

## CAFS Report for Nov 2013

The last film for 2013 is **Monsieur Lazhar** (12) 2012, French/Canadian, 118 mins, subtitled. It will be shown in Caldbeck Village Hall on Friday 29 November at 7.30 pm.

It was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film and won several other awards. It stars Mohammed Fellag as Monsieur Lazhar, an Algerian refugee in Montreal.

A beloved primary school teacher has committed suicide in her empty classroom and the discovery leaves several of her pupils traumatized and the head teacher struggling to find another teacher at short notice. Monsieur Lazhar reads of this in the paper and offers his services as a supply teacher and reluctantly, the Head takes him on.

Both he and the children struggle to adapt to the school system, cultural differences and their grief. Some of the children have other emotional problems and one blames himself for the teacher's suicide. Slowly the children come to terms with their loss and develop respect and love for their new teacher. Monsieur Lazhar has a painful past of his own and when his true circumstances are revealed, he is sacked. On his last day, he gives a final moving lesson.

This is a gentle, serious and unsentimental film, which shows the difference a good teacher can make to children's lives. Do not be put off by the subject matter- this is a lovely film, which will make you think and possibly shed a tear.

Have a good holiday season and CAFS hopes to see you again in the New Year for **Life of Pi** on 17 Jan 2014.

Films at Keswick Film Club in Nov :

Nov 13 Baraka NB shown at Rheged at 5pm

Nov10 The Gatekeepers

Nov 17 Damaged goods

Nov 24 Beyond the hills