



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**24 April 2006**

### **CURZON OPEN DAY RAISES THE ROOF!**

A major step has been taken towards the restoration of the historic Curzon Community Cinema in Clevedon, with the launch of a new 'Raise the Roof' fundraising campaign to raise £170,000 for restoration of the roof.

The new campaign was launched at the Curzon's Open Day on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, which marked the 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday of a cinema that is believed to be the oldest purpose-built, continuously operated cinema in the world.

One of the Curzon's celebrity Patrons, film and stage actor Alan Rickman, is fronting the campaign, which aims to achieve the fundraising target so that roof restoration work can be completed during 2007. Although Alan Rickman was unable to be at the Curzon Open Day because of filming commitments, he made an appeal to the local community to support the fundraising campaign, by saying "The Curzon is such a unique community facility. Please help to preserve it for future generations."

Curzon Vice-Chair and Director of Fundraising, Hilary Neal said, "We are delighted that Alan has agreed to support our first major fundraising campaign. We need the whole community to get behind this appeal and we are confident that such is the love and support for The Curzon from local people, that the campaign will be a huge success

"This campaign is vital, as the roof is in a very poor state and is deteriorating rapidly. This deterioration has to be arrested to prevent further damage to the building fabric and to enable the internal restoration phases to happen."

There are three main ways that people can make donations to support the campaign.

Firstly, there are individual 'Tile Postcards' that supporters can purchase from the cinema Box Office when they come to see a film. These are only £1 each, and if everyone who sees a film at The Curzon over the next year buys one 'tile' this would raise nearly one third of the fundraising target.

Secondly people can sponsor a 'Stack of Tiles' at £5 per stack, or in multiples of £5.

Thirdly, for those that can afford a regular commitment, Roof Tile Covenants are available that involve a monthly covenant payment to The Curzon by standing order – from £5 per month upwards.

Tile postcards and the tiles sponsorship and covenant leaflets can be obtained from the Curzon Box Office. In addition, the leaflets can be downloaded from the Curzon's web site: [www.curzon.org.uk](http://www.curzon.org.uk).

The Open Day, which was attended by nearly 500 people, included behind the scenes tours, sales of film posters and organ recitals. Visitors came from both the local community and further afield to see behind the scenes of what is both a working cinema and an international heritage treasure.

Curzon General Manager, Jon webber said, "Some visitors came from as far away as Honiton in Devon – so word is most certainly spreading about what a fantastic place The Curzon Cinema is. Everyone who attends one of our Open Days is overawed by the experience and some people come back year after year."

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PHOTOGRAPHS ATTACHED:

1. Curzon General Manager Jon Webber, launching the Raise the Roof Campaign at the Open Day on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
2. Curzon Patron Alan Rickman.
3. Open Day visitors viewing the Curzon's Balcony on one of the behind-the-scenes tours.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Curzon Community Cinema is believed to be the oldest purpose built, continuously operated cinema in the world, having opened its doors for the first time in April 1912.
2. For the past 9½ years the cinema has operated as a Registered Charity having been saved from closure by public subscription back in November 1996.
3. The fundraising campaign for the roof restoration relates to the first of six restoration phases that will see the Curzon Cinema fully restored at a cost in excess of £5m. Future phases will include re-opening the Grand Circle (closed to the public in the 1970's), the construction of a new educational lecture theatre, restoration of the historic tin wall and ceiling panelling, a new entrance foyer on Great western Road as well as disabled access to all floors.
4. If you have any questions regarding the content of this press release please call Jon Webber on 01275 879115 or Chris Brain on 07919 018753.