

Chair's Report for AGM 2020

of

Nailsworth Festival

2020 will go down as the year that we all learnt how difficult it is to make plans! From the autumn of 2019 the whole team did a fantastic job in planning a very full programme for May 2020. In my absence, due to ill health, Marian took on responsibility for Chairing meetings and Katie undertook the onerous task of pulling the programme together, while the rest of the committee co-ordinated the various aspects for which they have responsibility.

All was on track when in March the Country was overtaken by Covid 19 and on March 23rd went into lockdown. The committee met and sadly made the decision that we would have to cancel the Festival because of the emergency restrictions. This proved to be absolutely the correct decision as the situation became more and more serious and we were all unable to leave our homes.

All participants, sponsors, venues and local authorities were contact and fully understood the cancellation. We were fortunate that the Festival was not over exposed financially (see financial report) and able to cover the expenditure already incurred. Timing also meant that we had not launched our ticket sales so did not have to navigate refunds. In the circumstances reputational damage within the community is unlikely.

Everyone is very positive about future planning and we look forward to presenting at least a limited programme for 2021 with a determination to come back "bigger and better" as soon as the National situation allows.

Mary Saunders, Festival Co-ordinator
October 2020