

## **Vice-President's Report for Croydon Film Society 2018**

Croydon Film Society has, by all the usual criteria, enjoyed a very successful year in 2018. Membership has increased and we now have in place an Introductory Membership covering the last five screenings. The films screened during the year, have, with a couple of exceptions, been very popular with members. We have been able to reintroduce the Student Bursary of \$1500 and despite the increase in some areas of expenditure, ended the financial year with a very small deficit enabling membership fees to remain at a very acceptable level.

However during the year we have suffered the loss of George Aleksionas (Manager and part-owner of Croydon Cinemas), whose sudden death in July was a huge shock to committee members who had worked with him. Even more devastating has been the deterioration in health of our President, John Arkins, who continued to lead many of the initiatives in the societies' operation despite his increasing incapacitation, until he was forced to resign in October.

John was a committee member through the 1980s and again from 2006. He performed many roles and will be remembered for introducing and curating the short-film event. He was a long time Secretary and recently President of the society. He initiated many of the behind-the-scenes procedures which we now take for granted and his latest success was the introduction of the scanning system as members enter the cinema which tells us which films you turn up for in greater numbers.. We will certainly find him irreplaceable.

One of John's constant exhortations was the importance of succession planning for the committee and we are now faced with the reality of that advice. On a committee of twelve we are currently down to ten with at least three other long-serving members considering retirement.

**REPLACEMENTS NEED TO BE FOUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

There are a myriad of tasks to be accomplished in order to ensure that first-class acceptable films are chosen, booked, delivered and returned. Also to ensure that discerning film-goers wish to join and rejoin Croydon Film Society, finding the experience comfortable, pleasant and rewarding. Most importantly that members are fully informed as to the films on offer and what is happening within the society, both by traditional and digital newsletters. These duties are not onerous and accomplished by twelve people over a twelve-month period do not impose unduly on any one person. Of course everything depends on the Treasurer keeping the society in the black, but this has never been a problem. John Hinkins for many years our auditor and financial reviewer has called it a day and so this is another, more specialized recruit, we must locate.

The message is clear, volunteers will need to come forward and gradually take over the running of the society in order to keep up the standard of service we have become accustomed to and the next couple of years will be critical. We have a very good relationship with the owners of the cinema and a newly signed agreement for our continuing occupancy. During this period will be installed a lift (don't all cheer at once), at least one additional cinema and a coffee bar. Laila Abols and Gavin will continue to look after us and so all we require is for a few of you to come forward. In a smaller society it is easier to identify possible committee members and approach them directly but if we don't receive any offers to help we might just have to do this. An unenviable task with over five hundred members. So it is over to you.

John turner

Vice-President

November 2018.