

KFC AGM 2019 CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the start of our 21st Year! Having faced up to spending much of our cash reserves over the previous few years, last year proved successful, due, in part, to us living with reality; we have to cut our cloth to fit our budget. Hopefully we have now truly come of age.

If you have not read the Treasurer's Report which was circulated, I will leave it to Paul to give you the details, but I will steal his thunder by saying we managed to not only break even but to rebuild some of cash reserves - £4000 worth in fact. It is always hard to work out what makes some years better than others; the 'reality' factor was that we actually set budgets and tried to stick to them, but the bigger factor was simply that we had bigger audiences, who all paid slightly more. In my opinion this comes down to how popular the films are.

So we averaged 109 for club films (up from 101) and we put the prices up by £1.00 for members, 50p for non-members. The changes were also true for the Festival, as Ian's report will show. Whether you all worked really hard to get more friends along or if we just had more popular films is hard to judge...but please keep up the effort to get more along as we are very likely to get fewer grants this year. We are hoping to get some money back from the Gift Aid many of you have signed up for – thank you very much – but this won't be enough.

As a slight aside, I was interested to note that, although the membership dropped slightly (from 219 to 212), there was actually 55 people who did not rejoin. I took this as good news though: it means we have actually got nearly 50 NEW members, which is amazing for a small town like Keswick.

Whilst on the subject of thanks, I must thank Carol, Alan, Tom and Sylvia for the fantastic renovations they have done to the Alhambra this year, and to all of you who donated to the 'crowd funding' that helped make it possible. Make sure you tell all your friends to come and see what it looks like!

We have started three new things this year. First off the blocks was swapping our weekly emails to the Mailchimp system, which has allowed us to use a more attractive format, to add pictures and even to allow some voting. Whether this helped with the higher audiences we will never know, but I like to hope it has.

Next, you now have the chance to influence the programme with a ballot to choose your favourite films. Many of you took part in this and we felt it was successful so we ran it again this season. Hopefully we can continue from now on.

Roger Gook, the new Club Secretary, has set up a Discussion Group in association with the Skiddaw U3A. This meets monthly to discuss the previous week's film and has had some lively debates so far; putting 5* voters in the same room as 1* voters can be very interesting! Why not come along and give it a try too?

There was actually a fourth major change this year, but one you won't have really noticed; we moved from being a charitable company to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The main effect of this, from our end, is less reporting to be done and that all the committee are now trustees, but it will have no visible effect on the club (I hope!). Our thanks go to David Andrews for all the work he put into this – which was VERY noticeable.

That brings me nicely to thanking the committee and all volunteers for this successful year; a lot of hard work was put in by many of you. As I have intimated, we have a new Secretary as David Andrews moved away. My thanks to him for all the work he did while he was here, and to Roger Gook for offering to take over. I will not mention any others by name, but I do feel we have a very efficient team now, with new ideas and a desire to keep the club running despite the problems with funds. Thank you to all them.

Lastly, as always, my thanks go to you all for coming week after week; after all, if you didn't, we wouldn't have a club at all (and I would miss all the fun involved running it!!). I hope the choice of films keeps you interested enough to keep coming.

So we have come of age. Our 21st year of world films in Keswick begins. From our records, we had shown 1170 films by the end of

last year, a fantastic achievement I hope you will agree. We have a fantastic cinema to show them in too, so let's hope we can continue for another 20 years at least; how many films will the Chair in 2039 be able to report..?