

TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SILKSCREEN

FILM SOCIETY

HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2025

AT THE OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

Present: Approximately 84 members of the Society

Apologies: John Alcock, Leo Alcock and Clare Sykes

1. Ruth Simms welcomed all participants to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the 21st AGM made available to members before this AGM, were approved without corrections.

3. Chair's report

Ruth referred members to the Chairman's Report that had been made available to everyone beforehand. She mentioned that membership had risen to just under 400, with an average of 222 people at each film, which is almost full capacity for the Cinemac auditorium. 60 past members did not renew their membership, but 87 new members joined. She also reminded all members that the annual membership fee would remain at £24 for the next season.

She thanked everyone on the Committee and the volunteers, particularly the technical team Roger, David and Ric and acknowledged there had been some technical issues with the film 'How to blow up a pipeline' and this was due to the film only being in stereo.

Ruth addressed the issue of loss of membership cards, which are used for admission into the auditorium. Ruth said that the membership secretary, Tim had suggested that when members received their cards for the new season that they take a photograph of it and store the image on their phone.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ric Wilson summarised the Report that had been made available to members beforehand, using the line graph to illustrate differences in income and expenditure over the last few years. He stated that in the 2024/2025 season expenditure had increased due to the purchase of the new rack, leaving the Film Society with an overall deficit of £321. This had been covered by the Society's reserves which currently stand at £22,289.

5. Technical Report

Roger Noble spoke about the installation of the rack on the balcony this year, stating that the equipment will be moved over to the rack, where it will be permanently installed. Roger said that it would make the projectionist job much easier and asked for volunteers to consider joining the projectionists team.

Roger also presented some statistics on film popularity this season. The biggest audience was for the film 'The night of the 12th' and 'Close' was voted the favourite film of the season, with 'The Blue Kaftan' being second but with the least members attending. Roger reflected that this may have been caused by the snowstorm. The least popular film was 'How to blow up a pipeline' but Roger observed that the ratings were consistently in the positive zone for the entire season. He mentioned that there were still more members attending the first house compared to the second house and that the audience levels have been steadily increasing since the pandemic.

6. Election of Committee Members for 2025/2026

Ruth stated that John Alcock who had been a member of the Committee for many years, had decided to stand down and she thanked him for his service.

A list of proposed Committee members had been circulated prior to the meeting and Ruth stated that they were all willing to stand again.

The Committee was then voted in by a show of hands from the members and Ruth declared the Committee was re-elected for another year.

7. Questions from attendees

A number of questions were raised by attendees.

- a. A question was raised about how the longlist of films gets chosen and if the Committee take suggestions from the Silkscreen members? Paul responded positively by saying that suggestions should be emailed via the website and Ric added that the difficulty of getting a licence for a film often dictated the films we could show.
- b. Another member asked what was the limitation on the length of a film? Ruth responded by answering that because of the two showings films shouldn't be longer than 120 to 135 minutes. The member suggested that if the Committee wanted to show a longer film that just having a 7pm house may be a solution. There was general consent from the Committee that this would be considered.
- c. A question was raised about disabled access as on the leaflet it suggests that the members that need assistance should arrive 30 minutes before the start of the film, but there is no way of gaining assistance from the greeters in the auditorium. It was also suggested that carers should not be asked to pay for their

membership in line with other organisations and the final suggestion was that seats should be reserved for disabled members and their carers in the most accessible positions. Mary responded by stating that the Cinemac building presents its own challenges for accessibility, but that the Committee would consider how they could reduce these challenges. The Committee will discuss these issues at the next meeting.

- d. A member said they appreciated it was hot in the auditorium today, but questioned why it was often cold in the auditorium during the winter months.
 - e. A member stated that they enjoyed having the subtitles on with the English film Scrapper and that it was a good idea. She also said Silkscreen Film Society was good value for the price of membership.
 - f. Another comment was that depressing films can put people off.
 - g. There was also a comment about which car parks are free for the 5.30pm performance. Ruth Smith explained that Dukes Street car park was free from 3pm and the Tesco car park was free from 6pm.
 - h. The final comment from a member was that they wanted to thank the selection committee for their hard work and that the viewing figures were a good reflection of how the membership had enjoyed the 2024/2025 season and to keep up the good work.
8. Ruth declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm thanking everyone for their contributions.