

Report of the directors to the members of Home Education Festivals

12th July 2019

Home Education Festivals has continued its primary mission of promoting events where Home Educators, Home Educated Children, and those who were previously Home Educated can meet for fun and learning. Heff 2018 was very successful at the new venue of Newark Showground, with approximately 1000 people attending. For the second year Winterheff was held at Cefn Lea conference centre in mid-Wales. This was also well attended with nearly all the rooms occupied. The directors would like to thank Regan Hall, Kay Hudson and Jo Webster for stepping forward to organize this event, and doing it so well without needing a lot of time from the directors to support them.

There was a change in the membership of the board during the year as Samia Tossio stood down on 3rd November 2018. This was because of needing to reduce her voluntary workload. However she continues to support the Board with her time coordinating Live Acts, and the board co-opted Ruadhan Gee to serve until an election could be held at this meeting.

The accounts for the year to 30th September 2018 have been published on the Home Education Festivals website. There was a surplus of income over expenditure of a little over £5000, and corporation tax was paid at 19% on this.

Winterheff 2019 made a small loss, about £600 mainly because people were so keen to attend that many more tickets than expected were sold with advance purchase pricing.

Unfortunately Newark Showground were unable to offer us dates in the school holidays for Heff 2019. This has led to a drop in sales and revenue when we had budgeted for a modest increase. We entered into commitments for many aspects of the festival based on the expectation of the same or larger attendance than Heff 2018, booking more and larger marquees, more security, and bigger name bands, and more paid workshop providers.

The decreased revenue was made worse by the more generous low income families discount, (increased from 25% to 30%). It became apparent that there was likely to be a deficit about 6 weeks before the event, and clear about 3 weeks before the

event that without additional funding the company could not meet its obligations. Ian Anderson agreed to loan the company £10,000 interest free to ensure that Heff 2019 could go ahead. We also undertook to cut our expenditure, even though this incurred some cancellation fees. Our latest estimate is that the deficit for the year to September 30th 2019 will be approximately £6,000. This includes a provision of £1000 for the cost of repairing damage to the venue's facilities.

The directors are inviting voluntary donations with a suggested amount of £5 per ticket to reduce or hopefully eliminate the deficit which will have to be carried forward to next year. If there are some people able to offer more that would be appreciated as that will cover the gap from those not in a position to make a donation.

We need to ensure that the loan can be repaid, and future events adequately funded. We will give more details of the finances for Heff 2019 in the community meeting following the AGM. We will then offer members the opportunity to consider different options of how pricing for future events should be adjusted.

Looking forward to next year we have booked Cefn Lea for WinterHeff 2020, and Newark Showground for Heff 2020 which will be in the school holidays, starting on Monday 3rd of August 2020. We hope that numbers will be better with those dates and despite this year's difficulties that Heff will continue to flourish.