



**SWINDON FILM SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE SWINDON ARTS CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER 2019**

The meeting started at 9:20pm and was attended by 7 members and 9 committee members.

**1 Apologies:** Lizzie Brown, Rosemary Young, Lewis & Marilyn Dawkin-Jones.

**2 Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

The minutes of the SFS AGM on Wednesday, 21st November 2018 were read and accepted. Acceptance proposed by Roger Griffin and seconded by Shelagh Gough.

**3 Finance Report**

In the year ending July 2019, the society made a profit of £1,552. These past two years show a very welcome upturn compared to the two years immediately before.

Total income has increased by £1,000 over the previous year 2017-18. We received £348 more in membership fees, and £655 more in ticket sales. This is due largely to increasing the membership fees and ticket prices for the first time in 7 years, but also because the numbers of members actually increased, as did the number of people attending each film. So all in all, a very successful year.

Our spending remained the same as the year before. The two biggest costs are the hire of the Arts Centre and paying the film licences.

Our publicity costs have decreased by almost £150, due to the work put in by our committee member Chantal Raymond and her friend and professional designer Rachel Martin, who invoices us at a pittance for her work each year. And we must also thank Ian Robertson, retired accountant, who this year has once more been kind enough to examine our books and sign them off entirely free of charge.

In conclusion, we welcome our current financial stability: it's great to know we can pay our costs without worrying. Long may this continue!

The Finance Report was proposed as accepted by Diane Miles and seconded by Ben Sulc, and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

#### **4 Membership Report**

SFS membership for 2018-19 rose slightly from the previous year with an increase in both Full and General Members. The total number of members was 236. This compares with 224 members in 2016-17 and an average of 244 over the last five years.

89 members (38%) joined the Society for the first time this season - this is a significantly higher number of new members than in previous years. However, the core membership remains very loyal: 121 people (51%) have been members for 5 years or more and 71 people (30%) have been members for 10 years or more.

#### **5 Film Audiences and Reactions**

Audience attendance rose this year with an average attendance of 106 people. The best attended film was *The School Of Life* (131), and the lowest attended was *All Quiet On The Western Front* (76).

Audience reactions averaged 77%, the second highest in the last 5 years. The highest scoring film was *Loving Vincent* with 87%, whilst the lowest rated film was *I Am Not A Witch* with 58%.

#### **6 Marketing and Advertising**

As in past seasons, the Society continues to produce and distribute our traditional publicity material: the season programme brochure, posters, advertisements, synopsis sheets etc. We have been working closely with our regular designer Rachel Martin who has been most helpful, and her creative touch is most appreciated.

Where possible, we also continue to include articles and adverts in the local print media (*The Handy Mag*, the Wyvern brochure) and continue to receive online support from *The Swindonian*. Content is also provided to other local websites as much as possible: *Total Guide to Swindon*, *Swindon Web* and the Wyvern website.

Special thanks are due to Richard Turpin, our very own webmaster, who continues to create and update our fantastic [swindonfilm.org.uk](http://swindonfilm.org.uk) website in 'real time' throughout the season.

Finally, the Society thanks the Wyvern Theatre and the Central Library who continue to help with the sale of advance tickets for the films.

## **7 Current Season 2019-20**

We have introduced the new membership categories of **Season Ticket** and **Pay As You Go** to replace the previous categories of **Full Member** and **General Member** respectively - we believe that the new descriptions are more self-explanatory and thus more 'user-friendly' for our members.

## **8 Election of the Committee**

The current Committee, as follows, were re-elected *en masse* by a unanimous vote:  
Chair - Robert Elrick; Secretary - Maurice Moylett; Treasurer - Jane Farr;  
Membership Secretary - Lyndy Griffin; Marketing - Chantal Raymond; Front of House Manager - Roger Griffin; FoH Rota - Lizzie Brown; FoH - Diane Miles, Anne Wang, Ben Szulc; Webmaster - Richard Turpin; Film Selection - All.

Long-time attendee Rosemary Young has volunteered to join the Committee - also unanimously accepted.

Acceptance proposed by Liam Griffin and seconded by Ruth Guy.

## **9 Any Other Business**

Liam Griffin thanked the Committee for the hard work they do all year - hooray!

Robert Elrick informed the meeting that Laura James is now the head of the Wyvern Theatre, following the recent departures of Derek Aldridge and then Robert Miles.

The Chair thanked the members for their continued support and for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.