



**PRESS RELEASE:**

# **CURZON CINEMA'S FREE OPEN DAY SET FOR APRIL**

Clevedon's historic cinema, the Curzon, will be holding its annual Open Day on Sunday 26 April.

From 11am – 4pm, the 97 year old venue will allow members of the public to explore the building, including areas not generally open for over 30 years, with guides available throughout to answer questions. On view will be the Curzon Collection of Heritage Cinema Equipment – including items dating back to the silent era – the 1950s electronic organ, and the full span of the building up to the impressive 1920s balcony. There will also be a quiz to help children explore the building, and refreshments will be on sale.

Gareth Negus, Curzon Director, said “Our current bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is focussed on the Curzon's links to the history of cinema exhibition in the UK. We have been in continuous operation as a cinema for almost a century; parts of the building date back to 1912, the art deco main auditorium is from the golden age of cinemas in the UK, but we are also right up to date with digital projection. The Curzon is the ideal place to explore the history of cinemas.”

Ends.

For more information, please contact Gareth Negus, Director, on 01275 879115 or [gareth@curzon.org.uk](mailto:gareth@curzon.org.uk).

## **BRITAIN AT BAY** **Archive films screening at Curzon**

The Curzon's Open Day is rounded off with **Britain at Bay** (U), a programme of films from the BFI National Archive, some rarely screened, others rightly celebrated. Taken from the years 1937 – 1940, they vividly capture the transition from optimism to high alert as the nation faced up to another momentous conflict.

Included are picturesque scenes offering insight into the changing economic and social history of 1930s village life; a study of an English harvest; plus scenes of London preparing for invasion. Stanley Holloway narrates *Sam Goes Shopping*, an early advert for the Co-op, while the famous documentarist Humphrey Jennings directs *Spare Time*, a look at what coal, and cotton workers do in their spare time; from pigeon racing to amateur dramatics.

For many, British life in the inter-war years was characterised by a forward-looking idealism, an age in which tradition was celebrated and new ideas embraced. Despite the trauma of the Great Depression, the 1930s became the era of Mass Observation, an attempt to capture the minutiae of everyday British life, and the 'Machine Age', which saw developments in industry, consumer products and public amenities enabling the population at large to enjoy improvements to every aspect of work and leisure. Yet just as progress beckoned, the government had to prepare its citizens for the worst as war with Germany shifted from distant threat to grim reality.

Tickets for the screening are at the Curzon's usual price of £5.50 (£4.50 concessions) and can be booked in advance.

Ends.

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