

creating the new

CHESIL
theatre

entertainment inspiration community

A New Era for Chesil Theatre: Your support matters



**Join us on a transformative journey
to create the New Chesil Theatre**

Spring 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The transformation of the Chesil Theatre is no longer just a vision - it is officially underway. Following the successful demolition of the adjacent derelict site, we are now clearing the path for a new landmark in Winchester: a 21st-century community performance centre that honours our 150-year legacy.

Our medieval home is about to be enhanced with a stunning, light-filled extension. This new hub will feature a welcoming bar and foyer, a versatile studio space for rehearsals and outreach, and modern facilities that ensure the Chesil Theatre is accessible to everyone in our community.

As we transition from site preparation to breaking ground, momentum is building. We invite you to be part of this historic evolution. Your support is helping us preserve our heritage while building an inclusive, vibrant cultural home that will inspire and engage Winchester for generations to come. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Paul



Paul Riddell, Chairman
chairman@chesiltheatre.org.uk



Contact us: fundraising@chesiltheatre.org.uk **Donations to:** www.newchesiltheatre.org

We're making progress

The streetscape in the city's Conservation Area is changing for the better with parts of the medieval tower, hidden for many decades, now on view.



Our Priorities

Inclusive Access:

- Accessible toilets and lift access for people with limited mobility.

Improved Facilities:

- Separate dressing rooms, including legal requirements for youth participants.

Additional Enhancements

New Spaces:

- Performance, rehearsal, and activity spaces, especially for Chesil Youth Theatre.

Enhanced Audience Experience:

- Foyer/bar/café for a better visitor experience.

Community Engagement:

- Daytime activities for older people and Chesil Outreach.
- Accessible wardrobe and props store for theatre groups and schools.
- Affordable room hire for community and arts groups.

Sustainability:

- Income generation opportunities.
- Venue for visiting small-scale professional theatre companies.



Benefits

Conservation:

- Enhancing our historic Winchester Conservation Area.

Viability:

- Ensuring the future of our Grade 2* Listed Building.



Extension Plan

Features:

- Light-filled entrance foyer/bar/rehearsal space with access from Chesil Street.
- Fully accessible toilet facilities.
- Lift access to ground and first floor.
- Multi-purpose studio/performance space.
- Wardrobe/props storage and technical space.
- Exhibition area for arts organisations.
- Meeting and daytime activity rooms.



Scan me



Fundraising Progress

Thank you for your support over the last year. Since our campaign launch in March 2025, you have helped us raise £634,000. Overall progress adds up to £1,460,000 or 64% of the total we need. We're certainly on track. Please stay with us for the rest of the journey.

Timeline

- **2025:**
Demolition of No 14 Chesil Street.
- **2026:**
Start building main structure.
- **2027-2028**
Construction completed.



How You Can Help

As an Individual:

- Become a member.
- Make a donation.
- Give regularly.
- Leave a legacy.
- Make a pledge.
- Offer an interest-free loan.
- Support our productions and activities.



As a Business or Organisation:

- Become a corporate supporter.
- Sponsor a production.
- Donate goods and services.
- Acquire sponsorship for new parts of the building.
- Advertise in our theatre programme.



We're happy to talk together. Contact us: fundraising@chesiltheatre.org.uk



creating the new

CHESIL
theatre

entertainment inspiration community

About Chesil Theatre

Chesil Theatre, home to Winchester Dramatic Society, presents up to nine productions a year, ranging from traditional classics to contemporary works. We encourage new writing through our biennial festival, TakeTen, and run drama workshops, community projects, play readings, youth theatre groups, and technical training. Performing for over 150 years, our home has been a 12th-century church since 1966, offering a 75-seat studio-style theatre in Winchester.






Join us on a transformative journey to create the New Chesil Theatre

Contact us: fundraising@chesiltheatre.org.uk **Donations to:** www.newchesiltheatre.org

To find out more about Chesil Theatre: welcome@chesiltheatre.org.uk

To join our mailing list: marketing@chesiltheatre.org.uk

To book tickets: www.chesiltheatre.org.uk

 /chesiltheatre  /chesiltheatre  /TheChesilTheatre

Design & Print: Indigo Digiprint Ltd www.indigo-digiprint.com

Please support Chesil Theatre



Donate online or 'tap to donate'
in the theatre bar.

Chesil Theatre is the home of Winchester Dramatic Society, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, No 01621492.

Registered office: Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU. Registered as a Charity, No 285043

Members of Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain - National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Email: chesilinfo@chesiltheatre.org.uk Website: www.chesiltheatre.org.uk