



Lorna Blease and Lucie Thacker

Ashby sees the return of the Silver Screen

■ Council back organisers for film nights

By MARC JOHNSON

THE SILVER SCREEN is returning to Ashby after the town council agreed to a £200 grant to host regular film nights in the town.

On Monday November 22, Ashby Town Council backed organisers to run another four film nights at the Lyric Rooms in Ashby.

The film nights are run by two friends, Lorna Blease and Lucie Thacker. Throughout October, November and January they have been holding trial evenings to see if residents would turn out for an evening of film.

Eighty two tickets were sold at the first evening and 91 were sold at the

second, on November 24.

Lorna said: "It's fantastic news because it means that we will be able to do something for the arts festival.

"This has been a trial we can't really cover the costs without sponsorship or help with funding, so it means we can carry on basically."

The film nights began at this year's Ashby Arts Festival when Lorna suggested that the organisers should have a film day as part of the event.

Lucie attended the screening and after the show the two decided to try and host similar events in the town throughout the year.

Lorna said: "The thing that people really enjoyed was the atmosphere coming to the centre of Ashby, they didn't have parking problems, it was just local and easy, they could just

come and relax."

Lorna and Lucie said that without the grant money and the support of local businesses they would be unable to host the events.

The total cost of advertising, hiring the equipment and booking the Lyric Rooms would make it impossible.

The venue was first used as a cinema in 1912. The Lyric Picture Palace, as it was known, showed the blockbusters of its day, but was eventually forced to close in 1927.

For one night a month, with the help of community cinema scheme Centre Screen, the building will reprise its role to meet the town's growing demand for film.

The next film night will be on January 26 and they will be showing the summer blockbuster 'Inception'.