

**THEATRE: *Acorn Arts Centre, Penzance***

**Listed** Not listed

**Address:** Parade Street, Penzance TR18 4BU

**Local Authority:**

Cornwall Council  
County Hall  
Treyew Road  
Truro TR1 3AY

Tel: 0300 1234 100

Email: [customerservices@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@cornwall.gov.uk)

[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

**Current Freehold Owner:** Cornwall Theatre Company

**Current Leasehold Owner:** Cornwall Theatre Company

**Current Operator/Manager:** Cornwall Theatre Company

**Local Contact:** Emma Joyce, Operations Manager, Acorn Arts Centre

Tel: 01736 363545 Email: [operations@acornartscentre.co.uk](mailto:operations@acornartscentre.co.uk)

Save the Acorn Arts Centre [Facebook campaign](#)

**The Theatres Trust Contact:** Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591

Email: [Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk)

---

**Original theatre architect (s):** C19: as chapel, 1960: converted to arts centre (architect unknown).

**Building Description**

The Acorn Arts Centre was originally constructed in the nineteenth century as a chapel, and converted to arts centre in the 1960s. It is a small, independently run arts venue with charitable status, and one of the longest running venues in Cornwall. The main auditorium is intimate and friendly, and is highly regarded by visiting artists and audiences alike.

**Theatre Use**

Currently operating as a theatre.

**Building Location**

Good town centre location.

**Risks**

In May 2010 the Trustees of the Cornwall Theatre Company, which owns and runs the *Acorn Arts Centre*, took the decision to close from 31 August 2010. The charity would not be financially viable beyond that date and therefore unable to pay its staff and overhead costs. The *Acorn* has been operating with a small annual deficit for a number of years and has only been able to sustain itself by rigorously controlling its expenditure and working to secure as much income as possible. The charity has always been close to the edge financially as the only grant that contributes directly to the running costs of the venue is the annual grant of £30,600 received from Cornwall Council. Requests were made for a larger grant from Cornwall Council but it was not able to meet this request. Similarly, Arts Council England (ACE) has not offered any prospect of the *Acorn* becoming a "regularly funded organisation" (RFO).