

# Lots of volunteer hours at the Foxlowe

**Volunteers are the backbone of the success of our community run Foxlowe Arts Centre.**

**Here is a report focusing on volunteer statistics, from our Volunteer Coordinator Marion Fenton:**

Numbers of volunteers do change frequently but at the moment we have about 100, having gained roughly 25 new regular helpers.

Some volunteers work in more than one area, or staff paid in catering may volunteer in other areas. I estimate there are approximately 20 regular volunteers in each area.

About 30 prospective volunteers have been seen so far this year, some of whom have not remained due to various reasons including employment, or family commitments.

Some existing volunteers have been taken on as staff, moved on to employment or to further education. Also some are local temporarily and move away. As before, there is interest in using their

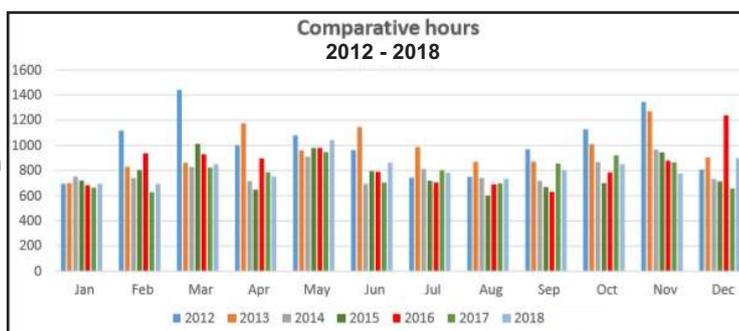
skills in a group setting, or taking on a particular project working to a final aim. It may be productive to recruit for particular projects – a one-off working towards a definite aim with a final end product. We are getting a lot of support from Leek and Buxton College, often providing work placements supported by college staff which both the volunteer and the support staff seem to enjoy. This is probably the most active area providing volunteers in the café, kitchen and the garden. Hopefully we will keep the volunteers after the end of the placement.

As before the distribution of volunteers shows more female than male, older rather than younger and retired rather than employed but only by small amounts.

The volunteer hours vary but in general follow similar patterns by month and by year.

A successful event was held in the summer 2018 for volunteers to meet those in other areas and was very much appreciated.

The graph shows comparison of volunteer hours from 2012 until December 2018. It is worth noting that these figures are more likely to actually be double due to the 'off-site' hours which volunteers carry out with 'behind the scenes' tasks and roles.



## Summer season of screenings

**A new season of Foxlowe Films is upon us.**

Thanks to all who came along in the Spring season, we had a rise in audience numbers with a number of sell outs which is heartening and good to have so much positive feedback about our programming choices.

We kick off our Summer season of screenings on Tuesday, May 7 with *Leave No Trace* – a wonderful film about a father and his teenage daughter living off-grid in Oregon.

On May 14 we have *A Private War* starring Rosamund Pike as Marie Colvin, one of the most celebrated war correspondents of our time. The film charts this fearless and rebellious reporter, as her mission to show the true cost of war leads her to embark on the most dangerous assignment of her life in the besieged Syrian city of Homs.

We are delighted to bring you the outrageous period satire *The Favourite*,

screening on May 21. Olivia Colman won the best actress Academy Award and BAFTA for her performance as Queen Anne, ably supported by Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone.

On May 28 we screen *Beautiful Boy*, starring Timothee Chalamet and Steve Carrell in a powerful, soulful and intensely moving drama about addiction, its tragic consequences and reverberations through a family.

*Colette*, screening on June 4 premiered at Sundance 2018 to rave reviews. It stars a radiant Keira Knightley giving a career-best performance in what is an exhilarating and timely film about the life of groundbreaking French novelist Colette.

Later in the season we screen: *Vice* on June 11, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* on June 18, *Stan and Ollie* on June 25, *If Beale Street Could Talk* on July 2, *Green Book* on July 9, and *Wild Rose* on July 16.

## Cash boost for films

Our weekly film night has received a cash boost thanks to a local councillor.

A Staffordshire County Council Community Grant of £850 has been donated to the Foxlowe Film group by County Councillor Charlotte Atkins.

Foxlowe Film coordinator Maureen Wiskin said: "On behalf of the Foxlowe Film Group and all movie-goers we extend our grateful thanks to County Councillor Charlotte Atkins for approving a Community Grant for £850.

"The bid was to ensure further improvements to sound quality as well as the stair case flooring.

"We had been advised that curtains to the front and rear of the Rainbow Room, which are now installed, would act as an antidote to the hard surfaces and soften the sound.

"In addition, the purchase of better sound equipment should improve matters further.

"The stairwell has recently been repainted but was still looking grim because of the state of the carpet - we hope that new stair carpet will be fitted in time for the new season."

Maureen added: "As all profits from the films go to help with running costs of the Foxlowe Arts Centre, we depend on external funding for extras - so thank you Charlotte."