

North Berwick Movies AGM 2024/5 Chair's Report

Welcome to our final AGM as North Berwick Movies (in our 25th anniversary year) before we hopefully become NB Movies, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). As this may be our final AGM as North Berwick Movies, this report will cover the period from September 2024 to Christmas 2025.

We have had another successful year in terms of the films we have shown, adding a season of documentaries with guest speakers.

Month	Film	Attendance
September 2024	Stop Making Sense	48
October 2024	Baltimore	89
November 2024	Thelma	52
January 2025	The Outrun	85
February 2025	Kneecap	80
March 2025	Conclave	93
April 2025	All We Imagine as Light	75
May 2025	A Complete Unknown	83
June 2025	Black Bag	71
September 2025	Mr Burton	74
October 2025	In the Mood for Love	50
November 2025	Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (with NB Coastal Connections)	72

The documentary series was proposed, managed and promoted by Mike and Amanda Sumner, and was a huge success. It has been supported by Ling Lee, a local film maker, whose documentary Surviving Translation we showed in March 2024. We unexpectedly went viral on social media with No Other Land, where one of our posts had in excess of 33,000 views, over 650 comments and over 2000 reactions.

Month	Film	Speaker	Attendance
May 2025	Silent Men	Duncan Cowles, (film director)	45
June 2025	No Other Land	Dr Andreas Hackle (University of Edinburgh)	73
September 2025	Wilding (with Sustainability NB)	John Maslan (Muir to Forth Project), Mike Thornton (Forth Rivers Trust), Jo Gibb (EL Climate Hub).	73
October 2025	It'll Never Work	Hans Unckles (star of the film)	80

This additional activity is reflected in an increase in our income (tickets and bar) from £5144 to £6472.

We put 91 tickets on sale for each film, reflecting the Hall's capacity. Where attendance is shown as above 80 we have generally sold out, as usually about 10% of ticket holders are 'no-shows'.

Our equipment and/or projectionists have additionally been used for:

December 2024	Christmas film for Stay and Plan
December 2024	Christmas film for Dirleton Play Group
May 2025	'Dead Good' for NB Coastal Communities
December 2025	Christmas film for Dirleton Play Group
December 2025	The Gruffalo for NBCC Play Group
January 2026	Grease for Play Group staff

The projector is also used by local groups to show slides at meetings.

As discussed at last year's AGM we moved to using Ticketsource to sell tickets, which reduced costs per ticket from £1.21 to £0.41. We have continued to show sub-titles (where available) which remains well received (but still tricky from the projectionist's point of view!). The hearing loop is now working. We have moved to

a new lay-out for our seating: 2:6:2, with two aisles, rather than 5:5. This seems to work well.

The bar continues to be a great success. Many thanks to Jane Green for managing this, and to her, Saartje Driver and Amanda Knani for manning it. We have to operate with East Lothian Council's licensing requirements, which restrict the number of licences we can have each year.

Our intention has always been to try to achieve sufficient surplus each year to transfer £2000 p.a. into a reserve account, to save up towards any needed equipment replacement. In the past few months we have replaced our Blu-ray player on a like for like basis due to the fact that we had begun to experience some technical difficulties with regard to handling subtitles and dropping frames when using a memory stick. For the longer term we are developing a strategy that will allow us to move away from discs, which may be discontinued. We are working with Richer Sounds and Audio Light Systems to work out a solution and a transition plan. We are keeping a watching brief on East Lothian Council's review of its buildings.

Our Treasurer, Carolyn Foster, resigned in Spring 2025 and was replaced by Amanda Sumner as Acting Treasurer. Jane Henry joined the Committee in July 2025. We are fortunate to have a range of skills across the Committee covering technical expertise, practical skills, administration and constitutional matters – all welded together by enthusiasm and a commitment to making films accessible to North Berwick residents.

Finally, more about our move to SCIO status. We took the opportunity this year to look at our constitution and status as a voluntary association. We considered whether it was still sensible in light of our increasing income, expenses and proposed upgrading of our technical capability. At the moment our expenses are largely incurred by us as individuals then reclaimed. That's fine for *ad hoc* supplies and bookings, but as we move towards streaming films rather than buying discs we will need to be able to enter into contractual arrangements. We foresee we will need to do this as an organisation rather than through individual members. We also want to be able to approach funders if needed, for investment in equipment and we want to be able to take advantage of beneficial arrangements enjoyed by charities. We met with a representative from the Volunteer Centre East Lothian who has advised us on options. Appropriately, because our booking of the Hope Rooms fell through, our meeting with her took place in the Auld Hoose: the place where the idea for North Berwick Movies was born 25 years ago!

Jim Conway
Chair