

Mecca Bingo / The Ritz Cinema

'The Ritz' cinema opened on the High Street in 1939, and has been trading continuously in Wallsend for 66 years. Although converted to a Bingo Hall in the 1960's, the hall retains many of the original cinema features, and is the only active survivor from a period when as many as five Picture Halls operated in Wallsend. When it opened, it was considered by many to be the finest of Wallsend's cinemas, and there are many local residents who retain fond memories of visits to 'the Ritzy.'

Our decision to be involved with the Festival gave us the opportunity to open our doors to local people and to remind them of the way cinema and picture-going was such an important part of life in the 1940's and 50's. We opened our doors to the public on three mornings during Festival week, and were delighted with the response - in fact, many visitors knew more about the history of the club than we did ourselves. For many, it was a nostalgic trip, evoking happy memories of past days, and for others, it was a pleasant surprise to realise that Wallsend town centre possessed such a large indoor theatre. On Festival Day itself, Tyne & Wear Museums took advantage of the Foyer space to offer a display and children's activities to complement the guided tour.

The hall has been part of Wallsend's community for 66 years, and remains an integral part of the High Street's facilities. We were delighted to be involved in 2005 and to reach out and make friends, through the Festival, with other parts of our community. We look forward to supporting the Festival in 2006.

The Wallsend Festival Association is an unincorporated body with charitable aims that was formed in January 2002 following the successful Wallsend Festival event held in July 2001.

It seeks to celebrate all that is good in Wallsend: past, present and future and its main focus of activity to date has been planning and delivery of the annual Wallsend Festival, held for the fourth time in July 2004.



Chair's and Secretary's Report

The Wallsend Festival Association has continued to prosper during 2004/5 and worked throughout the year to deliver the fifth annual Wallsend Festival during the period June 29th - July 3rd 2005. The 2005 Festival was a week earlier than the previous year, in order to avoid clashing with the Durham Miners Gala and a major steam gathering. The chosen date at the beginning of July is largely influenced by the school timetable as being a date sufficiently close to the end of term to allow schools to concentrate more time on Festival-related activities.

2005 was the biggest and most ambitious Festival to date, and its success was down to the hard work of more people than ever before, with an enthusiastic group meeting monthly throughout much of the year to put the programme together. The formal membership of the management committee was supplemented by many others who brought ideas and enthusiasm to the planning process. Once again special thanks are due to Edmund Hall for his tireless work in organising the Parade and Display area attractions.

For once I don't have to report on a change of Treasurer, we've at last managed to hold onto a Treasurer for more than a year, and this has certainly eased my workload significantly and ensured that our finances are kept on an even keel, as Tom Fairhurst's report and accounts show.

Once again Jim Graham has agreed to act as auditor and his report is attached to the accounts.

We are pleased to record the financial support which we have received once again from the Community Foundation and DTZ. Without this funding the Festival would not be possible. We are aware of significant cutbacks in charitable bodies' funding streams from 2006 onwards and so we expect to have to redouble our efforts to attract new funders for future years if we are to maintain the Festival at its present size.

Forthcoming changes in legislation, especially the Licensing Act will impact on community events such as the Festival so we can expect many challenges for the forthcoming year. Nonetheless I remain confident that we have an enthusiastic and talented group of people who share a vision for the town that will enable us to continue to deliver a true celebration of 'all that is good in Wallsend, past present and future.'

John Fleet
Chair/Secretary

Wallsend Festival 2005

The week leading up to Saturday July 2nd saw the fifth Wallsend Festival. The town centre once again played host to a wide range of activities as folk of all ages joined to celebrate Festival Day. We made our contribution to Sea Britain year and the impending visit of the Tall Ships to the Tyne by adopting a nautical theme for this year.

Following the successful trial in 2004, we once again closed part of High Street East to allow a wide variety of vintage vehicles to be displayed along with fairground rides and a children's Play Bus kindly sponsored by Sure Start in Wallsend.

Due to restrictions placed upon the route of the Parade by Northumbria Police, the road closure area was also pressed into service as the assembly/dispersal area for our Parade. As a result the Parade route was much shorter than in previous years, but what we lacked in length we made up for in numbers with the biggest turnout for the Parade since 2001. Thanks to support from the Community Foundation we were able to book local artist Anh Mao to work with students from several local schools who paraded in nautical attire.

The ever popular live music line up at the bandstand saw Steve Walls perform his by now established role as compere and we welcomed a number of new performers including the Happy Cats and The Groovediggers to the stage.

Our craft market proved as popular as ever and once again spilt over into the Forum Shopping Centre, where live martial arts and dance demonstrations were also to be found. The local history society stall was particularly popular and the tapestry project from Burnside Business and Enterprise College gave young and old alike the chance to try their hand at some traditional quilting.

We were very pleased that the local Mecca Bingo club joined in by opening its doors and offering tours of the building, which gave folk a chance to revive memories of the club's former life as the Ritz cinema.

For the first time we were able to really use the Memorial Hall as part of the Festival this year, and it played host to model railway and boat displays as well as other craftspeople. Local historian Eric Hollerton gave an illustrated talk on Wallsend's history during the morning.

The children's fairground proved as popular as ever on the site of the Coronation Club car park.

Saturday finished with a Geordie Evening in the Memorial Hall, when we welcomed the Border Directors Band together with the Addison Rapper and Clog Dance team, and we were very pleased to be honoured with the presence of the Chair of North Tyneside Council, Councillor Marion Huscroft together with her consort Councillor Michael Huscroft.

Once again Segedunum kept the Festival flag flying on the Sunday with a range of attractions including their ever popular 'pop in for a £' offer.

Wallsend Choral Society

The Festival Concert 2005, given by the Wallsend and District Choral Society took the form of a Folk Night with Soloist Alison Bates who gave an excellent performance of Northumbrian and Cumbrian folk songs.

We were pleased to welcome the Chair of North Tyneside Council, Councillor Marion Huscroft and her Consort Councillor Michael Huscroft, who is our President.

If you are interested in singing, please come along to our rehearsals each Wednesday evening in Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Wallsend at 7.15pm. Men, we need you. Everyone will be given a warm welcome.

Thank you to all our faithful supporters, we look forward to seeing you at our future concerts.

For further information on the Society, please ring Chairman, Margaret Richardson on 0191 262 2801 or Mr Norman Moore on 0191 266 6473.

Wallsend People's Centre

Once again the Festival was great fun and the weather fantastic. The People's Centre had our usual attractions to add to the events in the High Street.

The tombola, face painting and raffle went down very well and there was a new attraction of tarot reading. There were queues of people waiting for their readings all day. The cafe was extremely busy serving hot lunches, salads and snacks.

After lunch we had live performances with Irish Dancing and a drumming workshop - at which there was plenty of audience participation. A very good day all round.

Maureen Madden
WPC

Wallsend Schools' Report

The theme of this year's festival was the tall ships. The aim of schools' involvement in 2005 was to meet the aims of the Wallsend Festival and make a greater impact on the Wallsend Festival Parade. Initially 2 projects were proposed:-

1. A song and dance festival organised and funded by the schools' partnership.
2. An Arts project with an enterprise aspect so that children developed organisational/planning skills as well as merely creating a product and presenting it.

The first project (song and dance workshop) was cancelled since North Tyneside was involved in a plethora of events and festivals connected to the Tall Ships and there would be 'overload' for schools and children.

The Arts project was part funded by Burnside and part funded by the Wallsend Festival Committee since the project would take place in the school timetable but the Parade is extra to school time. Essentially this project targeted primary school children - all Burnside family of schools were invited to participate. 3 schools responded; Richardson Dees, St Peters and Redesdale. Artist Anh Mao was commissioned to work on individual school projects which included the making of replica tall ships (Richardson Dees), printed T.shirts with a nautical theme (St Peters) and a range of pennants, T.shirts and models (Redesdale). Anh spent time planning with teachers, delivering the project and co-ordinating the children on Festival Day.

Participation of Primary school children was disappointing with less than 20 children taking part in the parade. No children from Redesdale took part.

BURNSIDE

Students from Burnside worked with artists through The arts education agency "Custombuilt" on a cheer- leading project for the Fish Quay Festival. As a condition of Burnside's participation our students were also committed to appearing in the Wallsend Festival Parade. Additionally teachers from Burnside supplemented the cheerleaders with a "Samba Band". 8 students cheer led with approx 20 samba musicians. This seemed to be effective.

Burnside Tapestry;

The tapestry which was produced during a workshop at the 2004 festival was paraded through Wallsend by staff and students from Burnside. This years workshop was to make the Tall Ships Tapestry. Members of the community as well as Burnside students were working on the banner during festival day. Many Burnside students were involved in the Festival as part of other organisations such as the cadets.

WALLSEND FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2005

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR PERIOD

<u>6 months to</u> <u>30.9.2004</u> £		<u>12 months to</u> <u>30.9.2005</u> £
	<u>Income</u>	
4,428.50	Grants: Community Foundation,	2,094.00
3,000.00	North Tyneside Council,	4,000.00
0	North Tyneside Council - Small Grants Scheme,	400.00
1,000.00	DTZ Debenham Tie Leung,	1,000.00
<u>8,428.50</u>		<u>7,494.00</u>
1,227.50	Stalls and Concessions,	1,430.00
0	Burnside B&E College - Contribution re Artist in Residence,	1,500.00
0	Geordie Night Tickets,	204.00
0	Prior-Year Adjustment of Provisions made but not needed,	375.00
<u>7.40</u>	Bank / Building Society Interest,	<u>68.51</u>
9,663.40	Total Income,	11,071.51
<u>0</u>	Deficit for Year, i.e. Excess for Year of Expenditure over Income	<u>1,382.14</u>
<u>9,663.40</u>		<u>12,453.65</u>
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
4,515.67	Publicity, Organisation and Management,	5,095.39
0	Hire of Wallsend Memorial Hall,	200.00
0	Artist in Residence,	2,800.00
<u>2,565.00</u>	Artistes, etc.,	<u>4,358.26</u>
7,080.67	Total Expenditure,	12,453.65
<u>2,582.73</u>	Surplus for Year of Income over Expenditure,	<u>0</u>
<u>9,663.40</u>		<u>12,453.65</u>

RESERVE ACCOUNT

<u>6 months to</u> <u>30.9.2004</u> £		<u>12 months to</u> <u>30.9.2005</u> £
692.43	Accumulated Surplus brought forward at 1 st Jan (2004) / 1 st Oct (2005),	3,275.16
<u>2,582.73</u>	Surplus for Year, brought down from Income & Expenditure Account,	<u>0</u>
<u>3,275.16</u>		<u>3,275.16</u>
0	Deficit for Year, brought down from Income & Expenditure Account,	1,382.14
<u>3,275.16</u>	Accumulated Surplus carried forward at 30 th September,	<u>1,893.02</u>
<u>3,275.16</u>		<u>3,275.16</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2005

<u>30.9.2004</u> £		<u>30.9.2005</u> £
0	Provision made for Disputed Invoices received,	286.20
375.00	Creditors,	0
<u>3,275.16</u>	Reserve Account, Accumulated Surplus, as above,	<u>1,893.02</u>
<u>3,650.16</u>		<u>2,179.22</u>
1,000.00	Debtor, DTZ Debenham Tie Leung for grant,	0
2,500.00	Cash at Building Society,	2,027.65
<u>150.16</u>	Cash at Bank,	<u>151.57</u>
<u>3,650.16</u>		<u>2,179.22</u>

Certificate and Notes of the Hon. Treasurer

General

The 2005 figures cover a full calendar year, whereas the 2004 figures covered a period of only 6 months to 30th September 2004. The two periods' accounts are nevertheless comparable in that each represents the costs of one year's Festival. The financial year end has been brought forward in order to allow for prompt completion of the accounts and their presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which takes place late in each calendar year; the year-end is expected to remain at 30th September in future years.

Comprehensiveness of Accounts

Some costs incurred in the organisation, management and general operation of the Wallsend Festival have not been directly charged or invoiced; and they are excluded from the accounts. Such costs include:

- the services of the Chair of the Wallsend Festival Association, his support staff, and members of the Committee;
- meeting facilities provided throughout the year by Segedunum Museum and Burnside Business and Enterprise College;
- school teachers who have worked outside their curricula;
- Northumbria Police;
- members of Wallsend Rotary Club;
- exhibitors who provided their services during the week of the Festival without charge;
- participants in the Festival Parade, who provided their own outfits and decorations, absorbing their own costs; and
- members of the military and cadet organisations, together with their static displays and participation in the Parade, at no cost to the Festival Association.

Apart from the uncharged costs referred to above, the accounts as presented include all the income and expenditure of the Wallsend Festival Association for the year ended 30th September 2005 and present fairly its financial position as at 30th September 2005.

Accounting Policies

The accounts are prepared generally on an accruals basis following the historical cost convention; but interest is accounted for as received, without accrual. As at 30th September 2005 the Committee does not expect any claims other than two invoices received amounting in aggregate to £286.20, which are disputed by the Association but for which full provision has been made nonetheless: nor are any further moneys due to the Association at that date.

Financial Performance

The Association's expenditure on publicity, organisation and management in 2005 increased by some £580 or 13%, caused mainly by non-recurring expenditure of £450 on website upgrading and an increase of some £685 in North Tyneside Council's charges, offset in part by savings on printing and advertising.

The Association broke new ground by employing an Artist in Residence to work with local schools, the costs being met in part by a generous contribution from Burnside Business and Enterprise College. The Association also promoted a 'Geordie Night' which was well received by the audience but which was not a financial success and so is unlikely to be repeated in that form in the near future. Expenditure on marching bands and vintage vehicles increased substantially, extending the attractiveness of the Festival. Grant income fell by almost £1,000 from the previous year. Income from stall rents and concessions rose by some £200. Provision made in the 2004 accounts for payments of £375 is now considered unnecessary and has been credited back in 2004-05.

Overall, the 2005 Festival operated at a deficit of £1,382 drawn from the accumulated reserves, as compared to the £3,275 surplus in the previous year. The accumulated reserve of £1,893 as at 30th September 2005 is healthy and adequate.

T. S. Fairhurst, CPFA
Hon. Treasurer

1st October 2005.

Certificate of the Independent Examiner

I certify that I have examined all the books, accounts, invoices and bank statements of the Wallsend Festival Association for the year ended 30th September 2005. I find that the books, accounts, invoices and bank statements are an accurate reflection of the financial affairs of the Wallsend Festival Association.

J. S. Graham, MCIEH
Independent Examiner

18 October 2005.