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Cllr. Steve Clarke
Chairperson
Corfe Castle Parish Council
c/o Michelle Harrington, Clerk to the Council

26th April, 2023

Dear Cllr Clarke,

Purbeck Film Festival 2023

I am writing to ask your Council to consider supporting the next Purbeck Film Festival which will take place in October 2023. We are the longest running rural film festival in the UK and this year we are celebrating our 27th anniversary. The Festival is a charitable organisation promoting local interest in films for education and entertainment and bringing cinema to remote rural areas. We aim to offer the very best of UK and world cinema to everyone regardless of where they live. During the Festival we show films at over 30 venues including village halls, restaurants, hotels etc in addition to The Rex Cinema, Durlston Castle and The Mowlem Theatre. We also show films outdoors in the grounds of Corfe Castle and Durlston Castle and this year also at Wareham Rugby Club, Carey's Secret Garden and Knoll House Hotel during August and September and occasionally show films at venues outside of the October Festival dates. This year we are showing two films at Corfe Village Hall and two films outdoors at the Castle: Matilda the Musical and Indiana Jones & the Dial of Destiny on 25th and 26th August.

As with many organisations, the last few years have been very difficult for the festival. We were not eligible for Government grants during Covid as we do not own a venue but nevertheless we have had regular unavoidable overheads to cover each month. Now that Arts Funding is severely limited, we very much depend on the generosity of funders like you. We have constantly to keep our costs to a minimum and maximise other sources of revenue. All the people who set up the equipment and stage the film shows are unpaid volunteers who generously give their time to make the Festival a success.

We worked hard to bring the Festival back to its pre-Covid size and scope and in 2022 we showed our outdoor and indoor films to 5,760 people and included are some enthusiastic comments from our 2022 audience survey. The Purbeck Film Festival is known to many people who live outside the area (at least 10% of our audience) and their special visits to Purbeck enhance the wealth and well-being of the area outside the main tourist months. We hope you agree it is all worth the effort and that you may be able to contribute so that we can continue to show an entertaining selection of films to the community in Purbeck for many years to come. If you would like to support the festival, we will feature the Council in our Film Guide if you can do this by the end of June. If that date is impossible to meet, our website will acknowledge your kind support. Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,
Andrea Etherington

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrea Etherington".

Chairperson
Purbeck Film Festival

