

2026.09.2 Press Release – Taunton Brewhouse

It is with heartfelt regret that the Trustees of Taunton Theatre Association announce that without further funds Taunton Brewhouse will close at the end of October 2026. It is planned that all performances and activities will continue normally throughout October whilst we try to raise the necessary funds and identify cost savings. We will not take bookings beyond that date until the situation is clear. We will be in touch with those who have tickets for performances from November 1 shortly.

This sad news comes after our successful bid to Arts Council England. The award is for capital works and cannot be used for running costs. This financial pressure has arisen due to the prolonged period of challenging trading conditions we have all experienced this year and was exacerbated by the very hot summer weather which saw some shows cancelled and a decline in attendance. As a charity, our finances are always finely balanced and, regrettably, we do not have sufficient reserves to withstand these losses.

We value our ability to provide a safe and welcoming space for many in our community to enjoy entertainment, to meet and make friends. For some we are a lifeline, and it will be devastating for the whole town to lose such an important cultural venue.

We appreciate this is a difficult situation for everyone involved: our wonderful team of staff and volunteers, shows and classes that bring so much joy to us all, and our loyal audiences and friends. We thank too the businesses which sponsor us, individuals who give or raise monies for us and our key funder Taunton Town Council. We are immensely grateful to all.

VJH Chair of Trustees

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 theatre contracts, 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

Any enquiries should be directed to:

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