



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**17 August 2007**

### **Curzon theft 'recovered'!**

A local businessman from Portishead has stepped in with a donation to make up for the recent theft of charity donations at The Curzon Community Cinema in Clevedon.

Chris Rowntree saw the reports of the theft in the local press and was so disgusted he was moved to make up for the loss out of his own pocket. He said, "I really could not believe that anyone would stoop so low as to steal from a charity, especially one like The Curzon which is such an important community asset. I hope those responsible feel thoroughly ashamed of themselves."

Staff and volunteers at the charity who had been shocked by the break-in two weeks ago, have been buoyed by the news of the donation. New Curzon Director Gareth Negus said, "On behalf of everyone involved with The Curzon I would like to extend thanks to Chris Rowntree for his fantastic generosity."

The stolen charity donations comprised loose change left in a collection drum by customers and supporters leaving after seeing films at the cinema. All money left in the drum is put towards the Raise the Roof campaign – the first phase of the historic cinema's £5m restoration which is targeted to start next year.

Gareth Negus added, "The restoration of the roof is now our number one priority and all our efforts are going into raising enough money to provide the matched funding for a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund next spring. I urge people to support the Raise the Roof campaign so that we can deal with the roof problem before it gets any worse.

The condition of the roof is so poor it could threaten our very existence. Since arriving in Clevedon I have been amazed by how much love and support there is for The Curzon from the local community. I know the public will rally round to make sure that this wonderful historic community treasure is here for generations to come."

There is a range of ways of supporting The Curzon's Raise the Roof campaign, including £5 tile sponsorship, regular monthly tile covenants, purchasing individual £1 'tile postcards' or by donating loose change in the collection drum after seeing film. Of course everyone who sees a film at The Curzon or buys their popcorn or sweets at the Curzon's kiosk is also helping to support the campaign, as all surpluses from the cinema operation are retained by the charity.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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. The main priority is the restoration of the roof, which is in a very poor condition. You can see details of our restoration plans on [www.curzon.org.uk](http://www.curzon.org.uk).*
3. *The attached photograph shows Portishead businessman Chris Rowntree handing over a cheque for £120 to new Director Gareth Negus.*

**If you have any questions regarding the content of this press release please call  
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