

Chester Film Society

Annual General Meeting

Held online over Zoom on Thursday 18th November 2021

The Annual General Meeting was held online using Zoom and was attended by 20 members including Committee members

1. Introduction

Jo Crotty, Chair introduced the meeting and welcomed those who had made it in front of their screens! She explained that it was felt necessary to hold this meeting now to formally elect a new Committee which can have full legitimacy to move forward with our planning into next year.

2. Accounts

Rachel Cross, Secretary, had prepared a simple Income and Expenditure Statement and presented this, explaining that as there had not been a 2020-21 season and no other season films this year, there had been no income. Nevertheless, there had been annual running costs such as Insurance and Cinema for All membership as well as invoices from the previous season that had been paid in the accounts period. Some members of the committee had also attended film screening days online and recently in person which also incurred some costs. The bank balance as at 31 March 2021 stood at £3,464.21

The I&E Statement was accepted and is appended.

3. Election of Committee Members

The current Committee consisted of both elected and co-opted members. The following had now put themselves forward for nomination and were duly elected:

Chair:	Jo Crotty
Secretary:	Rachel Cross
Treasurer:	Jenny Spick
Committee:	Linda Cloet
	David Gill
	Adina Hilgard
	Anne Ord Sykes
	Donna Whittington

The Chair noted especially that Mike Graham, who had served on the Committee for over 30 years had decided to stand down. She thanked Mike for his enormous contribution and support to the work of the Committee, during which he had taken on many roles and tasks, notably the administration of the website and hosting the Social Night. In recognition of his work, she proposed that he be granted Honorary Membership. This was unanimously approved to a round of applause.

4. Report and Presentation

The Chair presented her report and proposals for the Film Society to move forward into 2022 and beyond.

- Pre-Covid
 - Just before the lockdown in March 2020, the Chester International Film Festival was concluded at Storyhouse, being the most successful so far, having sold out for two films and good audiences for all others
- Covid-19 Adjustments
 - Unfortunately, the lockdown meant that the final four films planned for 2019-20 season could not be shown and the season was suspended.
 - Over the Spring and Summer of 2020, a series of emails to members and subscribers was sent out called “Cocoa’s Column” to maintain interest in film culture ,focussing on selected films available to watch at home on streaming or free-to-air platforms.
 - In Spring of this year, we were approached by Storyhouse to screen films there in partnership with them as part of the re-opening of cinemas after lockdown. The first film, Dear Comrades! Was shown on 29th June. This partnership, built on our established relationship with Storyhouse proved very successful and will be continued over the Winter until February 2022.
- The Future
 - The Return of the Chester International Film Festival:
 - This will again take place at Storyhouse between 4th – 11th March 2022. The Committee is working with Storyhouse to curate the films and announce the programme before Christmas.
 - 2022 “Mini-Season”
 - Following the Film Festival, we are working to put on a “mini-season of four films to be shown at the Grosvenor Museum and a final film at The Garret in Storyhouse, a new venue we wish to try out.
 - These films will be screened from 29th March every two weeks until Thursday 5th May.
 - As the 2019-20 season was curtailed, it has been decided to offer all four films free to 2019-20 members.
 - Details will be announced early next year.
 - 2022-23 Season Plans
 - We are exploring the use of The Garret at Storyhouse as an alternative venue to St Mary’s over the Autumn/Winter period (September to February)
 - At The Garret, full projection facilities are already in place which obviates the need to setup and take down our screen and projection equipment every time we screen at St Mary’s
 - In addition, a move to the Garret space in Chester’s cultural hub offers a more comfortable and warm atmosphere with the Storyhouse bar providing an in-house area for greater socialisation.

- After the Film festival in March, the season will conclude with films at the Grosvenor Museum.
- Finally, it was announced that we are planning a return of our Social Night on Saturday 12th February – this time at The Garret. Mike will once again host the night for us.

5. Questions and Answers

- Linda Auckland noted the proposal to move to The Garret although remarked that she had enjoyed going to St Mary's, especially as free evening car parking was so close by in the Castle Car Park. Jo noted her remarks, adding that we were progressing the move for the reasons outlined. She noted that the Castle Car Park was nevertheless only a few minutes' walk away and could still be used, although other paid parking options closer to Storyhouse were available. The new car park as part of the Northgate Development may be available later in 2022.
- Other members present noted the proposals for the 2022-23 season and gave their support.

The business of the AGM was then concluded.

Appendix - Income and Expenditure 2020-2021

Bank Balance as at 31st March 2020: **£4,388.98**

Expenditure		Income	
Invoices paid from 2019-20 season Eg Venue Hire, Film Licencing, etc	£559.54	NIL	£0.00
Passes for online screening days Nov 2020	£125.00		
Cinema for All membership renewal	£95.00		
Insurance	£144.93		
Total	£924.87		£0.00

Bank Balance as at 31st March 2021: **£3,464.51**

Notes

1. The 2019-20 season was curtailed after the Film Festival in March 2020. The final four films of the season were not shown. There were no venue hire costs or film licencing fees associated with these cancellations.
2. There was no 2020-21 season, so no other income or expenditure took place during this season except for general running costs ie, insurance and Cinema for All membership.