

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

Following the recent announcement of the Trust's first grants from its Theatres Protection Fund, Resources Adviser, *Kate Carmichael*, provides an overview of the Small Grants Scheme and highlights its first recipients.

**Our founding document, The Theatres Trust Act 1976 came about as a result of a Private Members Bill sponsored by Sir David Crouch. At the time he said, "It is the live theatre that I want to protect – the platform on which the live theatre can grow and develop as it has in this country for several hundred years".**

As well as "protecting theatres for everyone", our objectives also include maintaining or helping to maintain theatres and to "give financial and other assistance to anybody whose objects are charitable ... in connection with any function ... which is both charitable and similar to an object of the Trust".

When Rob Dickins CBE, our Chairman, arrived in 2009 the time was right to start to look at how this could be achieved. Significant grants and donations needed to be found to build the Theatres Protection Fund, providing an endowment that could be used to distribute capital funding for theatres in need and at risk.

In April this year we announced the creation of the Theatres Protection Fund's first programme – our Small Grants Scheme. This has been made possible through generous support from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, which kick-started the Small Grants Scheme by providing a grant of £125,000 to be distributed over the next five years – £25,000 per year.

In September, we were delighted to announce that Judy Craymer MBE, the creator and global producer of *MAMMA MIA!*, the smash-hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, showed her support by announcing her own donation of £125,000, matching Lloyd Webber's donation. This has meant that in this financial year (ending 31 March 2013) we have £50,000 to distribute through the Small Grants Scheme.

The Scheme is aimed at theatres run by charities and not-for-profit groups that can actively demonstrate the value capital improvements would make to their work with local communities.

The Trust is keen that projects should address urgent building repairs, make improvements to their buildings that improve operational viability and environmental

management, and enhance physical accessibility. Grants will be awarded up to a total of £5,000. The Theatres Trust's Trustees review applications quarterly, but applications may be submitted at any time.

The Small Grants Scheme has received an overwhelming response and applications have been received from across the nations – with projects to date requesting grants totalling over £200,000.

In October 2012, we were thrilled to announce the first six beneficiaries of our Small Grants Scheme: three in London, three statutory listed for their architectural and historical merit, four receiving the maximum grant, and all very much in need of capital support.

Rob Dickins said, "We are delighted to be able to provide valuable help at a crucial time with these projects and further recipient theatres will be announced in the near future. I hope that more theatre professionals will follow Andrew and Judy's lead as I really want to be able to widen the level of financial support The Theatres Trust gives to theatres in need."

The Trust continues to raise funds to build its Theatres Protection Fund and welcomes donations however big or small. All the funds raised are currently distributed to theatres in need through the Small Grants Scheme.

For more details about the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme, to discuss a potential application and eligibility, or if you are interested in donating to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact Kate Carmichael, [kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk).

## Eligibility criteria for applicants:

- own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of more than 5 years on buildings in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work presenting no less than 30 performances a year.
- must have a bona fide UK charitable or not-for-profit legal structure and be able to provide certified or audited accounts for at least two years.

## Small Grants Scheme: First round recipients



### **The Royal Court, Liverpool:** Grant £5,000

The Royal Court Liverpool Trust (RCLT) leases the Grade II listed, 1,150-seat Royal Court Theatre, built in 1938, from Liverpool City Council. RCLT was established to renovate and maintain the theatre. The Theatres

Trust's grant helps fund the urgent installation of a replacement safety curtain, which is part of an £11.9 million, four phase capital project. RCLT was awarded a second stage Heritage Lottery Grant in December 2011 of just under £1 million; along with funds raised through a £1 ticket levy, RCLT was able to carry out Phase 1 of the campaign between February and June 2012.

[royalcourttrust.org](http://royalcourttrust.org)



### **Soho Theatre, London:** Grant £5,000

Soho Theatre is London's most vibrant venue for new writing, comedy and cabaret, a charity and social enterprise that produces and presents work across three stages of 90-150 seats. In 2000, it converted the West End

Great Synagogue, which it owns, in the heart of Soho, London and in 2010 opened a new bar and purpose built comedy and cabaret space. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards the replacement of its two front doors whose old age and poor sensors mean they do not function properly and cannot accommodate the 150,000 people the theatre welcomes every year. A modern single swing design which will be recessed will offer a more environmentally friendly and welcoming entrance to the theatre improving accessibility for all its visitors.

[sohotheatre.com](http://sohotheatre.com)



### **Sleford Playhouse:** Grant £5,000

The Grade II listed, 120-seat Sleaford Playhouse, built in 1825, is one of only four Georgian theatres in working use in England. It has been owned and managed for the last 18 years by Sleaford Little Theatre, a local

amateur dramatic group. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards the removal of the 1946 windows in the Georgian building which will return the theatre to its original appearance, improve thermal efficiency, reduce noise interference internally and provide for a significant decrease in heating costs.

[slefordplayhouse.co.uk](http://slefordplayhouse.co.uk)



### **Wilton's Music Hall, London:** Grant £5,000

Wilton's Music Hall Trust is a non-funded producing theatre which owns and manages a unique 300-seat Grade II\* listed music hall in East London. It was on The Theatres Trust's Theatre Buildings at Risk Register until this

Photo: Andrea Marchi

year, following announcement of a first round development award from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a SITA Trust grant. The theatre is one of the country's finest and rarest examples of a Victorian music hall. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards reinstating the original Music Hall orchestra pit under the stage and repairs to the timber floor structure in the auditorium.

[wiltons.org.uk](http://wiltons.org.uk)



### **Oldham Coliseum:** Grant £2,500

Oldham Coliseum Theatre leases its 585-seat producing and receiving theatre from Oldham Council. Originally built in 1885 as a wooden circus and music hall it is undergoing a major programme of capital refurbishment.

Photo: Andrew Billington

The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards adding a lower level box office counter to make it more accessible for patrons, which was not part of the refurbishment programme.

[coliseum.org.uk](http://coliseum.org.uk)



### **Half Moon Young People's Theatre, London:** Grant £2,000

The Half Moon Young People's Theatre is a publicly subsidised young people's theatre in East London which owns a converted Victorian 'Board of Works' building in Limehouse. In the

early 1990s the building was converted into a 90-seat theatre and base for its work with over 17,000 young people in Tower Hamlets. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards the installation of a modern lift to enhance physical accessibility in an enlarged entrance as part of a larger capital refurbishment programme.

[halfmoon.org.uk](http://halfmoon.org.uk)

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

*Kate Carmichael*, Resources Adviser, reports on the progress of the theatres awarded grants in the first round and updates us on the second round recipients.

**In January 2013 we awarded grants totalling £24,535 towards small, high impact capital projects in our second round of small grants.**

The six successful theatres included the Wyeside Arts Centre, Builth Wells; Bush Theatre, London; Robin Hood Theatre, Newark; Hackney Empire, London; Citadel Arts Centre, St Helens; and the Bacup Royal Court Theatre.

Mhora Samuel, Director of The Theatres Trust said at the time, "I'm delighted that we are able to help these six theatres with small grants from the Theatres Protection Fund, particularly as the competition has been so strong."

Since the Trust opened up its Small Grants Scheme in May 2012 over 55 theatres have applied with projects totalling £225,527. The support from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer of £50,000 in 2012/13 has therefore been essential. We continue to seek others who would like to donate to the Fund and play their part to protect our much loved theatres.

The Small Grants Scheme helps theatres in need and at risk address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility.

First round grant recipients the Soho Theatre, Sleaford Playhouse, Half Moon Young People's Theatre and Oldham Coliseum have already put their grants to good use and have completed their capital works.

The Soho Theatre was able to undertake work to install a new door in the front of the theatre to improve access for their customers. A modern single swing door design, the door is operated by a sensor to exit the building and by push button to enter. The installation of the door has made a huge improvement to the flow of people into the building especially for

customers with access requirements. The door was specially designed and installed by Design and Build Project Management on the 15 and 16 of January 2013.

Sleaford Playhouse trustees aim to restore the 19th century Grade II listed building to reflect its appearance as an active theatre between its construction in 1825 and its conversion to an infant school by the Church of England in 1856. In 1947 windows were placed into the lower elevation, these windows were removed and the walls refilled thanks to the Small Grants Scheme. There was considerable discussion with the planning office before the style and materials were approved. Work started in autumn 2012 and was carried out by a master builder, Phil Tupholme. Interestingly, it was Phil's father that had added the lower windows in 1947. The work finished in time for their Christmas 2012 production and is weathering well to blend in with the existing stonework.

As part of a wider programme of refurbishment works Oldham Coliseum commissioned Levitt Bernstein Architects to redesign its new foyer and box office to improve access for disabled patrons, ease congestion and create a more impressive entrance. The new box office was part funded by the Small Grants Scheme and installed in October 2012.

Phase One of Half Moon Young People's Theatre's capital project is now complete and the building reopened to the public at the beginning of November 2012. At the reopening event Rob Dickins CBE, Chairman of The Theatres Trust, cut the celebratory ribbon when he attended a performance given by two of the Half Moon's five Youth Theatre groups. The Small Grants Scheme award contributed to a new platform lift from the entrance to the foyer which is proving a real hit, particularly with their disabled youth theatre members who can now enter the building independently. The grant from the Trust also helped Half Moon gain a £660,000 pledge from Arts Council England's Strategic Capital Fund, which will enable the company to complete Phase Two, which includes the refurbishment of their beautiful Victorian façade.

For more details about the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme, to discuss a potential application and eligibility, or if you are interested in making a donation to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact Kate Carmichael, [kate.carmichael@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrestrust.org.uk).



Theatres Trust Chairman, Rob Dickins CBE cutting the celebratory ribbon at the Half Moon Young People's Theatre

## Eligibility criteria for applicants:

- own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of more than 5 years on buildings in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work presenting no less than 30 performances a year.
- must have a bona fide UK charitable or not-for-profit legal structure and be able to provide certified or audited accounts for at least two years.

## Small Grants Scheme: Second round recipients



### **Wyeside Arts Centre, Builth Wells:** Grant £5,000

Wyeside Arts Centre Ltd is a charity established for the promotion and advancement of the arts and education. It acquired the freehold of the former Market Hall and Assembly Rooms

in 1976 and currently provides a 158-seat performance space for both amateur and professional groups. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards urgent repairs to the north, riverside, elevation, where stones have eroded and a missing downpipe is causing severe water penetration to the newly refurbished theatre. It is the second phase of a programme of essential repairs and restoration of the external fabric of the arts centre.

[wyeside.co.uk](http://wyeside.co.uk)



### **Bush Theatre, London:** Grant £5,000

The Bush Theatre (Alternative Theatre Ltd) leased the Old Library Building from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham when they relocated from their old home in 2011. The space was subject to a

major £700,000 refurbishment by Haworth Tompkins, completing the first stage of capital redevelopment for the Bush. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards a large scale comprehensive overhaul and replacement of the boiler system addressing the building services needs of the theatre.

[bushtheatre.co.uk](http://bushtheatre.co.uk)



### **The Robin Hood Theatre, Newark:** Grant £5,000

The 150-seat Robin Hood Theatre is a small public theatre. The original private theatre was built in 1913 and it became a public theatre in 1961. The theatre was closed 6 years ago on health and

safety grounds when it was under trusteeship of Nottingham County Council, and was subsequently badly vandalised. The amateur-run Robin Hood Theatre Company took full ownership of the theatre and land in February 2012. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards urgent electrical repair works. These form a core part of phase 1 of the capital refurbishment programme.

[rhtc.co.uk](http://rhtc.co.uk)



### **Hackney Empire Theatre, London:** Grant £4,934

Hackney Empire Ltd leases the theatre building on a peppercorn rent from the freeholders, the Hackney Empire Preservation Trust. This historic Grade II\* listed former music hall and

variety theatre seats 1300. Between 2001 and 2004 the Empire underwent a £19 million refurbishment. Tim Ronalds was the architect. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards for the urgent removal of the buddleia from the roof at the front of the building, the repair of the facade and making the roof of the modern extension watertight.

[hackneyempire.co.uk](http://hackneyempire.co.uk)



### **The Citadel Arts Centre, St Helens:** Grant £2,500

The Citadel is a theatre and arts centre based in the original Theatre Royal St Helens. The building dates back to 1856 and is a rare survivor from the period. The centre offers an artistic programme consisting mainly

of community arts and live music. The window boxes on the front and side of the venue are over ten years old and weathered to such an extent that the degradation of the perspex shields makes it almost impossible to see posters and inform the public of the activities and events coming up. The Theatres Trust's grant allows the replacement of the worn out promotional window boxes.

[citadel.org.uk](http://citadel.org.uk)



### **The Royal Court Theatre, Bacup:** Grant £2,200

The Bacup Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society is an active local amateur theatre group that owns and runs the 485-seat Royal Court Theatre. It was converted from a former iron

foundry into the Empire theatre in 1893. It now offers a range of productions throughout the year and is used by touring companies, youth services and facilities for school productions. The Theatres Trust's grant goes towards urgent and essential repairs backstage, including repairing damage caused by major leaks in the dressing room, which resulted in the ceiling collapsing.

[brct.co](http://brct.co)

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

*Kate Carmichael,*  
Resources Adviser, reports  
on the Trust's third round  
of grants and the progress  
of previous grant recipients.

**In July 2013 we announced grants totalling £24,636 in our third round of Small Grants Scheme awards to five theatres across the nation including one of the smallest theatres in the UK and the most northerly theatre on the mainland.**

We were pleased to provide assistance to five local and community based theatres, including the Category B listed Mill Theatre, Thurso, the Grade II listed Malt Cross Music Hall, Nottingham, the Grade II\* listed Theatre Royal, Wakefield, Preston Playhouse and Margate's Tom Thumb Theatre.

Mhora Samuel, Director of The Theatres Trust said "We're entering the second year of our Small Grants Scheme. Last year we were able to help twelve theatres who needed to undertake urgent repairs and improvements. Once again I'd like to thank the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer for their generous donations to our Theatres Protection Fund which have made it possible to award our grants. I'm also delighted that our third round of grants is going to such a range of theatres across the length and breadth of the nation."

Since the Trust began its Small Grants Scheme in May 2012 over 79 theatres have applied requesting £335,788 towards their small capital projects. Interest in our Small Grants Scheme has been so encouraging and standards are really high. The positive effect of even a small grant can be clearly seen.

## **News from previous grant recipients**

First round grant recipients the Liverpool Royal Court and second round grant recipients Bulth Wells' Wyeside Arts Centre, and Newark's Robin Hood Theatre have completed their capital works. And as this issue of tm goes to print the Bush Theatre, Hackney Empire and the Citadel St Helens are about to commence theirs.

This issue of tm also marks a milestone with the completion of all first round projects awarded funds from the scheme. Audiences attending the Grade II listed Art Deco Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool will be able to view the new replacement safety curtain, with its acknowledgement of The Theatres Trust's support. The curtain was installed during the period February-June 2013 and for the first time in decades the auditorium and the backstage area are both protected in the event of a fire. Installation of the safety curtain followed Phase 1 of a four phase capital campaign to renovate the Royal Court Theatre.

The Bulth Wells Wyeside Arts Centre was our first Welsh grant recipient. It received £5,000 for urgent repairs to its north riverside elevation where stones have eroded and a missing downpipe caused severe water penetration to the newly refurbished Market Theatre. The venue itself stands directly beside the River Wye and is a prominent local landmark. Funds from the Small Grants Scheme have enabled a skilled stonemason working with a local building firm to replace the eroded and loose stonework, and unsuitable guttering has been fixed. Access difficulties to the riverside site meant that Wyeside had to commission a firm of high level abseilers for part of the work. As a result rainwater no longer affects the wall where it used to cause damp. These works are the second phase of a programme of essential repairs and restoration of the external fabric of this 158 seat performance space. The Arts Centre has said even such a small improvement in the fabric of their building has helped them present a more confident face, in keeping with their optimism about the value of the performing arts in a rural area and in tough economic times.

Work on the first phase of replacing all electrical wiring in the Robin Hood Theatre in Averham near Newark has also been completed, thanks to their grant of £5,000. The theatre was closed six years ago on health and safety grounds when it was under trusteeship of Nottingham County Council,

and was subsequently badly vandalised. Our grant went towards electrical rewiring of the venue. The Robin Hood Theatre Company can now boast a new distribution board, new M.C.C.B Panel Board and main equipotential bonding works which meet all requirements. This essential work has meant that the theatre company, who bought the venue in February 2012, has been able to press ahead and now have a newly refurbished kitchen and bar and an almost completed new toilet block with underfloor heating. The 150-seat Robin Hood Theatre hopes to reopen for live shows in November 2013. If this is not possible they hope the extended hospitality areas will open to start generating income to continue the major refurbishment of the rest of the building.

Closer to home, and a participant in The Theatres Trust Ecovenue project which ran from 2009 to 2012, the Bush Theatre in London received £5,000 towards a large scale comprehensive overhaul and replacement of their boiler system, addressing the building services needs of the former Old Library Building they now occupy. We are pleased to report that the Bush has completed the tendering process and appointed a contractor for the environmental heating modifications. Work was due to commence mid August, to be completed in time for the venue to be ready for winter 2013.

The historic Grade II\* listed former music hall and variety theatre, Frank Matcham's Hackney Empire, is about to celebrate the second most important refurbishment-related newsflash of the summer following securing their £1.1m payout from Aviva; the urgent removal of the buddleia from the roof, the repair of the façade of the building and making the roof of the modern extension watertight. Works will commence in early September.

The final grant recipient taking advantage of British summertime weather conditions is the Citadel in St Helens, whose £2,401.50 grant to upgrade its badly degraded front and side exterior promotional boxes is being put to good use.

To discuss a potential application and eligibility, or if you are interested in making a donation to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact [kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk). For more details about the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme visit [theatrust.org.uk/resources/grants](http://theatrust.org.uk/resources/grants).

## Small Grants Scheme: Third round recipients



### Mill Theatre, Thurso £5,000

The Category B listed Mill Theatre opened in 1989 and is one of the few remaining buildings in the Caithness vernacular style and the most northerly theatre on the British mainland. The management, running,

and maintenance of this amateur, local community theatre is undertaken by the voluntary members of the club. The Theatres Trust grant goes towards its 'Roof Repair' project to repair and replace the roof tiles. The proposed works will secure the long term future of this artistic and architecturally significant building for the community.

[thursoplayer.org.uk](http://thursoplayer.org.uk)



### Malt Cross Music Hall, Nottingham £5,000

The Malt Cross was built in 1877 by entrepreneur Charles Weldon. It functioned as a music hall until 1914. The Grade II listed venue is now owned and managed by the Malt Cross

Trust Company, formed in 2002, and sits within a conservation area. It functions principally as a café-bar, with a performance programme of theatre, comedy and live music. The Theatres Trust grant goes towards its 'Heritage and Outreach' project to refurbish and restore the auditorium of the listed Victorian Music Hall enabling the venue to provide improved public access for performances and learning opportunities. The capital works will increase public understanding of the history and cultural heritage of this rare Victorian Music Hall.

[maltcross.com](http://maltcross.com)



### Theatre Royal, Wakefield £5,000

Theatre Royal Wakefield is situated in the heart of the city centre. There has been a theatre on the site since 1774, with the current Frank Matcham building dating from 1894.

The main auditorium seats 499 and it offers audiences a diverse range of work throughout the year. The Theatres Trust grant goes towards their 'Damp To Eastern Flank Wall' project to improve the comfort and safety of this Grade II\* listed theatre. The capital works will make the structure of the theatre more secure, and provide audiences, volunteers and staff with a more safe, comfortable and pleasant theatre experience.

[theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk](http://theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk)



### Playhouse, Preston £5,000

The Preston Little Theatre Co. Ltd. promotes the dramatic arts and operates Preston Playhouse for productions by amateur dramatic societies and musical groups.

The Playhouse was built in 1847 as a Friends Meeting House and later used as a dance hall and served a military purpose in World War. It opened as a theatre in October 1949 and is the longest running theatre in Preston. The Theatres Trust grant goes towards its 'Raise the roof!' project to upgrade and insulate the roof. The capital works will secure the future of the building for the community and improve the buildings' environmental efficiency.

[prestonplayhouse.com](http://prestonplayhouse.com)



### Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate £4,636

Originally built as a coach house in Victorian times, the Tom Thumb Theatre is a unique 50-seat family run arts venue in Margate whose frontage boasts a striking mix of

Japanese and Alpine styles. The building was transformed into one of the smallest theatres in the world in 1984. The works will be undertaken with students from its project partner and local community supporter, East Kent College. The capital project will address urgent building repairs to the exterior balcony and improve visibility from the street.

[tomthumbtheatre.co.uk](http://tomthumbtheatre.co.uk)

**We'd like to ask everyone who cares about the future of theatres to donate now to our Theatres Protection Fund. Your donations will help ensure The Theatres Trust is able to secure a more sustainable future for theatre buildings. If your local theatre matters to you, then please help!**

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

*Kate Carmichael*, Resources Adviser, reports on the Trust's fourth round of grants and the progress of previous grant recipients.

**The Theatres Trust is pleased to announce its fourth round of small capital grants to theatres. This marks the end of year two of our Small Grants Scheme which has been generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE. Since the Trust began its Small Grants Scheme in May 2012 104 theatres have applied requesting £453,633. With the funds available we have been able to support a total of 22 projects of which 14 are now complete.**

In this round grants have been awarded to Northumberland's Alnwick Playhouse, the community-run Beccles Public Hall & Theatre, the Grade II\* listed Hoxton Hall in London, Tara Arts, London's first Asian-led theatre, and the Grade II listed Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford.

The Trust's Small Grants Scheme helps theatres in need and at risk to address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility. Trustees of The Theatres Trust will meet again in June 2014 to consider further Small Grants Scheme awards.

## News from previous grant recipients

We are delighted to announce that London's Bush Theatre and Hackney Empire and the Citadel Arts Centre St Helens have all completed their grant-funded projects.

The Citadel Arts Centre St Helens' advertisement boxes on the front of its building were rusted and faded and unable to display information about the wide range of events at the venue. In late 2013 a Small Grants Scheme grant enabled it to replace the boxes. This not only enhanced the external look of the building but also gave the Citadel the improved ability to display information about its diverse programme of events and activities. The new boxes also complement and enhance recent repairs and re-rendering of the front elevation; and audience figures are already up.

In its first year of operation in its new home, London's Bush Theatre spent a considerable sum of money on heating because of an archaic boiler and an inability to control the timings or heat levels on the radiators. With the support of a small grant heating controls were upgraded in December 2013 which will save the Bush significant annual costs. The Bush then also secured funding to replace the boilers which means the impact will be even greater.

In October 2013 London's Hackney Empire removed the buddleia from its roof with the help of a small grant and provided the Trust with its very own cutting as evidence! Works continue to the 1901 Grade II\* Matcham music hall to repair the façade of the building, and ensure the roof on the modern extension is watertight.

All six of our Round Two grant recipients have completed their Small Grants Scheme funded works – and we're delighted to report that the Robin Hood Theatre in Averham, near Newark-on-Trent re-opened on 8 April 2014. The theatre closed abruptly in 2007 having failed a safety inspection. In January 2013 we awarded the Robin Hood Theatre Company £5,000 towards rewiring its electrical circuit boards to enable them to kickstart the renovations. Work was completed immediately. Since then over 1,000 voluntary hours have been spent on other aspects of the restoration, over 30 volunteers have worked, many on a daily basis, and members, friends, local people and celebrities have donated generously. There are still plans for further capital works, and Phase 2 of the project includes fitting out a large extension (which is currently only a shell) with studio theatre space, gallery space, community social space and workshops.

Two Round Three recipients, which both received grants towards roof repairs, the Preston Playhouse and Thurso Mill Theatre, have been working hard to maintain their theatres and completed works with their grants prior to the severe weather in Winter 2013/ Spring 2014.

Preston Playhouse contracted Kneen Developments of Leyland in late July to finish the roofing and insulation work at the Playhouse ahead of schedule. At the beginning of 2014 some work still remained to be done on safety features to reduce risks when carrying out future maintenance work. Chairman Alex Tagg said: "Thanks to the wonderful support from the people of Preston who appreciate or are involved in live theatre, together with the generous grant of £5,000 from The Theatres Trust, the 'Raising the Roof' project has succeeded in raising almost £25,000." The theatre has now set up a Theatre Development Fund to raise funds for future maintenance projects at the venue in Market Street West, Preston.

The Mill Theatre in Thurso, the most northerly theatre on the British mainland, took advantage of British summertime and in August 2013 enlisted local contractor O'Brien Construction to inspect the slating and underlying roof timbers of the Mill Theatre Roof, remove and inspect all slates and replace damaged or missing slates. All of this was achieved successfully. Externally and internally the building looks the same as it did before and it retains the look of the historic listed building. This was one of the main aims of the project. Slates are now secured in a modern manner, and should ensure less slippage and breakage. The Mill Theatre is also now watertight, with improved insulation, its underlying roof timbers are sound and have been treated to protect them from future threats, such as woodworm.

## Further information:

- Your application should be for a specific and recognisable element of your capital project.
- Toilet facilities, seat replacement, soft furnishings and technical equipment are not generally considered a priority.

To discuss a potential application and eligibility, or if you are interested in making a donation to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact Kate Carmichael, Resources Adviser, [kate.carmichael@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrestrust.org.uk).

For more details about the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme visit [theatrestrust.org.uk/resources/grants](http://theatrestrust.org.uk/resources/grants).

## Small Grants Scheme: Round Four recipients



### **Alnwick Playhouse,** £5,000

Alnwick Playhouse is a leading small 262-seat venue in the north of England. It presents theatre, music, opera, dance, children's theatre, and film. The Playhouse also runs other activities such as rehearsals, community

groups and meetings. It has its own Youth Theatre and hosts charity evenings, school productions and amateur dramatics for the local community. This cultural hub in Northumberland receives a Small Grants Scheme award towards the 'Alnwick Playhouse & Community Arts Centre Roof Repairs' project to enable it to carry out urgent remedial repairs. The funded works will protect the fabric of the building, ensure the long term structural integrity of the roof and keep the building watertight.

[alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](http://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)



### **Beccles Public Hall & Theatre** £5,000

Beccles Public Hall opened in 1785 as an assembly room and theatre. Beccles Lido Limited has owned the 260-seat Beccles Public Hall since February 2013 and has run it

since April 2012. There are no other similar sized buildings in the Beccles area suitable for theatre productions. The Hall also provides facilities for social, educational and recreational activities for all ages. It receives a Small Grants Scheme award towards its 'Improving Access to the Stage' project, to provide better access to the stage for performers and scenery, and remedial works to remodel the roof as part of a larger programme of renovation and improvement works. The funded works will facilitate more ambitious productions and pave the way for a platform lift to be installed to improve access for performers with impaired mobility.

[becclespublichall.org.uk](http://becclespublichall.org.uk)



### **Hoxton Hall, London** £5,000

The Grade II\* listed Hoxton Hall is a rare early music hall in Hackney, east London. It has adjoining music rooms, recording space, rehearsal rooms, dance studio, meeting rooms, art workshops, a café and adjoining

creative industry workspace. Designated for its social and cultural importance as well as unique architectural interest, Hoxton Hall aims to aid community cohesion and provide quality arts experiences

that nurture talent and encourage young people to engage with the community. It receives a Small Grants Scheme award towards its 'Conservation, Restoration and Modernisation' project to carry out structural and strengthening works to its upper balcony. The funded works will reopen the upper balcony for the first time in 45 years, enabling it to increase its capacity from 120 to 250.

[hoxtonhall.co.uk](http://hoxtonhall.co.uk)



### **Tara Arts, London** £5,000

Founded in 1977 by Jatinder Verma, Tara Arts is the UK's longest standing Asian-led theatre company. For nearly 40 years Tara Arts has been a catalyst for cross-cultural theatre in the UK, both as a small scale producing house

and as a focus for career development for minority theatre artists. The renovation of Tara Theatre will create a landmark new UK centre of excellence for small-scale cross-cultural theatre, and the project will triple the number of public-access spaces at Tara. These include an enlarged 100-seat auditorium and a new rehearsal workshop space. Tara Theatre in Wandsworth receives £5,000 towards the installation of a set of internal double-leaf, fire-proof acoustic doors for its new auditorium as part of the 'Tara Theatre Renovation Project', the doors will enable the auditorium to be used for performances whilst keeping the adjoining foyer, café and patio spaces open to the public or available for external hirers.

[tara-arts.com](http://tara-arts.com)



### **Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford** £5,000

The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford is owned by Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Management Limited. It opened in 1965 and was Grade II listed in 2013. The theatre has two

performance venues, a 590-seat main theatre and the smaller 80-seat Mill Studio. It presents a series of locally produced and national touring productions, including opera, ballet and pantomime. It has a wide range of visitors, with over 400 performances planned for 2013–2014. Yvonne Arnaud Theatre: Guildford's Grade II listed theatre receives £5,000 towards the 'Refurbishment and Installation of Automatic Sliding Doors' to improve accessibility through upgrading the main entrance to the theatre and the entrance to the auditorium. The funded works will improve access and ensure a better experience for audiences at the theatre.

[yvonnearnaud.co.uk](http://yvonnearnaud.co.uk)

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

*Kate Carmichael*, Resources Adviser, reports on the Trust's fifth round of grants and the progress of funded projects.

**The Theatres Trust announced its fifth round of small capital grants in July – marking the start of third year of the Small Grants Scheme. Grants were awarded to the community-owned Shanklin Theatre on the Isle of Wight; the Buddle and Matcham designed Theatre Royal Stratford East; the Players Theatre in Thame; the Grade II\* listed Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells; and Blackpool's Grand Theatre.**

Since the Trust began its Small Grants Scheme in May 2012, 119 theatres have applied for over £540,291 towards their small capital projects.

The Trust's Small Grants Scheme helps theatres in need and at risk to address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility.

When making decisions, Trustees take into account projects' urgency, other resources available to the applicant and the extent to which the grant would make a significant difference to promoting the better protection of theatres. Funds are generally awarded where they are considered to have the most impact in realising an applicant's capital project.

Due to the large number of applications to the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme, Trustees would like to advise that they prefer to receive applications for specific and recognisable elements of a capital project and that projects with a total capital spend over £250,000 will generally not be considered a priority in future.

Trustees of The Theatres Trust will meet again in December 2014 to consider further Small Grants Scheme awards.

## News from previous grant recipients

Round 3 recipient Nottingham's Malt Cross is currently undergoing an extensive restoration project. Two previously unused floors and a 12th century cave underneath the former music hall on St James's Street are being transformed into a new state-of-the-art heritage, education, tourism, arts, crafts and music centre. The project, which also includes a refurbishment of the existing bar area and gallery space, is being partly funded by a £5,000 grant from the Trust's Small Grants Scheme. The local building team from Taylor Pearson Construction Ltd, as well as architects William Saunders, have made a number of unique discoveries, including: the entrance to a secret passageway in the cave area; a secret room (approx 8ft x 20ft), hidden behind a fake wall in the bar's toilets; and an authentic Victorian glazed brick archway.

Meanwhile, Margate's Tom Thumb Theatre's project was delayed when its original contractor let it down towards the end of 2013. It received £4,636 towards restoring and improving the visibility of its very special Japanese/Alpine inspired frontage. We are pleased to report however that in August 2014 the two roofs were repaired – including works to the balcony – and further carpentry to the Japanese/Alpine inspired frontage was taking place as Autumn went to print.

Significant work is taking place over the summer and until Christmas as part of the renovations to Beccles Public Hall. It received a Small Grants Scheme award towards its 'Improving Access to the Stage' project to provide better access to the stage for performers and scenery, and remedial works to remodel the roof as part of a larger programme of renovation and improvement. The funded works will facilitate more ambitious productions and pave the way for a platform lift to be installed to improve access for performers with impaired mobility. Work is due to start in October 2014.

The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre's grant is being used in two ways – to improve access to the theatre for all visitors and to enable it to comply with the Equality Act 2010. Work to replace the automatic door mechanisms at the entrance of the theatre was completed by the Supreme Door Spring Company in May 2014, and the automatic swing doors are now in working order and fully automatic from the outside. The second part of the works, installing new automatic doors to the disabled access toilet corridor, is due to take place this autumn and will significantly improve the theatre experience for many of their patrons.

In December 2013, Tara Theatre in Wandsworth received a grant of £5,000 from the Small Grants Scheme towards the costs of installing a pair of internal double-leaf, fire-proof acoustic doors for a new auditorium, as part of a comprehensive redevelopment of the theatre. With the addition of funding from various Trusts, fundraising and an award from Arts Council England, the start of works on site is now imminent, and the company moved to temporary offices in Twickenham. After 30 very active years, the building has fallen silent, waiting for the sound of hammer and drill to shatter the silence...

Hoxton Hall's conservation, modernisation and restoration of the 150 year old grade II\* listed Music Hall is almost 50% complete. The largest and most significant part of the early work was the structural strengthening of the balconies and roof, following a period of opening up and structural investigations. The existing structure (built 1867) was found to be in good condition and steel beams bracing the existing Victorian wood roof beams have now been installed. The Theatres Trust specifically helped support this aspect of the project. In opening the roof cavity Hoxton Hall was able to see the original openings for the sun burners and roof lay lights, which are being reconstructed and installed in the final stages of the project. On completion, the seating capacity will be increased from 120 to over 220 seats.

To discuss a potential application and eligibility, or if you are interested in making a donation to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact Kate Carmichael Resources Adviser, [kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk).

For more details about the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme visit [theatrust.org.uk/resources/grants](http://theatrust.org.uk/resources/grants).

## Small Grants Scheme: Fifth round recipients



### Shanklin Theatre, Isle of Wight £5,000

This grant goes towards building repairs to the brickwork of Shanklin Theatre's flytower. The Grade II listed Shanklin Theatre is owned and managed by the Shanklin Theatre

and Community Trust. The Trust was established in 2010 by local supporters to take over the management of the theatre when the local authority wanted to relinquish control. The building originally opened in 1879 as the Shanklin Institute. The auditorium seats 615 and the Friends of Shanklin Theatre provide volunteers to support staff to run and manage the theatre. As a touring house, it programmes professional and amateur productions, and hosts a children's stage school, the Isle of Wight Dance Festival and workshops for school parties.

[shanklintheatreandcommunitytrust.co.uk](http://shanklintheatreandcommunitytrust.co.uk)  
[shanklintheatre.com](http://shanklintheatre.com)



### Theatre Royal Stratford East, London £5,000

This grant goes towards preserving the character of this important Grade II\* listed theatre. The designer of the trompe l'oeil safety curtain, Jenny Tiramani and her team, will

clean and repair the safety curtain. It is the first project in a series of works to refurbish the theatre auditorium. The Grade II\* Theatre Royal Stratford East, originally designed by James George Buckle, and refurbished by Frank Matcham, is managed by Pioneer Theatres Ltd. It seats 430 and is the only suburban London theatre with a complete pre-cantilever auditorium. Located in the heart of London's East End on the edge of the new Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the theatre was the home of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop from the 1950s-1970s and prides itself on creating world class work that reflects the concerns, hopes and dreams of its community. A prolific developer of new work, the theatre has a long-standing commitment to championing new writing and delivering world-class musical theatre.

[stratfordeast.com](http://stratfordeast.com)



The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

The Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme is supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE.



### Players Theatre, Thame £5,000

This grant goes towards the installation of a flexible and moveable wall system on the stage. It helps to complete a larger capital project which will improve the quality of the theatre and increase

the seating capacity from its present 119 to 131. Thame Players Theatre Company, an established non-professional theatre group, has owned the 119-seat Players Theatre since 1997. The Players Theatre is the only theatre and cinema serving the town of Thame and the surrounding area. It presents a variety of theatre productions by Thame Players and other visiting companies and also screens film throughout the year.

[thameplayers.co.uk](http://thameplayers.co.uk)



### Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells £5,000

This grant goes towards building repairs to the sandstone brickwork of the East wall of the converted church. The Grade II\* listed Trinity Theatre has been leased by the Trinity Theatre and Arts Centre

Ltd from the diocese of Rochester since 1982. Trinity Theatre is a receiving house and arts centre, with a 279 seat tiered auditorium, studio rooms, foyer with café and bar facilities, gallery meeting room and the gardens. Its programme includes theatre, dance, comedy, music and film, including an innovative programme for young people, which gives many local children their first experience of live theatre.

[trinitytheatre.net](http://trinitytheatre.net)



### Blackpool Grand Theatre £4,850

This grant goes towards repairing the historic side entrance doors and preserving the streetscape character of the Grade II\* listed theatre. The works will enhance the visual experience of visitors from the street, and support

wheelchair patrons who, after the capital project is complete, may use this as a main entrance. The Grade II\* listed Matcham designed Blackpool Grand Theatre has been owned by the Blackpool Grand Theatre Trust Ltd since 1981. The main auditorium of the nationally significant touring house seats 1,053, and the studio seats 80. The Blackpool Grand Theatre has a varied programme of musical, ballet and opera performances and plays a major role in entertainment provision for Blackpool and its region.

[blackpoolgrand.co.uk](http://blackpoolgrand.co.uk)

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

*Kate Carmichael*, Resources Adviser, reports on the Trust's sixth round of grants and the progress of previous grant recipients.

**We awarded the sixth round of our small capital grants in January 2015 to the Actors Workshop in Halifax, Dunoon's Burgh Hall, the People's Theatre Newcastle, and London's Little Angel Theatre and Polka Theatre.**

In the three years that we've run the Small Grants Scheme we've awarded 32 grants totalling £146,241. Twenty nine of the theatres were based in England, of which ten were in London, two in Scotland and one in Wales. Though the Scheme is limited to small capital projects under £5,000 the benefits are clear to see – around half of the awards addressed urgent structural work and many others made improvements to physical accessibility both backstage and front of house.

There have been capital projects which we have not had the funds to support. In total, we have received 146 applications, requesting just under £645,850. Some of these projects were great examples of best practice, and included environmental improvements and initiatives to enhance operational viability. Sadly we just didn't have the funds to help them. However, myself and the Trust's advisers are on hand to ensure that theatres we've been unable to support can receive our help and advice.

## **News from previous grant recipients**

The majority of the £4,636.67 works to the roof and front elevation of one of the smallest theatres in the country, the Tom

Thumb Theatre in Margate, took place in March 2014. The repair and repainting of the Japanese/Alpine inspired external balcony woodwork will be finalised this Spring. The theatre appointed a local carpenter, Polly High, to complete the work with the assistance of the Artistic Director, Jessica Jordan-Wrench, and a volunteer.

We are pleased to report that the Grade II listed Nottingham Malt Cross Music Hall reopened to the public on 6 November 2014 after a complete renovation of the venue. Our grant went towards improving the stage, which is seven feet high from the main ground floor. The stage area, previously of varying heights with unsecured barriers, was raised and levelled, and the stage frontage secured with new stronger bracketing to make it safer. Theatre tour visitors are now welcomed 'on stage' as part of their experience to feel the character of the Music Hall.

The Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford, which opened in 1965 and was Grade II listed in 2013, completed most of its works to install accessible fully automatic swing doors to its entrance in May 2014 and now complies fully with regulation EN16005. The second half of the project – to install fully automatic doors to the corridor to the disabled access toilet – was completed in February 2015. The disabled toilet is located in a small fire exit corridor linking the auditorium to the outside of the theatre. Before installation a staff member had to be alerted to open the door from the inside. Now the door can be controlled from the Box Office. The accessibility enhancements were installed by the Supreme Door Spring Company.

Beccles Public Hall, a 260-seat assembly hall and theatre in Suffolk, was awarded £5,000 towards improving access to its stage, as part of Phase 1 of a larger project that includes major work to stabilise the roof and ongoing renovations. The theatre celebrated the near completion of Phase 1 of the works and two years of ownership on 17 February 2015. Both cast and crew have benefited from the difference the works have made in getting people and props, on and off stage.

Redevelopment work at Tara Theatre began in October 2014. Following demolition and clearance, a 'Breaking Ground' ceremony was held in November attended by Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, Sadiq Khan MP. Piling for the new foundations has been completed and excavations for the new basement level have started. Fit-out begins after completion of structural works in early

2015. Architect, Julian Middleton of Aedas Arts Team (formerly RHWL Arts Team), will accompany Tara's resident designer Claudia Mayer to India to purchase furniture and fittings to be incorporated into the new theatre, where they will be sourcing the door panels to dress the auditorium acoustic doors, funded by our grant from the Small Grants Scheme.

The Players Theatre, in Thame, and the Shanklin Theatre, on the Isle of Wight, awarded funds in July 2014, have completed their works. The Thame Players Theatre, a 119-seat amateur theatre, near Aylesbury received £5,000 towards the installation of a moveable wall system, and associated building work at the rear of the stage. The panels, installed by Becker Sliding Partitions Ltd, are mounted on a tracking system above and can be moved independently along the track or removed altogether and stacked at the side if required. When in the fully closed position they form a back stage wall which can be locked which then also becomes an acoustic barrier, achieving a 38 decibel sound reduction. Set designers now have more scope for set construction with improved stage access, directors of productions have more choice for exits and entrances, and audiences can experience a greater variety of sets, enhancing their theatre experience.

The Shanklin Theatre, the only theatre with a fly tower on the Isle of Wight, received £5,000 towards fly tower stabilisation works. The current fly tower dates from the 1930s, when the main auditorium was rebuilt following a fire. Shanklin Theatre and Community Trust, which acquired the freehold in 2010, identified cracks in the fly tower, thought to be due to a combination of heavy load bearings and hoist vibration. In January 2015 local building contractors Ingrams carried out the repair work.

It is clear that as the Small Grants Scheme heads into the fourth of its five years, even a small sum up to £5,000 can make a real difference. The Trust looks forward to working with and supporting theatres for the final two years of the current Small Grants Scheme.

If you are interested in applying please do contact me to discuss your potential application. I can help you to check that your project meets the Scheme's eligibility criteria, and ensure that the information you provide will help the trustees in their decision making. Trustees of The Theatres Trust will next meet in June 2015 to consider further Small Grants Scheme awards.

**The Trust's Small Grants Scheme helps theatres in need and at risk to address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility.**

To discuss a potential application and eligibility, or if you are interested in making a donation to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact Kate Carmichael Resources Adviser. [kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk)

For more details about the Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme visit [theatrust.org.uk/resources/grants](http://theatrust.org.uk/resources/grants)

## Small Grants Scheme: Round Six recipients



### Little Angel Theatre £3,700

This grant will help repair and replace the flat roof over the administrative office and backstage section of the theatre, protecting the fabric of the Little Angel Theatre. Opened in 1961 in a former temperance hall in

Islington, London, the theatre presents puppetry for children and adults. The theatre seats 100 and is one of only three purpose-built puppet theatres in England. In its adjacent workshop facilities new productions and puppets are developed and constructed. The Little Angel Theatre participated in the Trust's Ecovenue Project 2009-2012. [littleangeltheatre.com](http://littleangeltheatre.com)



### People's Theatre, Newcastle £5,000

This grant will help the People's Theatre in Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne to undertake essential building services work and asbestos removal required before redevelopment can

commence. The People's Theatre is an amateur theatre that opened in 1962. The People's Theatre Arts Group manages the building, which includes a 500-seat auditorium, a 90-seat studio, and a commercial art gallery. It is planning a £1.5m redevelopment of the front of the theatre, and the creation of a fully accessible studio theatre at ground level, enabling full mobility access, zoned lighting, upgraded heating and ventilation systems and an improved foyer and exterior. [peoplestheatre.co.uk](http://peoplestheatre.co.uk)



### Actors Workshop, Halifax £4,020

This grant will help repair roof tiles and gutters of the theatre, protecting the fabric of the Actors Workshop in Halifax and addressing long-term water ingress which has resulted in the building being affected by damp and

mould in dressing rooms, the props department and green room. The venue, home to the Actors Youth Theatre since 2002, is a 95-seat black box theatre in a Grade II listed Georgian townhouse and is an important centre for young people and a community hub. It produces five productions a year, teaches acting and theatre skills, and is hired out for incoming shows, events and workshops.

[actorsworkshop.org.uk](http://actorsworkshop.org.uk)



### Polka Theatre, London £5,000

This grant will go towards repositioning and replacing faulty air conditioning and heating units which will improve energy efficiency and reduce maintenance costs at the Polka Theatre in London. A Catalyst Arts

Award recipient, Polka Theatre will receive match funding from Arts Council England of 66p for every £1 of its £5,000 grant from The Theatres Trust. Opened as a theatre in 1979 in a former church hall in Wimbledon the Polka produces theatre for children. The venue includes a 300-seat main theatre and a 70-seat adventure theatre. Other facilities include a garden, an outdoor playground, indoor play area, exhibition spaces and a cafe. The Polka Theatre participated in the Trust's Ecovenue project 2009-2012. [polkatheatre.com](http://polkatheatre.com)



### Dunoon Burgh Hall £5,000

This grant will help install a low rise lifting platform to provide access to the stage, ensuring the Category B-listed Burgh Hall is fully accessible for wheelchairs and those with mobility needs. Built in 1874 by the local

people of the town to provide municipal offices and a hall, the main hall seats 150 and has a gallery with a capacity of 70. In 2009 it was rescued from demolition by the John McAslan Family Trust with the aim of creating a multi-functional arts facility and arts hub for the benefit of the community. A £1.7m capital redevelopment scheme of the Burgh Hall is now underway. [burghhalldunoon.com](http://burghhalldunoon.com)



Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation

**The Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme is very grateful for the support of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE.**

# Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme

*Kate Carmichael,*  
Resources Adviser, reports on the Trust's seventh round of grants, the progress of previous grant recipients and introduces the Trust's second grants programme, the London Theatres Small Grants Scheme.

**In September 2015 The Theatres Trust announced the seventh round of small capital grants from its Small Grants Scheme. Grants were awarded to the Horse and Bamboo Theatre Rossendale, Upfront Arts Theatre Penrith, Colne's Pendle Hippodrome, Theatre Royal Dumfries, and the Wardrobe Theatre Bristol.**

Round Seven marks the start of our fourth year of the Small Grants Scheme, and to date we've awarded 37 grants totalling £165,241.

Thirty-three of the theatres are based in England, (of which 10 are in London), three in Scotland and one in Wales. Though the Scheme is limited to small capital projects under £5,000 the benefits are clear to see.

Round Seven awards fulfil a range of needs, from roof repairs, to soundproofing doors, and enhancing accessibility and back of house facilities.

## News from previous grant recipients

Round Four recipient London's Tara Arts is now midway through its capital project. Basement works were completed in June 2015, and antique doors sourced in India, funded by the Scheme, also arrived. The steel framework of the new Tara Theatre has now been erected and fit-out is expected to begin in September 2015.

Another project almost complete is Round Five's Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells, which received a Small Grant towards much needed repair to the sandstone walls of its (former church) building. The award also helped leverage match funding for the project. Though stone repair is still ongoing to the back wall of the theatre it is hoped works will be complete by mid-September 2015.

September will also see Theatre Royal Stratford East reopen after the restoration of its safety curtain, with support from the Scheme. The decorative safety curtain has been restored and painted by specialists experienced in *trompe-loeil*, Hare & Humphreys. Audiences will experience the glory of the new safety curtain and further auditorium refurbishments at the reopening production, *Etienne Sisters*.

In January 2015 we awarded Round Six grants for small capital repair projects to the Polka Theatre and Little Angel Theatre in London, and the Actors Workshop Halifax.

The Polka Children's Theatre, which participated in The Theatres Trust's Ecovenue project, upgraded its two dysfunctional stage left air-conditioning units in spring 2015 with more energy-efficient models allowing better temperature regulation. Works also included repositioning condenser units to a side wall to ensure that access is available for routine maintenance visits – all in time to deal with the very British summertime weather.

An award from The Theatres Trust has also helped protect the Little Angel Theatre against the weather. Its works provided a full, lasting repair to the flat roof above the backstage area of the theatre and the office, this was an urgent repair needed to avoid expensive ongoing maintenance costs and prevent water ingress. The work was completed within a month of the award by local supplier Evans & Thompson Ltd.

The Grade II listed Actors Workshop in Halifax also used its award for urgent roof

repairs. Carried out in April 2015 the works have enabled the venue to reopen rehearsal and extra dressing room facilities in time for its July youth production and also proven successful as the building has remained dry during recent heavy rains.

Looking to a larger capital project, and our third Scottish project funded by the Small Grants Scheme, the Burgh Hall in Dunoon has completed its soft strip out, and works are on site. The installation of a low rise lifting platform to access the stage, funded by the Scheme, is due to take place in January 2016. Meanwhile, the Burgh Hall has a new pop-up venue as a temporary home during the refurbishment works, centrally located in the main street in Dunoon.

## London Theatres Small Grants Scheme

In August 2015, thanks to a donation of £25,000 from The Mackintosh Foundation, and with the support of the Mayor of London we launched the second of our programmes run through our Theatres Protection Fund, the London Theatres Small Grants Scheme.

The London scheme is a dedicated capital fund to help small theatres in London needing to improve and maintain their buildings and lever in other sources of investment, particularly philanthropic support. It follows the London Assembly investigation led by Tom Copley AM into the challenges facing the capital's small theatres and its July 2013 report *Centre Stage: Supporting small theatres in the capital*.

The Trust's Theatres Protection Fund is now able to run two grants programmes to help theatres in need and at risk address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility.

## Help us build the Fund

There is a high level of demand for our Small Grants. For every grant awarded there have been six unsuccessful applicants.

We would like to be able to assist more theatres. Your support could help grow the Theatres Protection Fund to assist theatres in need and at risk in the UK.

To discuss a potential application and eligibility to either Scheme, or if you are interested in making a donation to the Theatres Protection Fund, please contact Kate Carmichael Resources Adviser, [kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk) or visit [theatrust.org.uk/grants](http://theatrust.org.uk/grants)

## Small Grants Scheme: Round Seven recipients



### Upfront Arts Theatre, Penrith £4,000

The grant provides the Upfront Arts Theatre, Penrith with a valuable new staircase and improve the accessibility and audience flow in this unique purpose-built puppet theatre. The

modern, environmentally friendly theatre, built on the site of a converted 17th century yeoman's barn, is the first dedicated theatre building to have ever been built in Eden District, and is also one of only four in England designed to technically support the artform of puppetry. It is unique in having a deep and wide pit for operating rod puppets and two moveable marionette bridges which can travel the whole length of the stage area, and a flexible 144-seat auditorium. The building has several workshop spaces where puppet shows are designed and built and has a mezzanine performance exhibition area. The theatre provides a cultural anchor in a rural area, and was recently awarded 'Tourism Experience of the Year 2015' from the Cumbria Tourist Board. [up-front.com](http://up-front.com)



### Wardrobe Theatre, Bristol £5,000

The grant supports the Wardrobe Theatre in Bristol construct a new dressing room. The Wardrobe Theatre was founded in 2011 as a Community Interest Company and is a volunteer-run arts venue providing alternative theatre,

comedy and regular local events. Its success led to the theatre deciding to move to operate in a larger venue. The Wardrobe Theatre is now collaborating with the team behind local operators The Canteen and No1 Harbourside to create a new space for theatre, comedy, food, drink, and music in a derelict building in Old Market, Bristol, due to open in December 2015. [thewardrobetheatre.com](http://thewardrobetheatre.com)



### Pendle Hippodrome, Colne £5,000

The grant helps fit a new roof to the recently acquired building adjacent to the Pendle Hippodrome Theatre, as part of a scheme to extend the theatre's public areas, to include disabled facilities, a larger box office and working

kitchen and rehearsal rooms. The Pendle Hippodrome Theatre is an amateur-run theatre in Colne, Lancashire. It was built as a ciné-variety house and it still retains its hemp-based stage flying system. In 1978 it was taken over by a group of amateur societies who repaired, restored and improved it over the next eight years. It is run

by volunteers, independently, without outside funding and provides a venue for local performers, schools, musical, drama and dance groups as well as being home to the Pendle Hippodrome Theatre Company and the Pendle Hippodrome Youth Theatre.

[phtheatre.co.uk](http://phtheatre.co.uk)

### Theatre Royal Dumfries £5,000



The grant installs a new entrance, side and internal doors, in keeping with Historic Scotland's requirements for the category B-listed Theatre Royal Dumfries. Built in 1792 and said to be the oldest surviving purpose-built theatre in Scotland, substantial alterations were made by Charles Phipps in 1876. The Guild of Players

bought the building in 1959, saving it from demolition. The Guild employed architect Colin Morton to create a new theatre auditorium. It is a host venue for the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, the Dumfries Music Festival and the Dumfries Musical Theatre Company, as well as receiving productions by other local groups, and offering members workshops. The theatre is undergoing major renovations to rationalise and improve the backstage and front of house areas.

[theatreroyaldumfries.co.uk](http://theatreroyaldumfries.co.uk)



### Horse and Bamboo Theatre, Rossendale £5,000

This grant supports the costs of widening doorways and installing ramp access, new gates and paving to allow wheelchair access to the new community space, part of the Boo

Theatre. This is final element of a wider phased redevelopment which has expanded community spaces, improved capacity in the main house, addressed sound proofing issues between the performance spaces and made environmental improvements. The Boo Theatre, Rossendale is a local community arts centre and theatre space based at a converted liberal club, in a former mill town in the Rossendale Valley. It runs its own programme of drama and dance, and hires it out to other theatre groups and local schools.

[horseandbamboo.org](http://horseandbamboo.org)



**We have been able to develop our capital grant-giving role thanks to the donations of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE in April 2012, and The Mackintosh Foundation in August 2015.**

# Grants

## Theatres Protection Fund

**Kate Carmichael, Resources Adviser, provides updates on UK Small Grants Scheme Projects and announces the next round of awards from the UK Small Grants Scheme.**

Through our Theatres Protection Fund we are able to financially support vital projects that address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility. Thanks to the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE we have been able to award two Rounds of UK Small Grants a year since 2012, and have received over 200 applications from a variety of theatres across the country, from amateur, volunteer run lean-to's to industry leading heavyweights. What they all have in common is their passion for their craft, and a desire to improve their buildings for the whole user experience. When we come to assess the applications each round it's evident from the number of applications we receive that our small grants can make a real difference to a theatre's operation.

Often it is one way that we hear about the plight, but also good work, of theatres who might never have been in contact before, and it provides us with an insight into the issues affecting theatres across the country. This was certainly the case for the following two grant recipients.

Pendle Hippodrome Theatre, in Colne, built in 1914 and now run by the Pendle Hippodrome Theatre Company, received a grant at the beginning of this year towards securing the roof of their newly acquired theatre extension with the intention of expanding its facilities in the near future. With our small grant the team will be able to undertake roof repairs to their new building, the first step in realising their plans to extend their front and back of house facilities. As the building is in a conservation area they are currently going through an application for planning permission.

And I'm pleased to report the People's Theatre in Newcastle, who received funds at the end of last year, put their grant to immediate use removing asbestos from their ducting, allowing them to improve their infrastructure - they now have zoned heating, sound and draught proofed windows in their rehearsal spaces and automatic lighting. Fundraising and project works are ongoing for their Studio Theatre, which is being made accessible from ground level.

## UK Small Grants Scheme Round 8 awards

On 12 May, hot on the heels of our first ever London Theatres Small Grants Scheme round of awards, we were delighted to announce the next 5 theatres to benefit from our UK Small Grants Scheme, bringing the total number of theatres we have helped with a UK small grant to 37.

Our eighth round has been awarded to small theatres that have been seriously affected by poor weather conditions.

**Theatre Royal Winchester** receives £5,000 towards its 'Tower Street elevation - urgent fabric and structural repairs' project, to restore the weather-damaged Tower Street façade of the theatre. [www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk)

**Friargate Theatre York** receives £5,000 towards its 'flood damage - urgent repair and protection' project, to undertake immediate remedial work, and install flood prevention measures at the theatre. [www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org)

**Tron Theatre Glasgow** receives £5,000 towards its 'water damage repair' project, to address water ingress affecting the backstage corridor and the office block. [www.tron.co.uk](http://www.tron.co.uk)

**Bridgwater Arts Centre** receives £2,980 towards its 'urgent backstage leak repair' project, to carry out urgent repair work to the backstage toilet and corridor, and prevent further damage to internal structural beams. [www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk](http://www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk)

**Marine Theatre Lyme Regis** receives £5,000 towards its 'makeover' project to repair and restore the weather damaged front and side façades of the Marine Theatre to its original art deco glory. [www.marinetheatre.com](http://www.marinetheatre.com)

**"I'm proud our Theatres Protection Fund is helping ensure these theatres can continue to operate safely and serve their communities."**  
**Tim Eyles, Theatres Trust Chair**

**The UK Small Grants Scheme is generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE.**

**Deadline for Round 9 applications is midday on Wednesday 26 October 2016. Trustees of Theatres Trust will meet in December 2016 to consider further UK Small Grants Scheme awards.**

# Theatres Protection Fund

# UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme

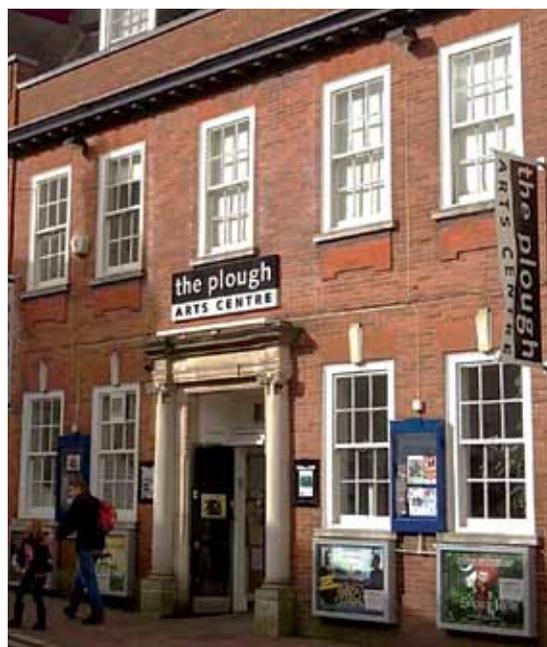
**In February 2017 we announced the six theatres that were successful in round nine of the UK Small Grants Scheme. Launched in April 2012, this scheme, supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE, awards grants of up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK. It is set-up to address urgent building repairs and help theatres in need and at risk.**

Round nine of the scheme was notable for the sheer number of applications which came from 24 theatres throughout the UK. This made for some very difficult decisions. In the end, we chose to fund some very different projects, but ones which could all demonstrate that our support would really make a difference to their viability. The number of applicants, and the quality of the applications overall, made it very clear that there is a great demand for this scheme, and we very much hope that some of the unsuccessful applicants will apply again.

**The theatres that received funding are:**

### **The Place, Bedford**

The Place received £3,335 to support interior and access improvements. The project involves purchasing a portable ramp to make the stage more accessible to disabled performers and participants, to create a backstage shower room to support the theatre's ambition to present more physical theatre and dance. The 130-seat theatre is housed in a building that was originally a boys club. Over the last four years the theatre has introduced professional touring work and programmes up to 40 events a year covering contemporary theatre, music events, spoken word and family theatre.



### **Plough Arts Centre, Great Torrington**

The Plough Arts Centre received £4,462 for its 'Smartening Up' project which will see the roof, guttering, windows, exterior doors and external lighting repaired. The arts centre receives no regular funding despite sitting in a prominent position within Great Torrington, and welcoming 70,000 visitors in 2015. Improvements to the Arts Centre will have a significant effect on the economy and profile of the local high street where it is located.



**Market Theatre, Ledbury** The Market Theatre received a grant of £5,000 towards a new, purpose-built, multi-purpose studio, which will be used for rehearsal space and as an additional dressing room space - where currently it has neither. Built in 2000, it is a volunteer-run community theatre that programmes live, touring, professional and amateur drama, music, dance and film for Ledbury, and its rural catchment, as well as visitors to the town, with 9,000 paid attendances in 2015.

### Grand Pavillion, Matlock Bath

The Grand Pavillion received £5,000 to support its 'Keeping the Water Out' project. The building is currently not water-tight and the grant will contribute towards the replacement of the guttering and the rainwater management systems to prevent further water ingress and damage to both the exterior and interior of the building. The Grand Pavillion's condition has deteriorated in recent years and the vision is to position it back into the heart of the local community, by establishing it as a fully refurbished theatre, multifunctional arts venue and community space. Ensuring that the building is watertight is a critical element to the future of the theatre.



### Leatherhead Theatre, Surrey

The Leatherhead Theatre received £5,000 to fund repairs to the external concrete of the building, which, if not carried out, will lead to further spalling and deterioration of the metal structure below the concrete. Building repairs are now required to reinstate the affected areas. The Grade II listed theatre was previously known as the Thorndike Theatre and incorporates the external features of a 1930s cinema, with the interior designed by architect Roderick Ham. It is now recognised as being one of the best and most influential theatre designs of its time. The theatre mainly serves people living in the communities of Leatherhead and surrounding areas. The theatre runs a theatre school and performing arts classes.



### Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre, Workington

The Carnegie received £5,000 towards the cost of accessibility improvements. The purchase and installation of double aluminium automated self-opening and closing doors will replace a set of wooden double doors from inside the main entrance foyer leading into the main café and box office, and will make the building more accessible to people with disabilities, as well as older people and parents with pushchairs. The Carnegie, a Grade II listed building, serves one of the most deprived communities in the UK.

### Upcoming deadlines

**16 May 2017**

UK Theatres  
Small Grants  
Scheme

**22 August 2017**

London  
Theatres Small  
Grants Scheme

**15 September 2017**

Wolfson /  
Theatres Trust  
Urgent Repairs  
Scheme

**Further information can be found:**  
[theatrestrust.org.uk/grants](http://theatrestrust.org.uk/grants)