 10 years of Oxen Park Cinema club activities. We were constituted in February 2002 and started showing films in our village halls soon after. Our first AGM was on 26th August 2003. Our membership and audiences have fluctuated but we have maintained a good average audience of 33 over the ten years. Last year our audience average was 36 not including the hundreds who supported the two family shows at Allithwaite Primary School.

The programme and posters have improved greatly from the typed out A5 flyer we started with. We have used over 12 different halls gradually homing in on those which are warm and least hassle to set up all the equipment. The use of the Outback Hall at Leven Valley Primary School where we just put chairs out and put the DVD in its slot has given us a taste for the ease of use which The Carthouse will provide when it's finished and open for business. We can't wait.

After ten years of writing failed funding applications for the new building we think we are just about there and should be in for the start of next season. Our initial energies have waned a bit as the years have passed by and enthusiasms need revitalising. We will be looking to all our members and friends to help and support us in many different ways. We need to re connect with the community and intend to do so.

I thought I should report on two dreadful happenings which took place this year. The first coincided with the largest audience of the year who came to watch The Wildest Dream at the Outback Hall at Backbarrow. Our speaker and local Everest man Robin Beadle was followed by the most terrible sound problem where there was a complete imbalance between the music and spoken sounds. We were unable to sort this on the night so suffered the embarrassment of a spoilt night. Fortunately we now know how to adjust the sound to suit the film being shown. The second disaster was also at Backbarrow when we had the smallest audience of the year. Only 4 people came to watch Troll Hunter which was put on especially to attract a gang of orienteers who were taking part in a weekend event. Good idea? No. not on this occasion anyway. We do need to be on the lookout for new opportunities and try out new ideas but we can't afford to have too many disasters.

Our thanks, as always to all our film sponsors and programme advertisers – their support is so welcome and appreciated.

Sincere thanks again to our retired chairperson, Tess Baxter. Tess took us through a period when, without her we might have faltered completely. Also to Fiona who retired from the committee during the year. Fiona was one of our founder members and brought a huge amount of film related experience as well as lots of common sense. Thank you both.

Roger and Carol continue to run the film unit. They organised the after school club at Leven Valley Primary School in the Spring trying out some fun animation techniques. 3 boys also came to the annual summer holiday workshop and produced entries for the Rusland Show.

The Blue Works film should be finished soon and then hopefully a film about the Rusland Show.

The Committee continue to meet monthly and work on creating a sustainable film society for its very rural community

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

Thank you.

Carol McNeill September 2012