



Colchester Film Makers

Newsletter



“Life is just a bowl of cherries” goes into full production.

After the success of our test shoot in September 2024 we decided to go for it, so expanded the team, recast a couple of the roles and went full steam ahead!

Breaking ground with location one in May 2025, so far this project has reaped six shoot days (*at the time of writing*) with a further six dates coming up before the end of October across, what will be, six different locations and we are not stopping there!

The story features three couples who are friends and neighbours, at three events. The garden party at Roger and Abbeys, the 30th wedding anniversary of Dick and Joanne and the Christmas party at Pete and Petras. By the end of the year we should have parts 1 and 2 recorded with part 3 coming next year and then the joys of editing it all together. So far the cast and crew (who are up to almost 50 people) who have all been giving this project so much of their valuable time and focus, have made the whole process not only worthwhile but a whole lot of fun, with great team work.

lifeisjustabowl/ofcherries.co.uk



Barrie with his ragbag!
Much of **Cherries** has been off tripod.



Writer/Director
Pauline Warren on set in May.



Youngest CFM member Harry Self has been providing all the drone shots.

Return to Earth Update

Coming soon to a special event

The team are in the final throws of animation and will be at the editing stage very soon. On Sunday 7th September Andy Merz along with some of the cast took the trailer to the Steampunk Esseextraordinaire event at The Museum of Power in Maldon. There is lots of interest from the steampunk crowd who are awaiting the premiere with baited breath.



“simply about a battle that happens when the tide comes in and people still want to use the road” **Andy Merz**

Mersea Movie Makers latest film “Calenture” has been in development over the summer and is scheduled for filming during summer 2026. Keep an ear open for news and how you can get involved.



CLUB PROMOTION AND FILM SUCCESS

On 27th April Chair Leigh was invited to speak about the club at a Film Networking event held to promote Colchester’s Independent Short Film Festival run by Nick Pelas. Many valuable contacts were made.

On May 10th at the CISFF held at Curzon in Colchester, featured 20 short films, including our very own Peter Silk, with film “Greenway” making it to the big screen. Congratulations to Peter for the 4 star review from the BIAFF entry also.

Colchester in the 2020’s episodes 1-4 are now published on the CFM Youtube channel. Episode 5-8 are in production this season, scheduled for release May 2026.

CFM BRANDED GEAR

Last season we did a big group order which helped us massively reduce costs per item but this year if most of us haven’t worn them out yet, it will mean an increase in prices when ordering new kit.

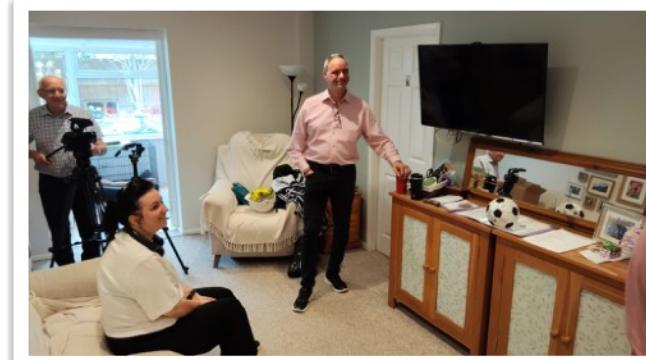
To place a CFM Branded Hoodies and/or T-shirts order, contact the chair or one of the committee with your order and costs will be recalculated based on final order quantity. They do look smart though and have served us well on location and at events. Modelled on location by Barrie Gibbard.



Beyond The Wall

Filming begins with more to follow

The latest macabre story from our very own Henryk features many of our members in front and behind the camera. Filming started on 18th August. The short solves an old mystery from the central characters childhood, involving an old missing football and ghostly visions!



"A fun couple of hours on my birthday!" Gethin Thomas

The programme for the new season has been mapped out by the committee with some flexibility. From September to December we have some fun and interesting challenges planned including live overdubbing, filming a screen fighting demo with Brad Wendes returning as Stunt Co-ordinator working with actors, some more interviews for our two club series, some shot sharing, a guest speaker, a pitch night and a Film Screening on 9th December (please invite your guests to join us please, £5 on the door for non-members).

For the new year Neil Rowe is creating a new 5-6 page spooky short for the script to screen challenge. We have factored in two planning weeks at the start of January, for developing the production team, shot list, casting and a read-through. Then a three week filming spree in February with room for two more in March if required. If not required for extra filming, the editing process can begin with input from the production team.


COLCHESTER FILM MAKERS

14th October 2025 7.45pm - Henry Keep - Film Making Projects

Henry Keep's portfolio reflects a dynamic career, from independent shorts and festival selections to high profile projects, always marked by a distinctive eye for visual storytelling. Join us as Henry shares his adventures behind the scenes filming Disney+ series A Real Bugs Life, sharing his experience, technical challenges and solutions. A great opportunity to ask questions!

SAVE THE DATES


27th January 2026 7.45pm - Jamie Weston - The Creative Journey

Jamie Weston is an award winning filmmaker, writer and director with over a decade of experience in both film and writing. He is also active in theatre, digital arts and immersive media. His work spans genres and formats - from spooky horror to experimental dance and children's literature. His storytelling consistently receives recognition for its emotional depth, distribution breadth and creative versatility.

MEMBERS - FREE
NON-MEMBERS - £5

2025/26 Season Programme

Filming

September

9th - Film Projects Update Open Evening
16th - Overdubbing Tasks
23rd - Screen Fighting Practice
30th - Shot Sharing Night

October

7th - Multi Camera Filming
14th - GUEST SPEAKER - HENRY KEEP
21st - Editing Techniques
28th - Film Fundraising Development

November

4th - Portraits of Colchester' Film Project
11th - Colchester in the 2020s Interview Filming
18th - Pitch Night
25th - Colchester in the 2020s Interview Filming

December

2nd - Members plan and create a seasonal message film short for our social
9th - FILM SCREENING (non members £5 on the door - refreshments included)
16th - End of Year Celebration Meal

Creating

Tuesday Club

September

Dates 2025

6th - Script to Screen Development Week 1
13th - Script to Screen Development Week 2
20th - AAA - Annual Archive Appreciation
27th - GUEST SPEAKER - JAMIE WESTON

October

3rd - S2S Filming 1
10th - S2S Filming 2
17th - S2S Filming 3
24th - Technical Editing Green Screen Matching

November

7th - Social Media Shorts
14th - Film Editing with Apps
21st - Portraits of Colchester Reveal Night
28th - Music Video Filming Night

December

2nd - Members plan and create a seasonal message film short for our social
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Filming

January

Dates 2026

6th - Script to Screen Development Week 1
13th - Script to Screen Development Week 2
20th - AAA - Annual Archive Appreciation
27th - GUEST SPEAKER - JAMIE WESTON

February

3rd - S2S Filming 1
10th - S2S Filming 2
17th - S2S Filming 3
24th - Technical Editing Green Screen Matching

March

3rd - Pitch Night
10th - Contingencies
17th - Hold my beer, I'll have a go Night
24th - S2S Project Update
31st - Members Troubleshooting

April

7th - Social Media Shorts
14th - Film Editing with Apps
21st - Portraits of Colchester Reveal Night
28th - Music Video Filming Night

Creating

May

Dates 2026

5th - Outside Filming Challenge
12th - Annual General Meeting (AGM)
19th - FILM SCREENING
27th - End of Season Celebration Meal

Summer Break

Although our Tuesday Club Meetings pause for the months of June, July and August, we use this time to film many exciting projects.

Throughout the season we are creating new ideas and have independent producers who often create or complete a crew with our volunteer members.

Mersea Movie Makers

However, if you are thirsty for more to do on a Tuesday evening in the summer, you could always join Andy Merz over at his cabin in Mersea for a summer project.

Other Projects

Often community filming projects demand us to be available on other days for filming on location, capturing B-Role footage, interviewing people, capturing local events in and around the city of Colchester. Members can learn a lot about film making by taking part in such events.