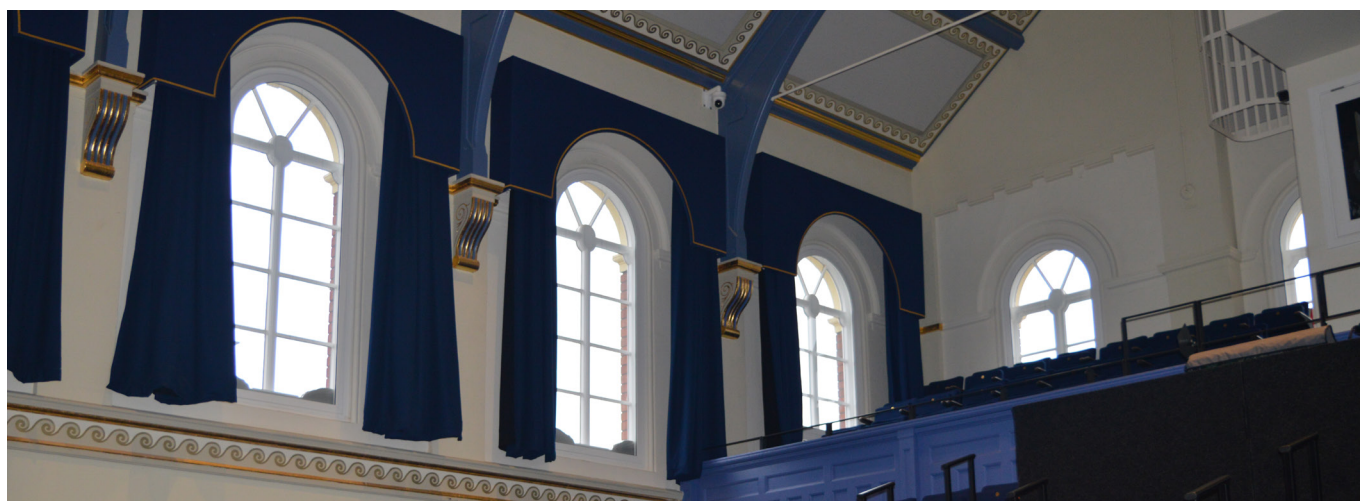


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Secondary Glazing

Tamworth Assembly Rooms



Benefit: Warmer and Quieter

Type: Refurbishment

Listing: Grade II

Discussions about the construction of Tamworth Assembly Rooms began in 1887 to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria and it was subsequently opened in 1889. Since then the theatre has been a continuous hub of entertainment; hosting professional events including plays, musicians and local talent. The Beatles famously performed there in 1963, just months before they were rocketed to stardom. After a long service the 130-year-old venue had fallen into a state of disrepair and finally closed its doors to the public in 2016.

It was clear that a substantial refurbishment was needed, and this came in the form of a multi-million-pound scheme to create a new Enterprise Quarter in the heart of Tamworth. The ambitious renovation was funded by the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent LEP Single Local Growth Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England and the remainder from Staffordshire County Council and Tamworth Borough Council. Extensions to the side and rear have created

a new multi-use space with a bar, café, a studio/green room space and enhanced backstage facilities.

Main contractor, Glasgow-based Novus Property Solutions was tasked with the extensive rebuilding of the renowned venue's internal layout, to create an impressive multipurpose building with more space that



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Secondary Glazing



can be used for a variety of functions. The theatre was substantially refurbished and updated with its ornate historic features conserved. The new extensions were considerably designed to match the character of the existing building.

The project was not without its challenges. The Grade II Listed Victorian building had suppressed many secrets of its poor condition resulting in additional works being unearthed and undertaken. Much work was required to rejuvenate the large curved casement windows in the main theatre area. These original windows had been boarded up since the early 1970s, meaning that no natural light had entered the main auditorium area for over 40 years. They were originally blocked up to create black-out for theatre productions, and to improve acoustic controls. Directly outside the front of theatre is a busy car park and a bus terminal, both of which generate a great deal of noise.

A solution was required to insulate the single glazed original arched casement windows, whilst ensuring that they could function properly and look aesthetically pleasing. Novus got in touch with Selectaglaze to discuss the most sympathetic but practical options of secondary glazing to enhance the acoustic insulation.

Following a productive set of consultations, the Series

41 side hung casement was specified to 17 of the clerestory windows in the main theatre as it is a heavy-duty framing system ideal for large windows. With the openings measuring around 2.5m h x 1m w a robust solution was needed. One of the windows needed clearance to open over the side of the balcony seating platform; therefore, it was decided to split the opening by transom coupling a Series 43 demountable fixed light and Series 41 unit.

Once all the windows were repaired and ready to house the secondary glazing, the timber sub frames were fixed back to the brick masonry without disturbing or damaging the existing lime plaster. These were specially designed with a 300mm wide flat surface at the centre of the soffit to allow for the positioning of motorised blinds which were to be used to black-out the theatre during performances.

The installation of the 19 secondary glazed units, with 6.4mm laminate glass was no easy task. The clerestory windows were approximately 4m from the ground and the units each weighed 93kg, so scaffolding had to be erected to facilitate the safe and secure installation.

There is now a more comprehensive program of entertainment to welcome audiences and performers back through the doors of Tamworth Assembly Rooms.

