

The Cinema
Newton Stewart

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Newton Stewart
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Final report to Leader Programme
The Digital Projection Project

The project was developed in order safeguard the future of the community-owned Cinema by upgrading to a digital system . The project was managed on a day-to-day basis by the manager of the Cinema overseen by the voluntary Board of Management.

The installation of digital equipment and training of its use was the first aim of the project followed by the development of the benefits that the system offers.

The total project cost was £85,215 funded by :

Scottish Screen Grant	£35,000
Awards for All	6,500
Fundraising.....	13,715
LEADER.....	30,000

The equipment was installed December 2009; set-up and initial training took place in January 2010; this was followed by the development of the community involvement projects and the enhancements for visually and aurally impaired. This marketing included widespread cover in the local newspapers, Open days at weekends and website development as well as specific invitations to local groups..

The whole project has cost more than anticipated but mostly due to the decision to upgrade to 3D to realise the full potential of the digital system.

The motivating of local groups to participate in the film making process has been quite challenging involving a great deal of time and effort. However

once we have one or two films on the screen, it will show people what can be done and encourage others to participate.

The end result is as follows:

We now have a superb venue equipped with the most up to date equipment.

We have safe-guarded one full-time job and 5 part-time jobs.

We now offer and promote local short film-making ventures.

The visually or aurally impaired now have a totally new experience at the Cinema.

The system is much more flexible for programming which is ideal for a single screen venue.

We are now in a position to offer another cultural experience via the internet, such as opera, shows, plays or sport.

The system is much easier and less technically demanding and thus lends itself simpler for voluntary staff.

The 3D showings are especially appreciated and audience figures are much higher as a result.

The LEADER issue we addressed was to “strengthen community spirit and civic pride”. In the carrying out of this project and with the successful results as outlined above we have certainly addressed the issue. Indeed the community spirit was evident very early on by the great response we had in fundraising. People really appreciate the Cinema and continue to be supportive of it. We have engaged with the wider community through the film groups but more work needs done and is ongoing. The visually and aurally impaired are no longer excluded and this improvement will continue to be spread abroad. The 3D element is a great boon to the community. The showing of , for example, opera, musicals or plays will add a whole new dimension to living in a rural community.

Colin Dewar

Chairman

12th November 2010