

Bishop's Castle Film Society
AGM 2017-18
Chair's Report

Having expressed concern last year about membership numbers and the state of the Society's finances I am pleased to note that during the past year membership has held up well, with a resulting strengthening of income (see Membership Secretary's and Treasurer's reports). Attendance has also, on the whole, been better, with a noticeable improvement in guest attendance.

I feel sure that this is a reflection of the programme chosen for 2017-18. A good balance between new films (some of which might be thought of as 'box office'), classics, and more specialist ('art house') productions has ensured that there is something in the programme for most tastes. The reduction in the number of films to 15 does not appear to have met with any concerns on the part of members. But, related to that, I feel strongly that we should keep subscriptions at the present level if possible.

We have begun scrutinizing our publicity measures; ie leafleting, website, flyer. We should continue in this with the aim both of maximizing our contacts with members and possible new recruits, and being economical with our resources; eg, a cost-benefit analysis of the website needs to be resolved. Our only income stream is membership and guest fees; there is, understandably, doubt about raising income through raffles and similar methods. It is therefore vitally important that we maintain member numbers and if possible increase them as far as the demographic and geographical limits will permit.

I should like to thank all Committee members most sincerely for their work during the past year. It is because of them that the Society lives on into its forties. In particular I wish to extend all our thanks to Dave Simpson and his projection 'assistants' – Glyn Roberts, Chris Penny, Trevor Chalkley; and to Alison Gouldstone who stepped in to take over 'setting up' in Dave's absence in January. Without their continuing support we would not be able to show our films.

Finally, all members will wish to join with me in sending our very best wishes to our friend and Committee member Elisabeth Calvert for a steady restoration of health after her illness.

Jeff Hill,
Chair
12th March 2018.