

Neuadd Albert
Llandrindod



The Albert Hall
Llandrindod Wells

Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AS



croeso@thealberthall.co.uk |
hello@thealberthall.co.uk

0300 102 4255



thealberthall.co.uk/cy | thealberthall.co.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Albert Hall celebrates after receiving £30k from the Community Fund to establish an Accessible Cinema!

The oldest theatre in Mid Wales, and local charity, The Albert Hall, is today celebrating after being awarded just over £30,000 in National Lottery funding to establish a new project, 'AH Accessible Cinema'. The community owned, and volunteer run venue, based in Llandrindod Wells, will use the cash to purchase the necessary equipment to establish a community run Accessible Cinema, and receive support for the first 3 years to get the project off the ground.

The Albert Hall was built in 1896, and converted to a cinema, and theatre in 1922. In 1929, after the advent of 'Talkies' (Films with Sound), The Albert Hall discontinued its role as a cinema. Since then, the theatre has continued to survive, through the second world war, and most recently, the COVID Pandemic. The theatre is managed by 7 volunteers, with several others coming in to help with various running tasks.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest funder of community activity in the UK, will see a new technical system installed in the theatre, to allow the screening of films. The group will encourage integration of people with Dementia, Autism, impaired vision and mental health conditions, within the wider community, reducing isolation.



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At the same time, the project will allow fostering a sense of belonging, and mutual understanding that all individuals are a part of, and can contribute to, our community. It will allow others to gain skills which are transferrable to employment opportunities, and enable people, especially retired people, to pass on their knowledge to others. Finally, the project will enable affordable opportunities, as there are fewer travel costs, but also aid the environment due to reduced miles travelled and carbon emissions.

Jon Williams, Chairman of The Albert Hall, says: *"We're delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund has recognised our work in this way. Now, thanks to National Lottery players we will be able to press on with our project, which will see us have the ability to screen films, at our wonderful venue, that will have the ability to be accessed by all. This is important because we need to ensure activities in our community are accessible, and affordable."*

Sharon Hammond, Treasurer of The Albert Hall, says: *"I am delighted that The Albert Hall has successfully applied to, and received this funding. This funding will ensure we can diversify the future of our community theatre, and everyone in the local area will have the ability to access a cinema screening!"*

Ben Williams, Booking Secretary, and Technician for The Albert Hall, says: *"I am chuffed that 100 years on from the original conversion of The Albert Hall to a theatre and cinema, we will once again be able to screen films within our wonderful community building! It's been a long time coming, and we still have a fair bit of work to do, but we are so excited to finally launch 'Ah Accessible Cinema!'"*

About The National Lottery Community Fund

We are the largest community funder in the UK – we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. National Lottery players raise £30



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million each week for good causes throughout the UK. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people.

We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people's lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

