

April 2021 – March 2022

This report is for the year which began in April 2021 and ended in March 2022.

Year of two halves from a financial perspective.

April 2021- Oct 26th 2021.

For the first six months and 3 weeks of the financial year, the cinema was closed. We provided some streaming of films, as film distributors were able to provide that as an option. We owe thanks to them- and to our colleagues for publicising the offer, and configuring our website to enable us to do that. From my perspective, it meant that instead of me telling the film distributors after each film how many tickets we sold after each screening to enable them to calculate what we owe them, they were instead telling me how many patrons had viewed a film on line, and how much they owed us! It was a small and somewhat irregular income- not enough to off-set our costs, but welcome none the less.

We invested during the closure period in new equipment, including the purchase of sound equipment from a cinema which had obtained new equipment. This was collected and fitted by our staff. We took over during lock-down responsibility from the borough for the contract with Kinotec for regular (monthly) servicing of the projector and film server. Faulty parts cost and lamp replacement are not included so is always extra cost to us.

Staff were still on furlough- with ever-reducing support from the government (from 80% of salary support in April 2021 to 0% by Sept 2021). The first half of the year did create a loss- in spite of receiving these furlough payments for our retained staff.

The Treasurer was not directly involved in reopening plans other than to approve the purchase of any necessary products to sanitise the cinema and box office areas where necessary.

October 26th 2021- March 2022

The eventual reopening 26th Oct 21 was with socially distanced afternoon patrons. We then had 5 and a bit months of film-screenings before the financial year ended March 20 21. Films were screening through this entire period with reduced seating in line with govt guidelines and all of this meant that our income was necessarily reduced- partly because of the reduced seating but also as people were feeling their way back towards the confidence to resume travelling into the town-centre and cinema -going.....so numbers were much reduced from the days before closure in March 2020.

In spite of the council's understanding of our financial situation, and freedom from the usual cinema rental charges, this reduced-income re-opening, on top of **over 6 months** of closure meant we ended the financial year with a small loss of £2259, on a income of £17637. The complete financial accounts are available at the meeting.

We agreed with the Council that we would not pay rent at the present time due to the impact of the pandemic on our ticket income and our significant ongoing contributions to the upkeep and maintenance of the cinema and its equipment. Our discussions with the Council with regards to the go forward position are ongoing.

We are grateful for the many small and some large donations added by our members when purchasing their tickets- these donations totalled over £400 over the course of the year. In addition, we received a donation of £600 from an anonymous supporter to enable us to buy a new laptop for the Box Office- the old one being no longer fit for purpose. We are extremely grateful for both small and large donations. Many thanks again to all the donors and all patrons and colleagues!