

5 Villages Film Festival 2026

Introducing a brand-new film festival run by rural communities, screening award-winning features and showcasing the next generation of local film-makers.



The poster for the 5 Villages Film Festival 2026 is a vertical layout with a film strip border. At the top, it says 'In collaboration with the BA Film & TV Production at the University of Gloucestershire'. The main title '5 VILLAGES FILM FESTIVAL' is in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, it says 'Showcasing emerging filmmakers from BA Film & TV Production at the University of Gloucestershire alongside thought-provoking feature films'. The poster lists five films with their dates, times, and locations:

- Sat 31st January**
A Private Function (15)
A darkly comic tale of class struggle, ambition, and one very important pig in the austere aftermath of World War II.
Pauntley Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm
- Sat 7th February**
Isle Of Dogs (PG)
Wes Anderson's visually stunning animated story of loyalty and friendship between a boy and his lost dog set in a dystopian Japan of the future.
Linton Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm
- Sat 14th February**
The Way We Were (PG)
Against the backdrop of political turmoil, a fiery activist and a privileged writer forge a complex, enduring romance that defies societal expectations.
Huntley Village Hall
Doors 2:15pm for 3pm
- Thur 19th February**
Mrs Lowry & Son (PG)
Trapped between artistic passion and maternal disapproval, a painter fights to validate his unique vision against his mother's relentless criticism.
Gorsley Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm
- Fri 27th February**
Shoplifters (15)
In the margins of Tokyo, a found family navigates survival, love, and moral ambiguity through an unconventional journey of human resilience.
Clifford's Mesne Village Hall
Doors 6:15pm for 7pm

At the bottom, it says 'Tickets available on the door, at all usual village outlets and online. TicketSource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival'. There is a QR code for TicketSource and a price of 'Tickets £5' with a note 'plus 42p booking fee when using ticketsource.co.uk'.

What is the 5 Villages Film Festival?

The 5 Villages Film Festival is a brand-new event for 2026 that brings award-winning features and thought-provoking shorts by student film-makers to rural communities across the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire borders, May Hill and Forest of Dean. It's a chance for audiences to enjoy the best international cinema and hear powerful voices from a new generation of film-makers, all in their local village hall.

What's different about the 5 Villages Film Festival?

The 5 Villages Film Festival reflects how modern rural life is changing. It's about tapping into fresh ideas about village life, values and interconnectedness. It's about bringing the art of cinema to rural communities that might not otherwise have the opportunity to see how film is evolving, while offering emerging talent the chance to engage with audiences who wouldn't ordinarily see their work.

Which villages are involved in the 5 Villages Film Festival?

The five villages hosting the 2026 festival are Clifford's Mesne, Gorsley, Huntley, Linton and Pauntley, located across the stunning Gloucestershire/Herefordshire borders, May Hill, the edge of the Forest of Dean, and the banks of the Severn and the Wye. It's an area that has served as the shoot location for films and TV series including Star Wars, Merlin, Dr Who, Sex Education and many more.

Who are the emerging film-makers and TV professionals represented at the 5 Villages Film Festival 2026?

The 5 Villages Film Festival is proud to collaborate with students and staff from the University of Gloucestershire's B.A. (Hons) in Film and TV Production. This new generation of screen talent is already shaping the film and TV landscape, from major cinema releases (Bohemian Rhapsody, James Bond, Indiana Jones) to acclaimed productions on Netflix (The Crown, Adolescence, Sex Education), BBC (Doctor Who), Apple TV (Slow Horses), Disney+, Amazon Prime, ITV and beyond.

For more information, see <https://www.glos.ac.uk/courses/course/fpo-ba-film-and-tv-production/>

When and where is the 5 Villages Film Festival taking place?

5 Villages Film Festival 2026 runs from **Saturday 31st January to Friday 27th February** at the following village halls

Saturday 31st January 'A Private Function' Pauntley Village Hall 6.15 for 7pm

Saturday 7th February 'Isle of Dogs' Linton Village Hall 6.15 for 7pm

Saturday 14th February 'The Way We Were' Huntley Village Hall 2.15 for 3pm

Thursday 19th February 'Mrs. Lowry & Son' Gorsley Village Hall 6.15 for 7pm

Friday 27th February 'Shoplifters' Clifford's Mesne Village Hall 6.15 for 7pm

All for a great-value £5 ticket price per film.

Tickets available on the door, online and at usual village outlets. For tickets, simply go to TicketSource.co.uk/FiveVillagesFilmFestival, (plus 42p booking fee) or just turn up on the door. Cash only please.

Running from 31st January 2026, the **5 Villages Film Festival** is a brand-new event that brings award-winning international cinema and emerging local talent to rural communities. This month-long collaboration between the villages of Clifford's Mesne, Gorsley, Huntley, Linton and Pauntley holds screenings across the stunning Gloucestershire-Herefordshire borders, May Hill and the edge of the Forest of Dean.

"We've been showing films at our village hall for the past three years," explains Tom Conwell, Secretary of the Festival Organising Committee, "The film shows have certainly proved popular, with a loyal following who regularly turn up to enjoy thought-provoking films. It became clear to us that engaging with similarly

interested village halls nearby was an ideal way to develop and expand something that was clearly meeting a need. And so the idea of the 5 Villages Film Festival was born."

"We always have an interval and serve delicious ice cream, made on a local farm" adds Tom. "That, and the freshly made popcorn, adds to the charm of the cinematic experience. During the festival, each village hall will have its own characterful take on what that experience might be, be that popcorn, ice cream, cake, a decent bar or simply a warm welcome. Whatever it is, it will be good quality, value for money and where possible, locally sourced. For instance, Linton Village Hall regularly stocks ciders from Westons, crisps from The Two Farmers – and you can even buy a bottle of decent champagne!"

Just as important is the 5 Villages Film Festival's showcasing of powerful new work by film-makers at the start of their careers. Each feature film will be preceded by a short (or two) by students from the BA (Hons) Film and TV Production course at the University of Gloucestershire. Some of these upcoming directors will even attend screenings to present their work, giving audiences an insight into the craft of modern film and TV production through the eyes of the next generation.

"For me, this is the most exciting part of the project." explains Clair Hodgson, Chair of the Festival Organising Committee. "We are thrilled that Adam Batchelor (Academic Course Leader) has agreed to act as Consulting Curator on this project. To be able to offer emerging film and TV makers a platform to show their award-winning work to an audience who might not otherwise get to see new contemporary film-making is an incredibly enriching element of the festival, and we hope the audience will engage in Q&As with the students at the screenings."

The 5 Villages Film Festival 2026 is booking now – so come along to support local cinema and the next generation of film-makers, at a brand-new cultural event where 'creativity meets the screen'.

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