

**PRESS RELEASE 30 April 2019**

**Theatres Trust awards £29,000 to theatres across the UK so they can better serve their communities**

Theatres Trust has awarded six more theatres up to £5,000 each in vital funding from its **UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme** for projects that introduce environmental improvements, enhance accessibility and address urgent repairs to the building, supporting their future success.

A key cultural asset in Caithness, the **Lyth Arts Centre**, will replace its old storage heaters and install an innovative Biomass boiler system, thanks to Theatres Trust funding. Improved and more energy efficient heating throughout the centre will allow it to host year round residencies, open up the foyer as a second space, and run a winter programme – of benefit to visiting artists, local audiences and ensuring the theatre’s viability.

A new entrance with automatic swing doors will improve the theatre-going experience for disabled patrons and wheelchair users at the **Lighthouse, Poole**, the largest regional arts centre outside London. The project will ensure smoother access and a less congested route around the building.

Four other theatres will use Theatres Trust funding for urgent repairs to their building, protecting them from further deterioration, and adding to their long-term economic sustainability. The Grade II listed **Shoreditch Town Hall** will complete urgent external and internal repairs to the North East Tower of the largest theatre space. **The Poly, Falmouth** will be able to embark on repair work to the ceiling of the main gallery and the roof above its Grade II\* listed Polytechnic Hall. **Theatr Gwaun**, at the centre of the community of North Pembrokeshire for over 100 years, will repair and repaint the exterior of the building, securing it and improving its profile. **Chipping Norton Theatre**, a former Salvation Army citadel, will complete comprehensive roofing repair work critical to protect future theatre use.

**Jon Morgan, Director at the Theatres Trust** said: “I’m proud that our UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme can help these theatres make significant improvements to secure and improve their buildings’ fabric, and provide a more accessible and welcoming customer experience for their audiences. We are about to embark on our seventh year of awards thanks to the generosity of our funders and their continuing support.”

**Sarah Miller, Director at Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation** said: “I am thrilled to see Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation funding targeted in the support of these regional theatres under the direction of Theatres Trust expertise. Theatres are so often the hubs of their communities and they should be cherished.”

Launched in April 2012, the UK Small Theatres Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK to address urgent building works and improvements. It receives support from the **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation** and **Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust**. The six awards bring the total number of theatres funded by the

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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

UK scheme to 70. The next round of the scheme is now open. The deadline for applications is Monday 2 September at noon. Further details about the scheme can be found: [theatretrust.org.uk/grants](http://theatretrust.org.uk/grants).

ENDS

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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**Theatres Trust** is the national advisory public body for theatres. We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. We do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants. [theatretrust.org.uk](http://theatretrust.org.uk)

**The UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme is generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Charles Michael Holloway Trust.**

**Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation** Founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992, the Foundation's principle objectives are to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit. In April 2012 the Foundation awarded a grant of £125,000 over 5 years to the Theatres Trust to help launch its Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme followed by a further 3 year grant of £90,000 in July 2017. Since embarking on an active grant giving programme in 2010, the Foundation has now awarded grants of £20m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. As well as the Theatres Trust, other significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £2.4m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. [andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

**Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust** Charles Holloway, a Theatres Trust Friend, provides grant support for the Theatres Trust's UK Theatres Grants Scheme, via the Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust which provides grants to charities or voluntary bodies.

## GRANT RECIPIENTS

### **Chipping Norton Theatre | £5,000 | Roof repairs**

Chipping Norton Theatre is a 214-seat theatre, cinema, gallery and music venue in the Cotswolds. It opened in 1975 in a former Salvation Army Citadel that dates from 1888.

Though not Listed, it sits in a conservation area. In 1990 the theatre extended into an adjacent building that now serves as the green room, dressing rooms, offices and rehearsal room. A Theatres Trust UK Theatres Small Grant award will fund a package of urgent roof repairs. While a patching approach has been undertaken as part of general maintenance, significant replacement is now required including new felt, repointing and remedial works. The works are now critical to protect theatre use.

#### **Lyth Arts Centre | £5,000 | Biomass boiler system**

Lyth Arts Centre, the most northern mainland arts centre, is housed in a Victorian school building. The interior has been converted to a multi-use arts centre, including a 60-seat black box studio theatre. A Theatres Trust UK Theatres Small Grant award will help install a biomass boiler system to replace its current storage heaters. The scheme has the potential for considerable environmental benefit and will improve the building's viability. The work will enable the arts centre to support more residencies (central to the business model), open up the foyer as a flexible second space, and allow the programme to extend through the winter months.

#### **Poole Lighthouse | £4,000 | New entrance with automatic doors**

The purpose-built Lighthouse in Poole opened in 1978, incorporating a concert hall, theatre, studio and cinema. It is a significant arts venue with a mixed-arts focus. A Theatres Trust UK Theatres Small Grant award will help create a new entrance next to the lifts that will be fitted with automatic doors. This will improve the accessibility of the building by allowing people requiring the lift to more easily navigate a busy foyer, the works will also allow better access from the car park.

#### **Shoreditch Town Hall | £5,000 | Urgent repairs to tower**

Shoreditch Town Hall is an active and respected cultural space and theatre. The Grade II Listed building dates from 1886, and was one of the grandest Vestry Halls of its time. The building houses many contrasting spaces - the largest is the Assembly Hall, which is a live performance space seating 772. A Theatres Trust UK Theatres Small Grant award will help fund urgent repairs to the North East Assembly Hall Tower to prevent water ingress and further deterioration. The works will protect future theatre use.

#### **The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society Falmouth (The Poly) | £5,000 | Roof and ceiling repairs**

The Poly in Falmouth is a Grade II\* Listed arts space based in an iconic building in the heart of the community. The Poly is a thriving charity, promoting engagement in the arts, sciences and Cornish history through a mixed-arts programme. Formerly an exhibition hall, it became a cinema in 1910 and was converted in the 1950s to a theatre on the ground floor, with a gallery above it. The Poly team have long-term plans to restore and upgrade the building. A Theatres Trust UK Theatres Small Grant award will allow scaffolding to be erected to help identify external repairs to the roof and undertake the urgent repairs required for the ceiling of the main gallery, to ensure the future of the historic building.

### **Theatr Gwaun | £5,000 | Repairs to the building render**

Theatr Gwaun is a 180-seat independent theatre, cinema, bar and café in Fishguard, North Pembrokeshire. It was built as a Temperance Hall in 1885 and became one of the first cinemas in Wales in the early 1920s. In 1994 the council redeveloped it into a multi-use theatre. It is currently owned and operated by the Friends of Theatr Gwaun Community Trust, acquired through a Community Asset Transfer from the council in 2018. The outside of the theatre was last renovated in 1994, and has developed cracks that allow moisture to penetrate into the masonry, causing damage to the interior. A Theatres Trust UK Theatres Small Grant award will help repair the external render. This will protect the building from further deterioration and improve its appearance and profile, adding to its long-term economic sustainability.