

## BFFS SW VIEWING RETURNS TO WARMINSTER

Four years to the day, the Athenæum Centre in the Wiltshire town of Warminster was once again the venue for a South West Group Viewing. Over 90 delegates from 20 Societies attended for what was, in effect, the second leg of the Group's Autumn Viewing following on from the event held in Torquay two weeks before for Devon and Cornwall Societies in the far west of the region. Taking the two Film Days together, nearly 130 members from 30 Societies made the Autumn Viewing one of the most successful in the Group's 35-year history.

Our hosts, Molly Hobbs and the Warminster Film Society committee, made delegates feel at home in their venue despite being in the throes of major refurbishment. The catering by Sandy Parrish and her team came up with an excellent lunch and the picture quiz was hotly contested.



The Athenæum, Warminster



The films were shown in the main auditorium by projectionist team John and Jonathan Poole and in the Pratten Hut, an annexe at the rear of the building where Paul Schilling used the new Panasonic rig supplied by the Wiltshire Rural Cinema project, now known as White Horse Pictures. The opening film in this second venue, Bong Joon-ho's *Mother*, looked fantastic and was very much appreciated by the audience. The ratings show that five of the titles had reaction indices greater than 70% with the winner of the 2010 Oscar for the Best Foreign Language film, *The Secret in Their Eyes*, topping the bill.



The other titles included the documentary *Cameraman* tracing the illustrious life of British cinematographer and director Jack Cardiff and the wonderful or bizarre, according to your taste, *Skeletons*, an inventive home-grown answer to *Inception*. The latest addition to the BFFS Booking scheme, *Restrepo*, a searing documentary on the war in Afghanistan did well but wasn't able to match the score of 98% that it received at the Torquay event. The only disappointment at Warminster was the non-appearance of the billed *Please Give* due to a disc compatibility problem. It was replaced at the last minute by Julian Fellowes's family film *From Time to Time*, an adaptation of 'The Chimneys of Green Knowe', which is proving very popular with Moviola audiences this autumn.

Another successful day for the SW Group gave societies food for thought for the film selection for their next seasons. The next opportunity will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at the Electric Picture House in Wotton under Edge when Jeff Walshe and his team have promised a 3D demonstration in their fabulous community cinema. It is also planned to have a parallel event for the Devon/Cornwall network at a venue in Cornwall in March or April.

| Title                    | Total Votes | Reaction Index |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| The Secret in Their Eyes | 46          | 92             |
| Cameraman...Jack Cardiff | 39          | 87             |
| Mother                   | 34          | 76             |
| Skeletons                | 44          | 73             |
| Restrepo                 | 42          | 71             |
| From Time to Time        | 27          | 68             |

Brian Clay