



Theatres Trust gives a boost to four Theatres at Risk

Theatres Trust, the national advisory body for theatres, has announced the four UK theatres that will receive a share of £45,000 from the third round of its Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme. The theatres are **Brighton Hippodrome, Co-op Hall Ramsbottom, Grand Theatre Doncaster** and **King's Theatre Kirkcaldy**.

The programme is designed to support theatres on the Theatres Trust's Theatres at Risk Register to commission expert advice and acquire the skills and knowledge to push forward capital projects to help save these architecturally important theatres. The theatres are all on the Theatres at Risk Register 2021, as announced in January, but are at various stages in their journey to restoration and revival.

This round of funding will support projects ranging from a building valuation survey to viability and community feasibility studies. Alongside the grant, each theatre will receive free support from the Theatres Trust advice team.

Claire Appleby, Architecture Adviser at Theatres Trust, comments *We believe every theatre on our Theatres at Risk list has the potential to be returned for use by their communities, providing performance venues of types currently lacking in their local areas and bringing much needed footfall to beleaguered high streets. We are pleased to support these theatres as we know from experience that these early stages can make a crucial difference to the progress of theatre revitalisation projects.*

Theatres that have received support through the past two rounds of the programme have made real progress. Morecambe Winter Gardens has reaped the benefits of governance and business

planning support, unlocking more sources of funding and providing stability to survive the lockdown. Funding for a conditions survey and governance work has likewise helped the Groundlings Theatre in Portsea access funding for necessary repair works. Viability studies funded at Derby Hippodrome and Swindon Mechanic's Institute have shown ways forward for the buildings, as a live music venue and a multi-purpose community and cultural space respectively.

Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme is made possible thanks to the generous support of The Pilgrim Trust and Swire Charitable Trust, with the past two rounds also funded by Historic England.

Sue Bowers, Director at The Pilgrim Trust says *Seeking solutions for historic buildings at risk is one of The Pilgrim Trust's priorities, and so we are delighted that our partnership with the Theatres Trust does just that. Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme is an important step for local communities in preserving these culturally significant buildings now and in the future.*

Sarah Irving, Grants Manager at Swire Charitable Trust, says *We are delighted to be supporting the Theatres Trust's Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme again. This vital programme is needed now more than ever to help create viable futures for these endangered local gems and support the community groups fighting to see them survive. We will follow the progress of each project with great interest.*

Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk
Twitter	@TheatresTrust
Photograph	Brighton Hippodrome

Theatres at Risk Capacity Building grant recipients

Brighton Hippodrome, £8,000

Grade II* listed Brighton Hippodrome is the UK's most architecturally significant circus theatre – the finest surviving example of its type in the country. It has been on the Theatres at Risk Register since 2006 when the list began, and is also on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. Brighton Hippodrome CIC will receive a grant for fundraising scoping and testing, forming part of a wider fundraising strategy for the Hippodrome to enable the group to make a strong case for its future as a theatre.

Doncaster Grand, £11,500

An ornate Grade II listed Victorian theatre with strong community support, Doncaster Grand has been on the Theatres at Risk Register since the list started in 2006. Doncaster Council has been awarded a Theatres at Risk Capacity Building grant to part-fund a viability study for the theatre. The study will be led by the local authority with involvement from the Friends of Doncaster Grand Theatre and the building owner, Frenchgate Limited Partnership.

King's Theatre Kirkcaldy, £7,000

Originally opened as the King's Theatre in 1904, it later became a cinema, remaining Kirkcaldy's main picture house until its closure in 2000. The building remained empty, suffering from a lack of maintenance, leading to it being added to the Theatres at Risk Register in 2016. It was then bought by King's Theatre Kirkcaldy in 2016, who plan to restore the building to create Fife's largest performing arts venue. The Theatre at Risk Capacity Building Programme will support King's Theatre Kirkcaldy Limited to commission a community feasibility study for the theatre. This will provide a comprehensive understanding of the audience and market demand based on detailed market analysis and feedback from the local community.

Ramsbottom Co-op Hall, £19,000

Added to the Theatres at Risk Register in 2021 and recently awarded Grade II listed status following a Theatres Trust submission, Ramsbottom Co-op Hall is a rare early surviving example of a Co-operative Hall. It was originally used for variety entertainment of the kind commonly associated with music halls as well as community meetings. The recently formed Ramsbottom Co-op Hall Heritage Trust Ltd will receive funding and support to commission a market appraisal and a building valuation survey, vital first steps in the project to return the building to community performance use.

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. They believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. They champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. They 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.

Theatres at Risk Register

The Theatres at Risk Register is published annually by the Theatres Trust to highlight and support the theatre buildings under threat across the UK. There are 31 theatres on the 2021 list, which was announced in January. Every theatre on the register has strong architectural merit or cultural

heritage and the potential to be returned to its original performance se and be a real asset to its community. Since 2006 Theatres Trust has helped save more than 80 theatres on the Theatres at Risk list.

The Pilgrim Trust

The Pilgrim Trust is an independent grant-making trust that supports the urgent and future needs of the UK. They give approximately £3 million in grants per year to charities and other public bodies that either focus on preserving the UK's heritage or catalysing social change. Their preservation and scholarship fund aims to preserve the fabric of historically important buildings and to conserve significant collections and artefacts. They want present and future generations to enjoy the rich and diverse heritage found throughout the UK.

Swire Charitable Trust

The Swire Charitable Trust is an independent UK grant-making trust. Since 1975 it has supported a wide range of charities that share its commitment to delivering positive and lasting change to UK society.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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