



INGATESTONE & FRYERNING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO

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Established 1862

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2021

Dear Members

2021 started very slowly with continued restrictions in response to Covid. As in 2020 Government grants and careful management have allowed us to retain our staff and survive a further period of closure. The Centre and Fryerning Parish Room are now fully re-open but we encourage everyone to follow Covid rules.

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### 2022 Membership

Notwithstanding the closure of the Centre for some months, membership last year reached 710. There will be a small increase in membership fees for 2022. However, we will again be offering a significant discount from the full fee to *existing* members, to compensate for the period of closure earlier this year. 2022 membership forms are available; via a link being sent to those members for whom we have an email address; in the Centre; or can be downloaded from the website.

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### Outdoor area

Key to re-opening was our aim to provide more outdoor seating. We removed some unsafe side entrance floor tiles and a line of ugly redundant concrete bollards. Some modern low level teak benches and attractive planters were installed in the summer with advice provided by I&F

Horticultural Society and Abercorn Garden Centre. We hope members and visitors alike will enjoy the enhanced outside space created.



### New outdoor seating and planters

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### Ingatestone Community Cinema

Our large wall-mounted screen and ceiling projector have certainly improved the cinema's picture and sound quality.

We restarted in May with *Singin' in the Rain*. Since then screenings have been a mixture of old and new films including *The Good Liar*, *Some Like it Hot*, *The Father*, *The Courier* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. The seats are the same though, so bring a cushion! If you want to know what's coming up make sure you are on our marketing email circulation list. Tickets are £4 for members, £6 for non-members.

The screen has also been used to show selected football matches. This has been a boost for Peter in the bar after the long period of closure. The Arts Society (who

gave a donation towards its cost) has also used it for its meetings.

### **Centre Co-ordinator**

Lee Stevens stood down at the end of September after eight years as our Centre Co-ordinator. Lee became a trustee in 2010 representing *Young Expressions* when the main user groups took over the management of the Centre. After four years as a trustee and Treasurer, Lee who is an accountant, became our Centre Co-ordinator instead; a role she held with great diligence and energy.

The trustees, IFCA members and the wider community all owe a debt of gratitude to Lee for her role in bringing about our financial security through good management and accounting that has allowed us to focus on improving the Centre and Fryerning Parish Room. Lee's husband Martin also volunteered and brought about many improvements to our computer systems and website. We wish them both well.



**Lee Stevens**

**Claire Staples**

We are pleased to introduce Lee's replacement, Claire Staples. Claire, who started in October, lives in Ingatestone and brings a wealth of skills and experience in business and IT. Claire who has a young family herself is keen to

promote more at the Centre for youngsters.

Claire with Jacky and Karen in the office will continue to provide a strong team to manage the work of the Centre.

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### **Other news**

- We suffered not one but two thefts from our car park machines forcing us to move to card-only payment in October.
- There will be 'free parking' at the Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> December & Christmas Eve.
- The West End Jerseys tribute band provided us with another highly successful concert in October.
- The Christmas Market in association with Ingatestone Rotary Club takes place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December
- Blood donor sessions will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022. If able, please register at [Home - NHS Blood Donation](#)
- All are welcome at Peter's fish & chip Fridays and Thursday pensioners' lunches and the excellent Tuesday Coffee mornings hosted by Debbie & Emma of *Home Comfort Catering*
- The office will be closed between Christmas and the New Year

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**The IFCA Trustees and staff wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

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