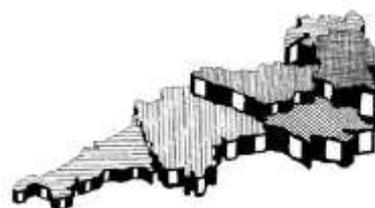


# SPRING VIEWINGS 2016

## LOSTWITHIEL & SHIPHAM



In April, **Cinema for All South West** held another two-part Viewing at venues in the west and the east of the wide-flung region to give community cinema organisers an opportunity to preview new releases for future programming.

Our hosts were **Lost in Film** in the south east Cornish town of Lostwithiel, and, a week later, **Shipham Community Cinema** in North Somerset. The combined attendance for the two events was over 120 with 33 venues represented from all over the South West. For the first time, only four of the six titles previewed on DVD/Bluray were common to both Viewings but the reactions were very similar with scores over 80%, apart from the Icelandic 'moving comedy', *Rams*, which had a reaction of 71% in the west compared with 84% in Shipham.



Here are two impressions of the events, which were generously supported by the Film Hub South West and West Midlands: the first from Regional Secretary, Brian Clay, who made the journey down to Cornwall and the second from SW Executive member, Dave Johnson, who travelled north from Lyme Regis:

### LOSTWITHIEL



“The fifth Devon/Cornwall Network Viewing was based in the town’s Community Centre with the second venue in **Lost in Film**’s regular venue, the nearby Church Rooms. Members from 12 organisations in both counties gathered in the Centre’s sunny Café Saffron to make their film choices for the day from the six new releases on offer.

The main hall of the Centre screened the two titles selected by local Societies – the Oscar® winning *Spotlight* and *He Named Me Malala*: both were well received along with the four titles also shown at Shipham. The hit of the day was the Indian comedy *The Crow’s Nest* (Kaaka Muttai) which had been suggested by Kat Smith of Lost in Film: this had had a very limited cinema release in the UK at the end of last year but its enthusiastic reception at these Viewing will hopefully ensure that this delightful ‘Slumdog Pizza’ offering will get an audience on the non-theatrical circuit. The other over-looked gem, also shown in the Church Rooms, was the American Indie, *99 Homes*, with Michael Shannon and Andrew Garfield arguably giving a more insightful view of the 2008 financial crash than more expensive titles such as *The Big Short*.

After an excellent lunch in the Café Saffron, there were two presentations in the main hall. Peter Martin from **Cinema for All**, presented case studies from the **Reaching Communities** project which was being piloted in three areas, including Cornwall, to bring community cinema to marginalised and disadvantaged people. Lost in



Film had been one of the groups involved screening films for dementia support groups in Lostwithiel. There was also an impressive demonstration by Garry Pennel of Cannon of the company's newly released digital projector available now for community cinema venues

Overall, the event highlighted the developing community cinema scene in Cornwall and Devon and provided an excellent opportunity for networking between Cinema for All members and other providers in the region. These included **Carn to Cove** and organisers of two of their C Fylm project, presenting films in village halls in Cornwall. The success of the event, organised by Kat Smith and the efficient Lost in Film team, is an encouraging sign for future events in the two counties."

## SHIPHAM COMMUNITY CINEMA



"The eastern session took place on Sunday 24 April, under the auspices of **Shipham Community Cinema**. Now in its seventh season, Shipham, housed in the much used village hall, proved to be a most hospitable host. Teas, coffees, lunch and afternoon tea were all provided to a high standard and the popular South West Quiz made a delightful departure into new territory – the components were all musical in nature and delivered by a local singer.

All the technical aspects (blackout, sound and projection) were well managed. There were plenty of copies of the programme brochure available and the value of these must not be underestimated. Not only do they provide synopses, comprehensive reviews and information on distributors, but they also ensure that delegates are given prominent reminders of the C for A booking scheme and the crucial role played by the Film Hub in such events. Barbara Hoffbauer is to be congratulated for the high quality of the programme notes.

However, the *raison d'être* is, of course, the programme itself. This year's choice of features was again well balanced, up-to-date and of a high quality. The titles were *Room*, *The Crow's Egg*, *Güeros*, *99 Homes*, *Rams* and *The Pearl Button*. As usual, supported by a wide range of shorts; *Once Upon a Time in a Shed* (88%) being a standout.

The features with the highest ratings were *The Crow's Egg* (90%), *Room* (88%), *99 Homes* (86%) and *The Pearl Button* (86%). Also much appreciated is the opportunity to meet members of other community groups and film societies and to exchange views on current films and developments. A key part of this is the members' forum and this day's involved several questions to do with live streaming.



To conclude, it was an enjoyable and productive day. The latest of over ninety such Viewing Sessions, organised by the South West Group over the last forty years; over 500 titles have been previewed in that time, helping to sustain the independent sector of the UK market."