



INGATESTONE & FRYERNING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2025

Dear Members

This has been another very positive year for the Community Association and the Community Centre. We are really seeing the benefits of good management and fund-raising activity, in the form of some major improvements to the Community Centre. Come and hear more at the 2024/25 AGM, to be held on Friday 30th January 2026.

Our goal going forward is to provide as many leisure and recreational activities as possible, that encourages more visitors and membership.

What have we done?

Between May and August our contractor, *BC Cook Roofing Ltd*, carried out the restoration of the tiled roof and feature cupola at the front of the original building, which dates back to 1888.

The work involved the complete removal of the existing tiles, insulating the roof space, installing new battens and relaying the original tiles. The feature cupola was in a very poor state of repair but has been painstakingly restored to its former glory. As the building is in the High Street Conservation area, the works have had to be sensitively carried out in co-operation with Brentwood Council. The operation has cost over £52,000, but we now have a building fit for another 100 years.



Before and after



Other improvements have included replacing and recovering all the banquette seating in the bar. Extensive redecoration,

including the frontage, side entrance and corridor, toilets, the stage area is nearing completion and there are new blackout curtains in the Hall to enhance the cinema and show performance experience.

Membership

We have a very healthy membership of 865 this year, although this is 58 down on last. 2026 fees will be the same as this year, thus retaining the price drop we made two years ago. We again invite donations from those who can afford it.

Keep your membership card and renew by the end of January to continue benefiting from discounted prices in the bar and tickets for the Community Cinema and other IFCA events.

Digital Champions



This year has seen an Essex County Council initiative involving a team of Anglo-European School students offering digital help to locals. The '*digital champions*' provide one-to-one assistance

at the Centre on basic and more complex requests to help with use of phones and other IT equipment. Not only is this of practical benefit, but is yet another example of forging stronger links between the School and local community.

IFCA events

Coffee mornings, bingo afternoons and the community cinema are all enjoying a loyal following and raise funds for the Centre. A total audience of 458 has watched this year's *Community Cinema* screenings, the most popular being *Conclave* (55).

The IFCA also hosted a lively *Elvis* tribute and an excellent *Princes of Motown* event.

Dates for your diary

- Our indoor Christmas Market, as always with Father Christmas, is on Sunday 7th December
- The IFCA seniors' Christmas afternoon tea is on 10th December.
- 18th December's Cinema screening is *Finding Your Feet*
- There will be 'free parking' from 24th-28th December inclusive
- Coffee mornings will restart After the Christmas break on 6th January
- A Michael Bubl  / Robbie Williams double-tribute is scheduled for Saturday 14th March 2026. Tickets will be on sale from 11am on Tuesday 27th January

The IFCA trustees and staff wish members a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.