



**Monday 5 October 2026**

## **TAUNTON THEATRE ASSOCIATION LTD ANNOUNCES CLOSURE**

**With deep regret the Trustees of Taunton Theatre Association Ltd announce that, after careful consideration and exhausting all possible alternatives, the charitable company will cease operating on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. They confirm that Taunton Brewhouse will close on the same date.**

All performances and events scheduled for October will go ahead as advertised. Tickets are still available for some of these shows and patrons are asked to book online if you wish to come to one of these events.

For thirteen years, TTA has been dedicated to operating Taunton Brewhouse as the town's leading venue for theatre, live performance and creative expression, a much valued and loved community space.

Since the theatre's temporary closure was announced on 21<sup>st</sup> September, we have worked to find a way forward. However, a combination of reduced funding, rising operational costs, increased responsibilities for building maintenance and lower ticket sales have left the charity unable to continue its work sustainably. Despite the generosity of individuals who have donated or pledged financial support over the past week, we have concluded that the regulatory and organisational frameworks in which we have to operate do not give us the time to develop and implement a robust survival plan.

Chair of Trustees, Val Hammond said:

*"This is an incredibly difficult moment for everyone connected to TTA. We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together and deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners who have stood with us over the years.*

*Although this chapter is closing, the legacy of our work will live on through the lives we have touched. The theatre building remains in the ownership of Somerset Council, and we hope that, in due course, a new team of enthusiasts will bring the vision and energy needed to reopen it. I believe we are all united in thinking it inconceivable that Taunton should be without a public theatre."*

We understand that this news will be upsetting to many.

If any member of the public holds a ticket booking for an event from 1st November 2026 onwards, we recommend that they retain the booking confirmation and evidence of payment. Ticket holders will receive further information about the claims process in due course.

– ENDS –

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **Any enquiries should be directed at:**

Val Hammond

##### **Chair of Trustees**

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Vickie Robbins

##### **Executive Director**

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#### **CONTEXT:**

Taunton Brewhouse is owned by Somerset Council, operated by Taunton Theatre Association Ltd (a charity) and receives funding from Taunton Town Council.

“Theatres across the UK are closing or are under threat due to rising operational costs, energy, maintenance, security, and employment tax, as well as the general economic and environmental climate. When theatres contract, communities lose a valuable civic asset as well as an economic one, and the wider creative economy feels the effects years later.”

*Theatre in UK 2026*