



David Ball, Managing Director, Hutton Construction and Andrew Comben, Chief Executive, Britten Pears Arts  
All images available [here](#).

## **Britten Pears Arts begins work on the Britten Pears Building: the next steps towards realising a sustainable and creative campus at Snape Maltings**

Today – 1 September 2025– sees the start of work to upgrade the Britten Pears Building at Snape Maltings, the first phase of Britten Pears Arts' £13.8 million Capital Programme, which will deliver increased activities for the organisation's communities, enhance lives and improve health through creativity.

Britten Pears Arts is delighted to have appointed [Hutton Construction](#), a regional leader in construction, to deliver the modernisation of the Britten Pears Building originally converted in 1979. The architects delivering the Capital Programme for Britten Pears Arts are [De Matos Ryan](#). A new lift will be installed to ensure that everyone can use the revamped studios and performance spaces, creating more welcoming and inclusive environments for all. Five larger music studios will be created, and all the technical facilities will be modernised. A new upper floor learning facility will be created and the building will be thermally and acoustically insulated, part of Britten Pears Arts' ongoing drive for more sustainable buildings.

The transformation of the Britten Pears Building will enable increased levels of community use and the expansion of the Britten Pears Arts Community and Creative Health programmes. This includes the following:

- [Residencies](#) which are currently oversubscribed, and the works will allow the organisation to work with more artists.
- Increased opportunities for [Artist Development](#).
- Expansion of Britten Pears Arts' work with adults living with long-term health conditions including [SkyLarks](#) – Britten Pears Arts' singing group for people living with Parkinson's and their companions and [Participate](#) – relaxed and fun music workshops for adults in Suffolk.
- Increased activity for [Families & Young people](#) including [Group A](#) – Britten Pears Arts' vocal initiative for young people in Suffolk; [Aldeburgh Young Musicians](#) – creative and collaborative training for promising young musicians aged 10 – 18; [Mini Music Makers](#) – fun sessions of music and play for 0 – 5 year olds; [Music Makers for 5 – 7 year olds and 8 – 11 year olds](#).
- Over the next decade, continue to increase and embed Britten Pears Arts' work in **Creative Health** across the wider music programme, bringing together a diverse community of musicians, practitioners, researchers, clinicians and communities to develop and deliver a nationally impactful programme. This includes [Think Tanks](#); [Cross Sector Training](#); [Creative Health Residencies](#) and [MOTs](#).
- More space for Britten Pears Arts to host local **community groups**.

Britten Pears Arts' £13.8 million Capital Programme will realise the organisation's plan to create a truly sustainable and accessible creative campus. It will ensure that Britten Pears Arts' buildings and sites have improved accessibility and comfort for everyone, are financially sustainable and help the organisation on its path towards net zero carbon emissions. This work will also be transformative for Britten Pears Arts' Community and Creative Health programmes and will allow the organisation to respond to an increased need by expanding existing programmes, adding new strands and reaching significantly more people through activity, knowledge exchange and partnership working.

**Britten Pears Arts' Chief Executive, Andrew Comben commented,** 'It's really exciting to see work start on the Britten Pears Building at Snape Maltings today and to have local company Hutton Construction leading the modernisation of this space. Our founders Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears believed in the power of the arts to connect and be useful to communities. Their vision was for Snape Maltings to be a Creative Campus and this work will help more communities enjoy this very special place, from artists and performers through to visitors and audience members. The upgrade to the Britten Pears Building is a major step towards this site being sustainable and accessible for everyone, for decades to come.'

**Hutton Construction's Managing Director, David Ball commented,** 'We are honoured to help shape the future of the Britten Pears Building, a cornerstone of creativity and community in Suffolk. Our work will deliver modern, sustainable facilities that reflect Britten Pears Arts' vision for an inclusive and environmentally responsible creative campus. As proud members of the National Federation of Builders' Heritage Group, we bring specialist expertise, to ensure this historic space is preserved and enhanced for future generations.'

#### **Capital Programme overview**

- Britten Pears Arts continues to work with the **Alde and Ore Estuary Trust (AOET)** and **East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB)** to design a scheme to raise the Snape Maltings flood defences to ensure that the Snape Maltings site and its world-renowned Concert Hall will be protected. Collectively working hard towards consent to move ahead in 2026.
- The modernisation of the **Britten Pears Building** to enable increased levels of community use and the expansion of the Britten Pears Arts Community and Creative Health programmes. A new lift will be installed to ensure that everyone can use the revamped studios.
- A series of upgrades to **Snape Maltings Concert Hall** to improve access, audience comfort, and programming flexibility and to reduce carbon emissions. There will be auditorium seating improvements, upgraded lighting, flexible acoustic baffles, an extra passenger lift, refurbished toilets and better kitchen facilities. Work is due to start in January 2027.

- Britten Pears Arts will significantly **lower carbon emissions** by installing roof insulation, use of photovoltaic panels, and by connecting the music buildings to a renewable heating system.
- **Snape Rooms:** As well as improvements to existing artist accommodation at Snape Maltings and in Aldeburgh, ten new bedrooms will be created at Snape Maltings for visiting musicians, arts practitioners and visitors. Work is due to start in early 2027.
- There will be a **new visitor exhibition** at The Red House and a **Discovery Centre** at Snape Maltings, to tell the fascinating stories about the heritage sites.

### **Funding for the Capital Programme**

Britten Pears Arts Capital Programme is supported using public funding by Arts Council England, as well as individuals and trusts & foundations, including Paul Hamlyn Foundation; 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust; East Suffolk Council Rural Business Investment Fund; East Suffolk Council Rural Business & Community Hub Fund; The Foyle Foundation; Garfield Weston Foundation; the Wolfson Foundation; the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership; the John and Penelope Lebus Trust; the Vanneck Charitable Trust.

Individual donors include Charles & Pascale Clark; Matthew Greenburgh & Helen Payne; Keith & Frances Griffiths; Peter & Veronica Lofthouse; Angela & Lawrence Mallinson; Lindy and Mark O'Hare; David Robbie and Fred Goetzen; Simon & Victoria Robey; Clive & Eileen Schlee; Alan Swerdlow & Jeremy Greenwood; Sarah Zins; Paul & Sybella Zisman and other anonymous donors.

Subject to securing the remaining money, the majority of the works are planned to take place in 2026 and 2027. Although some music activities will have to be re-arranged, most regular activity will be able to continue throughout this period. The Aldeburgh Festival and Britten Pears Arts summer performance programme will not be impacted.

A fundraising public appeal will be launched in 2026 and there will be naming opportunities for various elements of the project.

Further information about the campaign and how to contribute is available from Emily Stubbs ([estubbs@brittenpearsarts.org](mailto:estubbs@brittenpearsarts.org)) and Alison de Zoete ([adezoete@brittenpearsarts.org](mailto:adezoete@brittenpearsarts.org)).

### **For further press information, please contact:**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations | Email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | Tel: 07989 355446 | web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Britten Pears Arts**

Britten Pears Arts is a pioneering music, arts and heritage charity based on the Suffolk coast at two popular, historic visitor destinations: The Red House and Snape Maltings. Britten Pears Arts emerged from the creative partnership of Benjamin Britten, one of the greatest composers of the 20th century, and his professional and personal partner, singer Peter Pears. Britten and Pears shared a progressive vision for music and the arts to be useful, helping people enhance and bring joy into their lives. Britten and Pears' vision inspires all our activity, from work with the local communities to our national leadership roles in the fields of talent development and music, health and wellbeing.

[www.brittenpearsarts.org](http://www.brittenpearsarts.org)

#### **About Hutton Construction**

Established in Colchester in 1850 and proudly celebrating 175 years in 2025, Hutton Construction has built a reputation as one of the region's most trusted and capable contractors. From our offices in Colchester and Stansted, we deliver projects across London, Cambridge, East Anglia and the South East.

From complex multi-million-pound new builds and large-scale refurbishments through to smaller schemes, we apply the same commitment to quality, value and client satisfaction.

Our core sectors include:

- Education – schools, colleges and universities

- Healthcare and medical centres
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Listed and heritage buildings
- Community and civic centres
- Retail
- Commercial and industrial

Alongside this, Hutton Shopfitting has become firmly established as one of the UK's leading shopfitters, delivering projects nationwide — from high street refurbishments to the detailed fitting out of retail superstores and commercial spaces.

Hutton is proud to be one of the first contractors to hold the NFB Heritage Approved Contractor Mark. This award recognises Hutton Construction's commitment to employing experienced crafts, skills and methodologies when working on traditional and heritage buildings.

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