

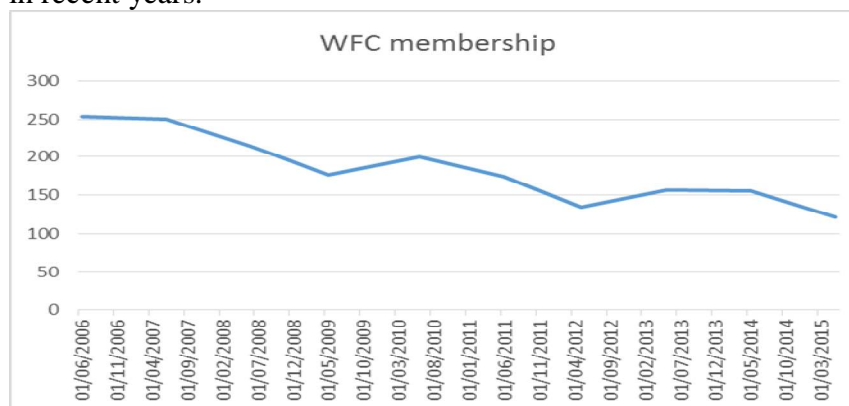
## Wimbledon Film Club Chairman's report, 2015

We have had another good season, opening with the rather quirky, of *Horses and Men* followed by more excellent films including our Black History Month film, *The Stuart Hall Project* and our Bookfest-associated screening of the adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *A Selfish Giant*. We had several excellent speaker events, such as Dr Susan Grayzel to introduce our International Women's Day film, *Testament of Youth* and Dr Nick Smedley to introduce the Preston Sturges classic, *A Palm Beach Story*. In association with Merton Arts Trail, we ran a new event for WFC, a Mystery Movie, and screening Coppola's *Dracula* in the period setting of *Southside House*. The screening was sold out and a big success with many attendees looking very vampish in the costumes. We tried to address member's suggestions for a sprinkling of more up-beat and comedy films in the programme.

A big innovation for our 2014/15 season was the introduction of our brand new website, which looks great and has generated lots of positive comments from our members. We hired a web designer, Matt Sanders, to construct the website, with the help of our web team, Penny, Liz and Aurora. We would like to thank all of the team for their hard work.

A key aspect of the new website is the introduction of advanced ticket purchase via Eventbrite for a small booking fee. Although we have experienced teething problems with the service – a small number of members not receiving the email ticket purchase invitations – we believe we have solved these problems and the system is working well and is appreciated by those members who use it. We generally sell up to 30 tickets in advance.

Another big change for the film club has been the shift from Thursdays to Tuesdays, forced on us by availability of the red screen cinema. This was not received so well and its introduction has been associated with a drop in both membership and attendance. We have 122 members at present compared to 155 for same period last year. This is a worsening of the general trend towards reducing numbers of members in recent years.



Also, you may remember that our 2013/14 season was very successful for attendance with full houses and having to turn members away for several films. This has not been

the case for our 2014/15 season where attendances have been generally quite low, often hovering around 50/60 (for example, 56 for Leviathan).

We were very sorry to lose one of our members, Mike, from the committee, due to work commitments. He is sorely missed.

We would greatly appreciate members volunteering to help out with screening nights and other routine tasks (for example, leaflet distribution) when we are short-staffed.

I would like to thank all of our WFC committee who put a lot of their own time and effort (unpaid!) into successfully running the club. Our current committee members available for re-election are: Johnjoe McFadden, Clare Collins, Peter Cargin, Penny Amerena, Liz Woodroffe, Peter Cargin, Grace Alves and Aurora Tellenbach.

### **Plans for 2015/2016**

There are two main items on the agenda to discuss: proposal to move back to Thursday screenings and new membership ticket prices both to offset increased costs and to provide funds for a social media campaign to help to increase our membership.

### **Proposed 2015/16 Programme**

Autumn Season: Wild Tales (opener), Listen Up Phillip (in association with Bookfest), The Good Lie (Black History Month), What We Do in the Shadows, Slow West, 3-Iron, Salt of the Earth.

Spring/summer 2016 upcoming films (provisional) include: Padre Padrone (members' choice), Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Marshland.

Once again we will be running a Wimbledon International Short Film Festival in 2015. This year we have shifted to an October screening in order to run alongside Wimbledon Bookfest; and we will be running the festival in association with the Bookfest.

Johnjoe McFadden  
Chair, Wimbledon Film Club