



PRESS RELEASE

4 April 2008

Curzon Opens its Doors

On Sunday 20 April the Curzon Cinema in Clevedon celebrates its 96th birthday – almost a century of continuous operation as a working cinema. And to mark the occasion The Curzon will throw its doors open for its annual Open Day.

The Curzon is believed to be the oldest purpose-built, continuously operating cinema in the world, having opened its doors for the first time on 20 April 1912. It has been showing films to the public continuously since then, even through the construction work that saw the cinema enlarged and a second storey added in the 1920's.

At the Open Day visitors will have the opportunity to take a look behind the scenes, visiting areas that are not normally open to the public, with informative guides on hand to explain the story behind this historic local landmark and to answer questions about its operation.

In past years visitors have come 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 Director, Gareth Negus said, "In recent years some visitors came from as far away as Devon – so word is most certainly spreading about what a fantastic place The Curzon Cinema is. Last year's Open Day was attended by over 300 people."

The Curzon Open Day runs from 11am through to 4pm. As well as viewing the building and The Curzon Collection, there will be the opportunity to watch a short DVD on the history of The Curzon, view a history storyboard, buy film posters and take refreshments.

Also available for viewing on the day will be parts of The Curzon Collection – an archive collection of projection and other cinema technology spanning the history of cinema. The collection comprises items on loan and individual donations as well as items that have been saved from other cinemas – including the Odeon (Muswell Hill) and the now demolished Gaiety Cinema in Bristol.

A significant part of the Collection is made up of items on permanent loan from the Projected Picture Trust, based at Bletchley Park, and the two organisations will be taking the opportunity at the Open Day to sign a landmark partnership agreement that will secure these items in the collection for several years to come. Curzon Chair of Trustees Hilary Neal said, "We have been working with the PPT for a number of years now and are very grateful to them for complementing our Collection. Both of us agree that the arrangement has worked very well and we are delighted to be entering into this new phase in our relationship with them."

Notes to Editors:

- 1. The Curzon is thought to be the oldest, purpose-built, continuously operating cinema in the world. We are committed to providing a high quality film experience and to be a thriving centre for cinema and the arts in our local community.*
- 2. We have plans for a major restoration of this historic cinema, the first phase of which will be the restoration of the roof during 2009. The 'Raise the Roof' campaign is being supported by international stage and screen star, Alan Rickman.*

**If you have any questions regarding the content of this press release
please call Chris Brain on 07919 018753 or
Gareth Negus on 01275 879115.**

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