

ADAM ADSHEAD, BILLERICAY COMMUNITY CINEMA

I started Billericay Community Cinema in May 2015. By September we'd raised over £4,000 from both Local Authority grants and other fundraising activities culminating in a successful Trial Show. During our 2 years we have shown 50 films to over 2,100 local residents and in November 2016 we were awarded the honour of winning the Cinema For All "Best New Society".

Since then we've had a number of Duke of Edinburgh Award students working with us; we've run our first Dementia Friendly screening - learning much in the process - as well as two free shows for local children with learning difficulties, some of whom haven't been to the cinema before. We are now looking at how we might further develop our dementia friendly offering.

Commercially we've developed strong relationships with a number of local businesses through various forms of sponsorship deals. I've since given advice to a number of groups interested in setting up Community Cinemas - one of which is now in operation and two in their early planning stages - and I've set up a Facebook group aimed at smaller community cinemas, helping to exchange information. Away from the cinema I'm a passionate believer in, and advocate for our community.

I'm the Chairman of the Billericay Art Trail (which this year saw 52 mainly amateur local artists display their works in shops throughout town) as well as a Town Councillor. My background is in IT and large scale, complex Programme Management: the development of strategic systems where I was working closely with and reporting directly to board members.

I'm used to working at a strategic level, helping to transition organisations from where they are currently to where they want to be. I believe I can bring a number of highly relevant skills to Cinema for All - but above all I can bring passion and dedication to furthering the Community Cinema ideal.

PETER MITCHELL, OCTAGON FILMS

After graduating in Chemistry at Liverpool University, I followed a career specialising in the development and marketing of metal finishing cleaners and chemical treatments.

I've always had an interest in 'film' and had the opportunity to help raise money to provide a cinema in Market Harborough. This was achieved 15 years ago with the start of Octagon Films and I've been involved in running the film society ever since. I'm a member of Harborough Moviemakers and I'm on the council of the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers.

I was first elected to the Cinema For All Board in September 2011 and was re-elected in September 2014. I wish to stand for re-election as a board member for the second time.

On joining the board, I was surprised that there was not a formal secretarial officer position and so I volunteered for this role on an unofficial basis as I felt that it would be useful to the smooth operation of the board and particularly helpful to the Chair. Since then this post was incorporated into the revised Articles of Association which were adopted at the 2014 AGM. I was particularly pleased that the number of elected trustees was increased from two to a maximum of four board members in the revised Articles of Association.

The board is organised into sub-committees that have defined responsibilities. Each sub-committee has a leader and has a minimum of three members. The sub-committee structure enables board members to concentrate on particular areas and further develop specific skills. I'm a member of the Finance Governance & Audit, Strategic Development, Membership & Regions sub-committees and I chair the Industry, Partnerships and Technology sub-committee. In this latter role I was able to work with Holly Turpin to construct the equipment survey that was an important part of the BFI Neighbourhood Fund.

Being actively involved in a film society has helped me to be mindful of the best interests of the membership and to promote these at board level. It has also enabled me to share useful information at our conferences.

It is an important requirement for a trustee to be able to give sufficient time for board activities. As I'm fully retired, I'm in a good position to do this. I have enjoyed being a trustee over the last six years and would like to continue working for the continued success of Cinema For All.

SUKAYNA NAJMUDIN, FILM UNIT

I am running for a trustee position at Cinema for All because community cinema is one of the things I am passionate about and I would appreciate having this opportunity to work with Cinema For All to promote accessible cinema.

I first joined Film Unit in the Autumn Semester of 2013 as an usher and quickly rose up the ranks, qualifying as a fire officer and a House Manager before joining the committee as Sponsorship and Marketing Coordinator, being elected as the Chair of the committee during my final year and now I serve as one of two Chief House Managers. I have been part of Film Unit for 4 years and over that time I fell in love with student and community cinemas.

As the Chair of our committee last year, I worked incredibly hard to make our cinema more accessible for all audiences and some of the ideas my committee implemented were regular Hard of Hearing and Autism friendly screenings in our schedule and a free charity ticket scheme, where clients from partner charities would receive a number of free tickets to all of our matinee and weekday evening screenings, as well as improving our volunteering project to engage more young people and offer free family friendly community screenings.

When I became Chairperson, I recognised that we had the luxury of being a not-for-profit professional cinema. This meant that we could offer more outreach initiatives as we didn't need to worry about how they would affect our finances. By focusing on how we could enhance the cinema experience for more people, we increased our visibility in our local community and as a result our audience average has gone from 56 per screening a year ago to 130 per screening this current semester, with multiple sold out screenings. I believe that our inclusivity measures are what have made us more successful and accessibility has now become so ingrained into what Film Unit is that we've even introduced an Outreach Officer position onto our committee.

While I'm not always the most knowledgeable person about films, I firmly believe cinema should be both financially and physically accessible for everyone and this is why I would love to work with Cinema For All. I would be particularly interested in working with the charity to see how we can help student cinemas go beyond having just a student audience base, as well as engaging more young people in community cinema as this relates strongly to my personal background.