

Chair's Report for AGM 2017

Nailsworth Festival

Once again in 2017 we battled the weather somewhat on Festival Saturday but in a very British way we carried on. Attendance was reasonable, given the weather, and feedback about both the Market and entertainment was very positive. It was agreed that having the schools involved in the entertainment boosted general attendance. The exhibition in the Church was very special and had good attendance from farther afield as well as the town. It did, however, bring additional costs. Organisation of the food trail proved a little problematic as traders were inconsistent in their approach. As in previous years the whole committee showed excellent commitment on the day with all organisational issues dealt with smoothly.

Between May 20th and May 28th the Committee put on 10 evening events including a range of music, literary events and speakers. We had agreed that we would take some risks in booking more expensive acts this year but this seems to have coincided with a drop in sales. However, we were well resourced to cover the expenditure for one year. The events all ran smoothly and we covered costs on all the less expensive, more local performers. Several of these were excellent and much enjoyed by those attending. The partnership with Ruskin Mill and Churches Together both worked well in providing good audiences for these events.

Many of the other events were also partnership activities. The Harp and Art workshops both sold out and children who attended the Footie Fest enjoyed it, although numbers were small.

Once again Tim did an excellent job on the publicity with good coverage in local papers and on Radio Gloucestershire. Efforts to use more social media did not quite work out and this continues to be an area that we need to develop. We are most grateful once again to the work of the TIC volunteers in selling tickets and to John and Jane for their skills on the website generally and web sales in particular. I would also like to give special thanks to Debbie for all her work on ticketing over the year. Sadly Debbie has decided to step down from the committee after so many years working for the Festival, her expertise will be much missed. Thanks to to Katie and Ed for stepping in to cover the bars in Chris' absence.

Sponsorship and the Town Council grant allowed us to cover the "background" costs associated with publicity, insurances and Festival Saturday as well as contributing to some events specifically and we are most grateful for these donations. No accidents or incidents were reported at any of the events.

I would like to conclude with a huge thank you to the whole committee for their time, energy, talents and commitment to delivering the Festival that contributes greatly to the ethos of Nailsworth as a community each year. In addition, I am particularly grateful for all the support provided to me personally through very difficult circumstances that coincided with the Festival this year.

Mary Saunders, Festival Co-ordinator