



Theatres Trust announces Theatres at Risk Register 2025

Five council-owned theatres added to the list as pressures on local authority budgets hit home

Theatres Trust, the charity that campaigns to protect the UK's theatres, has published its annual Theatres at Risk Register, which highlights theatres across the UK under threat of closure, redevelopment or severe decay, but which all have the potential to be revived for their local communities with the right support. This year's list comprises 43 buildings, which all have strong architectural merit, cultural heritage or value to the local community as a performance venue.

Theatres Trust has added five more theatres to the list, all local authority owned, mid to small scale venues located outside of major cities. Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and Theatre and Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock are both at risk due to pressures on local authority budgets, leading to councils seeking savings by closing their theatres, cuts in subsidy and/or a lack of ability to pay for crucial maintenance and repair work.

The other three new additions, The Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh, The Harlequin Theatre & Cinema in Redhill and Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre are all theatres that have been closed for more than a year due to the presence of the crumbling concrete Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). The Brunton Theatre and Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre have been recommended for

demolition due to the high costs of repairs, and a decision on the future of The Harlequin is imminent.

Theatres Trust Director Joshua McTaggart comments, *We understand that local authorities are faced with making tough decisions, but the savings made in the short term will leave communities without vital facilities. Buildings where RAAC is present are particularly tricky, but it is important that communities are not left without theatre provision. Theatres Trust wants to work with local authorities and theatre operators to explore all possible options and find solutions to put theatres like this on a firmer footing.*

Now in its 19th year, the Theatres at Risk Register calls the public's attention to these important buildings, their challenges, and the significant cultural opportunities they can bring to local communities. Since the list began in 2006, more than 80 theatres have been restored, revived or had a suitable replacement built. Theatre Royal Hyde has been removed from the 2025 Theatres at Risk Register, as although it has not returned to theatrical use, it is being maintained and used by its current owners so the threat of harm to the building has been greatly reduced.

There has been steady progress with other theatres on the list in particular at Morecambe Winter Gardens where the capital project has advanced enough for its 'risk rating' to be lowered. There have also been positive signs at other theatres that Theatres Trust is giving increased support to through its Resilient Theatres: Resilient Communities programme of grants, training and expert advice, including Burnley Empire and Leith Theatre.

Assessment criteria for each theatre is available via www.theatretrust.org.uk/how-we-help/theatres-at-risk/theatres-at-risk-assessment-criteria and full case studies on each can be seen on the Theatres Trust website.

The theatres featuring on the 2025 list are:

Abbeydale Picture House

Amulet Theatre, Shepton Mallet

Borough Hall, Greenwich

Brighton Hippodrome
The Brunton Theatre – NEW
Burnley Empire
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
Co-op Hall, Ramsbottom
Conwy Civic Hall (Cube)
Derby Hippodrome
Doncaster Grand
Epstein Theatre
Garrick Theatre, Southport
Garston Empire
Globe Theatre, Plymouth
Groundlings Theatre, Portsea
The Harlequin Theatre & Cinema – NEW
Hulme Hippodrome
Imperial Theatre, Walsall
Intimate Theatre
Joe Longthorne Pavilion, Blackpool
King's Theatre Dundee
King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy
Leith Theatre
Mechanics Institute, Swindon
Motherwell Concert Hall & Theatre – NEW
Netherton Arts Centre
Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre & Theatre – NEW
Plymouth Palace
Prince of Wales, Cannock Chase – NEW

Regent Theatre, Great Yarmouth
Roundhouse Theatre, Dover
Spilsby Sessions House
Streatham Hill Theatre
Tameside Theatre, Ashton-under-Lyne
Thameside Theatre, Grays
Theatr Ardudwy, Harlech
Theatre Royal Margate
Theatre Royal, Manchester
Tottenham Palace Theatre
Victoria Theatre, Salford
Winter Gardens Morecambe
Winter Gardens, Blackpool Pavilion

Notes to Editors

Website	www.theatrust.org.uk/how-we-help/theatres-at-risk
Twitter / X	@TheatresTrust, #TheatresAtRisk
BlueSky	@TheatresTrust #TheatresAtRisk
Facebook	/theatres.trust
Instagram	@theatrust
Photo Credit	Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre & Theatre – Ian Grundy

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advice and advocacy body for the UK's theatres supporting all forms of theatres, whether old or new, commercial, subsidised or community-run.

We protect theatres and champion the future of live performance by advising and supporting our nation's theatres to develop best practice in design and management

following the four principles of resilience, environmental sustainability, inclusivity and placemaking.

Changes to the Theatres at Risk Register

New additions

The Brunton, Musselburgh

The Brunton Theatre is a modernist, textured concrete and glass building which opened in 1971. It was the first theatre to close due to the presence of RAAC in March 2023. A detailed conditions report has indicated significant water ingress resulting in deterioration of some of the roof panels, posing an ongoing risk of failure. The council has considered a range of costed options for the building and has recommended the building is mothballed and, subject to community consultation, demolished.

The Harlequin Theatre & Cinema, Redhill, Surrey

The Harlequin is a popular multi-purpose theatre and arts venue located within the Warwick Quadrant Shopping Centre in Redhill. It closed in September 2023 as a precaution following the discovery of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete. A detailed inspection has now indicated that the Harlequin contains significant amounts of RAAC within both flat and pitched roofs and within the floor. All are considered high risk, and the panels will require replacement. The work required is complicated by the theatre's location within a shopping centre and initial estimates put the cost of the work at around £10m.

Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre, Lanarkshire

Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre forms part of Motherwell Civic Centre complex, a landmark grouping of Category B modernist public buildings. The venues closed in September 2023 due to the discovery of RAAC in the roof with a detailed survey finding that a significant proportion was affected. The council considered the costs to repair to be economically unviable and has approved a recommendation to demolish the buildings.

Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and Theatre

This building has been at the heart of its community for more than 150 years with many uses over that time. In 2010 it was refurbished and reopened as an arts centre

and studio space on the ground floor with a 450-seat auditorium on the upper level. The theatre closed in July 2023 when the operator went into liquidation. The building operation reverted to Hyndburn Council which has since commissioned extensive survey work to understand the condition of the building and what is required to bring it up to modern standards. The building remains closed and requiring significant investment to reopen.

Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

The theatre was built in 1984 as a replacement for the town's previous theatre and is part of a large town centre complex. Cannock Chase Council has proposed permanently closing the theatre and also its museum at the end of April 2025 to make budgetary savings. This is huge change in circumstances for the theatre, which was going to be refurbished as part of a Levelling Up project.

Removed from Theatres at Risk Register in 2025

Theatre Royal, Hyde

Theatre Royal Hyde is a Grade II listed Edwardian theatre that has been on the Theatres at Risk Register since it began in 2006. The theatre was closed as a cinema in 1992 and then threatened with demolition for a housing development but was saved by spot-listing in 2000. The building was purchased by the Hyde Islamic Resource Centre in November 2016, who have been granted listed building consent to carry out various works including roof repairs and alterations to facilitate its use as a cultural centre. The nature of these works would not prevent the building from being returned to performance use if the demand for this arose and with the building being in regular use as a cultural centre means the building is no longer at risk.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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