



## **Oxen Park Cinema Club**

### **Secretary's Annual Report 2018 – 2019 (read at the 2019 AGM)**

I have great pleasure in presenting the secretary's report for 2019.

We have had another outstanding year. We have over 130 members which is a great recognition of your support. Due to our increased revenue we are on the brink of transferring from a small charity to becoming a full charity – this is mainly more paper work but does give us increased status.

Here are some annual statistics:

Over the past season we showed 25 main films. 7 of these were double shows and 1 –Edie - was shown three times

The films with most attendance were those with triple and double showings. *Edie* came out top with 94 then *Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri* with 76. That truly was a great film. Our lowest turnout was 22. The breakeven number is around 28 to 30. For those films which are under this we make up for with the many larger audiences.

Total admissions were 764 a few down from 794 last year but still up from 607 the year before. We seem to have settled into a routine of choosing good films and lots of support from our increased membership.

Checking out the bead pot feedback system we only had 7 double non-smileys and 11 single non-smileys out of 764 takers over the whole year. We think this reflects our skills in film selection and we will continue to follow the same pattern which includes lots and lots of film watching and loads of animated discussion.

Our 12 Thursday after school children's films continued to be popular with the Leven Valley School children. We had a total attendance of 315. It gets harder to select really good children's films. New children's live drama is very difficult to come by and we continually fall back on the popular animations. Gay and myself choose and show these films with support from the school. Many thanks to Gay for your support.

The Carthouse was hired out to 12 groups this year which included another six presentations on behalf of the Oxen Park Reading Room. These were popular

fund raising evenings making a significant contribution to refurbishing the increasingly smart Reading Room.

In March we enjoyed a celebratory pie and peas followed the film Bohemian Rhapsody with many founders and past committee members. This was a way of saying thank you to those who have given so many hours and lots of their life to helping us get where we are today.

We still have the ability and knowledge to take our mobile equipment out of Oxen Park. These are pretty labour intensive events so this year we just stayed with our annual show at Finsthwaite. Local halls such as The Outback Hall at Backbarrow which has its own projection system and screen are much preferred.

We think we have sorted the seating out now so 39 of us can sit in comfort and see the screen. Another development was the Blade Runner double bill which attracted a small but committed audience. This year we are trying a mini mountain festival with 3 films over a weekend in January. We are always open to new ideas which are important for our continued success and progress.

The 9 volunteer committee members continue to put in a lot of their time enabling our cinema to be managed in a sociable and sustainable way. This year we lose Graham Jarvis but have gained Barbara Berry who is enthusiastic to pick up the ropes. Roger has continued to design our remarkable and collectable posters and Iain Smith Ward is to be thanked for his input into printing the posters and designing the programme layout every year.

As always I would like to thank all our film sponsors, the programme advertisers and all our members & everyone who has come to any of our films. Without you we wouldn't survive as a social and sustainable organisation. Special thanks to Sue McKinnon, our webmaster. Sue has done a completely new look website for us this year, we are lucky to have her skills and thank her for all the work she has done for us; thanks so much Sue.

Oxen Park has become a destination. The Manor House is welcoming more and more people with many linking a drink or a meal with a film show. We both share occasions with locals, the Rusland Valley and the wider community. We are proud to host the Carthouse Community Cinema as part of a very sociable and vibrant location.

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

Thank you. **Carol McNeill September 2019**