

Is it all worth the effort?

The SDCN enables quality entertainment at low cost in rural areas. People of all ages, living in the country, enjoy social events in and around their own community. If your cinema project goes well you may find yourselves making a profit. Depending on your ambition and enthusiasm you could go on to buy your own kit and establish a regular and very popular "night out". However by remaining a member of the Network it will enable you to have, specialist advice when you need it, technical assistance if your kit is causing problems, reduced maintenance and repair costs from our technician and best of all access to the Network's kit if your equipment goes wrong and there's no time to mend it.

Is there anything else?

Other considerations: Venues must be licensed for showing films within your Public Entertainments Licence. A very small community might consider sharing the responsibilities and the screenings with neighbouring small villages.

What to do next

If you are interested, please contact us and we would be happy to organise a demonstration day!

How to Contact Us

Secretary: Lizzi Cocker 01638 719257
Technical support: Trevor Allchin
01986 873836
www.suffolkinema.org

Coming soon...

To a Screen near you!

The Suffolk Digital Cinema Network was formed just over 5 years ago as a not-for-profit organisation that encourages and supports community film screenings across Suffolk.

suffolk digital cinema

network

To date over 60 Suffolk-based organisations ranging from local village promoters to art centres and from Help the Aged to film societies, have hosted screenings of 250 different films. Films shown range from *Gone with the Wind* to *Pirates of the Caribbean* as well as more specialist films such as *Babette's Feast* and *Russian Ark*.

Any group based in the county can apply to join the Network giving access to digital projection equipment, training, support and advice on how to run appropriately licensed screenings in their own venues. Members choose the films they want to show, to meet the needs of their local audiences.

How do we get started?

You will need two or more volunteers to be responsible for handling the screen, projector, amplifier and speakers. They must receive training, provided by the Network, which will not only show them how to set up the kit but also make them aware of the responsibilities around booking, collecting and returning the kit.

How much does it cost to show a film?

There is an annual membership fee to the Network of £25, but use of the kit is free. For a paying audience the DVDs have to be booked through a film distributor; the biggest of these is Filmbank.

Filmbank requires an initial deposit, returnable if you drop out of the project. Some films have to be booked with one of the other distributors, who operate in slightly different ways. The copyright fee, per film, is between £80 - £120. Venue hire fee and publicity should also be considered.

How can we make it viable?

You will need to research into whether you will be able to raise a paying audience in your community or whether a “no charge” arrangement is more appropriate.

Paying audience: You need an audience of at least 40, paying £3.50, programming and choice of dates and times are important. Creating an atmosphere of a “night out” helps establish your cinema as something people look forward to. Comfortable seating is important and refreshments can add to your profit.

No charge: Under a different licence (approx. £100 per annum with Filmbank) you can show DVDs, acquired from any legitimate outlet, but you are not allowed to advertise or charge. This may sound a little bizarre but if you are a small community you may only attract 20 people, but the principle of providing quality entertainment and a “night out” is still achieved. You might need finance from some other source to cover the hire of venue.

