



The Nest

powered by CFT

Corporate and Private Hire

About CFT

Our mission is to bring together people from all walks of life, providing a space where experiences are created and shared, and where everyone can find their place. Placing creativity at the heart of everything we do, put simply our aim is to inspire and delight everyone we meet.

When Chichester Festival Theatre opened in 1962, it was Britain's first modern thrust stage theatre. The brainchild of a local optician, Leslie Evershed-Martin, this theatre was effectively 'crowdfunded' by local individuals and businesses: a theatre built by the community for the community, an ethos which still stands today.

Since then, we've spent the last six decades making work that entertains, provokes thought and occasionally pushes boundaries. But always with the core belief that world-class theatre should be seen by the world.

cft.org.uk

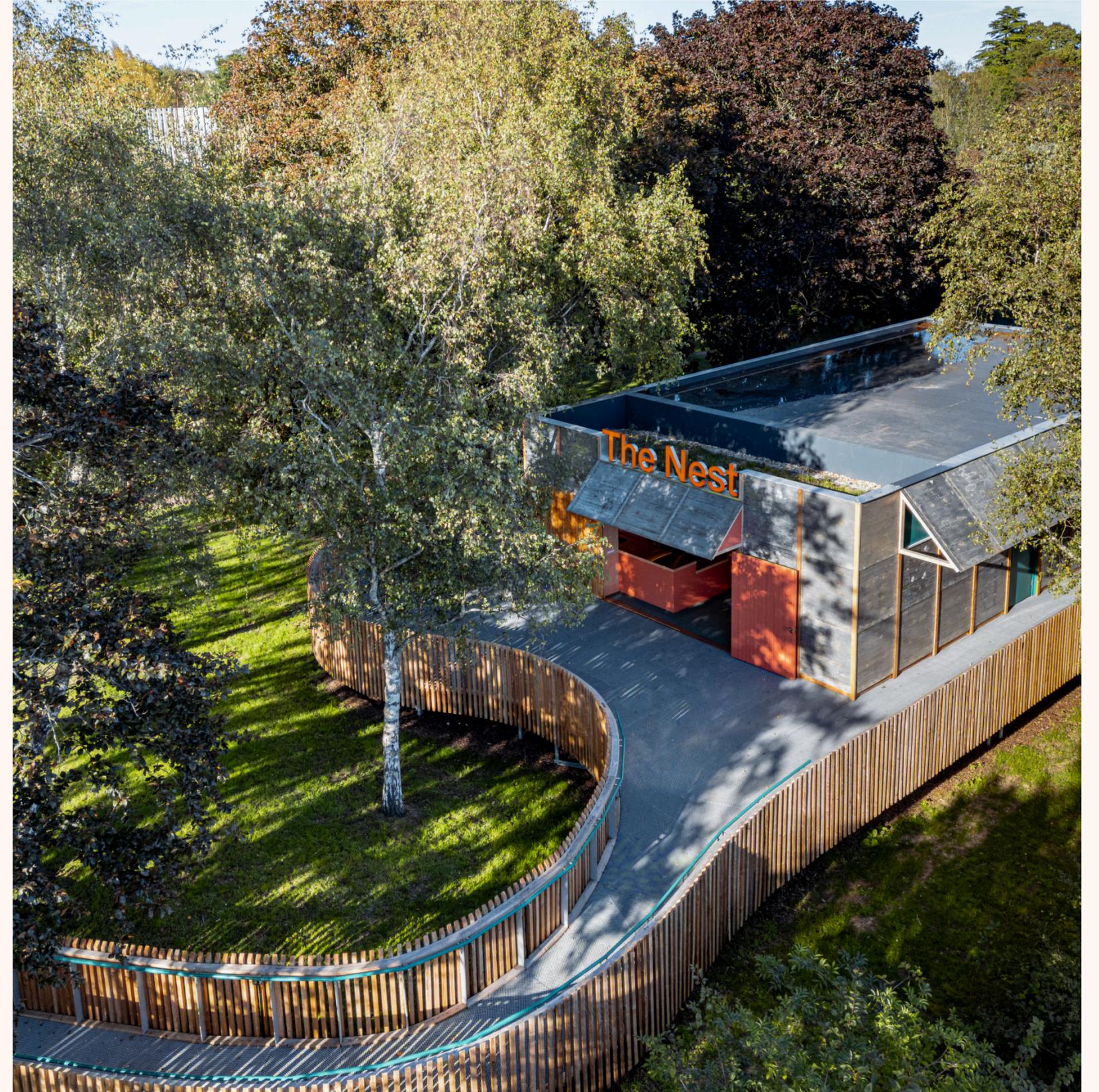
Introducing The Nest

In summer 2025 we launched The Nest - Chichester's new creative venue for fresh ideas, new voices and local artists. It's part of CFT but with a more intimate, informal vibe, contemporary in design and complementing our two existing theatres.

Focussed on our audiences of tomorrow, The Nest offers a vibe that's intimate and informal, with a bar, accessible toilets, unreserved seating, and intentionally broad programming: a mix of live music, stand-up comedy, fringe theatre, scratch and open mic nights.

Home to the next generation of artists, audiences, and changemakers, The Nest is a space that reflects the world around us and will help shape the one ahead.

thenest.cft.org.uk





Inside The Nest - our 122-seat studio, shown here in thrust configuration



Stage your next event at The Nest

Whether you're hosting a presentation, training seminar, conference, product launch or AGM our venue can meet all your needs and preferences. The auditorium is fully kitted out with LED lighting that can be customised to all moods and brand colours. Our in-house theatre technicians have a wealth of experience in using sound, light and video technology to tell amazing stories and are on hand to work with you to bring a touch of theatre magic to your event.

Elevate your event by tapping into our network of talent. From cabaret artists to singers, magicians, dancers and comedians, we can help provide a host of entertainment options. Create unforgettable memories for your guests with our diverse roster of performers.

CFT Corporate Supporters save 10%

[Find out more](#) about becoming a Corporate Supporter

Hiring The Nest

An ideal space for conferences, talks, away days, training days and much more.

- Total seated capacity - **122**
- Full access to fixed lighting rig, sound and projection, with equipment available for all events, operated by our in house venue technicians.
- Hire cost (technical support included) - **£90 +VAT per hour** (Minimum hire - 4 hours)
- Prices fixed until **April 1, 2026**

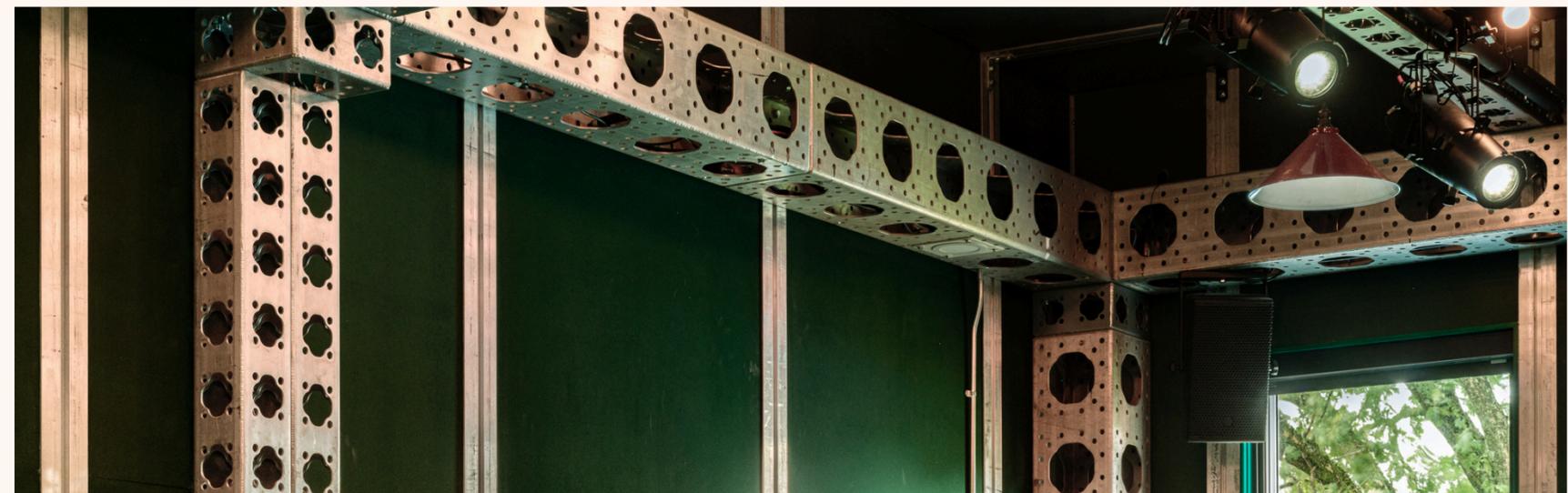
Technical Packages

When hiring The Nest, our standard technical package is included to cover all your event needs.

For more elaborate events, additional tech assistance and equipment are available at an additional charge, please get in touch to discuss with us in more detail by emailing nesthires@cft.org.uk

Standard tech package includes:

- Room set up with agreed furniture / lectern / equipment
- Use of our screen & projector
- Tech set up to agreed lighting and sound states with in-house tech to oversee the event
- 2 x handheld wireless microphones or 4 x wired microphones



CFT Corporate Supporters save 10%

[Find out more](#) about becoming a Corporate Supporter



CFT Stagecraft: Creative training for businesses

CFT's innovative new skills training programme, designed to provide you and your team members with unique and enjoyable development opportunities.

Led by skilled facilitators from our acclaimed LEAP (Learning, Education and Participation) department, these engaging sessions will help you and your team enhance your confidence and stage presence, boost creative problem-solving, and foster stronger working relationships - all while having a fantastic time!

Choose from the following workshop menu:

- Stage Presence & Confidence
- Drama Games for Team Building
- Creative Problem Solving
- Presentation Skills & Body Language

Workshops can be held at CFT or your own venue, each lasting two hours. To ensure the best experience, we recommend groups of 6 to 20 participants. Pricing per person is:

- 6 - 8 people: £35 per person
- 9 - 13 people: £30 per person
- 14 - 20 people: £25 per person

If you're looking for a more bespoke workshop package, or add-ons to make your day even more special (such as a backstage tour of the Theatre or an evening performance with pre-show drinks and dinner available in our on-site restaurant) please email us at leap@cft.org.uk and we'd be happy to help.

[Click to enquire](#)

"The workshop exceeded my expectations. It provided valuable insights and practical skills that, I believe, would benefit anyone who needs to make presentations in both professional and personal settings."

CFT Stagecraft workshop attendee



Refreshments

If you've ever treated yourself to a pre-show cocktail at one of our bars or sat down to enjoy a meal in our restaurant, you'll have been served by the Caper & Berry team. Based on site at CFT, we can offer light refreshments, tea and coffee packages when hiring The Nest. Prices start from £3 per person up to 30 people, please enquire for more information.

Caper & Berry also have three outlets on site to purchase from on the day: The Minerva Bar for light bites and drinks overlooking Oaklands Park, The Brasserie for sumptuous two or three-course meals, and the Cafe on the Park for homemade cakes, barista coffees and quick lunches. Opening times vary throughout the year. Please note that all our food and drink outlets on site are cashless.



Testimonials

“Thank you so much for a wonderful event on Saturday. The Nest was perfect, as was the food. Sam was beyond helpful and an absolute delight to have around, he made the event run absolutely smoothly.”

Miranda - New Era Academy

“Honoured to have been able to play in such a beautiful venue, many thanks to you and your fantastic team.”

Sura Susso - Musician

“Such a brilliant day. The venue, the set-up and the support was incredible.”

Meredith, University of Chichester

“I just wanted to say a massive thank you for yesterday. What you and the team are doing at The Nest is extraordinary and it was such an honour to have seen it and got to work in it. It was a very useful day for us to see some new aspects of the show, and we couldn't have done it without your generosity.”

Alex Hill - Theatre Producer/Actor



Getting here

The Nest, Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester PO19 6AP

Whether you're walking, driving, taking the train, catching the bus or hopping on your bike, we're easy to find. The site is located to the north of the city centre on the edge of Oaklands Park (a lovely spot for a break if the weather's nice!).

Search 'Chichester Festival Theatre' on your map provider of choice to find us. The Nest is located between the Festival Theatre and Northgate Car Park, amongst the trees on the CFT site.

Rail

Chichester Station is a 20 minute walk or a 5 minute taxi ride away, with regular direct links to London Victoria, Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Gatwick Airport. Connect to London Waterloo trains at nearby Havant. Visit nationalrail.co.uk for timetables, restricted services and other details.

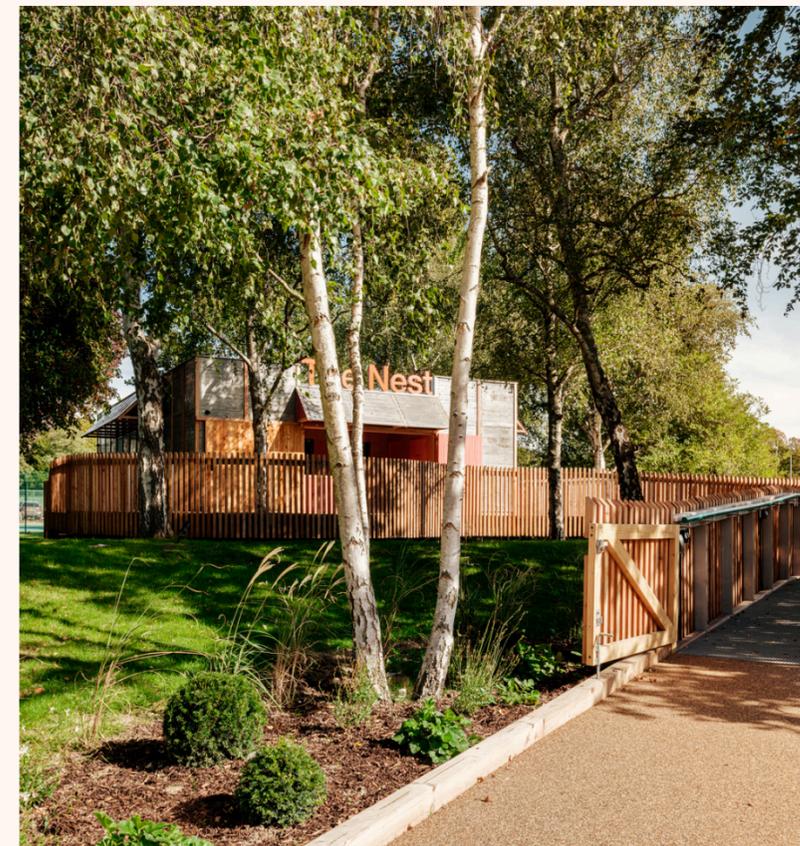
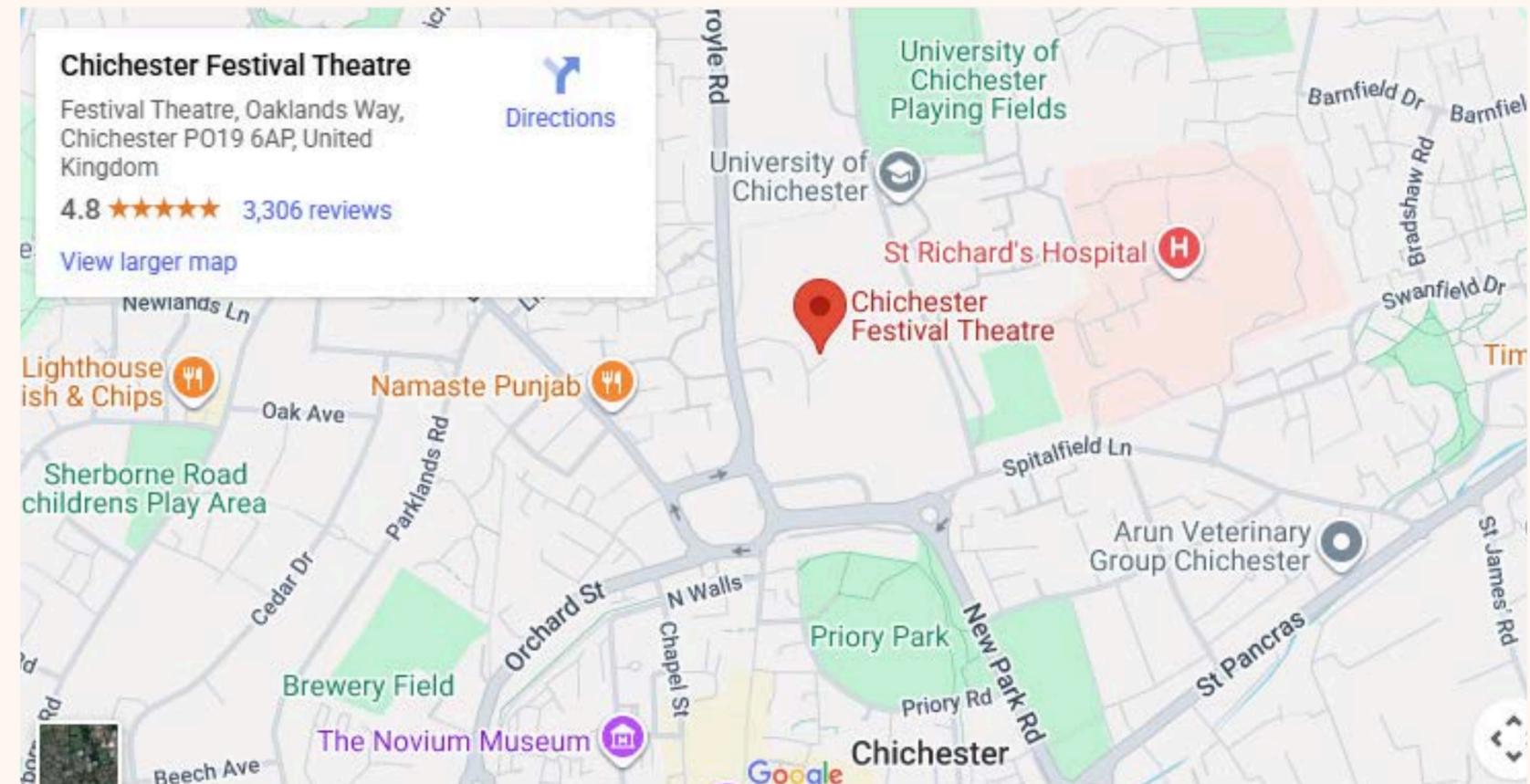
Bus

The number 60 Stagecoach bus stops near the Theatre. Visit the [Stagecoach](https://www.stagecoach.co.uk) website for more information.

Parking

[Northgate Car Park](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/mipermit) (PO19 6AA) is a 900-space council-run pay and display car park right on our doorstep, which charges from 8am until 8pm Monday - Saturday and 10am until 5pm on Sundays. You can pay by cash, card and contactless and the MiPermit app - [chichester.gov.uk/mipermit](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/mipermit)

As we're so conveniently located, the car park can get very busy, and often full with city centre shoppers as well as our audiences. Allow plenty of time to park (especially if you're coming to a matinee!) and consider alternative car parks in Chichester. You can find all options at [chichester.gov.uk/parking](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/parking).





Contact us

If you're interested in hiring The Nest, want to find out more about the space or what's on offer, then please do get in touch and we'll be happy to help:



nesthires@cft.org.uk



If you want to find out what's on in The Nest or discover the next big act, then head to our website:



thenest.cft.org.uk