

NEWS

Volunteers also in the running for string of cinema prizes



Leigh Film Society with Father Kevin Crinks promoting the screening of The Life of Brian at Leigh Parish Church

Film fans scoop nomination for Queen's Award

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A group of film fans bringing Leigh audiences the full range of the magic of the movies has been nominated for a top volunteering honour.

Leigh Film Society, which screens non-mainstream cinema at The Turnpike and puts on a Classic Cinema Club in Leigh and Tyldesley, is in the running for the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The prize recognises excellence in volunteering done on behalf of people in the local area and the film enthusiasts were told of their nomination by the Greater Manchester award committee.

A member of the panel will now visit Leigh to see if the volunteers' work can secure them the Queen's Award next June.

A delighted Elizabeth Costello, the society's development director, said: "Many great films don't make it to leading cinemas so we wanted to screened these films in our community."

"Over the past four years I have seen the society grow organically into a leading community cinema project, screening films that appeal to a diverse audience."

"The highest accolade any volunteer-led group can receive is the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and it's an honour to be nominated."

"None of this could have been achieved without the hard work and commitment of the Leigh Film Society Volunteers. We have an amazing

Recognition for love of cinema

Elizabeth Costello, who came up with the idea of the film society, said she was thrilled to be nominated for a personal award. She said: "My love of film has never left me. During long periods of ill health I found rest and relaxation in watching films and how therapeutic it was to escape into another world. I now concentrate my time on developing Leigh Film Society and film screenings that provides something for everyone."

group of people who have passion for film and love of community."

The group has put on high-profile events including a tribute evening to Colin Welland which the actor and screenwriter's son attended and brought along his Oscar for Chariots of Fire.

The monthly showings of classic films are so popular a second venue has had to be opened and the volunteers are trained to work with people suffering from dementia. The society also works in partnership with Age UK

Leigh Film Society is also being recognised within the arts world, with a string of nominations in the National Cinema For All Awards.

Development director Elizabeth has been nominated for the outstanding contribution made by an individual and the group's screening of Monty Python's The Life of Brian in Leigh Parish Church is up for the best single event.

The Leigh volunteers have also been nominated for best marketing and publicity, the film discovery award and the community award.

The prize-giving is on November 11 in Sheffield.



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