A LADS (Ledbury Amateur Dramatic Society) member recently had a phone call from a journalist with *The Stage*, enquiring about an objection the Theatres Trust is making to a planning application regarding The Market Theatre.

LADS Member: What???!!!
Journalist: This is The Market Theatre in Hitchin?
LADS Member: No, it's The Market Theatre in Ledbury, Herefordshire...

Doh...

According to the Hitchin Comet , the Ledbury theatre's namesake has been threatened with transformation into five flats by the listed building's owner. The Comet has since reported the planning application (to North Herts District Council) has been withdrawn.

The Market Theatre in Ledbury is owned on behalf of the community by LADS, so such a fate is most unlikely befall our theatre. Whilst the Market Theatre has been forced to close, as have all others, since mid-March 2020 owing to Covid, it is still in a sound position and fully intends to reopen when it can. It chose not to during the brief spell last summer when theatres and cinemas were allowed to do so owing to lack of notice and the lead time required to programme events. Instead, it has undertaken a full risk assessment and has put in place a fully Covid-secure system, ready for reopening when this becomes possible.

See the theatre's website for updates. #WeWillBeBack