

## Films for screening November - December 2018

Date	Title	Description
14 Nov	The class (15 certificate)	Brilliantly realistic schoolroom docu-drama in which an idealistic teacher reaches out to a class of difficult multi-ethnic teenagers
12 Dec	Paddington 2 (PG certificate)	Paddington spots a unique pop-up book in an antique shop while searching for the perfect present for Aunt Lucy's 100th birthday. But when the book is stolen, it's up to Paddington and the Browns to unmask the thief. Even better than Paddington 1!



## The class

*The class*, set in a lower-income, melting-pot neighbourhood in Paris, is a social drama about the power struggle between a teacher who wants to do good and students who disagree about what "good" is. The best-selling autobiographical novel on which it is based was written by a teacher who plays himself, very convincingly, in the film. François begins a school year with high hopes and a desire to be liked by his students. They are a multi-ethnic group of teenagers who can see that the purpose of the class is to make them model citizens in a society that has little use for them, and are therefore not inclined to cooperate.

The movie is bursting with energy, fears, frustrations and laughter. It dives straight into battle, familiarises us with the students, suggesting more than it tells, allowing us to identify with many points of view. It is like a particularly gripping kind of reality TV, but one less concerned with humiliation or embarrassment than with idealism and education. The Guardian reviewer said: "There are very few films that can claim to make their audiences into happier and smarter people. I think this could be one."

**France 2008 - 126 minutes - 15 certificate**

**French, with subtitles**

**Wednesday 14th November 2018**

**St John's Place, Lower Road, Lower Bemerton**

**Doors open 19.15**

**Programme starts 19.45**

**Entrance £6**

## Bemerton Film Society

In the autumn of 2010 a group of Lower 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, often main stream films with excellent reviews. 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 85 feature films, covering a wide range of subjects and styles, from classic Hollywood films of the 1940s to modern comedies and dramas. We have travelled in time from 1938 (Hitchcock's *The lady vanishes*) to 2016 (*I, Daniel Blake*, *A street cat named Bob*, *Secret spitfires* and *The eagle huntress*) and geographically from California to Mongolia and Australia. We have also brought our audience news from the front line of "Call the midwife", thanks to the programme's 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 (October 2018) BFS screenings have contributed well over £5,000 to the Bemerton Community Project, and we will continue to generate funds for that worthy cause into the foreseeable future.

