

Films for screening March - June 2020

Date	Title	Description
11 Mar	A private war (15 certificate)	Marie Colvin is a fearless war correspondent whose personal life starts to unravel as her mission to show the true cost of war leads her to embark on a perilous assignment in the besieged Syrian city of Homs
8 Apr	Colette (15 certificate)	Biographical drama based on the French novelist's early life and loves, as she fights for recognition after her novels are published under her husband's name
13 May	To be or not to be (U certificate)	Outrageous black comedy featuring a troupe of actors in Nazi-occupied Warsaw who use their skills to fool the occupying troops
10 Jun	The last station (15 certificate)	Historical drama about the last few months of Tolstoy's long life and the intrigues within his household, which drive him to his death in his search for peace

Doors will open at 7 pm and screenings start at 7.30

Website: www.stjohnsplace.uk



Wednesday 12 February 2020



Duck soup

If you want to see a film that features neither ducks nor soup you could hardly do better than go to this madcap 1930s comedy, the most inventive of the Marx Brothers films. Crammed with visual and verbal gags, this classic political farce is set in the mythical kingdom of Freedonia, which is in the middle of a financial crisis and on the brink of revolution. In order to get a bail-out from the wealthy Mrs Teasdale, the government appoints Rufus T Firefly (Groucho Marx) as its president. However, Firefly shuns not only the pomp and pretentiousness of government, but also its prudence and rationality. Not a great idea when neighbouring Sylvania is plotting to overthrow it...

Duck soup is famous for its one-liners and puns, and for its comic routines - of which the highlight is the mirror scene, possibly the finest comic sequence ever committed to film - beautifully timed and spiralling into wonderful absurdity. Don't miss, either, the final battle scene, in which Groucho wears a different uniform in every shot [pun intended].

You want a silly film? *Duck soup* delivers! So well, that the US Library of Congress has chosen to preserve it as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

USA 1933 - 69 minutes - U certificate

Wednesday 12th February 2020

St John's Place, Lower Road, Lower Bemerton

Doors open 19.00

Programme starts 19.30

Entrance £6



Bemerton Film Society

In the autumn of 2010 a group of Bemerton residents decided to set up the Bemerton Film Society (BFS) as a fundraiser in support of local efforts to turn St John's Church into a community centre. The Society aimed to offer people the chance to see quality films that had in one way or other made film history. We obtained the permission of the then head of St John's School to screen the films in the school hall, using the school's own projection facilities. A small grant from Wiltshire Council enabled us to upgrade these facilities in 2014.

Since our first outing in December 2010 we have screened 100 feature films, covering a wide range of subjects and styles, from classic Hollywood films to modern comedies, documentaries and dramas. We have travelled in time from 1938 (*The lady vanishes*) to 2017 (*Paddington 2* and *Lady Bird*) and geographically from California to Taiwan and Australia. We have also brought our audience news from the front line of "Call the midwife", thanks to its midwifery adviser, Terri Coates, being a local resident.

Following installation of new cinema equipment and comfortable seating in St John's Place we transferred operations there in January 2017. We can now screen blu-ray films in full HD and surround sound, thus enabling our audience to enjoy an authentic cinema experience.

To date (January 2020) BFS screenings have contributed well over £7,000 to the Bemerton Community Project, and we will continue to generate funds for that worthy cause into the foreseeable future.