



# **Rusthall Community Cinema**

## **Trustees' Annual Report to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

Charity registration No. 1171282

Principle office: 21 Manor Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8UD

Trustees: Mrs Anne Goldstein, Eugene Gardner, Joe Mendell, Mrs Karen Gardner, Kevin Mullery, Peter Kemp, Miss Rachel Bain, Mrs Rosemary Romano, Mrs Irene Heskett, Alain Lewis

Governing Document: Constitution dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

Organisational Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organization

### **Purpose and Activities**

Our purpose is to promote principally cinematic facilities for the occupants of Rusthall and immediate surrounds in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life.

Audiences are invited to suggest films they would like to see then vote to select those that get screened. A short entertainment (perhaps of educational or cultural significance) is provided before the main feature, then a discussion group is initiated for all to exchange views and learn about the films. Free transport is available for the infirm and we charge the bare minimum to enable as many as possible to share the experience.

The Trustees believe that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission as required by section 4 of the Charities Act 2006.

### **Financial Review**

The position of the charity is as described in the attached Income and Expenditure Account. No specific reserve policy is in place although the Trustees intend to maintain a reasonable sum to cushion against poorly attended events and provide for purchase and maintenance of equipment.

## Comment on the Year

This year saw the launch and development of the Film Society, an offshoot that screens classic films of the last century on Sunday afternoons. After a successful trial last year we were able to reduce the entrance price to £5 to match the more popular Saturday films.

The year also saw a steady rise in bank funds until April when life the world over changed. We bought enhanced lighting to enable us to highlight the memorabilia and box office tables while enabling a smooth transition of house lights; this expense was shared with the hall. We also saw the fitting of air conditioning in the hall which would alleviate the difficulties of last summer, were it not for the biggest change of all: Coronavirus. This forced us to shut our doors after the March 7<sup>th</sup> showing of Colette.

At the time of writing our future is unclear – the Trustees are hoping to resume service later in the year when the threat subsides and Government restrictions are lifted, but at least initially unusual measures will be required to maintain the safety of volunteers and audiences. Audience sizes will have to be artificially limited and this will surely stifle our income probably resulting in some films having to be screened without meeting operating costs.

As voting for the new season of films had just completed when Covid-19 shut us down we will resume with a full season already lined up for both the Community Cinema and Film Society. Our brochure is ready to be sent to the printers once dates can be scheduled and advertisers confirmed.

The coming months will pose a challenge as we adapt to a different way of presenting films. Many of our volunteers – the life blood of the Cinema – are of an age where the risk of infection is increased and so we may need to ask more of the few or identify new recruits. Face masks and contactless payments will need to become features of our tomorrow.

Recent events have brought the community closer as neighbours engage in garden wall chats and deliver supplies to those unable to leave their houses. Let's hope that this closeness and mutual support will persist when we are able to return to the movies.