



The Curzon Community Cinema 46 Old Church Road Clevedon North Somerset BS21 6NN

PRESS RELEASE

The Curzon hits half a million!

Tuesday 7th March was a major landmark for The Curzon Community Cinema in Clevedon, with the arrival of the half a millionth customer since management of the cinema was taken over by the local community.

The Curzon cinema was saved from closure in November 1996 through a massive public subscription and has since been owned and managed as a Registered Charity.

Commenting on the significance of this latest achievement, Curzon General Manager Jon Webber said, *"The support that the local community have given us over the past nine years has really been tremendous, and demonstrates the value that people place in their local cinema. We would like to thank everyone for their support."*

"We have come a long way in those nine years, building on the cinema's uniqueness whilst at the same time carrying out substantial investment to improve the movie-going experience. That we are doing things right, is shown in the increased admissions over those nine years. For example, 2005 was our best year ever for attendances, an increase of almost 15% on 1997 figures."

So who was the half a millionth customer? The lucky person was Jessica Barker, of Clevedon. To celebrate the landmark, she was presented with a bottle of champagne, a bouquet of flowers and two complimentary tickets to a future show at the Curzon. Pictured is half a millionth customer Jessica Barker, who also was celebrating her birthday with a visit to the Curzon, with Curzon General Manager Jon Webber.

8 March 2006

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Curzon Cinema is believed to be the oldest purpose built continuously operated cinema in the world, having first opened its doors as a cinema in April 1912 – the week of the tragic sinking of *RMS Titanic*.
2. Last year the Board of Trustees announced that they would be taking a phased approach to the restoration of the historic cinema, which is Grade II Listed. The first phase, which should be completed by the end of 2007, involves restoration of the roof structure.
3. The Curzon Cinema shows all the latest movie releases, as well as undertaking community education projects with local schools and youth organisations.

The Curzon Clevedon Community Centre for the Arts is a Registered Charity No 1058389

For all the latest film news visit www.curzon.org.uk