

EGERTON FILM SOCIETY

Chairman's Annual Report – September 2009

This is my sixth Annual Report as your Chairman, and I must apologise for not being at the AGM to present it personally. At last year's AGM Vivienne Foulds, Glen Fisher, Ruth Haggie, John King, myself, William Olsen, Pat Parr and Alison Richey volunteered to continue as your committee, and I was asked by them to carry on as Chairman. We meet from time to time, either formally or informally, with decisions about the programme being taken either at these meetings, or by e-mail. Ian Mills continues to put up our Film Society posters around the district, and Ernie Mexter to look after the door with Pat. Alison Richey continues as our treasurer.

Over the last year, as our regulars will know, we have had a full programme of classic and contemporary films, including a larger number of foreign language classics (all shown with subtitles) than usual, mainly due to the fact that the screening rights were only available to us for a very limited period. We started in September 2008 with **"The Bucket List"**, with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman as two terminally ill men who set out to achieve various ambitions before they die. At the end of October we screened French director Claude Chabrol's thriller **"Le Boucher"**, and in November Italian Director Vittorio de Sica's post war masterpiece, **"The Bicycle Thieves"**. For our December meeting we screened **"The Polar Express"**, a seasonal animated film featuring Tom Hanks. Our New Year season included many films requested by members, including the charming Italian classic **"Cinema Paradiso"** (January), the highly acclaimed **"Good Night and Good Luck"** (February), the story of Edward R. Morrow's TV exposure of the McCarthy communist witch-hunts in '50's America – directed by George Clooney. The biggest hit of the spring was the hugely popular musical **"Mamma Mia!"** (March), followed by Clint Eastwood's classic western **"The Outlaw Josey Wales"** (April). In May we held another well-attended special event when screen stunt coordinator Julian Spencer gave a graphically illustrated talk (which included setting someone on fire!) about his 20 year career as a stuntman in the movies. Our season continued with **"The Darjeeling Limited"** (May), a quirky comedy/drama set mainly in India from the American director Wes Anderson, and concluded in June with a delightful true story, **"The World's Fastest Indian"**, a film from New Zealand starring Anthony Hopkins.

Attendances have continued to be good, with audiences usually of around 50 members and their guests, with current films continuing to attract particularly high audiences. Over the summer we have had the sound system overhauled and re-calibrated by the suppliers, Soundcraft, which we hope will improve the audibility of the speech in the films we show. As before, we continue to produce a programme in advance for each season with detailed notes about each film. With the notice of the AGM members will have received the autumn programme, with details of films we shall be screening up to the end of January. This year we are asking members to suggest a special film for our Christmas screening.

The committee have also decided once more not to increase our membership and ticket prices, which have now been kept at the same level for the last three years. We believe this now offers exceptional value for money.

Finally I would like to thank on your behalf all those members who help in so many different ways - on the door, setting up the equipment, getting out chairs and putting them away again afterwards, running our licensed bar, and doing all the paperwork behind the scenes. I would also like to thank everyone who helps publicise our film shows, and, of course, for all of you for turning up each month. Your committee get a lot of pleasure out of the Egerton Film Society and I hope that you do too.

Richard King
24 September 2009