



PRESS RELEASE:

CURZON CELEBRATES LOTTERY WIN

The Curzon Cinema is celebrating an award of £321,900.00 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The news means that the historic venue, which first opened in 1912, will be able to pay for much-needed structural repairs. In turn, this will allow expanded access to parts of the building that have been closed off for decades, and to the Curzon Collection of heritage cinema equipment.

Confirmation that the Cinema has successfully passed the final hurdle to the funding came on Wednesday 10 March. A Stage 1 pass had provided funding allowing the Curzon to prepare a full bid, which was submitted in November 2009. The Curzon's application, under the title *The Curzon Clevedon: conserving and sharing the living history of cinema, film and projection*, combines the most urgent protection needs of the building with the refurbishment of key interior areas and improved presentation and interpretation. This will enhance public access, experience and understanding of the cinema building and the Curzon Collection of Heritage Cinema Equipment, that together demonstrate the living history of cinema from the early 20th century to the present.

This preparatory work included appointing a full time Education and Learning Coordinator, Cathy Poole, as well as hiring specialist consultants to prepare designs of how the revitalised cinema could look.

Hilary Neal, Chair of the Curzon Board, said, "We are absolutely delighted; this is great news for the Curzon and everyone in the area that loves the cinema. We are immensely grateful to HLF for showing that they share our excitement about the Curzon and of course to all our supporters and patrons over the years who have helped us raise the matching funds. We expect to start building works very soon – but film-lovers can rest assured that the Curzon will stay open throughout, maintaining our unbroken record of continuous operation since 1912.

"The award will allow us to start the process of restoration and improvement, opening up more of this wonderful building to public view. It means we'll be able to show people how important the Curzon is as part of the history of cinema and improve how we display and explain our unique collection of cinema artefacts. The project will also help us develop our work with the community, in particular young people."

Ends.

For more information, please contact Gareth Negus, Director, on 01275 879115 or gareth@curzon.org.uk.