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Local Community Theatre could face closure without community support for essential repairs

Market Theatre, Cowbridge – A cornerstone of local arts education and community theatre since 1946, is launching an urgent fundraising campaign to save its much loved building from potential closure. The theatre requires critical roof repairs estimated at almost £60,000 to continue serving the community safely.

Despite securing National Lottery Community funding of £10,000 and raising several thousand pounds the theatre still faces a significant shortfall that threatens its ability to continue operations. The venue currently hosts around seven productions annually and as well as being home to Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society serves as a vital creative space for local children and youth programs as well as visiting professional groups.

"This building is more than just a theatre – it's where countless young people have discovered their passion for the arts, where friends and families gather for entertainment, and where our community comes together," said CADS Chair Jeff Grist. "Without these essential repairs, we face the very real possibility of having to limit our activities or even close our doors permanently."

The theatre's impact on the local community includes:

- Providing a safe, creative space for children's theatrical education via Stage Door 1
- Providing a venue for Cowbridge Scouts to complete their Entertainers badge
- Hosting around seven theatre productions annually (between CADS and Stage Door 1)
- Supporting local talent, artists and other community gatherings
- Preserving a community theatre space

How the Community Can Help:

- To date we've secured £10,000 Lottery funding, raised several thousand pounds ourselves but sadly have been unsuccessful in many other grant bids.
- Direct donations at <https://gofund.me/b39f7a41>
- Upcoming fundraising events: In 2025 we plan to hold a music event at the theatre with local acts to help raise funds and awareness, full details to follow. We'll also be collecting at all future productions.

We originally faced a daunting target of £30,000 to repair the roof alone (we need to repair the interior following water ingress) but the cost of materials is rising and the latest quotes suggest

a target nearer £60,000. The theatre therefore needs to raise the £60,000 by Winter 2025 to ensure its survival and continue serving future generations of performers and audiences.

For more information about the campaign or any suggestions to help us, please contact Caron Reidy at caron.reidy@gmail.com.

About Market Theatre, Cowbridge – Home of Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society:

The Market Theatre is situated in the town of Cowbridge, in the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan. It was built largely by volunteers over forty years ago and is a small theatre with a capacity of sixty-five seats.

It offers all the facilities of much larger venues including a full-size stage with professional quality lighting, a dressing room, a sound system, a high quality electronic piano, an excellent well-stocked bar with associated kitchen facilities, and there is ample car parking. The Market Theatre is run by the resident group, Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) who stage three main productions a year. It is the aim of the committee to present a varied programme and see that the theatre becomes a prominent part of the local community. The theatre is also available for hire by visiting groups.