

PRESS RELEASE

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Award winning film maker Ken Loach supports Herefordshire community film project

Award winning film maker **Ken Loach**, winner of the Palm d'or and director of films such as Kes, The Wind that Shakes the Barley and It's a Free World, is supporting the **Crafta Webb** community film project produced by **The Rural Media Company**.

Ken Loach has written the forward for the 40-page book that accompanies the **Crafta Webb** film drama and documentaries. "We are accustomed to experiencing a film as something that is presented to us, sometimes in the cinema but more usually on television or DVD. To make a film, however short or on whatever scale, is a good way of investigating a past event, a place, a contemporary issue", says Mr Loach, "I'm sure the participants and contributors to **Crafta Webb** found the experience enlivening...they will have discovered that film-making is a team effort where everyone's contribution is to be valued. Probably it was a similar collective effort that led the people of **Crafta Webb** setting up their community all those years ago."

"We are absolutely thrilled to have Ken Loach's support for this unique project", explained Rural Media Producer/Director Adrian Lambert, "the **Crafta Webb** project has been amazing. Over the past 12 months we have worked with over 120 people from the communities of Bredwardine, Staunton and Letton in film making, historical research, writing and archaeology, which has produced a 40 minute drama, documentaries, an animation and a book. To have such an accomplished film maker as Ken Loach support our work is the icing on the cake!"

The Rural Media Company embarked on the ambitious community film project in 2005 to shed light on this mysterious part of Herefordshire's heritage and discover a way in the story of **Crafta Webb** could be conveyed through film drama and documentary.

The story of **Crafta Webb** was one that the majority of Herefordshire's population knew nothing about and yet its existence has many modern day parallels and raises vitally important questions for 21st century rural life. The settlement had its own grocer, tailor and shoemaker and Kilvert reports

visiting it in his diaries to hold cottage lectures. Nothing now remains on the hill and county records refer only to a "shrunk village".

The Crafta Webb film will premiere at **Moccas Village Hall on Saturday 3rd November**. Please contact Adrian Lambert for further details.

The **Crafta Webb** project has been part financed by the European Union (EAGGF) and DEFRA through the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ programme

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Release ends

Note to Editors

- LEADER+ is a UK and EU-wide rural venture, there are 25 L+ programmes running in England. Herefordshire Rivers is the only one in the West Midlands.
- Based in Herefordshire and established in 1992 **The Rural Media Company** uses media and communications - film, video, photography, journalism, graphic design and the Internet - to produce high-impact moving image and new media work. We are a key client of the regional screen agency Screen West Midlands and have won numerous awards nationally and internationally and are renowned for our expertise in this field of work.
- **Picture captions:**
Director Ken Loach
Members of the Community working on Crafta Webb
- **The Rural Media Company** is a registered charity

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