

## PRESS RELEASE 06 February 2017

### Theatres Trust announce six theatres to be awarded grants from UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme

Theatres Trust is pleased to announce that it is awarding six small capital grants to a range of theatres across the country from its **UK Small Grants Scheme**. Launched in April 2012, the Theatres Trust receives support from the **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation** and **Judy Craymer MBE** awarding grants of up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK with charitable status to address urgent building repairs and help theatres in need and at risk.

Grants from the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme are awarded as follows:

**The Place Theatre, Bedford**  
**Plough Arts Centre, Great Torrington**  
**Leatherhead Theatre**  
**Market Theatre, Ledbury**  
**Grand Pavilion, Matlock Bath**  
**Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre, Workington**

**Jon Morgan**, Director at the **Theatres Trust** said: "I'm proud that our UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme, now in its ninth round, continues to help theatres make significant improvements to secure and improve their buildings' fabric. The results will provide more accessible, and welcoming, customer experience for their communities."

The **UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme** aims to target theatres across the UK run by charities and not-for-profit groups that can clearly demonstrate the value capital improvements to their theatres would make to their work in local communities.

**The Place Theatre, Bedford** receives £3,335 to support interior and access improvements. Part of the project will involve purchasing a portable ramp which will make the stage more accessible to disabled performers and participants. In addition, it would involve creating a backstage shower room which would support the theatres' 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, Devon** receives £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.

#### **Theatres Trust**

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Nick Allott OBE, Richard Baldwin, Dara Ó Briain, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, Oliver Goodwin, Prof Gavin Henderson CBE, Jerry Katzman, Dame Penelope Keith DL, Judith Mellor OBE, Peter Roberts, Simon Ruddick, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

**Market Theatre, Ledbury** receives 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, its rural catchment, as well as visitors to the town, with 9,000 paid attendances in 2015.

**Grand Pavilion, Matlock Bath**, receives £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 Pavilion'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**, receives £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 and as well as performances and other events, the theatre runs a theatre school and performing arts classes.

**Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre, Workington** receives £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.

Trustees of the **Theatres Trust** consider applications twice a year and will meet in June 2017 to consider further Small Grants Scheme awards. The deadline for Round Ten applications is **16 May 2017**. Further details including criteria and an application form can be found: [theatrestrust.org.uk/grants](http://theatrestrust.org.uk/grants)

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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**Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation (ALWF)** The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation's principle objectives are to promote the arts, culture and heritage for public benefit. It was founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992. In April 2012, The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awarded a grant of £125,000 to Theatres Trust to help launch its Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme providing grants of up to £5,000. The Foundation hopes its donation, which is paid over 5 years, will encourage other organisations and individuals to give to the scheme, which will help protect theatres across the country that have significant value within their communities.  
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**Judy Craymer MBE** Judy Craymer is the creator and global producer of MAMMA MIA!, the smash-hit musical based on the songs of ABBA. In September 2012 Judy Craymer matched the ALWF with her own personal donation of £125,000 over five years. "MAMMA MIA!" has already been seen by more than 54 million people in over 400 cities across North America, Australia, Europe and Asia. There have been 39 productions in 14 languages. In 2008, Judy produced the movie adaptation of the musical, which became the highest grossing musical film ever worldwide, with the DVD becoming the biggest selling DVD ever in the UK. MAMMA MIA! is now showing at the Novello Theatre. Further information: [mamma-mia.com](http://mamma-mia.com), @MammaMiaMusical, [facebook.com/mammamiamusical](https://www.facebook.com/mammamiamusical).

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### Previous grant recipients

**First round:** The Royal Court, Liverpool; Soho Theatre, London; Sleaford Playhouse; Wilton's Music Hall, London; Oldham Coliseum; and the Half Moon Young People's Theatre, London.

**Second round:** Wyeside Arts Centre, Builth Wells, Wales; Bush Theatre, London; Robin Hood Theatre, Averham; Hackney Empire, London; Citadel, St Helens; and the Royal Court Theatre, Bacup.

**Third round:** Mill Theatre, Thurso; Nottingham Malt Cross Music Hall; Wakefield Theatre Royal; Playhouse Preston; and the Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate.

**Fourth round:** Alnwick Playhouse; Beccles Public Hall and Theatre; Hoxton Hall, London; Tara Arts, London; and the Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford.

**Fifth round:** Shanklin Theatre, Isle of Wight; Theatre Royal Stratford East, London; Players Theatre, Thame; Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells; and the Blackpool Grand Theatre.

**Sixth round:** Little Angel Theatre, London; Actors Workshop, Halifax; Dunoon Burgh Hall, Scotland; People's Theatre, Newcastle; and the Polka Theatre, London.

**Seventh round:** Upfront Arts Theatre Penrith; Bristol Wardrobe Theatre; Pendle Hippodrome, Colne; Theatre Royal Dumfries, Horse and Bamboo Theatre Rossendale.

**Eighth round:** Theatre Royal Winchester; Friargate Theatre, York; Tron Theatre, Glasgow; Bridgwater Arts Centre; Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis

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



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