

Festival Report 2019

The 20th Keswick Film Festival ran from 28th February to 3rd March 2019.

The Committee was aware that costs had to be held down as far as possible for the long term sustainability of the event and it was with this end in mind that the programme and marketing budgets were established.

We were fortunate that two grant applications were successful – from the Allerdale Festival Fund and from the County Council neighbourhood fund. The latter was of huge assistance in enabling us to get a younger age group attending and volunteering at the Festival and went some way to support the Patron's Legacy Project (below).

Critically and financially the Festival was a success, generating a surplus of some £600. There were 3 full houses over the course of the weekend – the opening film Jellyfish which raised funds for and awareness of local carers organisations, the closing film Green Book and Sometimes Always Never, Carl Hunter's film that sold out the Theatre Main House.

A particular highlight was the Patron's Legacy Project, which involved over 60 students from Carlisle College and the University of Cumbria. Carlisle College students worked on interpreting 5 of Sir John Hurt's films within their chosen disciplines including fine art, fashion, film, drama graphic design and architecture. It was an outstanding collaboration capped off by Anwen, Lady Hurt's attendance both at the College and the Festival, specifically to see what they had achieved. We hope to repeat the success of the event in March 2020.

Students from the University (and Keswick School) also assisted as volunteers, augmenting the excellent work of volunteers from the Club. We will need such support for the 21st Festival and the Committee would encourage you to get involved. As the prospect of grant aid diminishes, we are looking to both cut costs and increase income in 2020 and we hope to report on a similarly successful event at the next AGM.