

# SEE VERA DRAKE FOR FREE!



BAFTA winner Imelda Staunton leads a fabulous 'ensemble' cast in Vera Drake which includes the great Phil Davis (right)

As a late Christmas present, the 'extra reel' screening of the Oscar-nominated film Vera Drake (rated 12A, 2004), on Friday 27 January, will now be FREE to all members, with guest tickets available at the staggeringly low price of £1!

Directed and written by Mike Leigh, Vera Drake explores the extraordinary post-war life of a mother, housewife and cleaner, who is also an illegal abortionist. Infamously, it was filmed with no script, and with the actors aware only of their own character's scenes; only Imelda Staunton, as Vera, had any notion of her character's secret life. The film went on to be nominated for Best Original Screenplay at the 2005 Oscars.

The film is thrilling, agonising and gut-wrenchingly moving, with a haunting central performance from Imelda Staunton and superb support from an exceptional British cast.

So, take this opportunity to see one of the best British films of the past few years on the big screen. And it won't cost you a penny. Any tickets already sold to members will be refunded - just bring your tickets along on the night. And for extra guest tickets (at £1 each, you can afford to bring all your friends) call on 01761 439075 (Mon-Fri 6.30-7.30pm), or email us at [info@reelpeople.org.uk](mailto:info@reelpeople.org.uk).  
**Nicki Grant**

## FAMILY SEASON OPENS WITH CHARMING 'BRIT' ANIMATION 'VALIANT' FLIES IN ON SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

WELCOME to the new family film season, which this year begins on Sunday 29 January with a screening of Valiant (rated U, 2005).

This engaging and very British animated comedy is the story of a lowly wood pigeon named Valiant (voiced by Ewan McGregor), who overcomes his small size to become a hero in the Royal Air Force Homing Pigeon Service during World War II. The RHPS flew vital messages about enemy movements across the Channel, whilst evading brutal attacks by the opposing Falcon Brigade. The pigeons were regarded as war heroes, earning 32 medals by the end of the conflict.

Valiant proves his worth by spiting Allied plans out from under the beak of General von Talen, a Nazi falcon (Tim Curry). The training sessions are hilarious, and sky chases action-packed, as Valiant and his division confront danger at every turn. But the film's real star is Ricky Gervais, who has created a scamming sidekick somewhat reminiscent of his most famous character, David Brent, and whose wheedling attempts to avoid active service provide a running gag ("I'd love to die, but I've got a doctor's note. I've got a feather condition").

Produced by the talent behind Shrek and Shrek 2, this family comedy is charming, unexpected and bursting at the seams with British acting talent, including Jim Broadbent, Hugh Laurie, John Cleese, John Hurt and Rik Mayall. As always, the family films are screened at Kilmersdon Village Hall on Sunday afternoons from 3pm. Entry is still only £1, so feel free to bring along the entire family. A full snack bar is also available. We are delighted that, for the third year running, Babington House has once again offered to sponsor the entire family film season. It is thanks to their generous support that we can offer these films at so low a price.

We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of the cheap tickets and come along to all three family films over the next few months.

Valiant is being screened on Sunday 29 January, with two further films scheduled for Sunday 26 February and Sunday 19 March. Possible titles for these slots include Madagascar, Robots, Herbie Fully Loaded, Five Children & It and Wallace & Gromit and the Curse of the Were Rabbit.



As soon as the titles are confirmed, we'll let you know, but make sure you put the dates in your diary... And you can always keep up to date with the Reel People season by taking a look at the website: [www.reelpeople.org.uk](http://www.reelpeople.org.uk).  
**Nicki Grant**

Over the page...

What's your favourite film so far?

Parking Problems

Special Screening of Pride and Prejudice

reel people winter newsreel 2006

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR? 'PHOTOS TO SEND' IS CURRENT FAVOURITE

A new way of monitoring the audience's response to the season's programme has been introduced this year in the form of "reaction slips" distributed before the start of each film.

This seems to have gone down well as people like the idea of "scoring" a film at each screening rather than having to remember them all and what they thought about them for voting their favourite at the end of the year. They have also been interested in what others' opinions have been compared to their own.

Everyone has been very good at actually doing the biz and returning the slips with enthusiasm at the end of the evening, so the numbers have been a fair representation of what everyone thought.

This has been despite Jane's rather draconian approach to the whole process, standing at the end of rows handing out bunches of leaflets barking "take one and pass them on - quickly, quickly" and not letting anyone leave the hall without a slightly accusing "and have you done a slip?", all taken in good spirit thankfully!

There seems to be an unlimited number of ways that people choose to poke, tear, mark or even fold origami style around the letter of their choice and this has added to the fun of doing the stats. So here are the scores from the Reel People judges:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Awful	Score
Sideways	56.4%	36.6%	5.9%	0.9%	0%	88
Spring, Summer etc	43.8%	46.2%	8.8%	1.2%	0%	83
Kinsey	40.4%	31.6%	26.3%	1.7%	0%	77
Photos to Send	71.1%	26.7%	2.2%	0%	0%	92
Ray	55.2%	39.1%	5.7%	0%	0%	87

No surprise perhaps that "Photos" got the highest score to date, given the reaction on the night, and Ray seems to have been enjoyed despite its running time, sitting on village hall chairs. It was pipped by a point by Sideways, in many ways (!) an "easier" film, and it is gratifying to see the Korean choice running a very close fourth. Kinsey appears not to have lived up to its acclaim for some people but it seems there have been no "turkeys" apart from at Christmas and it bodes well for the second half of the season.

*Jane Lewis*

## PARKING - A REEL PROBLEM?

Now there have been lots of cars on film nights for some time now but you could generally find somewhere to park relatively easily. This season it has suddenly got more difficult and that's because the village pub is now so much busier.



Please help by parking as neatly as you can in the Village Hall Car Park and when possible in the 'Old Garage' forecourt.

If you aren't lucky enough to find a space in either of those locations, then please try driving back down the main street past the pub and parking in Silver Street (first left) or possibly Church Street to the right through 'The Square'.

*Barry Fowler*

## 'PASSING ON' PHOTOS TO SEND

Following the screening of Dierdre Lynch's sublime 'Photos to Send' documentary, my path has been crossed by a fairly steady stream of folk from the Emerald Isle.

Unsurprisingly, none have heard of the film, but have been suitably enthused to seek it out after listening to an animated verbal review. A couple of those hailing from County Clare itself were flattered that their birthplace should be the focus of such a social observation. Hopefully, the intriguing title of the piece has been committed to memory in order that they and others can laugh and cry like so many 'Reel People' did on that evening back in November.

*Helen Charlton*

## THE 'NEW' PRIDE AND PREJUDICE PLUS SUPPER ON 11 FEBRUARY DON'T MISS THE VERY SPECIAL FUND RAISER FOR DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE

Do join us on Saturday 11 February for a very special screening of the lavish new screen version of Jane Austen's classic novel 'PRIDE AND PREJUDICE' (Cert U) at Kilmersdon Village Hall.

Before the film we invite you to take supper with the Bennet family when tasty locally produced food will be served. The evening will begin at about 7.15pm with supper at 7.30pm and the film at 8.30pm. Tickets for the event are £8 and will be limited to 100. Thanks to some very generous sponsorship from Barons Property Centre, Midsome Norton all profits from the evening will go to Dorothy House Hospice Care.

With stiff competition from the wonderful BBC TV version this new film is lavishly staged, faithfully adapted and rejoices in some wonderful performances from a nice mix of new & old faces. Keira Knightley stars as a very 'modern' Lizzie Bennet and Matthew MacFadyen (who many of you will know from the BBC TV series 'Spooks') as a delightfully 'brooding' Mr Darcy.

*Barry Fowler*



*The Bennets on their way to Kilmersdon for supper at the Village Hall*

Tickets for this event are available by calling the Reel People Enquiry and Booking line on 01761 439075 (weekdays 6.30-7.30pm) and they will be on sale at Vera Drake on 27 January.