

Saffron Screen is an independent community cinema screening a wide range of films and seeking through film to entertain, educate, create a shared experience and improve the quality of life for everyone in Saffron Walden and the surrounding area.

Cinema screenings

- In 2008, 157 different films; 370 screenings; 31,000 film-goers
- Blockbusters, Oscar contenders, art house, foreign language and children's films



"I did not know there was a cinema in Saffron Walden and did not expect such a fine cinema. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will definitely come again"

"Great to see this excellent venue and film programme receiving record audiences... Keep doing what you are doing!"

"Many congratulations on your film selections..., right at the forefront for all the Oscar nominations, I will have to work overtime to attend them all."

Education and entertainment

Educational events linked to our films

- Film discussions and talks
- Visits from directors, producers and critics
- Film appreciation courses
- Young Person's Film Festival with a weekend of films and special events



"The cinema has shown itself to be very innovative with the production of this festival"

- Short film competition
- Films that link with Saffron Walden Literary Festival
- Monday night film notes

Special events

- Sing along screenings of Sound of Music and Mamma Mia
- Sex and the City red carpet dressing up competition
- Performances by local choirs and bands
- Silent screenings with live piano accompaniment

"I so enjoyed Steamboat Bill Jr with Buster Keaton and would love to bring grandchildren and everyone. So please may we have a repeat...!"

Great entertainment for the whole community

We pride ourselves on offering a friendly local service. With free parking and reasonable ticket and refreshment prices, we offer a great value service which we would like as many local people as possible to enjoy. To this end we have:

- provided free taxis to bring local senior citizens' groups to popular films
- introduced the Carer's Card so that carers can attend free of charge
- run a special screening of Mamma Mia for people with learning disabilities

"A delightful local theatre, with very friendly and polite staff."

"I will take this chance to thank you and your team for all your hard work and to say how much I am enjoying the films and having the cinema in Saffron Walden."

"So much nicer than the big cinemas."

Our people

Saffron Screen is run by 16 part time staff and over 70 active volunteers operating in a wide range of roles including front of house, projection, programme writing and distribution, software development, maintenance of the website, accounting and education.



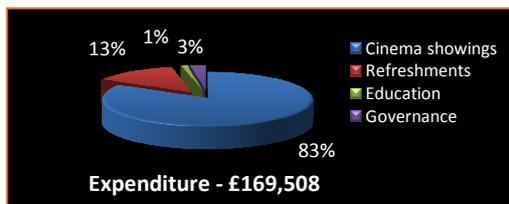
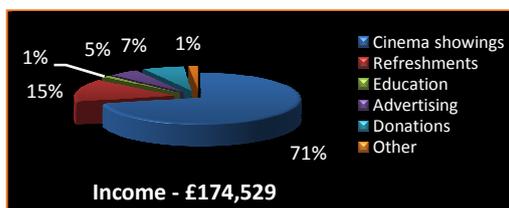
Working at the cinema has proved to be an excellent opportunity for young people at the start of their working lives and for older people wishing to prepare for a return to work. It is also great fun!

The trustee/directors include local volunteers and representatives from Saffron Walden County High School, Uttlesford District Council, Saffron Walden Initiative and Saffron Walden Arts Trust.

We are especially grateful to our volunteers who contributed 5,500 hours with an estimated value of at least £78,000 in 2008.

Financial overview

Saffron Screen's financial position is sound. The cinema is managing to cover its annual operating costs and made a surplus of £5,021 in 2008. The main source of income is the sale of cinema tickets and confectionery supplemented by donations, friends' subscriptions, grants and advertising revenues. We have kept prices constant since January 2007 to make our offering as affordable as possible for everyone in the community. The cinema's free reserves (reserves less fixed assets and designated fund for a transition to digital) are £31,775.



Future plans

Digital and alternative content

Cinema in the UK and across the world will soon "go digital" and 35mm film will no longer be available for many of the films we would like to show. To ensure our survival and continue to provide the best quality picture and sound, we plan to invest £60,000 in digital equipment.



Although this is very expensive, the upside is we will also be able to offer you alternative content such as the broadcast of live opera and theatre.

Improve links with our community

We would like even more local people to enjoy the Saffron Screen experience. We will continue to make the cinema as accessible as possible to the whole community.



Consolidation of our operations

We have already set ourselves high standards but we aim to get even better! We will develop our staff to take on new roles and responsibilities and improve our systems and procedures. Our Lead Projectionist has already obtained a national qualification in projection which included having all of our technical procedures assessed by the British Kinematograph Sound & Television Society.



How you could help us

We would welcome your support in the following ways:

- volunteer some time
- become a friend
- make a donation
- give us an office! (we would like a town centre base for two staff)

To find out more about any of these opportunities at Saffron Screen, please send an email to info@saffronscreen.com or

complete the 'Supporting Saffron Screen Form' which is available online (www.saffronscreen.com) or ask at the box office the next time you visit the cinema.

Getting the most from Saffron Screen

If you would like more information about the films we show, then sign up to our email list at: mailinglist@saffronscreen.com.

You can also receive the Monday night programme notes in advance or additional information about foreign language films; just include your request in your email. We also run film education courses, details of which are on our website.

How to book tickets

Whilst you can buy tickets directly at our box office prior to each screening, you may wish to book in advance, especially for popular films. You can do this by calling in at the Tourist Information Centre in the market square in Saffron Walden or book online on our website www.saffronscreen.com.

We also operate a postal booking system; you can download a form from our website.

Contact Details

If you would like to contact us, please use the following:

Film Information: 01799 501091
Office Admin: 01799 500238

Email: info@saffronscreen.com

Feedback cards are always available at the cinema and you can have your say on all topics concerning Saffron Screen and films in general on our Web Forum at: www.saffronscreen.com/forum