



PRESS RELEASE

16 July 2007

Charity Donations Stolen

The Curzon Community Cinema in Clevedon has been targeted by thieves, resulting in the loss of cash donations from local people.

The thieves broke into the historic cinema overnight on Wednesday 11 July, stealing money from the drum in the foyer where local filmgoers leave loose change donations after each film.

Curzon General Manager Jon Webber said, "This really is a despicable crime. How anyone can stoop so low as to steal from a charity is hard to fathom. Not only that, it is disrespectful to all the staff, volunteers and other local supporters that have worked so hard over the past 10 years to put The Curzon where it is, at the centre of the local community."

Fortunately the size of the haul was not that great as the donation drum is regularly emptied, and large amounts of cash are not kept on the premises. But the theft has left Curzon staff and volunteers in shock.

Curzon Chair of Trustees Hilary Neal added, "The Curzon receives no regular outside funding and relies on the support of local people to keep going. The loose change drum is very popular and forms an important part of our fundraising activity."

Ironically, the thieves may find themselves appearing on screen as a result of the break-in. Police are currently studying closed circuit TV footage.

Jon Webber commented, "The thieves may not have appreciated that the Curzon is protected by CCTV. We have been able to track their movements around the building. Of course this doesn't mean we are complacent, and we will be reviewing our security arrangements in the light of this incident. We want to reassure people that when they make a donation to The Curzon it gets put to very good use."

Meanwhile the damaged collection drum has been repaired and is now back in pride of place in the cinema foyer, enabling local supporters may make donations during the current three-week run of the latest Harry Potter film.

END.

Notes to Editors:

1. *The Curzon is thought to be the oldest, purpose-built, continuously operated cinema in the world and, throughout this year, we are celebrating our 10th anniversary as a community cinema. We are committed to providing a high quality film experience and to be a thriving centre for cinema and the arts.*
2. *The Curzon has plans for a full restoration of this heritage treasure, at an estimated cost of over £5M. You can see details of our restoration plans on www.curzon.org.uk.*

**If you have any questions regarding the content of this press release please call
Chris Brain on 07919 018753.**

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