

EGERTON FILM SOCIETY

Chairman's Annual Report – September 2008

This is my fifth Annual Report as your Chairman. At last year's AGM Vivienne Foulds, Ruth Haggie, John King, myself, Mark Kingsbury, Ian Mills, William Olsen and Pat Parr volunteered to be the committee, and I was asked by them to carry on as Chairman. We have met from time to time, either formally or informally, with decisions about the programme being taken either at these meetings, or by e-mail. At the turn of last year Ian Mills asked if he could stand down from the committee, but he continues to put up our Film Society posters around the district. Earlier this year Mark Kingsbury, who took over from Peggy Harper in 2007, stood down as our treasurer and active member of our committee due to pressure of his work commitments. Alison Richie, who is Telecottage treasurer, has taken Mark's place. The vacancy on the committee has been filled by Glen Fisher.

Over the last year, as members will know, we have had a full programme of classic and contemporary films, starting in September 2007 with **"The History Boys"**, an adaptation by Alan Bennett of his West End hit play about students at a north of England Grammar school in the 1980's. In October we held another special event evening when Ros Cranston, Curator of Non-Fiction films at the British Film Institute introduced an evening to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth Humphrey Jennings, director of some of Britain's finest wartime documentaries, with newly restored digital prints from the BFI of his best known films. At the end of that month we screened the recent American comedy **"Little Miss Sunshine"**, and in November the sequel to "Jean de Florette", the highly acclaimed French classic, **"Manon des Sources"**. For our December meeting we screened **"The Holiday"**, a seasonal romantic comedy with Carmen Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Jack Black. Our New Year season included many films requested by members, including the Doris Day musical **"Calamity Jane"** (January), the highly acclaimed **"Atonement"** (February), which attracted an audience of over 100, the BAFTA winning British comedy **"East is East"** (March), followed by **"The Last King of Scotland"** (April), a fictional story set in the Uganda of Idi Amin, powerfully portrayed by Forest Whitaker, who won the Best Actor Oscar for his performance. In May we held another well attended special event, this time a screening of the classic British war film **"The Dam Busters"**. Our season continued with **"Last Orders"** (May), a low key and sometimes moving British drama, partly shot in Kent, with Michael Caine and Bob Hoskins leading an all star British cast, and closed in June with our contribution to the Egerton Music Festival, the Australian film **"Shine"**, the true story of concert pianist David Helfgott, which was introduced by Music Festival Director Bryan Gipps.

Attendances have continued to be good, with audiences usually of between 50 and 70 members and their guests, with current films continuing to attract particularly high audiences. We continue to produce a programme in advance for each season with detailed notes about each film. Our screenings are preceded by a short introduction, not always by me, which some members still say they find useful and interesting. 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. These include three much requested foreign films, which will all be shown with sub-titles.

The committee have kept our membership and ticket prices at last year's level, which we believe offers exceptional value for money. The committee would very much like to hear member's views about what films we should book for the spring and summer next year.

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 Egerton Stores for acting as our ticket agents, and for 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
25 September 2008