



Registered office: Down End, Southcliffe Road
Swanage, Dorset BH19 2JF Tel: 07443 46 88 50

25th April, 2024

Cllr. Steve Clarke
Chair of the Council, Corfe Castle Parish Council

Dear Cllr. Clarke,

Purbeck Film Festival 2024

I am writing to ask your Council to consider supporting the next Purbeck Film Festival which will take place in October 2024. We are the longest running rural film festival in the UK and this year we are celebrating our 28th 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 and are often able to give audiences access to the film makers themselves to ask them personally about their craft and experiences. 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 other local venues during August and September and occasionally show films at venues outside of the October Festival dates.

In 2024 as well as providing residents of Corfe Castle the opportunity to see films in the wider Purbeck area, we are showing a number of films in the Corfe parish area. We have for several years included Kingston Church as one of our venues and this has been a great success. This year we will again be showing a film at Kingston Church and two films at Corfe Village Hall during the October Festival period. We will also be showing a film on August Bank Holiday at Corfe Castle.

As with many organisations, the last few years have been very difficult for the Festival and we have regular unavoidable overheads to cover each month. Now that Arts Funding is severely limited, we very much depend on other funding sources. We keep our costs to a minimum and 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 our 2023 figures were significantly higher. 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. Also included with this letter are some of the feedback comments from members of last year's audience and the audience response to questions about their specific experience of the Festival. 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. We would also acknowledge your support on our website. Thank you for considering this request.

Yours faithfully
Andrea Etherington

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrea Etherington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairperson, Purbeck Film Festival

