

Comberton Village Institute Trust
Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1189495

TV & Films In The Village Hall

1. Television

The Village Hall does not have any TV equipment and is not licensed for the viewing or downloading of TV programmes. Anyone using the hall must be aware that if they watch live TV on any channel, or use BBC iPlayer (for live or catch-up content), on a personal device such as a phone, tablet, or laptop, they are required to have a valid TV licence of their own. A personal TV licence will only cover viewing in the hall if the device is powered solely by its own internal batteries (not plugged into mains power) and the user's home address is licensed.

Watching non-live, on-demand content (e.g. Netflix or YouTube) that does not include BBC iPlayer does not require a TV licence. It is the responsibility of individual users to ensure they comply with current TV licensing regulations.

2. Films & Other Copyright Material

It is a popular misconception that it is perfectly legal to screen films to a non-paying audience for free and this is simply not the case. There are clear legal channels for screening any film outside a home environment and the screening of copyright material in Comberton Village Hall must be licensed. The following guidance is from Information Sheet 3 by Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

Copyright Licensing

Any screening of a film outside a private house is considered a public performance and must be properly licensed for copyright purposes – this is not the same as a Premises Licence.

The village hall does not hold a Public Video Screening Licence so any individual or group wishing to show a film on the premises must ensure they obtain the appropriate licence themselves. This applies even if the event is private, free of charge or part of a children's party. These licences do not cover the screening of films from personal streaming accounts (e.g. Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+). All DVDs, Blu-rays, videos and other media must be legally purchased through official distributors. Hirers are responsible for complying with all applicable film licensing regulations including ensuring that the audience is of the appropriate age for the film's BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) certificate. This can be checked on the BBFC website.

For films distributed by most of the large studios and production companies the licence can be obtained from one of two rights management companies, The Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) or Filmbank Media. For many more niche, independent or foreign language films the licence may need to be obtained directly from the individual distribution company. You can find out who the distributor of a film is by looking the title up on the BBFC website. The MPLC website has a list of

production companies they operate on behalf of but has no facility for looking up individual film titles. The Filmbank Media website has an easy to use search function to find any film they provide licences for.

There are two main types of licence:

Single Title Screening Licence (Commercial and Non-Commercial)

Both cover the screening of a specific film on a specific day such as in a cinema or at a specific event such as a children's party.

If the non-commercial version of this licence is obtained no admission fee can be charged and no advertising or fundraising is permitted. This is designed for private, invite-only functions such as parties or closed group events.

If the commercial version is obtained you may advertise and/or sell tickets (this includes asking for donations) and use the event to raise funds for a charity. This is designed for film nights open to the community and fundraising events.

In both cases the film must be available from Filmbankmedia's catalogue.

Umbrella Licence/MPLC Licence

This sort of licence is an annual licence which permits the unlimited screening of films (whose titles are covered) to a specific audience, with no public advertising and with no right to charge an admission fee, such as a film club which covers its costs by charging members a subscription fee and then admitting members only to screenings. It is often referred to as a "blanket" licence. This licence is specifically aimed at film clubs and societies but if in doubt contact the relevant company to check what sort of licence you need.

General Rules

Whichever licence you opt for, you must be careful to ensure that it covers all the films you wish to show. As mentioned, many smaller distributors, and even some of the larger ones, might not be covered by licences from Filmbank or MPLC.

Even when a disc is available to buy or rent for home use, the same stringent rights conditions apply. DVD rights holders often only hold home entertainment licenses and are unable to grant public screening rights on their DVD titles. Clearing these rights for public screenings, particularly on older titles, can be a complex procedure, sometimes involving liaising directly with a film's producer or international sales agent.

By law, as well as by intent, the pre-recorded DVDs, Blu-rays and videos which are available to purchase in the United Kingdom are for home use only, unless you have a licence to show them elsewhere. Rentals or purchases of these items do not carry with them licences for non-home showings. Before you can legally engage in showings outside of the home, including at Comberton Village Hall, you must have a separate licence which specifically authorises such use.

Useful Links

- **BFI Film Audience Network Film Hubs:**

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/distribution-exhibition-funding/film-hub-lead-organisations>

Supported by Lottery funding, these organisations exist to help expand film exhibition beyond the multiplexes and reach new audiences. They may run training courses, provide funding, support marketing for particular titles or help put you in touch with other organisations in your areas that can help you.

- **Community Cinema** <https://mycommunitycinema.org.uk/>

Website with hints and tips for setting up a community cinema including links to potential sources of funding, advice on what equipment you might need, and a free online listings directory.

- **Cinema for All** (formerly the British Federation of Film Societies):

<http://cinemaforall.org.uk/>

National membership organisation for community cinemas offering specialist advice and support, training and conferences, an equipment hire scheme (with free hire for new members running a test screening), and a film licence booking service with VAT-free licensing on a catalogue of over 800 films.

- **Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC):** <http://www.themplc.co.uk/>

Providers of single title and umbrella film copyright licences on behalf of a range of film production companies, including many of the major studios. Their Umbrella licence offers a low-cost annual license product including a version specifically aimed at film clubs and societies. Members of Cinema for All receive a discount on their first licence booking.

- **Filmbank Media** <https://www.filmbankmedia.com/>

Providers of copyright licences on behalf of a range of film production companies, including many of the major studios. Their website is easy to search for individual film titles and is best suited to arranging single title screening licences as their umbrella licence is not specifically designed for film clubs. Opening an account with Filmbank usually requires a returnable deposit, but this is currently waived for members of Cinema for All.

- **Independent Cinema Office:** <http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/>

Aimed more at professional independent cinemas than the community film sector, but their website has lots of useful resources and guidance on subjects such as marketing and programming, including a list of contact details for individual film distributors not covered by Filmbank or MPLC licences. They offer a range of support services, events and training that film clubs or societies might find of interest.

- **British Board of Film Classification:** <http://www.bbfc.co.uk/>

Organisation that provides age certification for all films released in the UK. Its BBFC Insight service provides more detailed information on why a film title has a particular certificate, which can be useful additional information for parents. Film listings also include the details of the film's distributor."