



Grant Evaluation

- The Parish Council likes to hear how community groups have used the money awarded to them
- As the money awarded is public money, we also need to make sure that the money has been spent appropriately and as agreed

Name of Organisation	Holmfirth Film Festival
Amount of award	£ 1,000
Purpose for which the grant was awarded (Maximum 20 words)	A contribution towards the costs of venues, particularly community run venues in the Holme Valley, in particular, the Civic Halls.

The Story of Your Project

- *Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you (Maximum 500 words)*
- *Attach a few photos*

Despite some set-backs and increased costs (set out below) this last year was very successful with tremendous support from our audiences in the Holme Valley with the screening of 50 films from around the world, and an increase in numbers and age-range. We introduced new venues, returned to the Picturedrome, collaborated with local community groups, and helped young film-makers and local film societies with their successful screenings.

In order to do this, the grant from the Parish Council proved to be vital. The day before we launched our programme we were informed by the British Film Institute (BFI) that we would not be receiving funding from them this year. Squeezed budgets and an unannounced change in direction meant that we, like others, were forced at the last moment to slim down our programme, increase ticket prices and curtail some events. This also coincided with increased costs for screening of films and, of particular

significance, a rise in hiring fees for venues which have almost doubled in the space of three years. Fortunately, the grant from the Parish Council which went directly to the Civic Hall helped alleviate some of the costs and the fact that we had kept reserves ensured that we were able to mount the Festival and keep to its commitments.

We did have valuable support from a few Holmfirth businesses and venues, in particular, the new Nowhere bar and restaurant whose well-equipped cinema room has proved to be an invaluable resource, which we have used to mutual advantage to put on regular and well-attended wide range of films and talks. Peter Carr at the Picturedrome was very generous in helping us to put on a hugely successful film night with film director/satirist Chris Morris present to answer questions from fans. The Civic has seen the regular Sunday night screenings whose audiences have proved extremely loyal and, in fact, have been consistently high with a wider range of age groups attending. A highlight was the Local Film Night of historic film of the Holme Valley .

We help Hepworth Film Society with their booking of films and provide joint promotion of screenings for them and Farnley Tyas film society; screen films for the Walking Festival; and put on a successful series of films on the environment, climate change and biodiversity.

To improve the technical aspects we now screen some films in 4k having spent £5,000 on a new projector which is of a much higher quality in terms of picture and sound. We have also created a new website – our old one was creaking which also required dipping into our reserves.

We also started producing filmed Oral Histories of long-time residents of the Holme Valley and commissioned two very talented young, local post-graduate film-makers to produce four films. This is part of a longer-term project to create an archive of such material. Screenings at the Civic and Hepworth proved to be popular and well-received. In a similar vein we did a special screening of the films of Mike Wade who sadly died recently.

This could have been a very difficult year for us financially - and we did lose some money which is covered by our reserves – but it turned out well, mostly because we had strong support from local film goers who contributed a great deal, financially and by volunteering, and showing that there is strong backing for the festival with faith in its future.

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What you achieved	
What were the benefits of your project? (Maximum 500 words)	<p>It might seem odd in a period of streaming but it has become increasingly more difficult to watch some foreign, British or world cinema films, particularly on a big screen. Independent cinema is in trouble, costs of subscriptions have gone up, travel costs rise, film distribution is increasingly dominated by US films, so paradoxically, screening films as we do locally with a wide range of films becomes increasingly important. We do offer something which is clearly a benefit to the town and Valley and which has become and is recognised as an essentially part of the cultural and social activities of the area. It works in conjunction with other cultural outlets and with local businesses, and provides an all to obvious regular addition to social life in the Valley during the week when the town can, otherwise, be very quiet.</p>
Who benefited from the project? (Maximum 200 words)	<p>Local people being able to see films which they would otherwise not be able to either through accessibility or costs. It was an interesting year in that we did see a noticeable increase in the diversity of audiences whether it was people who came from outside the area such as Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield, and the age range with more younger people, and ethnic background.</p>
How many people benefited? (Maximum 200 words)	<p>Over the year the Festival attracts around 2,000 people to screenings and events. In addition, there the people who are employed by venues which would not otherwise be used. It also uses local designers, printers etc. We have a committed group of about 30 volunteers who are regular engaged in events. We also work in conjunction with other local film societies and community groups.</p>
Was the project inclusive? How were marginalised groups (elderly, disabled, young people etc) able to participate?	<p>The venues we use are all open and accessible to all groups.</p>

<p>Reflecting on climate change, did the project address any aspects of the climate emergency? How?</p>	<p>Environment concerns are of particular importance to the Festival and we regularly screen films whose theme is the environment and climate change, and this is often done in conjunction with local environmental community groups. This is partly because the Festival Committee has a high number of members who are personally involved in green projects and climate change-related work. We are part of what is the arts grouping, Climate Emergency. The films we did screen on this topic such as Wilding and Six Inches of Soil, were extremely popular and led to very good discussions. This is an subject area that we will continue to support and in the Autumn cycling is likely to be a topic.</p>
<p>Did you achieve what you were trying to do? (Maximum 200 words)</p>	<p>Yes, we did. We want to be able to provide people with a real choice and deliver a season of films which covers many interests and different audiences and to provide an enjoyable experience, and to perhaps introduce people to things which they might not have previously through of seeing.</p> <p>Probably, the most pleasing thing was that we had very good audiences and they really appreciated the simple fact that these films were on and available in a small town. It was quite emotional that so many thanked the festival for that. So, despite the obstacles, it makes it more imperative to carry on.</p>

Finance and Expenditure

We ask groups to retain their receipts and invoices, and to keep a record of what they've spent for auditing purposes

Grant awarded	£ 1,000
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Date	Description of expenditure (use another sheet if necessary)	Amount
September 2024	Hire of Venue – The Civic Halls (Large and Lesser) (actual cost £1,750 - including other venues £2,750)	£ 1,000

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		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
	Total expenditure	£ 1,000
	Amount of grant remaining (if any)	£ 0

Any amount of the award unspent may have to be returned to the Parish Council

Person completing this form	Stephen Dorril	Date	18.6.25
Position in organisation	Chair (Director)		

Send the completed application form, together with all supporting documentation, preferably in PDF format to: clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can send the paperwork to: Holme Valley Parish Council, The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS.

Have you considered inviting a Member of the Parish Council to come and see your project and how your grant money has been spent? Why not give the Parish Council a ring and arrange a visit 01484 687460? – We have two Cllrs on our Committee.