

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it not only offers an exciting, thought-provoking and, indeed, occasionally shocking range of films - from indie to blockbuster via foreign language screenings - that opens up our senses to subjects perhaps not considered before; but also the organisers and volunteers combine to make every event like the best of parties, and we are treated to performances from the National Theatre beamed live too! Along with occasional question and answer sessions with directors and theme-linked entertainment from local singing group the Pop Ups beforehand, it is a properly inclusive service! **Andrea Hargeaves**

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because it is the only chance to see films in a culturally-aware town of 25,000 people. It unites people from many sections of the population in their search for entertainment and enlightenment about the world and its ways; and combines the efforts of a knowledgeable and hard-working committee with a most supportive and dedicated group of volunteers, an audience of appreciative members and enthusiastic visitors from the general public. **Rod Evans**

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because it brings together people who would not normally associate, and, importantly for Seaford, it's given us a place to go in the evenings with friends or on our own. The choice of films has also introduced a wide range of interesting topics that we often discuss at length in the pub after a showing. NT Live and Encore have been invigorating, attracting a whole new audience; SCC has also reached out to the wider community by offering films outdoors and matinees for residents of local care homes. **Robin Shell**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it has brought together a surprisingly varied group of residents to appreciate Art-House films. I predicted this project would fail in sleepy Seaford. How wrong I was! It's exhilarating to be in a group of 250 people of all ages absorbed in a challenging film like *Timbuktu*, which most had never heard of, and afterwards be drawn into spontaneous lively discussions. SCC has widened our horizon and sensibilities. This "transplant" has revitalized us, and raised our expectation of developments. If SCC ceased, our community's heart would beat slower. **Roger Tonge**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it brings local people together in a truly inclusive manner, giving them the chance to see some well-chosen films that otherwise would not be seen. At the same time, it allows our community to interact by socialising and discussing them. Vitality, it also makes it possible for the less able-bodied to see films easily and be an active part of our community. **Fred Bass**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it offers a wonderful range of popular and challenging films, and it is such a boon to have a cinema venue locally to go with friends or on one's own and feel a warm welcome on arrival every time. The cinema has an extremely cosy atmosphere. I love the bar where coffee/tea are served plus wine and goodies to eat. There is ice cream too! The volunteers go out of their way to make sure everyone is comfortable, and are so very helpful at all times. **Marilyn Haydon**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it doesn't take 100 words to say that without it there would be a great big gaping unfillable hole in what drives the lifeblood of Seaford. **Lindsay Kelly**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it provides affordable, high-class films at a venue that I can walk to on a Friday night to watch. Matinees suit my elderly mother; the streamed live showings have drawn in even more people; and occasional Q&A sessions with a director have provided a wonderful added extra. We are so lucky, everyone does such a brilliant job there, but we mustn't get complacent about such a brilliant resource. It challenges people by showing quite edgy stuff when it would have been so easy to have gone mainstream. I love it! **Nicky**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it is active, balanced, challenging, dedicated, energetic, friendly, genuine, heartening, independent, joyful, knowledgeable, local, memorable, nurturing, outward-looking, pleasing, questioning, resourceful, sociable, thought-provoking, up-to-date, versatile, wide-ranging, x-panding year-on-year and reflecting the zeitgeist. It provides the people of Seaford with the opportunity to view quality cinema on the doorstep and are constantly looking for new ideas to engage their audience. There really is something for everyone! **Margaret Evans**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because not only do we come together with others to watch always interesting, and sometimes superb, films, which we would otherwise not be able to see, but the atmosphere of friendliness and welcome puts all those attending at their ease. We really do experience a sense of community there, and the extra activities that are organised for members, such as the street party for the Queen's 90th birthday, are totally relaxed and jolly occasions that we haven't met anywhere else. Long may the Seaford Community Cinema prosper! **Audrey Longman**

Our Community Cinema is at the heart of our community because one can have the full, authentic cinema experience of watching a great movie on the big screen locally; especially for people who cannot travel easily to one of the big chain cinemas. We can watch well-chosen films and even live theatre at an affordable price in the enthusiastic company of our very neighbours! A community cinema is one of the modern ways forward for people of all ages to meet and enjoy an evening's entertainment together in an age of rapid social change and isolation.

***Penny Boylan***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it is a place where not only can we view a wide variety of newly-released films that are entertaining, thought-provoking and often topical, but which provides a social hub for us Seafordians; there really is no other place in town where we can meet others across the spectrum of our population – by accident or design – to share a common interest in such a convivial atmosphere, for very little financial layout. We are so grateful to the volunteers who initiated it and keep it running. ***Anne Holderness***

Our Community Cinema is at the heart of our community because the service provided appeals to all ages and creeds. A wide spectrum of films is offered to the community and this has resulted in a fast-growing membership and attendance. The location is peculiarly accessible and saves having to consider a round trip in excess of an hour to any other cinema provider. Additionally, the films offered are typically much more thought-provoking and satisfying aesthetically than the 'special effects' monsters that lurk in other venues. Long may Seaford Community Cinema grow and flourish! ***Peter and Gwynneth Kitching***

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because the enthusiastic volunteers provide a high-quality programme of films and live theatre relays in an excellent venue, near to home and at an affordable price, so much better than the commercial cinemas of the region which are usually dominated by blockbuster movies and in any case, difficult for many of us to get to. ***Anon***

Our community cinema is the heart of the community because it has pumped energy back into an idling engine; re-oxygenated cultural life where there was a dearth; powered up the grey matter with compelling images and issues to consider; enlivened a vein of fun and frolics; reinvigorated the instinct for social action; lent style and pzazz; quickened the pulse of fellowship and injected essence of identity, idealism and pride of place! ***Anon***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it brings together local people who appreciate good films and enjoy an afternoon or evening out. Seaford has a large catchment area and many people find it difficult to travel to Brighton or Eastbourne for a cinema. The excellent choice of films and screening of National Theatre plays has made a great difference to the autumn and winter activities I enjoy. I look forward to the next programme. ***Diana Crook***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it provides a focal point in our small town where people can meet and enjoy a film together. It is heart-warming to see members of the community, across all ages, gathering together to share such an event and enjoying conversation, food and fun as well as the film, and to support the whole sense of community. ***Miriam Orriss***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it has been a life-saver for people either hampered by mobility issues or who do not wish to travel to Eastbourne or Brighton, especially in the winter. The opportunity to see high-profile films in our town is more than a pleasure as everyone is very friendly and helpful at the venue, the complete service is second to none. Long may it continue!  
***Jackie Williams***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it brings all film lovers together not only by watching the films but by participating in discussions and analysis. It provides a platform for airing views and getting better understanding of the varied presentation of film on offer. It is a venue for attracting film buffs and thereby creating new friendships. ***Mary McCluskie***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it offers a friendly and informal space to view thought-provoking, entertaining and multicultural films on the big screen. It thus offers an entirely absorbing experience in an age of blockbusters and film-going with buckets of popcorn and fizzy drinks. It is a very well organised independent cinema run completely by dedicated volunteers.  
***Lyn Sands***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it draws local people of different ages and backgrounds to performances to share a very special experience. When you have no car, and public transport is so difficult, then we have no access to cinema at all without this amazing resource. ***Anna Rushton***

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because it brings together people of different ages and backgrounds in a shared interest. It provides accessible entertainment to local people in a place where large cinemas are ten miles away, promotes the involvement of volunteers and, most importantly, shows good films!

***Elizabeth Margaret Wearmouth***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it has drawn unpaid workers to operate it with vigour from across the whole of Seaford society. Pre-performance drinks encourage mixing with fellow-residents while the line-up is stretching but offers something for all, attracting both young and old. Other clubs in the town work with the committee, such as Rotary, which donates matinee tickets for people in care homes. The Committee is innovative, as live screenings are made from the National Theatre and we had an outdoor film-showing to celebrate the Cycle Tour of Britain passing through the town. ***Keith Blackburn***

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because it provides a chance to meet with old friends and make new ones who all have a shared love of the big screen - a wide variety of film genres enable us to enjoy the box office hits alongside the more unusual films one would never have seen - I love it. ***Sally Mae Joseph***

Our Community cinema is the heart of the community because of the friendly team of organisers, the interesting films and the members' Annual General Meetings which make us all feel involved. The venue is ideal for the showing of movies, being situated within the town itself and easy to walk to, although car parking is ample. On arrival, we are greeted by a friendly person pointing out the bar for drinks and eats to enjoy while watching the film. It is an invaluable asset by saving us money not having to travel to Brighton, Eastbourne or other towns. ***Jennifer Wright***

Our Community cinema is the heart of our community because it is a relaxed and friendly place in which to meet friends and enjoy the very best of cinema selected by our excellent committee. Even if you are a newcomer to the area you can come along on your own as I often do and feel very comfortable. I love the films and also have really enjoyed the National Theatre productions. I cannot get to the London theatres very often as I am on a fixed income so I value intensely being able to see plays at Seaford Cinema. ***Patricia Short***

Our Community Cinema is at the heart of our community because it's run entirely by volunteers who are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, friendly and welcoming; the programme is varied and challenging so we watch and enjoy, sometimes to our surprise, films we might have avoided but we trust the Committee to stretch us; people of all ages are catered for, as some matinees have been aimed at the young whilst others encourage attendance of the elderly. ***Kay Blackburn***

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it serves not only as a place of entertainment showing a wide range of films, both British and foreign, to suit all ages and tastes, as well as the wonderful NT Live, but also as a meeting place where people can enjoy a drink and chat with friends and neighbours before the main event. **Ann Zwemmer**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because it fills a much-needed entertainment gap locally. The nearest commercial cinemas are at a distance and difficult to get to by public transport, particularly for the elderly or for those with special needs. Now we can enjoy a well-chosen programme of up-to-date films in the comfort of the Barn Theatre right in the centre of the town. The volunteers are always friendly and helpful, the range of refreshments exceptional. For theatre-lovers, the introduction of NT Live/Encore screenings is a welcome addition to the regular film nights. Well done SCC! **Tony Betts**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because here at the Tourist information Office, we feel like we are one big team all working together to serve the community. It is a pleasure to be their box office! **Sue Bird, Seaford Tourist Information Centre**

Our Community Cinema is the heart of our community because that is what it was designed to be. Careful management enables it to operate successfully as a film society and a theatre club, as well as putting on popular and well-attended programmes for children and older people. The policy of bringing in locally-based film-makers to talk about their work - old and new - makes cinema feel all the more relevant and accessible. And the Barn Theatre is more than just a venue. It also acts as a club house for members and volunteers on cinema nights. **Glyn James**

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because it brings a great choice of films in a friendly, relaxing environment and a rare opportunity to see unusual titles right on our doorstep. **Anon**

Our community cinema is at the heart of our community because it fulfils a long-felt need in our town, where it is the only cinema. It draws in audiences to its diverse programme of popular and less well-known films. Being centrally located, it is easily accessible. Many people have become regular attendees and are appreciative of the welcoming atmosphere created by the team of volunteers helping to run cinema evenings. Special programmes for young people and afternoon showings for those for whom getting out in the evenings is a problem are well attended too. **Brenda Moignard**

Our community cinema is the heart of our community because of the creative social links it has forged in a town of specialist societies but little for all. The highpoint was meeting the Queen before the showing of *The Audience*. She was a bit flat that day – in fact, she was a cardboard cut-out - but the thrill was there nevertheless. What a privilege too, to shake hands with Suffragettes and check out some well Rude Boys for *Straight Outta Compton*. And you can never get enough of pop-up singers and the organist who plays before the start of films. **Mike Howard**

Our community cinema is at the heart of our community because it reaches out to so many different people, of very different ages and tastes, to see such a wide range of well-chosen and well-shown films in a comfortable and welcoming environment. We now also have live transmissions from The National Theatre. For many residents of Seaford, a trip to London would be too difficult and expensive so these showings are a major plus for our community. The cinema has enhanced our lives both culturally and socially. **Augusta Skidelsky**