

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

England & Wales · Charity number 1062366

Details

Other names NRTF

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03319947](#)

Registered 1997-05-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Good Life Hub
Orchard Barn
Manor Farm Barns
Newbury Hill
Hampstead Norreys
THATCHAM

Phone 07905896303

Email admin@nrtf.org.uk

Website www.ruraltouring.org

Activities

Objects: TO FOSTER AND PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE ARTS THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATION OF, AND PARTICIPATION IN, THE ARTS, IN PARTICULAR AT RURAL AND LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

Activities: NRTF provides networking and development opportunities via web site, email, conference, meetings. NRTF applies for funding to encourage the development of members practice. NRTF Commissions research and produces and distributes documents and publications. NRTF provides information and advice on touring of professional arts with rural communities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE UNITED KINGDOM
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£274,438	£282,822	-	-
2024-03-31	£256,501	£197,210	-	-
2023-03-31	£172,212	£199,731	-	-
2022-03-31	£180,342	£284,480	-	-
2021-03-31	£454,879	£407,716	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Matthew Francis Linley	Chair	2025-09-24
Barbara Tremewan		2014-01-02
Chris Bridgman		2016-07-07
Claire Elizabeth Marshall		2013-01-01
Daniel Isaac Pedler		2024-06-04
David Emyr Bell		2019-07-04
Hannah Prior		2023-01-01
JOHN CHARLES STUART LAIDLAW		
Kerry Vaile-Bartlett		2024-06-04
Lindsay Higgins		2023-01-01
Nicola Lesley Pollard		2023-01-01
Sita Brand		2024-06-04

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1062366

Accounts

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	National Rural Touring Forum
Other names the charity is known by:	NRTF
Charity registration number:	1062366
Company registration number:	3319947
Registered Office and Operational address:	Good Life Hub, Orchard Barn, Manor Farm Barns, Newbury Hill, Hamstead Norreys, RG18 0TR

Trustees and Directors

Tom Speight	Chair
John Laidlaw	
Barbara Tremewan	
Chris Bridgman	
Emyr Bell	
Elizabeth Freestone	Resigned June 2024
Lindsay Higgins	
Hannah Prior	
Nicola Pollard	
Sita Brand	
Claire Marshall	
Kerry Bartlet	Appointed June 2024
Daniel Peddler	Appointed June 2024

Company secretary (Day to day management)

Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)
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Names of observers

Paul Kaynes, Arts Council England, SE
Peter Gregory, Arts Council Wales & Night Out

Independent Examiner

Mrs M Hutchings, Apsleys Chartered Accountants, 21 Bampton Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6AA

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 1-3 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9BH

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

National Rural Touring Forum is a charitable company limited by guarantee and set up on 18 February 1997. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. Its objects are to foster and promote public education in the arts through the maintenance, improvement and development of knowledge, understanding, appreciation of, and participation in, the arts, in particular at rural and local neighbourhood levels throughout the United Kingdom.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those objects.

NRTF Mission

To lead on and underpin a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative community sector that delivers dynamic, high quality cultural performances, enhances wellbeing, and provides equal opportunity for people living in rural and satellite areas.

NRTF Values

Leadership – Playing a leading role in the creative sector to drive growth and equality principles that result in positive cultural change. Resilience & Relevance – driving sectoral stability and development and reacting and responding to cultural change. Quality, Innovation & Ambition– learning from evidence to take calculated risks and make innovative business decisions. Diversity & Inclusivity – generating and enabling the widest possible range of voices and perspectives. Social Impact – measuring impact of work which brings wider positive and meaningful benefit to society. Collaboration & Dynamism – cultivating collaborations and partnerships which enhance, empower and respond to sector challenges. Environmental Sustainability – maximising opportunity through initiatives that reduce carbon footprint and improve sustainability.

An Environmental Sustainability Forum was established, meeting every 6 weeks to share good practice and innovation. NRTF is also preparing to host a Sustainability Summit during the annual conference to set sector-wide goals and celebrate success stories.

NRTF Aims

Each of the 4 aims is underpinned by several key objectives, which are measurable and time relevant.

Aim 1: NRTF will support rural touring and creative communities to be collaborative and resilient, ensuring it has the appropriate expertise to meet their evolving needs. To support the leaders of organisations in realising their ambitions.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Aim 2: NRTF will explore and understand the needs of the sector by using quality data to promote inclusivity, equality and a diverse range of voices, cultural content and training that is reflective of the UKs diverse population.

Aim 3: NRTF will demonstrate sectorial impact through effective research and analysis, the evidence of which has a share of voice at national policy and communications level.

Aim 4: NRTF will be an influential, ambitious, and innovative organisation which is fit for purpose in delivering against its mission.

Delivery of Aims

Delivery will be undertaken by concentrating on 5 areas of activity:

Membership – to benefit, support and communicate effectively with members.

NRTF invested in new data tools and commissioned analysts to track sector needs and impact, ensuring that organisational strategy remains evidence-led.

Future Interventions – to lead in the Rural Touring sector, to plan and to enable work and projects.

Social Impact – to research, to think ambitiously, to explore partnerships, to benefit the rural ecology.

Organisation – to ensure NRTF is well run, well led, and that it works fairly and properly.

Finance – to be sound financially and to look for opportunities to increase income where necessary.

Public benefit:

National Rural Touring Forum exists to deliver high quality art experiences that strengthen rural and other communities:

NRTF Research project CONCERTA (Contributing to Community Enhancement through Rural Touring Arts) show English schemes promote over 2500 events per year. These are distributed across 1,000 venues. Over the last five years, English schemes have jointly delivered 9,500 events to audiences numbering just over 700,000. Annual average audiences per event sit at a highly consistent 70 to 80-person annual average.

The UK approach to rural touring shows what the independent arts sector, public authorities and communities can achieve by working together: it is a model of good practice and value for money in the contemporary arts world.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and believe this is achieved via the Charity's objectives and activities.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) networks, develops and supports the ecosystem that delivers high-quality creative experiences across communities and rural areas in the UK. NRTF aims to strengthen and support rural populations to bring professional work to their venues. NRTF regularly consults with the sector; the findings of which directly inform the organisation's key priority areas. Through consultation it charts and champions nationwide impact, shares national and regional achievements and good news, and identifies shared sectoral challenges for which it advocates to policymakers and other influential stakeholders.

NRTF and its members do not underestimate rural audiences. Funding for the arts is still a city-centric issue; travelling to large towns and cities to see productions can be time and financially prohibitive. There are social barriers to some who don't feel as comfortable in larger cultural institutions. Access to the arts is important for everyone in society. It is important to the sector that communities have meaningful engagements with the arts by participating in, or seeing, high quality and innovative performances.

Achievements of NRTF's year, listed below, focus on areas in the business plan that continue the strategic and developmental role that the organisation is playing in delivering a dynamic thriving rural and community touring sector.

These address the areas for development identified in the business plan and underline our recognition that the rural touring network consists of several key constituents including touring schemes, voluntary promoters, small scale venues, festivals, libraries, in and outdoor community spaces, performing companies and artists and organisations that support touring arts.

IN 2022 NRTF was successful in securing increased investment as an Investment Principal Support Organisation (IPSO), from Arts Council England in the current funding round. The new funding round began in April 2023. In the last two rounds of funding as an NPO we received £88,176 a year. In this round 2023 - 2027, we are being awarded £154,000.

Annual Conference

The National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) Conference 2024, titled Articulate, took place in Blackpool in partnership with Lancashire's Rural Touring Scheme, Culturapedia. This year's conference explored the language we use to communicate the value and impact of rural touring, providing a packed 48-hour programme of talks, showcases, discussions, and networking opportunities. The event brought together 135 attendees, including artists, promoters, funders, and international delegates. Seven high-quality artist showcases were presented, ranging from dance to music and theatre, including *Inscribed in Me* by Alethia Antonia and *Daughter of a Dictator* by Yasmeen Audisho Ghrawi. Four emerging artists were also selected for Ballyhoo slots, offering dynamic, five-minute pitches of new work. The conference also featured workshops on access and networking, panel discussions on environmental sustainability and rural touring for young audiences, and keynote talks from Kim Macari and Darren Pritchard.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The event demonstrated NRTF's commitment to supporting diverse voices, sector development, and inclusivity, with £11,881 invested in artistic content and five full artist bursaries awarded. The conference generated an estimated £33,499 for the Blackpool economy and provided space for reflection and innovation within the rural touring sector. Feedback highlighted the need to better communicate NRTF's advocacy work on behalf of its members, a priority that will be embedded into future events. With preparations already underway for the 2025 conference in Newbury, including an updated programming resource for members, Articulate successfully reinforced the conference's role as a national platform for collaboration, learning, and showcasing rural touring excellence.

NRTF aspires to be bold in the following areas:

- High-quality professional arts experiences suited to local needs and interests
- Fair partnerships between communities, organisations, artists, and public bodies
- Creative diversity in artistic programming and among our audiences
- Creative innovation in art practice, management, and policy
- Maintaining and developing our unique relationship with thousands of community volunteers
- Developing an appropriate mindset for NRTF's role as a strategic and national leader

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

NRTF joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate back in 2015 to deliver the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI). This innovative project, funded by Arts Council England, is helping to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of dance promoted by Rural Touring schemes all over the country.

So far, the project has worked with 40 companies, promoting 140 shows to just under 13,000 audience members.

RTDI was an important and highly beneficial strategic intervention into rural touring of dance. It built on, and made the best of the existing infrastructure of, Touring Schemes and promoters and systematically addressed the remaining gaps in dance provision in rural areas. RTDI epitomises the strategic approach that was behind the introduction of the Strategic Touring programme

RTDI started its third iteration mid 2022 with a new project lead from The Place London. The New partners were made up of The Place, NRTF, Take Art, Sonia Sabri Dance and Highlights Rural Touring. The first Artists Lab of this project was held in North Wales and brought together dance artists from the menu, producers, the RTDI & NRTF Teams.

RTDI 2024 -2025 Summary -

The third iteration of the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI) supported 8 artists through the RTDI Lab, providing online training and mentoring for producers and scheme representatives, promoting innovative, high-quality dance work across rural venues.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Rural Press Agency

The Rural Press Agency is a tailored PR and media support service for NRTF members, providing affordable access to professional press and communications expertise. 2024/25 was its pilot year and it attracted strong interest from venues, touring companies, and artists, delivering successful campaigns such as press release writing, media strategy sessions, and targeted promotion of members' work. Member feedback has been very positive, and we anticipate the Agency becoming a profit-making service in 2025/26 as take-up increases.

Sector Networks

NRTF continued strategic partnerships with What Next?, Campaign for The Arts, Culture Health and Wellbeing Alliance, Rural England and Rural Services Network. These alliances enabled us to represent rural touring within policy conversations and fostered joint exploration of future funding and advocacy priorities.

Artistic Partnership

Edinburgh Fringe Presentation

NRTF attendance at Edinburgh Fringe is aimed at improving voluntary promoter confidence in booking a diverse programme of work, raising the profile of rural touring at the Edinburgh Fringe professional development sessions, and introducing more diverse and interesting work to the rural touring circuit.

Each year, NRTF hosts a free Introduction to Rural Touring event for performers, companies and producers. It provides a great opportunity for artists to hear from the rural touring sector and to find out if rural touring is for them. In 2024 NRTF teamed up with World Fringe to deliver evening networking with the two sectors, who shared similar passions and recognition for similarities in the sectors.

City vs Rural touring: What does it look like in reality and is it an option for your next show? 9 August 2024

There is a big difference between performing on the rural touring circuit and in Black Box or urban theatres. Join the National Rural Touring Forum and guests to find out what the nuances are and what makes touring so magical. This is your opportunity to hear directly how to get involved.

Host: Holly Payton-Lombardo - World Fringe & National Rural Touring Forum

Confirmed Panel: Kate Lynch - Highlights Rural Touring, Dawn Badland - Applause Rural Touring, Adam J. K. Potrykus and Carmel Clavin - Nordic Fringe Network & Stockholm Fringe Festival

Who's it for: This event is for Fringe artists and industry professionals who are looking to tour beyond the Fringe.

Why should I attend? To develop your knowledge of touring opportunities and to make professional connections.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Brighton Fringe Presentation

NRTF appeared as part of the Brighton Fringe Professional Development Academy. It focuses on how to engage with Rural Touring and the nuanced differences to touring in urban spaces.

NRTF ran a Q&A in partnership with World Fringe, House Network and Edinburgh Fringe to support artists to understand touring opportunities within Rural Touring Sector. 10 May 2024

Communications

Website

NRTF moved its website onto a short-term solution platform. It has rebuilt functionality and useability for the members and wider sector. A comprehensive development plan is being implemented and a new WordPress site is being built. The website is successfully operating and giving the members the required needs, resources and updates.

Social Media

NRTF continues to use its newsletter and social media channels to keep our membership and the wider rural touring sector informed, connected, and engaged. Our Marketing Coordinator leads on content creation and scheduling, ensuring that communications remain relevant, accessible, and targeted to different audiences. The monthly NRTF Newsletter remains a key source of information, sharing sector news, funding opportunities, upcoming events, and artist call-outs directly with members.

In the past year, we have made strategic updates to our social media approach. We have transitioned from X (formerly Twitter) to BlueSky as our primary platform for real-time updates, news, and sector opportunities, responding to the changing landscape of social media. Facebook continues to be used to promote scheme news and share events happening across the rural touring network. Instagram remains an essential tool for connecting with artists, highlighting creative work, and promoting artist opportunities. We also launched an NRTF LinkedIn profile this year, creating a new space to engage with industry professionals, funders, and partners. Our focus remains on delivering high-quality, engaging content that reflects the diversity, creativity, and impact of rural touring, while ensuring our members and sector partners feel informed and connected.

Village Halls Week

NRTF teamed up with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to celebrate and share the benefits of the UK's village halls. There was good coverage from schemes in support of the week and a good partnership with ACRE.

Membership

NRTF invested in new data tools and commissioned analysts to track sector needs and impact, ensuring that organisational strategy remains evidence-led.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

NRTF are well connected to a passionate network of artists, performers, venues, promoters, schemes and partners across the UK who all benefit from our work. Our network is made up of pro-active, sustainability-focused individuals who live rurally and dedicate their time and energy into bringing cultural experiences to their local area, providing culture and entertainment integral to strengthening rural communities. Our volunteer-led schemes revitalise village halls and community centres, bringing joy and a greater sense of belonging and community spirit to the area.

Measuring success: Through our relationship with Arts Council England, we are monitored quarterly and measure and record the outputs we achieve against the SMART targets in our 4-year business plan to demonstrate our progress towards our charitable aims. We gather qualitative data on our outcomes by gathering feedback from partners and beneficiaries we work with and case study interviews with individuals involved in our work with communities. The case studies included below help describe the outcomes we have achieved through our work with communities most recently.

Member Benefits include training, information, and networking; advice and resources; innovative work, partnerships, and commissions; research and advocacy; grant schemes and conference discounts.

Training

NRTF has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to enhancing the skills and capacities of its members and the broader rural touring sector through a series of targeted training and development initiatives:

Media Training Initiatives

Recognising the pivotal role of effective public relations in amplifying the reach and impact of rural touring, NRTF organised a What Next? Rural session on October 1, 2024, titled PR and Media - Raising the Profile of Rural Touring. This session convened experts, including NRTF's PR and Media Manager, Dickie Felton, journalist Laura Davies, and author Nicola Chester, to provide insights into securing media coverage tailored to the unique context of rural touring. Discussions encompassed strategies for engaging with local media outlets, adapting to the evolving media landscape, and effectively communicating the value of rural arts initiatives.

Resource development for Artists

In August 2024, NRTF issued an open tender inviting members to reimagine the "Eyes Wide Open" guide, a comprehensive resource aimed at assisting artists, companies, and promoters interested in touring work to rural and community venues. Originally published in 2008, this initiative seeks to update the guide to reflect the current landscape of rural touring, incorporating diverse perspectives and contemporary best practices.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Language and Data Workshops

Addressing aspects of communication and data utilisation, NRTF hosted a "What Next? Rural" conversation on April 25, 2024, focusing on "Language and Data." Speakers Kim Macari and Jeremy Spafford led discussions on the influence of language in shaping understanding within the cultural sector and the importance of meaningful data collection. The session provided members with strategies to enhance their communication practices and leverage data effectively for advocacy and reporting purposes.

Through these initiatives, NRTF continues to empower its members and the wider rural touring community by providing essential training and resources that address the evolving needs of the sector.

Advocacy and Communications

NRTF led high-level negotiations with ACE, securing a sector-wide exemption from mandatory audience feedback forms on Arts Council England's Illuminate platform. This policy change directly responded to sector concerns around capacity and mental health, championed consistently by NRTF as core to sustaining the wellbeing of those working in publicly funded arts.

Recognising a gap in access to effective press and media representation, where mainstream PR agencies often failed to address its needs, NRTF innovatively established an in-house PR function, strategically designed to reflect and amplify the values of the rural touring movement. This bespoke approach to communications will deliver media narratives and raise the profile of rural touring work.

Regular media engagement, bi-weekly PR meetings, and participation in Campaign for the Arts and What Next? Leadership meetings ensured that rural voices were heard within the national trends. Strategic leadership significantly advanced advocacy and communications, leading transformative impact across the RT sector.

Demonstrating a commitment to keeping the sector informed on governmental developments, NRTF Director joined a group conversation of those attending the Labour Party Conference, which enabled the members to gain timely insights on cultural and rural policy discussions and up to date with political discussion, policy shifts and the evolving political landscape.

NRTF keeps up to date with the wider national network, across members, stakeholders, and cultural partners, to support these outcomes. As a national network, NRTF reviews collective voice to frame arguments, and strategically position the organisation at the forefront of cultural conversation, which has led to meaningful influence at both the grassroots and national levels, benefitting the entire NRTF membership.

Member Drop-Ins

NRTF also launched a Sector Support Forum, providing a structured space for leadership development and collaboration among sector representatives.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

From February through to November, the first Tuesday of every month. NRTF Members are invited to drop in on Zoom and ask any questions face to (virtual) face.

NRTF Open Spaces

These will be more informal sessions specifically for topics and issues facing artists, promoters and schemes, individually. We hold titled meetings for each group to bring their questions for discussion.

Scheme Meeting – Birmingham 2025

The 2025 NRTF Scheme Meeting took place in Birmingham, providing a vital opportunity for Rural Touring Scheme managers and staff from across the UK to come together. This focused gathering allows space for peer learning, sector updates, and meaningful discussions on shared challenges and opportunities facing rural touring. The meeting offers a chance to shape the direction of NRTF's work, exchange ideas, and strengthen relationships across the network. As always, the Scheme Meeting is designed to be a supportive space for honest conversations, collaboration, and practical knowledge-sharing to support the growth and resilience of the rural touring sector.

Projects

Environmental Sustainability

An Environmental Sustainability Forum was established, meeting every 6 weeks to share good practice and innovation. NRTF is also preparing to host a Sustainability Summit during the annual conference to set sector-wide goals and celebrate success stories.

The National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) has taken active steps to embed environmental sustainability across its operations, in alignment with Arts Council England's Investment Principle of Environmental Responsibility. As outlined in NRTF's 2025 Environmental Action Plan, the organisation is committed to reducing its environmental impact, supporting its members to do the same, and promoting sustainability within the rural touring sector.

Key actions include developing policies on sustainable travel, events, and resource use, with targets such as reducing business travel emissions by 10% over three years and ensuring 90% of communications are digital. NRTF is also integrating environmental themes into its programming and offering training, resources, and data tools (in collaboration with Julie's Bicycle) to support members in their own sustainability efforts. Governance structures have been strengthened by appointing a Board-level Environmental Champion and establishing annual environmental performance reporting to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Professional Development, Inclusion, and Equality

Through the Go and See Grants as part of the RTDI programme, NRTF awarded funding to artists and organisations. Visits to member Schemes, such as Beaford Arts, Spot On, Black Country Touring, LILO, Villages in Action, and Take Art provided valuable insight into diverse programming, enhancing the sector's creative confidence.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

NRTF continues to invest in professional development opportunities for schemes, artists, and promoters, ensuring that the rural touring sector is supported to grow in confidence, capacity, and inclusivity. Alongside ongoing bursaries for Go-Sees, conference access grants, and financial support to reduce barriers to participation, NRTF delivered an ambitious programme of training and mentoring in 2024/25. This included online and in-person sessions on data collection, environmental sustainability, inclusive practice, and innovative touring models, as well as sector-wide workshops on access riders and inclusive policy development.

In support of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), NRTF's work is guided by a dedicated EDI Policy and a quarterly EDI subgroup that feeds directly into programme and event design. Recent initiatives have included developing a white-label policy bank to support schemes in adopting consistent, equitable policies, redesigning NRTF's communications with an accessibility focus, and embedding inclusive practice within the annual conference, where artists with protected characteristics are prioritised in programming.

NRTF recognises the need to reflect the diversity of British society across its board, membership, and programming. This includes measures to make all events accessible, consideration of neurodivergence, disability, gender, cultural, and religious inclusion, and strategic work to diversify the Board itself. In its role as an IPSO (Investment Principles Support Organisation), NRTF continues to share toolkits, resources, and case studies to support the sector in programming more diverse work, promoting inclusive leadership, and using data effectively to understand and respond to sector needs.

Key developments for the organisation

Since 2022 NRTF has been on a path of development and growth, which has required investment to increase staff capacity, and therefore company overheads, to effectively reach a broader network. NRTF wants to expand quality output for a more resilient, diverse and sustainable rural touring sector and has recognised the need to increase our team expertise to do this effectively.

The board of NRTF remained stable during 2024/25 with trustees representing the touring scheme, voluntary promoter and producer and artist sectors.

Financial Review

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management administration and support costs. The charity did not increase its reserves this year but plans to include this years amount in 2025/26 and continue a year-on-year increase over the next 2 years of the IPSO.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

This is the eleventh year as an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) of the Arts Council England. The Charity received its twelfth NPO grant from Arts Council England receiving £154,308 (2023/24 £154,308, 2022/23 £88,176, 2021/22 £88,176, 2020/21 £88,176, 2019/20 £86,583, 2018/19 £85,583, 2017/18 £86,583, 2016/17 £86,583, 2015/16 £86,583, 2014/15 £86,583, 2013/14 £86,233, 2012/13 £86,000).

Membership fees for the year totalled £21,173. The Charity is not reliant on donations.

NRTF invested in new data tools and commissioned analysts to track sector needs and impact, ensuring that organisational strategy remains evidence-led.

During 2024/25 NRTF recruited a freelance Fundraising manager (job share) to explore further income avenues.

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 18 February 1997 and registered as a charity on 14 May 1997. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Trustee selection methods:

New Trustees are presented at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the terms laid down in NRTF's Memorandum and Articles of Association. This board of management are the trustees of the Charity. Decisions are made by the board of management at quarterly meetings. The board of management reports on work undertaken, future and present financial accounts to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. No more than 14 and not less than 6 persons may be elected. One third of the trustees must retire from office at each AGM. The members to retire shall be those longest in office since their last election. These members are eligible for re-election.

Additional governance issues:

Board member stepping down permanently this year Elizabeth Freestone, Producer and Director has been on the board for 8 years. We want to thank Elizabeth both for her hard work, guidance and energy for the rural touring sector and NRTF - particularly in the area of Sustainability and HR

The following members, as longest standing members of the board, are stepping down and are to be re-elected:

- John Laidlaw – Live & Local
- Barbara Tremewan – Promoter, Cornwall

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

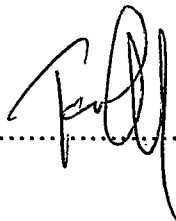
Board Meetings

In Autumn 2024, NRTF held Away Days for scheme representatives and board members. These gatherings fostered strategic thinking, relationship-building, and reinforced NRTF's role as a convener of leadership development.

Four full board meetings were held during the year 2024/25. In addition, subgroup meetings were held between board meetings as needed. A Board Away Day was held in Birmingham, Jan 2024 to discuss the a 10 year vision and the structure of NRTF.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small company exemption of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on13-5-25..... and signed on their behalf by

Tom Speight (Chair)


**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON THE
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 17 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

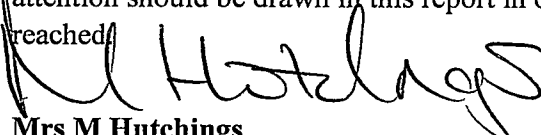
Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Mrs M Hutchings
Apsleys
Chartered Accountants

21 Bampton Street
Tiverton

Devon

Date:

27/11/2025

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants receivable from government and other public bodies		-	158,408	158,408	155,448
Investment income		-	812	812	651
Income from trading activities:					
Trading activities within the objects		63,995	30,050	94,045	82,143
Membership fees		-	21,173	21,173	18,259
Total income		<u>63,995</u>	<u>210,443</u>	<u>274,438</u>	<u>256,501</u>
Expenditure					
Grants payable	6	-	12,181	12,181	9,459
Other direct charitable expenditure		78,103	82,000	160,103	84,995
Management of the charity		-	104,228	104,228	97,804
Administration of the charity		-	6,310	6,310	4,952
Total expenditure		<u>78,103</u>	<u>204,719</u>	<u>282,822</u>	<u>197,210</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(14,108)	5,724	(8,384)	59,291
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(14,108)</u>	<u>5,724</u>	<u>(8,384)</u>	<u>59,291</u>
Funds b/f at 1 April 2024		<u>29,095</u>	<u>115,120</u>	<u>144,215</u>	<u>84,924</u>
Funds c/f at 31 March 2025		<u><u>14,987</u></u>	<u><u>120,844</u></u>	<u><u>135,831</u></u>	<u><u>144,215</u></u>

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Amounts falling due within one year	3	5,039	4,366
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>141,346</u>	<u>144,068</u>
		146,385	148,434
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>10,554</u>	<u>4,219</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>135,831</u>	<u>144,215</u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	14,987	29,095
Unrestricted	8	<u>120,844</u>	<u>115,120</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>135,831</u>	<u>144,215</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

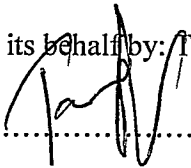
Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Committee on13-5-25.....

and signed on its behalf by: Tom Speight (Chair)



.....
 Director

Company registration number 03319947

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

National Rural Touring Forum is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The company is registered charity in England within the United Kingdom. In the event of being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Grants payable;
- Expenditure on charitable activities
- Management of the charity; and
- Administration of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

(e) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(f) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(g) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(h) Going concern

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
Amounts paid to examiner for:	£	£
The preparation of the financial statements	1,098	952
Independent examination	<u>1,342</u>	<u>1,428</u>

3. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,538	3,050
Prepayments	1,680	495
Other debtors	821	821
	<u>5,039</u>	<u>4,366</u>

4. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,225	1,609
Accruals	2,300	2,200
Tax and social securities	1,585	-
Other Creditors	444	410
	<u>10,554</u>	<u>4,219</u>

5. Directors remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	91,850	90,157
Social security costs	2,687	1,983
Pension costs	2,013	1,879
	<u>96,550</u>	<u>94,019</u>

Average number of employees	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
-----------------------------	----------	----------

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the employee. The costs for the year was £2,013 (2024 £1,879).

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

6. Grants paid to institutions Professional	2025	2024
Development CPD	£	£
Conference Bursaries	2,976	2,820
Scheme Meeting Sector Training	-	1,234
Neurodiversity Sector Training	-	870
Away Day	4,076	-
Total CPD	<u>7,052</u>	<u>4,924</u>
Edinburgh/ Brighton Village Hall		
Highlights	400	285
Cheshire	400	400
Live & Local	-	1,950
Artsreach	490	400
Spot On Lancashire	-	400
Theatre Orchard	55	400
ArtERY	-	300
Villages in Action	30	400
Carn to Cove	400	-
Arts at the Old Fire Station	2,220	-
Applause	300	-
Take Art	15	-
Edinburgh Village Hall	800	-
The Mill	19	-
Total Edinburgh/ Brighton	<u>5,129</u>	<u>4,535</u>
Total Grants Awarded	<u>12,181</u>	<u>9,459</u>
7. Restricted funds	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>RTDI 3</u>		
Balance at 1 April 2024	29,095	9,049
Contributed Income	63,995	62,510
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(78,103)	(42,464)
RTDI 3 Balance at 31 March 2025	<u>14,987</u>	<u>29,095</u>
Total Restricted funds at 31st March 2025	<u>14,987</u>	<u>29,095</u>

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

8. Unrestricted funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2024	115,120	75,875
Surplus for the year	5,724	39,245
Transfer	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2025	<u>120,844</u>	<u>115,120</u>

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Funds balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Current assets	14,987	131,398	146,385
Current liabilities		(10,554)	(10,554)
	<u>14,987</u>	<u>120,844</u>	<u>135,831</u>

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

Nil remuneration was paid to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: Nil).

£1,153 expenses were reimbursed to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: £1,775).

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England NPO	154,308		154,308	
Access to Work	4,100		-	
Equality Diversity Inclusion	-		1,140	
	<u>-</u>	158,408	<u>1,140</u>	155,448
		-		-
Total Grant Income		<u>158,408</u>		<u>155,448</u>
RTDI (3) Contributed and Earned Income		63,995		62,510
Unrestricted Income				
Earned Income:				
Membership Fees	21,173		18,259	
Trading activities within the objects:				
Bank Interest	812		651	
Conference Buxton Schemes	21,561		14,758	
The Place contribution to costs	4,500		-	
RTDI (3)			4,875	
Training Fees	489		-	
Donations	-		-	
Other	3,500		-	
Total Unrestricted Income		<u>52,035</u>		<u>38,543</u>
Total Earned and Contributed Income		<u>116,030</u>		<u>101,053</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>274,438</u>		<u>256,501</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Balance BF		274,438		256,501
Restricted Funds: RTDI (3)				
Total expenditure	<u>78,103</u>	78,103	<u>42,464</u>	42,464
Total Restricted funds		<u><u>78,103</u></u>		<u><u>42,464</u></u>
Unrestricted Funds:				
<u>Grants payable:</u>				
Edinburgh Village Hall			4,535	
Professional Development Grants	4,829		4,924	
Away Day	4,376			
Conference Bursaries	<u>2,976</u>		-	
Total		12,181		9,459
<u>Other direct charitable activity:</u>				
Conference	56,049		31,060	
RTDI (3)	8,000		8,000	
Advocacy Digital Resources	2,472		2,481	
Research and Development	-		990	
Dance Project	602			
Marketing Resources	350			
Village Halls Week Resources	438			
Project Seed Funding	1,000		-	
Rural Press Agency	7,669		-	
Education and outreach costs	4,000			
Sustainability Audit	<u>1,420</u>		-	
Total		82,000		42,531
<u>Management of the charity:</u>				
Finances	10,956		10,000	
Staff Salary/ Tax/ NI/ Pension	57,497		42,539	
Staff Travel	4,963		4,843	
Governance/ Board Meetings/ Travel/ Subsistence	4,088		4,454	
Staff CPD and Membership	3,656		2,141	
Communications/Admin Manager	11,273		23,162	
Insurances	870		942	
Project Manager	-		5,450	
Staffing Costs (NI)	2,687		4,273	
Fundraising	<u>8,238</u>		-	
Total		104,228		97,804

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Administration of the charity:</u>				
Printing Postage Stationery, Office Costs	812		1,623	
Web Design/ Hosting/ Maintenance	2,460		455	
Accountancy Fees	3,038		2,874	
Total		6,310		4,952
Total unrestricted		<u>204,719</u>		<u>154,746</u>
Total expenditure		<u>282,822</u>		<u>197,210</u>
Excess of income over expenditure		<u><u>(8,384)</u></u>		<u><u>59,291</u></u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1062366

Accounts

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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Statement of Financial Activities	17
Balance Sheet	18
Notes to the financial statements	19-26

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	National Rural Touring Forum
Other names the charity is known by:	NRTF
Charity registration number:	1062366
Company registration number:	3319947
Registered Office and Operational address:	Good Life Hub, Orchard Barn, Manor Farm Barns, Newbury Hill, Hamstead Norreys, RG18 0TR

Trustees and Directors

Tom Speight	Chair
John Laidlaw	
Dawn Badland	Resigned June 2023
Barbara Tremewan	
Ed O'Driscoll	Resigned September 2023
Chris Bridgman	
Emyr Bell	
Elizabeth Freestone	
Lindsay Higgins	
Hannah Prior	
Nicola Pollard	
Sita Brand	
Claire Marshall	

Company secretary (Day to day management)

Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)
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Names of observers

Cassie Catchpole, Arts Council England, SE
Peter Gregory, Arts Council Wales & Night Out

Independent Examiner

Mrs M Hutchings, Apsleys Chartered Accountants, 21 Bampton Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6AA

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 1-3 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9BH

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

National Rural Touring Forum is a charitable company limited by guarantee and set up on 18 February 1997. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. Its objects are to foster and promote public education in the arts through the maintenance, improvement and development of knowledge, understanding, appreciation of, and participation in, the arts, in particular at rural and local neighbourhood levels throughout the United Kingdom.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those objects.

NRTF Mission

To lead on and underpin a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative community sector that delivers dynamic, high quality cultural performances, enhances wellbeing, and provides equal opportunity for people living in rural and satellite areas.

NRTF Values

Leadership – Playing a leading role in the creative sector to drive growth and equality principles that result in positive cultural change. Resilience & Relevance – driving sectoral stability and development and reacting and responding to cultural change. Quality, Innovation & Ambition– learning from evidence to take calculated risks and make innovative business decisions. Diversity & Inclusivity – generating and enabling the widest possible range of voices and perspectives. Social Impact – measuring impact of work which brings wider positive and meaningful benefit to society. Collaboration & Dynamism – cultivating collaborations and partnerships which enhance, empower and respond to sector challenges. Environmental Sustainability – maximising opportunity through initiatives that reduce carbon footprint and improve sustainability.

NRTF Aims

Each of the 4 aims is underpinned by several key objectives, which are measurable and time relevant.

Aim 1: NRTF will support rural touring and creative communities to be collaborative and resilient, ensuring it has the appropriate expertise to meet their evolving needs. To support the leaders of organisations in realising their ambitions.

Aim 2: NRTF will explore and understand the needs of the sector by using quality data to promote inclusivity, equality and a diverse range of voices, cultural content and training that is reflective of the UKs diverse population.

Aim 3: NRTF will demonstrate sectorial impact through effective research and analysis, the evidence of which has a share of voice at national policy and communications level.

Aim 4: NRTF will be an influential, ambitious, and innovative organisation which is fit for purpose in delivering against its mission.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Delivery of Aims

Delivery will be undertaken by concentrating on 5 areas of activity:

Membership – to benefit, support and communicate effectively with members.

Future Interventions – to lead in the Rural Touring sector, to plan and to enable work and projects.

Social Impact – to research, to think ambitiously, to explore partnerships, to benefit the rural ecology.

Organisation – to ensure NRTF is well run, well led, and that it works fairly and properly.

Finance – to be sound financially and to look for opportunities to increase income where necessary.

Public benefit:

National Rural Touring Forum exists to deliver high quality art experiences that strengthen rural and other communities:

NRTF Research project CONCERTA (Contributing to Community Enhancement through Rural Touring Arts) show English schemes promote over 2500 events per year. These are distributed across 1,000 venues. Over the last five years, English schemes have jointly delivered 9,500 events to audiences numbering just over 700,000. Annual average audiences per event sit at a highly consistent 70 to 80-person annual average.

The UK approach to rural touring shows what the independent arts sector, public authorities and communities can achieve by working together: it is a model of good practice and value for money in the contemporary arts world.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and believe this is achieved via the Charity's objectives and activities.

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) networks, develops and supports the ecosystem that delivers high-quality creative experiences across communities and rural areas in the UK. NRTF aims to strengthen and support rural populations to bring professional work to their venues. NRTF regularly consults with the sector; the findings of which directly inform the organisation's key priority areas. Through consultation it charts and champions nationwide impact, shares national and regional achievements and good news, and identifies shared sectoral challenges for which it advocates to policymakers and other influential stakeholders.

NRTF and its members do not underestimate rural audiences. Funding for the arts is still a city-centric issue; travelling to large towns and cities to see productions can be time and financially prohibitive. There are social barriers to some who don't feel as comfortable in larger cultural institutions. Access to the arts is important for everyone in society. It is important that all communities have meaningful engagements with the arts by participating in, or seeing, high quality and innovative performances.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Achievements of NRTF's year, listed below, focus on areas in the business plan that continue the strategic and developmental role that the organisation is playing in delivering a dynamic thriving rural and community touring sector.

These address the areas for development identified in the business plan and underline our recognition that the rural touring network consists of several key constituents including touring schemes, voluntary promoters, small scale venues, festivals, libraries, in and outdoor community spaces, performing companies and artists and organisations that support touring arts.

In Arts Council England's latest funding round, beginning in April 2023, NRTF was made an Investment Principle Support Organisation (IPSO), receiving £154,000 per annum through to 2026. In the previous ACE funding round we received £88,176 as a National Portfolio Organisation.

Artistic Partnerships

Edinburgh Fringe presentation

NRTF attendance at Edinburgh Fringe is aimed at improving voluntary promoter confidence in booking a diverse programme of work, raising the profile of rural touring at the Edinburgh Fringe professional development sessions, and introducing more diverse and interesting work to the rural touring circuit.

Each year, NRTF hosts a free Introduction to Rural Touring event for performers, companies and producers. It provides a great opportunity for artists to hear from the rural touring sector and to find out if rural touring's for them. In 2023 NRTF teamed up with World Fringe to deliver evening networking with the two sectors, who shared similar passion and recognition for similarities in the sector.

55 artists and industry professionals attended the event at Fringe Central.

What is Rural Touring? Find out about the benefits and opportunities of professional rural touring and working with remote communities in unusual spaces. Come and discuss ideas, thoughts, and plans with the experts. This is a chance for companies, artists and producers to network, discuss their work and potentially tour the UK. The panel was made up of sector specialists - Holly Lombardo, Danny Pedlar - Take Art (scheme), Jess Huffman - NRTF (projects and how NRTF makes a difference), Tom Speight - NRTF Chair (what is NRTF promoter), Hattie Thomas - NRTF (Artist perspective), Courtney Beadle - RTDI (Dance project)

Brighton Fringe presentation

NRTF appeared as part of the Brighton Fringe Professional Development Academy. We focused on how to engage with Rural Touring and the nuanced differences to touring in urban spaces.

“Rural Touring UK: How does rural touring work? How can you take part? Gain insights on the benefits and opportunities of professional rural touring. This is a chance for companies, artists and producers to network, discuss their work and potentially tour the UK.” This year in May 2023 the session was run online via Zoom.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

What is Rural Touring? Find out about the benefits and opportunities of professional rural touring and working with remote communities in unusual spaces. This workshop was part of Fringe Academy

25 artists and industry professionals attended the event and over 50 on demand. Part of Brighton Fringe Academy Zoom session.

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

NRTF joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate back in 2015 to deliver the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI). This innovative project, funded by Arts Council England, is helping to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of dance promoted by Rural Touring schemes all over the country.

So far, the project has worked with 40 companies, promoting 140 shows to just under 13,000 audience members.

RTDI was an important and highly beneficial strategic intervention into rural touring of dance. It built on, and made the best of the existing infrastructure of, Touring Schemes and promoters and systematically addressed the remaining gaps in dance provision in rural areas. RTDI epitomises the strategic approach that was behind the introduction of the Strategic Touring programme

RTDI started its third iteration mid 2022 with a new project lead from The Place London. The New partners were made up of The Place, NRTF, Take Art, Sonia Sabri Dance and Highlights Rural Touring. The first Artists Lab of this project was held in North Wales and brought together dance artists from the menu, producers, the RTDI & NRTF Teams.

RTDI 2023 -2024 Summary -

Shows: Speedwell Dance, Thumbelina. Charlotte Mclean, And. aKa Dance, A Real Fiction. Nikki Rummer, Unbroken. Aakash Odedra Company, Little Murmur. Extended Play, Donuts. Seven Circles, Club Origami

Stats: 79 shows & 3032 Audience Members

Annual Conference

The annual conference unites stakeholders in rural touring from across the UK. It serves as a platform for artists, promoters, and rural touring schemes to network, share best practices, and collaborate on enhancing the quality and reach of rural touring. The conference features a diverse programme based on a new theme each year, including workshops, panel discussions, and showcase performances, all aimed at fostering innovation, sustainability and a resilient community within the sector. The conference proudly promotes and addresses critical issues such as environmental responsibility, sustainability, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility. Our conference is delivered at a competitive and subsidised rate.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

NRTF aspires to be bold in the following areas:

- High-quality professional arts experiences suited to local needs and interests
- Fair partnerships between communities, organisations, artists, and public bodies
- Creative diversity in artistic programming and among our audiences
- Creative innovation in arts practice, management, and policy
- Maintaining and developing our unique relationship with thousands of community volunteers
- Developing an appropriate mindset for NRTF's role as a strategic and national leader

In 2023 the Conference was held in Shrewsbury in June. It was called Integrate. As always what we delivered was ambitious...

- 3 days of conference
- 4 different venues inc. a boat
- an average of 100 delegates a day
- 2 keynote speakers
- 2 workshops
- 1 breakout session
- 8 artist showcases
- 4 Ballyhoo artist pitches
- 4-panel discussions
- 1 installation piece
- 1 walkabout audio piece
- A digital showcase
- 6 meals

Who was there?

57 paid guests (60% schemes & promoters, 20% artists & performers, 15% funders, producers, arts organisations, 5% other).

50 guests (staff, participants, board)

£4320 of bursaries (16 scheme bursaries, 4 artist bursaries)

40% of participants that were included in the programme of this event were diverse and/or had protected characteristics based on one or more of the following: disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Communications & Membership

Website

NRTF moved its website onto a short-term solution platform. It has rebuilt functionality and useability for the members and wider sector. A comprehensive development plan has been created to guide this process and future developments. It is set to be moved to WordPress next year with training for the team included for in-house usability. We also undertook a platforms audit looking at all the systems we use in terms of sustainability, access and inclusion.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Social Media

NRTF has a new Marketing Coordinator who is managing the newsletter and social media outlets for different purposes – Twitter for live updates on events and general news, Facebook for scheme information and events, and Instagram for communications to artists. NRTF is building its reach via good quality, valuable content.

Village Halls Week

NRTF teamed up with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to celebrate and share the benefit of the UK's village halls. There was good coverage from schemes in support of the week and good partnership with ACRE. NRTF printed Village Hall Week posters and mailed them to all schemes and ACRE members for their venues and members.

Membership

NRTF are well connected to a passionate network of artists, performers, venues, promoters, schemes and partners across the UK who all benefit from our work. Our network is made up of pro-active, sustainability-focused individuals who live rurally and dedicate their time and energy into bringing cultural experiences to their local area, providing culture and entertainment integral to strengthening rural communities. Our volunteer-led schemes revitalise village halls and community centres, bringing joy and a greater sense of belonging and community spirit to the area.

Our NRFT members/beneficiaries include:

- 30 rural touring schemes
- 107 Independent Artists and Promoters
- 1,650 performing groups and 332,000 audience attendees

Measuring success: Through our relationship with Arts Council England, we are monitored quarterly and measure and record the outputs we achieve against the SMART targets in our 4-year business plan to demonstrate our progress towards our charitable aims. We gather qualitative data on our outcomes by gathering feedback from partners and beneficiaries we work with and case study interviews with individuals involved in our work with communities.

Member Benefits include training, information, and networking; advice and resources; innovative work, partnerships, and commissions; research and advocacy; grant schemes and conference discounts.

Training

NRTF regularly provide valuable training to members (at a subsidised rate) and non-members via our website. We consult with members to contribute ideas for helpful/preferred training, and we seek to make this affordable by subsidising where possible.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Member Meetings

NRTF will hold 3 different kinds of online sessions to share expertise, answer questions and open up conversations. In total we had over 400 attendances at our events in 2023/2024.

What Next? Rural

NRTF runs a What Next? Rural Chapter of the What Next? Culture Movement. This brings all members together in one place. What Next? brings together arts and cultural organisations in the UK to champion and strengthen the role of art and culture in our society. Topics included Equality, Sustainability, Inspiration and Research. NRTF Director is a Director of What Next? Culture, sits on the advisory and Chapter Chairs panel for What Next? Culture

Member Drop-Ins

From February through to November, the first Tuesday of every month. NRTF Members are invited to drop in on Zoom and ask any questions face to (virtual) face.

NRTF Open Spaces

These will be more informal sessions specifically for topics and issues facing artists, promoters and schemes, individually. We hold titled meetings for each group to bring their questions for discussion.

Scheme Meeting- Newbury, Berkshire 2024

We subsidised Schemes to attend a focus away day at 101 Out Door Arts, Newbury, Berkshire. 50 people attended and it was an evening of dinner and networking followed by a day symposium. Throughout the day we discussed two main topics -

Theory of change for the language we use and data collection and data collection including research and evidence.

The main focus was on Environmental impact, access, inclusivity and innovation.

Provocation: Our sector is pioneering and forging ahead with social and environmental outcomes. Mainly because it is intrinsic to how we work. How do we prove this?

Projects & Interventions

Environmental Sustainability

In May 2023 we partnered up with Julie's Bicycle to explore the environmental impacts, practices and carbon footprint of Rural Touring. This led us to dig deeper into environmental sustainability.

The headline results of that survey were that schemes, artists and venues across Rural Touring are enthusiastic and willing to do more to lessen their environmental impact, however, we are facing several challenges which is making this more difficult and highlighting the need for broader local partnerships and infrastructure.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

- 69% of schemes are enthusiastic to engage with artists, venues and audiences more on sustainability issues.
- 81 % of artists reuse and recycle, sets, props & costumes after a show run and many source materials sustainably.
- 74 % of venues try to recycle as much as they can.

Professional Development Opportunities / Grants

NRTF continues to offer Bursaries and Grants for schemes and other members. This includes grants for Go-Sees, enabling schemes and promoters to see more work. Access grants to join the online lab and conferences; and conference bursaries.

Equality Diversity & Inclusion

NRTF is committed to promoting diversity, preventing discrimination and creating an inclusive working environment for staff, its members, partners and beneficiaries. Our EDI Policy underpins NRTF expectations for inclusive values, culture and practice.

NRTF recognises and values the rich cultural diversity in British society, and we aim to design and deliver services, policies and communications in ways that do not discriminate against any group or individual. We aim for our annual Conference and all meetings and events run by the NRTF solely or in partnership to take place in fully accessible venues. Where potential participants have specific access needs, NRTF will make every effort to ensure accessibility and inclusion, with consideration for disability, neurodivergence, gender, cultural and religious inclusion, including facilities, communication, and dietary requirements. As a team, we have had to work with neuro-divergent workforce training. In NRTF's role as an IPSO, we have specific activities planned to meet our target to advance EDI.

Outputs include:

- Keep toolkits and case studies up to date for library services
- Keep and share an up-to-date list of useful resources created by external organisations
- Support for rural touring and rural creative communities to be collaborative and resilient ensuring it has access to opportunities and resources to build expertise to meet evolving needs
- Exploration into the need for additional tools and documents, to create additional resources
- Support the sector to program a more diverse range of work and topics
- Highlighting shows that represent more diverse content and individuals. Via the conference programming, which has a policy to feature artists with protected characteristics.
- Generate governance review to enable and encourage diversity
- NRTF to continue to diversify the Board
- Explore and understand the needs of the sector by using quality data to promote inclusivity
- Strategies to enable the board, workforce, volunteers, and audiences to be more representative of the communities where we work

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Key developments for the organisation

Since 2022 NRTF has been on a path of development and growth, which has required investment to increase staff capacity, and therefore company overheads, to effectively reach a broader network. NRTF wants to expand quality output for a more resilient, diverse and sustainable rural touring sector and has recognised the need to increase our team expertise to do this effectively.

The board of NRTF remained stable during 2023/24 with trustees representing the touring scheme, voluntary promoter and producer and artist sectors. NRTF underwent a thorough call-out and recruitment process for new Board members, which resulted in another 2 new Trustees being appointed. They officially minuted to be on board at the 2024 AGM. The strengthening of NRTF governance to include companies and performers, voluntary promoters, and representatives from across the UK enables NRTF to advocate for a dynamic and thriving small-scale sector.

NRTF Director and Board have been reviewing the systems and policies. It has been a yearlong foundation-building process to redefine outcomes and deliverables and to complete the Arts Council England funding application. NRTF has undergone a series of recruitments. Our Project and Conference Manager stood down in September 2023 and it led to a restructure of roles.

2022/23 - In post

Director

Finance Manager

Project Manager (left Sept 23)

Administrator & Communications Assistant (Joined Dec 2022 – Mar 2023)

RTDI Coordinator (joined Feb 2023)

2023/24 - successfully recruited

Membership Manager (joined December 2023)

RTDI NRTF Marketing (joined April 2023)

2024/25 -To be recruited

Conference Manager 2-day pw

Funding Manager 1-day pw

Press Manager 1-day pw

Financial Review

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at a level which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs. The charity has increased the amount held on reserve from £35,000 to £39,000 and plans a year-on-year increase over the next 2 years of the new IPSO.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

This is the first year as an IPSO (Investment Principal Support Organisation) of the Arts Council England (the twelfth year of regular funding). The Charity received £154,308 representing uplift in regular funding of £66,132.

During the previous year the Charity received its eleventh NPO grant from Arts Council England receiving (2022/23 £88,176, 2021/22 £88,176, 2020/21 £88,176, 2019/20 £86,583, 2018/19 £85,583, 2017/18 £86,583, 2016/17 £86,583, 2015/16 £86,583, 2014/15 £86,583, 2013/14 £86,233, 2012/13 £86,000).

Membership fees for the year totalled £18,259. The Charity is not reliant on donations.

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 18 February 1997 and registered as a charity on 14 May 1997. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Trustee selection methods:

New Trustees are presented at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the terms laid down in NRTF's Memorandum and Articles of Association. This board of management are the trustees of the Charity. Decisions are made by the board of management at quarterly meetings. The board of management reports on work undertaken, future and present financial accounts to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. No more than 14 and not less than 6 persons may be elected. One third of the trustees must retire from office at each AGM. The members to retire shall be those longest in office since their last election. These members are eligible for re-election.

Additional governance issues:

The Charity is governed by a board of management who are elected to office by the membership of NRTF at the AGM. This board elects a Chair for the organisation.

At 2023 AGM the following actions took place: -

Board members stepping down permanently this year are Dawn Badland from Applause Rural Touring after 21 years of support & Ed O'Driscoll from Air in G after 9 years of support. We formally recognise the work they have put in and thank them for their support over the years.

The following members, as longest standing members of the board, are stepping down and are to be re-elected:

- Tom Speight, Chair
- Chris Bridgman
- Emyr Bell

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

NRTF has undergone a thorough and open recruitment drive for new Board Trustees. We had 15 applications and have agreed to appoint 7 new trustees throughout the last year.

At the October AGM NRTF officially swore in the following new Board members -

- Danny Pedlar - Take Art
- Kerry Bartlett - ArtsReach
- Claire Marshall - Promoter (previously of Carn to Cove)
- Hannah Prior - Arts Alive
- Nicola Pollard - Theatre Director
- Sita Brand - Producer
- Lindsay Higgins - Promoter

Board Meetings

Four full board meetings were held during the year 23/24. In addition, subgroup meetings were held between board meetings as needed. A Board Away Day was held at 101 Outdoor Arts, in Newbury in February 2024 to discuss the new structure, financial review and funding application, and reporting obligations.

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

The management committee (who are also directors of National Rural Touring Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the management committee are required to:

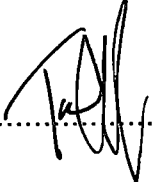
- Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small company exemption of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on25/9/24..... and signed on their behalf
by

Tom Speight (Chair).....

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON THE
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 17 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs M Hutchings

Apsleys

Chartered Accountants

21 Bampton Street

Tiverton

Devon

Date: 18/11/2024

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants receivable from government and other public bodies		-	155,448	155,448	121,349
Investment income		-	651	651	118
Income from trading activities:					
Trading activities within the objects		62,510	19,633	82,143	33,367
Membership fees		-	18,259	18,259	17,378
Total income		<u>62,510</u>	<u>193,991</u>	<u>256,501</u>	<u>172,212</u>
Expenditure					
Grants payable	6	-	9,459	9,459	3,753
Other direct charitable expenditure		42,464	42,531	84,995	109,363
Management of the charity		-	97,804	97,804	79,801
Administration of the charity		-	4,952	4,952	6,814
Total expenditure		<u>42,464</u>	<u>154,746</u>	<u>197,210</u>	<u>199,731</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		20,046	39,245	59,291	(27,519)
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>20,046</u>	<u>39,245</u>	<u>59,291</u>	<u>(27,519)</u>
Funds b/f at 1 April 2023		9,049	75,875	84,924	112,443
Funds c/f at 31 March 2024		<u><u>29,095</u></u>	<u><u>115,120</u></u>	<u><u>144,215</u></u>	<u><u>84,924</u></u>

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Amounts falling due within one year	3	4,366	12,057
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>144,068</u>	<u>79,945</u>
		148,434	92,002
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>4,219</u>	<u>7,078</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u><u>144,215</u></u>	<u><u>84,924</u></u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	29,095	9,049
Unrestricted	8	<u>115,120</u>	<u>75,875</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>144,215</u></u>	<u><u>84,924</u></u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Committee on ...25/9/24

and signed on its behalf by: Tom Speight (Chair)

.....
 Director

Company registration number 03319947

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Summary of significant accounting policies
(a) General information and basis of preparation

National Rural Touring Forum is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The company is registered charity in England within the United Kingdom. In the event of being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Grants payable;
- Expenditure on charitable activities
- Management of the charity; and
- Administration of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

(e) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(f) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(g) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(h) Going concern

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts paid to examiner for:		
The preparation of the financial statements	952	864
Independent examination	<u>1,428</u>	<u>3,306</u>

3. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,050	5,842
Prepayments	495	5,394
Other debtors	821	821
	<u>4,366</u>	<u>12,057</u>

4. Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,609	4,743
Accruals	2,200	1,920
Other Creditors	410	415
	<u>4,219</u>	<u>7,078</u>

5. Directors remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	90,157	59,007
Social security costs	1,983	781
Pension costs	1,879	1,375
	<u>94,019</u>	<u>61,163</u>

Average number of employees	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
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There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the employee. The costs for the year was £1,879 (2023 £1,375).

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. Grants paid to institutions Professional	2024	2023
Development CPD	£	£
Conference Bursaries	2,820	1,500
Scheme Meeting Sector Training	1,234	-
Neurodiversity Sector Training	870	-
Bradford Producers Forum	-	200
Total CPD	4,924	1,700
 Edinburgh/ Brighton Village Hall		
Highlights	285	169
Cheshire	400	-
Live & Local	1,950	-
Artsreach	400	-
Spot On Lancashire	400	-
Theatre Orchard	400	-
ArtERY	300	-
Villages in Action	400	-
Creative Art east	-	365
Applause	-	400
Rural Arts NY	-	400
Arts Out West	-	319
Carn to Cove	-	400
Total Edinburgh/ Brighton	4,535	2,053
 Total Grants Awarded	 9,459	 3,753
 7. Restricted funds	 2024	 2023
	£	£
<u>NSRTDI 2</u>		
Balance at 1st April 2023	-	(7,592)
Grants Receivable	-	20,843
Contributed Income	-	600
Transfer of funds (to Core)	-	(681)
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	-	(13,170)
NSRTDI 2 Balance at 31st March 2024	-	-
 <u>Libraries Project</u>		
Balance as at 1st April 2023	-	34,341
Grants receivable	-	7,770
Transfer of funds to Core	-	(7,500)
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	-	(34,611)
Libraries Project Balance as at 31 March 2024	-	-

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

RTDI 3

Balance at 1 April 2023	9,049	-
Contributed Income	62,510	10,792
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(42,464)	(1,743)
RTDI 3 Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>29,095</u>	<u>9,049</u>
Total Restricted funds at 31st March 2024	<u><u>29,095</u></u>	<u><u>9,049</u></u>

8. Unrestricted funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2023	75,875	85,694
Surplus for the year	39,245	(9,819)
Transfer	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>115,120</u>	<u>75,875</u>

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Funds balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
Current assets	29,095	119,339	148,434
Current liabilities		(4,219)	(4,219)
	<u>29,095</u>	<u>115,120</u>	<u>144,215</u>

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

Nil remuneration was paid to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: Nil).

£1,775 expenses were reimbursed to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: £1,528).

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England NPO	154,308		88,176	
Equality Diversity Inclusion	<u>1,140</u>		<u>4,560</u>	
		155,448		92,736
Restricted Income: NSRTDI (2)				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England	<u>-</u>		<u>20,843</u>	
Total		-		20,843
Restricted Income: Libraries Project				
Grant Income				
Arts Council England	<u>-</u>		<u>7,770</u>	-
		-		<u>7,770</u>
Total Restricted Grant Income		<u>-</u>		<u>28,613</u>
Total Grant Income		<u>155,448</u>		<u>121,349</u>
NSRTDI (2) Contributed Income		-		600
RTDI (3) Contributed and Earned Income		62,510		10,792
Unrestricted Income				
Earned Income:				
Membership Fees	18,259		17,378	
Trading activities within the objects:				
Bank Interest	651		118	
Conference Buxton Schemes	14,758		17,725	
Interim Touring Management	-		1,250	
RTDI (3)	4,875		3,000	
Training Fees	-		-	
Donations	-		-	
Furlough	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total Unrestricted Income		<u>38,543</u>		<u>39,471</u>
Total Earned and Contributed Income		<u>101,053</u>		<u>50,863</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>256,501</u>		<u>172,212</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Balance BF		256,501		172,212
Restricted funds: NSRTDI (2)				
Marketing Audience Dev	-		500	
Development	-		1,900	
Artistic Costs	-		9,550	
Overheads	-		1,901	
Total		-		13,851
Restricted Funds: Libraries Project				
CPD Grants	-		1,900	
Project Management	-		8,765	
Project Expenditure	-		31,446	
		-		42,111
Restricted Funds: RTDI (3)				
Total expenditure	42,464		1,743	
		42,464		1,743
Total Restricted funds		<u>42,464</u>		<u>57,705</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2024	2023
Unrestricted Funds:		
<u>Grants payable:</u>		
Edinburgh Village Hall	4,535	2,053
Professional Development Grants	4,924	1,700
Unconscious Bias	-	-
Total	9,459	3,753
<u>Other direct charitable activity:</u>		
Dance Director fee/exp	-	-
Touring Projects	-	1,650
Conference	31,060	34,320
RTDI (3)	8,000	8,000
Advocacy Digital Resources	2,481	1,448
Research and Development	990	-
Artists Lab	-	-
Diversity Audit	-	1,920
Julie's Bicycle	-	4,320
Total	42,531	51,658
<u>Management of the charity:</u>		
Finances	10,000	9,900
Staff Salary/ Tax/ NI/ Pension	42,539	40,878
Staff Travel	4,843	2,899
Governance/ Board Meetings/ Travel/ Subsistence	4,454	4,126
Staff CPD and Membership	2,141	709
Communications/Admin Manager	23,162	9,616
Insurances	942	934
Project Manager	5,450	9,958
Staffing Costs (NI)	4,273	781
Fundraising	-	-
Total	97,804	79,801
<u>Administration of the charity:</u>		
Printing Postage Stationery, Office Costs	1,623	1,624
Web Design/ Hosting/ Maintenance	455	2,380
Accountancy Fees	2,874	2,810
Total	4,952	6,814
Total unrestricted	154,746	142,026
Total expenditure	197,210	199,731
Excess of income over expenditure	59,291	(27,519)

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1062366

Accounts

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	National Rural Touring Forum
Other names the charity is known by:	NRTF
Charity registration number:	1062366
Company registration number:	3319947
Registered Office and Operational address:	Good Life Hub, Orchard Barn, Manor Farm Barns, Newbury Hill, Hamstead Norreys, RG18 0TR

Trustees and Directors

Tom Speight	Chair
John Laidlaw	
Dawn Badland	
Barbara Tremewan	
Ed O'Driscoll	
Chris Bridgman	
Emyr Bell	
Elizabeth Freestone	
Lindsay Higgins	Appointed November 2022
Hannah Prior	Appointed November 2022
Nicola Pollard	Appointed November 2022
Sita Brand	Appointed November 2022
Claire Marshall	Appointed November 2022

Company secretary (Day to day management)

Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)
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Names of observers

Cassie Catchpole, Arts Council England, SE
Peter Gregory, Arts Council Wales & Night Out

Independent Examiner

Mrs M Hutchings, Apsleys Chartered Accountants, 21 Bampton Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6AA

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 1-3 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9BH

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

National Rural Touring Forum is a charitable company limited by guarantee and set up on 18 February 1997. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. Its objects are to foster and promote public education in the arts through the maintenance, improvement and development of knowledge, understanding, appreciation of, and participation in, the arts, in particular at rural and local neighbourhood levels throughout the United Kingdom.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those objects.

NRTF Mission

To lead on and underpin a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative community sector that delivers dynamic, high quality cultural performances, enhances wellbeing, and provides equal opportunity for people living in rural and satellite areas.

NRTF Values

Leadership – Playing a leading role in the creative sector to drive growth and equality principles that result in positive cultural change. Resilience & Relevance – driving sectoral stability and development and reacting and responding to cultural change. Quality, Innovation & Ambition– learning from evidence to take calculated risks and make innovative business decisions. Diversity & Inclusivity – generating and enabling the widest possible range of voices and perspectives. Social Impact – measuring impact of work which brings wider positive and meaningful benefit to society. Collaboration & Dynamism – cultivating collaborations and partnerships which enhance, empower, and respond to sector challenges. Environmental Sustainability – maximising opportunity through initiatives that reduce carbon footprint and improve sustainability.

NRTF Aims

Each of the 4 aims is underpinned by several key objectives, which are measurable and time relevant.

Aim 1: NRTF will support rural touring and rural creative communities to be collaborative and resilient, ensuring it has the appropriate expertise to meet their evolving needs. To support the leaders of organisations in realising their ambitions.

Aim 2: NRTF will explore and understand the needs of the sector by using quality data to promote inclusivity, equality and a diverse range of voices, cultural content and training that is reflective of the UKs diverse population.

Aim 3: NRTF will demonstrate sectorial impact through effective research and analysis, the evidence of which has a share of voice at national policy and communications level.

Aim 4: NRTF will be an influential, ambitious, and innovative organisation which is fit for purpose in delivering against its mission.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Delivery of Aims

Delivery will be undertaken by concentrating on 5 areas of activity:

Membership – to benefit, support and communicate effectively with members.

Future Interventions – to lead in the Rural Touring sector, to plan and to enable work and projects.

Social Impact – to research, to think ambitiously, to explore partnerships, to benefit the rural ecology.

Organisation – to ensure NRTF is well run, well led, and that it works fairly and properly.

Finance – to be sound financially and to look for opportunities to increase income where necessary.

Public benefit:

National Rural Touring Forum exists to deliver high quality art experiences that strengthen rural and other communities:

NRTF Research project CONCERTA (Contributing to Community Enhancement through Rural Touring Arts) show English schemes promote over 2500 events per year. These are distributed across 1,000 venues. Over the last five years, English schemes have jointly delivered 9,500 events to audiences numbering just over 700,000. Annual average audiences per event sit at a highly consistent 70 to 80-person annual average.

The UK approach to rural touring shows what the independent arts sector, public authorities and communities can achieve by working together: it is a model of good practice and value for money in the contemporary arts world.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and believe this is achieved via the Charity's objectives and activities.

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) networks, develops and supports the ecosystem that delivers high-quality creative experiences across communities and rural areas in the UK. The aim of NRTF is to strengthen and support rural populations to bring professional work to their venues. NRTF regularly consults with the sector; the findings of which directly inform the organisation's key priority areas. Through consultation it charts and champions nationwide impact, shares national and regional achievement and good news, and identifies shared sectoral challenges for which it advocates to policymakers and other influential stakeholders.

NRTF and its members do not underestimate rural audiences. Funding for the arts is still a city-centric issue; travelling to large towns and cities to see productions can be time and financially prohibitive. There are also physiological barriers to some who don't feel as comfortable in larger cultural institutions. Access to the arts is important for everyone in society. It is important to the sector that communities have meaningful engagements with the arts by participating in, or seeing, high quality and innovative performance.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Achievements of NRTF's year, listed below, focus on areas in the business plan that continue the strategic and developmental role that the organisation is playing in delivering a dynamic thriving rural and community touring sector.

These address the areas for development identified in the business plan and underlines our recognition that the rural touring network consists of several key constituents including touring schemes, voluntary promoters, small scale venues, festivals, libraries, in and outdoor community spaces, performing companies and artists and organisations that support touring arts.

NRTF was successful in securing increased investment as an Investment Principal Support Organisation, from Arts Council England in the current funding round. The last two rounds of funding as an NPO we received £88,176 a year. In this round we are being awarded £154,000.

NRTF after thorough consultation and research, put forward a strong proposal to ACE for a sector wide uplift. This resulted in the Schemes receiving approximately 45% more funding. NB It is important to note that some Schemes got a large uplift, and some didn't receive any.

1. Artistic Partnerships

Edinburgh Fringe presentation

NRTF attendance at Edinburgh Fringe is aimed at improving voluntary promoter confidence in booking a diverse programme of work, raising the profile of rural touring at the Edinburgh Fringe professional development sessions, and introducing more diverse and interesting work to the rural touring circuit.

Each year, NRTF hosts a free Introduction to rural touring event for performers, companies and producers. It provides a great opportunity for artists to hear from the rural touring sector and to find out if rural touring's for them. This year this was undertaken online via Zoom.

Brighton Fringe presentation

NRTF appeared as part of the Brighton Fringe professional development Academy. It focuses on how to engage with Rural Touring and the nuanced differences to touring in urban spaces.

"Rural Touring UK: How does rural touring work? How can you take part? Gain insights on the benefits and opportunities of professional rural touring. This is a chance for companies, artists and producers to network, discuss their work and potentially tour the UK." This year the session was run online via Zoom.

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

NRTF joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate back in 2015 to deliver the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI). This innovative project, funded by Arts Council England, is helping to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of dance promoted by Rural Touring schemes all over the country.

So far, the project has worked with 40 companies, promoting 140 shows to just under 13,000 audience members.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

RTDI was an important and highly beneficial strategic intervention into rural touring of dance. It built on, and made the best of the existing infrastructure of, Touring Schemes and promoters and systematically addressed the remaining gaps in dance provision in rural areas. RTDI epitomises the strategic approach that was behind the introduction of the Strategic Touring programme

Altogether the two phases of RTDI collected detailed responses from 3,426 people, an important and consistent picture of dance audiences. Quality of experience is extremely high. 98% of audience members said the show was enjoyable. 98% said the show was value for money. 96% of audience members said the show was memorable. 94% of audience members said the show was long enough. 94% said the show was thought provoking. The shows made 51% of the audience members feel happy, 61% inspired, 71% impressed and 31% connected to other people. 99% of surveyed audience members rated the show as good or very good, which is even higher than the figure for Phase 1 (97%).

RTDI started its third iteration mid 2022 with a new project lead from The Place London. A new structure of a lead producer and 3 regional coordinators, one of which is at NRTF and leading on the Artists Lab, was introduced.

Arts & Health

Based on a recommendation from the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance, NRTF is working with Rural England on an exploration into Rural Touring and how it affects those living in isolation or loneliness. This is in early stages of fundraising and exploration. The project was put on hold for fundraising in this year until the new funding was in place and NRTF team can grow.

TAIL Project

National Rural Touring Forum is in receipt of strategic funds from ACE to support touring into Libraries in a two-year national project. TAIL – ‘Touring Arts In Libraries’ explores the challenges and potential of our nation’s libraries to expand their service offer and diversify audiences through a programme of touring arts. The project, which concluded in 2022, supported a network of more than 150 artists, libraries, rural touring schemes and arts organisations. The Project included the commissioning of 5 library specific touring shows right across the UK. This included Commissions in 2020 with Tessa Bide’s COVID safe ‘Anarchist’s Mobile Library’ in the Midlands, and Spot On Lancashire’s ‘At Home Magazine’, a creative activity paper distributed to 2500 library members during lockdown.

In 2021 we commissioned the Coalesce Dance Company who toured their piece ‘The Old Green Time Machine’ to East Riding and North Lincolnshire Libraries with Rural Touring Scheme ArteryLive/Blaize. A co-commission with Farnham Maltings saw Marie Klimis’s immersive audio experience ‘I Am Bird’ touring to libraries in Buckinghamshire and Surrey.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Our final commission in 2022 is with Doorstep Arts and Villages in Action, a rural touring scheme based in Devon. Libraries and artists from the local LGBTQ+ community such as Beyond Face Assistant Producer Sonia Thakurdesai and multidisciplinary artist Tom Stockley will come together through discussion, workshop and performance based sessions to inspire a future of programming in libraries that is more diverse and inclusive.

There now exists a wealth of evidence based research showing that creative experiences can create community cohesion and connectedness, reduce isolation, loneliness and anxiety. Engaging in arts activity has proven to help improve self-esteem, enable us to better process emotions and boost our overall mental health.

The TAIL Project will come to an end in December 2022 but NRTF will continue to work with the network of rural touring schemes and artists that have established the exciting potential of libraries to become recognised as community-rooted cultural hubs.

This was seen as an exemplary project by Arts Council England, who are keen for NRTF to continue to work with libraries.

NRTF Conference

NRTF conference is a chance for the Rural Touring and Arts sector to get together via talks, speakers, networking, and performance showcasing. The delegates get to disseminate resources and learn together. Every time the conference happens the sector goes back enthused, encouraged, and stronger. It is a place to meet like-minded fellow practitioners, generate partnerships, and project development.

NRTF aspires to be bold in the following areas:

- High-quality professional arts experiences suited to local needs and interests
- Fair partnerships between communities, organisations, artists, and public bodies
- Creative diversity in artistic programming and among our audiences
- Creative innovation in arts practice, management, and policy
- Maintaining and developing our unique relationship with thousands of community volunteers
- Developing an appropriate mindset for NRTF's role as a strategic and national leader

In 2022 the Conference was held in Buxton in June. It also marked the 25th Birthday of National Rural Touring Forum being a charity. It was the first time since the pandemic that the sector had been back together, and the aim of the sessions was to give space to delegates to re-integrate and have time for discussion and reflection.

80 delegates were present including artists, schemes and promoters. There were many showcases, and sessions based on projects, some of which were held outside in the park on pedalos and the miniature steam train.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. Digital Platforms

Website

NRTF has begun to research and put in the foundations for a website review and a new platform to be built in late 2023.

Social Media

NRTF uses social media outlets for different purposes – Twitter for live updates on events and general news, Facebook for scheme information and events, Instagram for communications to artists. They all link into NRTF discussion board information and news. Followers: Twitter 4433 / Facebook 1200 / Instagram 1612 / RTDI Facebook – 564 followers /

What Next Rural & Digital

NRTF runs a Digital Rural What Next? Chapter – What Next? All Hands. This brings all members together in one place. What Next? is a movement bringing together arts and cultural organisations in the UK to champion and strengthen the role of art and culture in our society. NRTF Director sits on the advisory and management panel for What Next? Culture

Meeting spaces

NRTF started using zoom regularly in 2018 for team meetings and board meetings. The pandemic was a catalyst for many more people to understand and use the platform for communication. The opening of this to more individuals offered a lifeline in peer-to-peer support and the dissemination of information during the pandemic.

NRTF has a set schedule for membership to drop in and attend online meetings throughout the year.

3. Village Halls Week

NRTF teamed up with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to celebrate and share the benefit of the UK's village halls. There was good coverage from schemes in support of the week and good partnership with ACRE. NRTF printed Village Hall Week posters and mailed them to all schemes and ACRE members for their venues and members.

4. Membership

Scheme membership remained at 31 with schemes from England, Wales and Scotland. NRTF has been increasing member benefits and continues to support scheme members, for whom it was set up to support and advocate for. As well as supporting associate members, which consist of artists, promoters, and arts organisations (including festivals) with an aim to create more capacity in the rural touring sector.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Associate Membership: we made this membership free of charge through the pandemic in recognition that work and income had crashed. There was evidence in need for increased support in the growth of membership of this type. During this time, we have been re-introducing the fees to join NRTF of £25 for an individual artist. Some members have lapsed, but the aim is to have a membership manager as part of the team as a new post to enable to monitor and manage not just member needs but the renewal process as well.

Benefits include: training, information, and networking; advice and resources; innovative work, partnerships, and commissions; research and advocacy; grant schemes and conference discounts.

5. Professional Development Opportunities / Grants

NRTF continues to offer Bursaries and Grants for schemes and other members. This includes grants for Go-Sees, enabling schemes and promoters to see more work. Access grants to join the online lab and conferences; and conference bursaries. Alongside the regular grant amounts are the commissions and Go-see offer via the TAIL project.

Key developments for the organisation

The strengthening of NRTF governance to include companies and performers, voluntary promoters, and representatives from across the UK enables NRTF to advocate for a dynamic and thriving small scale sector. The board of NRTF remained stable during 2022/23 with trustees representing the touring scheme, voluntary promoter and producer and artist sectors. NRTF underwent a thorough call out and recruitment process for new Board members, which resulted in 5 new Trustees being appointed. They will be officially minuted to be on board at the 2023 AGM.

NRTF Director and Board have been reviewing the policies, Business Plan and company structure to reflect the additional investment from ACE. It was a year long process to re-define outcomes and deliverables and to complete the Arts Council funding application.

Stephie Jessop stood down after 4 years with NRTF as communications Manager. Part of the plan for this year is to recruit more staff based on need of outcomes.

NRTF commenced a 3-year funding relationship as an Investment Principle Organisation (IPSO) with Arts Council England from April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2026.

Financial Review

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at a level which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs. The charity has increased the amount held on reserve from £31,000 to £35,000 and plans a year-on-year increase over the next 3 years of the new IPSO.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

This is the eleventh year as an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) of the Arts Council England. The Charity received its eleventh NPO grant from Arts Council England receiving £88,176 (2021/22 £88,176, 2020/21 £88,176, 2019/20 £86,583, 2018/19 £85,583, 2017/18 £86,583, 2016/17 £86,583, 2015/16 £86,583, 2014/15 £86,583, 2013/14 £86,233, 2012/13 £86,000).

The Charity received the final instalment for the RTDI 2 project of £20,843. (Total grant £416,855).

In addition, the Charity received the final instalment from Arts Council England for a Libraries (TAIL) Project £7,770 (Total £77,000)

Membership fees for the year totalled £17,378. The Charity is not reliant on donations.

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 18 February 1997 and registered as a charity on 14 May 1997. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Trustee selection methods:

New Trustees are presented at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the terms laid down in NRTF's Memorandum and Articles of Association. This board of management are the trustees of the Charity. Decisions are made by the board of management at quarterly meetings. The board of management reports on work undertaken, future and present financial accounts to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. No more than 14 and not less than 6 persons may be elected. One third of the trustees must retire from office at each AGM. The members to retire shall be those longest in office since their last election. These members are eligible for re-election.

Additional governance issues:

The Charity is governed by a board of management who are elected to office by the membership of NRTF at the AGM. This board elects a Chair for the organisation.

At 2022 AGM the following actions took place: -

- There were no Board members stepping down permanently this year. The following members, as longest standing members of the board stepped down and were re-elected:

John Laidlaw, Director Live & Local
Dawn Badland, Director Applause Rural Touring
Barbara Tremewan, Promoter at Carn to Cove

Board:

Four full board meetings were held during the year 22/23. In addition, subgroup meetings were held between board meetings as needed. A Board Away Day was held in Newbury February 2023 to discuss the new structure, financial review and funding application, reporting obligations.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

The management committee (who are also directors of National Rural Touring Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

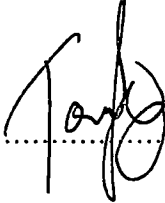
Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the management committee are required to:

- Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small company exemption of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on 19-9-23 and signed on their behalf by

Tom Speight (Chair) 

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON THE
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

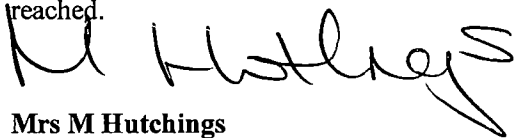
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs M Hutchings

Apsleys

Chartered Accountants

21 Bampton Street

Tiverton

Devon

Date: 2/11/2023

14
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants receivable from government and other public bodies		28,613	92,736	121,349	114,718
Investment income		-	118	118	12
Income from trading activities:					
Trading activities within the objects		11,392	21,975	33,367	50,148
Membership fees		-	17,378	17,378	15,464
Total income		<u>40,005</u>	<u>132,207</u>	<u>172,212</u>	<u>180,342</u>
Expenditure					
Grants payable	6	-	3,753	3,753	2,779
Other direct charitable expenditure		57,705	51,658	109,363	203,133
Management of the charity		-	79,801	79,801	71,220
Administration of the charity		-	6,814	6,814	7,348
Total expenditure		<u>57,705</u>	<u>142,026</u>	<u>199,731</u>	<u>284,480</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(17,700)	(9,819)	(27,519)	(104,138)
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(17,700)</u>	<u>(9,819)</u>	<u>(27,519)</u>	<u>(104,138)</u>
Funds b/f at 1 April 2022		26,749	85,694	112,443	216,581
Funds c/f at 31 March 2023		<u><u>9,049</u></u>	<u><u>75,875</u></u>	<u><u>84,924</u></u>	<u><u>112,443</u></u>

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Amounts falling due within one year	3	12,057	7,013
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>79,945</u>	<u>109,096</u>
		92,002	116,109
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>7,078</u>	<u>3,666</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u><u>84,924</u></u>	<u><u>112,443</u></u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	9,049	26,749
Unrestricted	8	<u>75,875</u>	<u>85,694</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>84,924</u></u>	<u><u>112,443</u></u>

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Committee on19.9.23

and signed on its behalf by: Tom Speight (Chair)

.....
 Director

Company registration number 03319947

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

National Rural Touring Forum is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The company is registered charity in England within the United Kingdom. In the event of being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Grants payable;
- Expenditure on charitable activities
- Management of the charity; and
- Administration of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

(e) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(f) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(g) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(h) Going concern

Following the global impact of 'COVID-19', at the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts paid to examiner for:		
The preparation of the financial statements	864	785
Independent examination	3,306	1,591
	3,306	1,591

3. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,842	350
Prepayments	5,394	5,842
Other debtors	821	821
	12,057	7,013

4. Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,743	1,834
Accruals	1,920	1,560
Other Creditors	415	272
	7,078	3,666

5. Directors remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	59,007	54,201
Social security costs	781	1,035
Pension costs	1,375	1,250
	61,163	56,486

Average number of employees	2	2
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There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the employee. The costs for the year was £1,375 (2022 £1,250).

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

6. Grants paid to institutions Professional	2023	2022
Development CPD	£	£
Conference Bursaries	1,500	-
Bradford Producers Forum	200	-
Regional get together South West	-	199
Unconscious Bias Training	-	2,580
Total CPD	1,700	2,779
 Edinburgh/ Brighton Village Hall		
Highlights	169	-
Creative Art east	365	-
Applause	400	-
Rural Arts NY	400	
Arts Out West	319	
Carn to Cove	400	-
Total Edinburgh/ Brighton	2,053	-
 Total Grants Awarded	3,753	2,779
 7. Restricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£
 <u>NSRTDI 2</u>		
Balance at 1st April 2022	(7,592)	91,852
Grants Receivable	20,843	20,842
Contributed Income	600	47,203
Transfer of funds (to Core)	(681)	(4,600)
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(13,170)	(162,889)
NSRTDI 2 Balance at 31st March 2023	-	(7,592)
 <u>Libraries Project</u>		
Balance as at 1st April 2022	34,341	52,555
Grants receivable	7,770	-
Transfer of funds to Core	(7,500)	
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(34,611)	(18,214)
Libraries Project Balance as at 31 March 2023	-	34,341
 <u>RTDI 3</u>		
Balance at 1 April 2022	-	-
Contributed Income	10,792	-
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(1,743)	-
RTDI 3 Balance at 31 March 2023	9,049	-
 Total Restricted funds at 31st March 2023	9,049	26,749

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8. Unrestricted funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2022	85,694	72,174
Surplus for the year	(9,819)	8,920
Transfer	-	4,600
Balance at 31 March 2023	75,875	85,694

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Funds balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:			
Current assets	9,049	82,953	92,002
Current liabilities		(7,078)	(7,078)
	9,049	75,875	84,924

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

Nil remuneration was paid to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: Nil).

£1,528 expenses were reimbursed to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: £340).

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England NPO	88,176		88,176	
Equality Diversity Inclusion	<u>4,560</u>		<u>5,700</u>	
		92,736		93,876
Restricted Income: NSRTDI (2)				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England	<u>20,843</u>		<u>20,842</u>	
Total		20,843		20,842
Restricted Income: Libraries Project				
Grant Income				
Arts Council England	<u>7,770</u>			-
		<u>7,770</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Restricted Grant Income		<u>28,613</u>		<u>20,842</u>
Total Grant Income		<u>121,349</u>		<u>114,718</u>
NSRTDI (2) Contributed Income		600		47,203
RTDI (3) Contributed and Earned Income		10,792		-
Unrestricted Income				
Earned Income:				
Membership Fees	17,378		15,464	
Trading activities within the objects:				
Bank Interest	118		12	
Conference Buxton Schemes	17,725		1,300	
Interim Touring Management	1,250		-	
RTDI (3)	3,000			
Training Fees	-		1,274	
Donations	-		-	
Furlough	<u>-</u>		<u>371</u>	
Total Unrestricted Income		<u>39,471</u>		<u>18,421</u>
Total Earned and Contributed Income		<u>50,863</u>		<u>65,624</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>172,212</u>		<u>180,342</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Balance BF		172,212		180,342
Restricted funds: NSRTDI (2)				
Marketing Audience Dev	500		47,096	
Development	1,900		36,164	
Artistic Costs	9,550		77,461	
Overheads	<u>1,901</u>		<u>2,168</u>	
Total		13,851		162,889
Restricted Funds: Libraries Project				
CPD Grants	1,900		-	
Project Management	8,765		12,481	
Project Expenditure	<u>31,446</u>		<u>5,733</u>	
		42,111		18,214
Restricted Funds: RTDI (3)				
Co-ordinator	<u>1,743</u>		-	
		1,743		
Total Restricted funds		<u><u>57,705</u></u>		<u><u>181,103</u></u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2023	2022
Unrestricted Funds:		
<u>Grants payable:</u>		
Edinburgh Village Hall	2,053	-
Professional Development Grants	1,700	199
Unconscious Bias	-	2,580
Total	3,753	2,779
<u>Other direct charitable activity:</u>		
Dance Director fee/exp	-	407
Touring Projects	1,650	-
Conference	34,320	6,266
RTDI (3)	8,000	-
Advocacy Digital Resources	1,448	1,022
Artists Lab	-	4,615
Diversity Audit	1,920	9,720
Julie's Bicycle	4,320	-
Total	51,658	22,030
<u>Management of the charity:</u>		
Finances	9,900	4,300
Staff Salary/ Tax/ NI/ Pension	40,878	38,188
Staff Travel	2,899	1,596
Governance/ Board Meetings/ Travel/ Subsistence	4,126	3,962
Staff CPD and Membership	709	195
Communications/Admin Manager	9,616	14,345
Insurances	934	871
Project Manager	9,958	5,564
Staffing Costs (NI)	781	1,215
Fundraising	-	984
Total	79,801	71,220
<u>Administration of the charity:</u>		
Printing Postage Stationery, Office Costs	1,624	1,343
Web Design/ Hosting/ Maintenance	2,380	4,180
Accountancy Fees	2,810	1,825
Total	6,814	7,348
Total unrestricted	142,026	103,377
Total expenditure	199,731	284,480
Excess of income over expenditure	(27,519)	(104,138)

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1062366

Accounts

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	National Rural Touring Forum
Other names the charity is known by:	NRTF
Charity registration number:	1062366
Company registration number:	3319947
Registered Office and Operational address:	Manor Farm, Stanford Dingley, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 6LS

Trustees and Directors

Tom Speight	Chair
John Laidlaw	
Dawn Badland	
Barbara Tremewan	
Natalie Jode	Resigned December 2021
Ed O'Driscoll	
Chris Bridgman	
Emyr Bell	
Elizabeth Freestone	
Philip Holyman	Resigned September 2021

Company secretary (Day to day management)

Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)
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Names of observers

Cassie Catchpole, Arts Council England, SE
Peter Gregory, Arts Council Wales & Night Out

Independent Examiner

Mrs M Hutchings, Apsleys Chartered Accountants, 21 Bampton Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6AA

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 1-3 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9BH

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

National Rural Touring Forum is a charitable company limited by guarantee and set up on 18 February 1997. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. Its objects are to foster and promote public education in the arts through the maintenance, improvement and development of knowledge, understanding, appreciation of, and participation in, the arts, in particular at rural and local neighbourhood levels throughout the United Kingdom.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those objects.

NRTF Mission

To lead on and underpin a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative community sector that delivers dynamic, high quality cultural performances, enhances wellbeing, and provides equal opportunity for people living in rural and satellite areas.

NRTF Values

Leadership – Playing a leading role in the creative sector to drive growth and equality principles that result in positive cultural change. Resilience & Relevance – driving sectoral stability and development and reacting and responding to cultural change. Quality, Innovation & Ambition– learning from evidence to take calculated risks and make innovative business decisions. Diversity & Inclusivity – generating and enabling the widest possible range of voices and perspectives. Social Impact – measuring impact of work which brings wider positive and meaningful benefit to society. Collaboration & Dynamism – cultivating collaborations and partnerships which enhance, empower, and respond to sector challenges. Environmental Sustainability – maximising opportunity through initiatives that reduce carbon footprint and improve sustainability.

NRTF Aims

Each of the 4 aims is underpinned by several key objectives, which are measurable and time relevant.

Aim 1: NRTF will support rural touring and rural creative communities to be collaborative and resilient, ensuring it has the appropriate expertise to meet their evolving needs. To support the leaders of organisations in realising their ambitions.

Aim 2: NRTF will explore and understand the needs of the sector by using quality data to promote inclusivity, equality and a diverse range of voices, cultural content and training that is reflective of the UKs diverse population.

Aim 3: NRTF will demonstrate sectorial impact through effective research and analysis, the evidence of which has a share of voice at national policy and communications level.

Aim 4: NRTF will be an influential, ambitious, and innovative organisation which is fit for purpose in delivering against its mission.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Delivery of Aims

Delivery will be undertaken by concentrating on 5 areas of activity:

Membership – to benefit, support and communicate effectively with members.

Future Interventions – to lead in the Rural Touring sector, to plan and to enable work and projects.

Social Impact – to research, to think ambitiously, to explore partnerships, to benefit the rural ecology.

Organisation – to ensure NRTF is well run, well led, and that it works fairly and properly.

Finance – to be sound financially and to look for opportunities to increase income where necessary.

Public benefit:

The National Rural Touring Forum exists to deliver high quality art experiences that strengthen rural and other communities:

NRTF Research project CONCERTA (Contributing to Community Enhancement through Rural Touring Arts) show English schemes promote over 2500 events per year. These are distributed across 1,000 venues. Over the last five years, English schemes have jointly delivered 9,500 events to audiences numbering just over 700,000. Annual average audiences per event sit at a highly consistent 70 to 80-person annual average.

The UK approach to rural touring shows what the independent arts sector, public authorities and communities can achieve by working together: it is a model of good practice and value for money in the contemporary arts world.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and believe this is achieved via the Charity's objectives and activities.

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) networks, develops and supports the ecosystem that delivers high-quality creative experiences across communities and rural areas in the UK. The aim of the NRTF is to strengthen and support rural populations to bring professional work to their venues. NRTF regularly consults with the sector; the findings of which directly inform the organisation's key priority areas. Through consultation it charts and champions nationwide impact, shares national and regional achievement and good news, and identifies shared sectoral challenges for which it advocates to policymakers and other influential stakeholders.

NRTF and its members do not underestimate rural audiences. Funding for the arts is still a city-centric issue; travelling to large towns and cities to see productions can be time and financially prohibitive. There are also physiological barriers to some who don't feel as comfortable in larger cultural institutions. Access to the arts is important for everyone in society. It is important to the sector that communities have meaningful engagements with the arts by participating in, or seeing, high quality and innovative performance.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Achievements of NRTF's year, listed below, focus on areas in the business plan that continue the strategic and developmental role that the organisation is playing in delivering a dynamic thriving rural and community touring sector.

These address the areas for development identified in the business plan and underlines our recognition that the rural touring network consists of several key constituents including touring schemes, voluntary promoters, small scale venues, festivals, libraries, in and outdoor community spaces, performing companies and artists and organisations that support touring arts.

1. Artistic Partnerships

Edinburgh Fringe presentation

NRTF attendance at Edinburgh Fringe is aimed at improving voluntary promoter confidence in booking a diverse programme of work, raising the profile of rural touring at the Edinburgh Fringe professional development sessions, and introducing more diverse and interesting work to the rural touring circuit.

Each year, the NRTF hosts a free Introduction to rural touring event for performers, companies and producers. It provides a great opportunity for artists to hear from the rural touring sector and to find out if rural touring's for them. This year this was undertaken online via Zoom.

Brighton Fringe presentation

NRTF appeared as part of the Brighton Fringe professional development Academy. It focuses on how to engage with Rural Touring and the nuanced differences to touring in urban spaces.

"Rural Touring UK: How does rural touring work? How can you take part? Gain insights on the benefits and opportunities of professional rural touring. This is a chance for companies, artists and producers to network, discuss their work and potentially tour the UK." This year the session was run online via Zoom.

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

NRTF joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate back in 2015 to deliver the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI). This innovative project, funded by Arts Council England, is helping to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of dance promoted by Rural Touring schemes all over the country.

So far, the project has worked with 40 companies, promoting 140 shows to just under 13,000 audience members.

RTDI was an important and highly beneficial strategic intervention into rural touring of dance. It built on, and made the best of the existing infrastructure of, Touring Schemes and promoters and systematically addressed the remaining gaps in dance provision in rural areas. RTDI epitomises the strategic approach that was behind the introduction of the Strategic Touring programme

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Altogether the two phases of RTDI collected detailed responses from 3,426 people, an important and consistent picture of dance audiences. Quality of experience is extremely high. 98% of audience members said the show was enjoyable. 98% said the show was value for money. 96% of audience members said the show was memorable. 94% of audience members said the show was long enough. 94% said the show was thought provoking. The shows made 51% of the audience members feel happy, 61% inspired, 71% impressed and 31% connected to other people. 99% of surveyed audience members rated the show as good or very good, which is even higher than the figure for Phase 1 (97%).

Arts & Health

Based on a recommendation from the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance, NRTF is working with Rural England on an exploration into Rural Touring and how it affects those living in isolation or loneliness. This is in early stages of fund raising and exploration.

TAIL Project

National Rural Touring Forum is in receipt of strategic funds from ACE to support touring into Libraries in a two-year national project. TAIL – ‘Touring Arts In Libraries’ explores the challenges and potential of our nation’s libraries to expand their service offer and diversify audiences through a programme of touring arts. The project now supports a network of more than 150 artists, libraries, rural touring schemes and arts organisations. The project continues to share resources, successful collaborations, new initiatives, and relevant touring shows. It has funded 3 commissions and will embark on a mentoring scheme with key partners looking to deliver a programme of touring work in Spring/ Summer 2022.

NRTF Conference

The NRTF conference is a chance for the Rural Touring and Arts sector to get together via talks, speakers, networking, and performance showcasing. The delegates get to disseminate resources and learn together. Every time the conference happens the sector goes back enthused, encouraged, and stronger. It is a place to meet like-minded fellow practitioners, generate partnerships, and project development. In 2021 the conference was held online.

NRTF also partnered with The Place London to run an Artist’s Training Lab. The Rural Touring Mechanics Course for Artists held 16 different sessions over 6 days and 2 weeks.

The aim of the event was to provide an online course for artists on the nuts and bolts of rural touring. The 31 participants included directors, artists, producers, managers, schemes, and promoters from across the arts, culture, and rural touring sector. Together they helped us to deliver sessions covering everything from lived experience, case studies, research and development to finance, marketing, technical staging and design, accessibility, tour booking, producing, and budgeting. We included a range of venues from village halls to libraries, the impact of COVID, the current context, and the future of rural touring. The sessions were designed and delivered on a platform that enabled delegates to network, interact, share resources and contacts, view on demand, and join a series of Q & A’s.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

There were 173 sign ups and registrations. Delegates were made up of a whole cross section of the arts and culture sector and included actors, artists, students, storytellers, community engagement officers, directors, writers, producers, performers, choreographers, teachers, dancers, company managers, theatre makers, musicians, poets and puppeteers. An average of 31 delegates attended each session and an average of 90 on demand views for practical sessions.

Of the 173 that signed up we know that 45% were female and 19% male (inc trans) with 2% identifying as non-binary. 41% identified as heterosexual. In terms of ethnicity 49% identified as white British with 10% identifying as being Asian/ British Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Black British African, and Caribbean. 24% were between the ages of 24 - 34, 23% were aged between 35 - 49 and 11% over the age of 50. Less than 1% considered themselves as having a disability.

75% of attendees said they felt very confident about touring their work rurally having attended the sessions with 25% claiming they felt fairly confident having attended. 75% said access and programme timings were good with 25% having some practical issues in getting into Notion and viewing sessions in their own time later. Audiences felt we'd covered everything in terms of content with Marketing coming out as the most useful session.

2. Digital Platforms

Website

NRTF launched a new website and logo in 2019. This helped us reform our resources, navigation, and usability of the website. This has supported wider advocacy and visibility of the Rural Touring sector and NRTF.

Social Media

NRTF use social media outlets for different purposes – Twitter for live updates on events and general news, Facebook for scheme information and events, Instagram for communications to artists. They all link into NRTF discussion board information and news. Followers: Twitter 4303 / Facebook 1155 / Instagram 1415 / RTDI Facebook – 564 followers /

What Next Rural & Digital

NRTF runs a Digital Rural What Next? Chapter – What Next? All Hands. This brings all members together in one place. What Next? is a movement bringing together arts and cultural organisations in the UK to champion and strengthen the role of art and culture in our society.

NRTF held a Rural Touring take over of the What Next? Culture national meeting in May 2021, which was attended by 200 online members.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Conference Platform

NRTF uses various online conferencing platforms such as Attendify and Notion. They enable delegates to register, create a profile, chat, network and comment during conferences. This allowed those who could not attend live events to feel part of the conference community. It was important that the platform went some way to creating the atmosphere and connection opportunities that a live conference could as covid kept people isolated.

Meeting spaces

NRTF started using zoom regularly in 2018 for team meetings and board meetings. The pandemic was a catalyst for many more people to understand and use the platform for communication. The opening of this to more individuals offered a lifeline in peer-to-peer support and the dissemination of information during the pandemic.

3. Village Halls Week

NRTF teamed up with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) for the annual celebration of village halls. This year there was a special virtual celebration of poetry and prose about Village Halls. There was good coverage from schemes in support of the week and good partnership with ACRE. NRTF printed Village Hall Week posters and mailed them to all schemes and ACRE members for their venues and members.

4. Membership

Scheme membership remained at 31 with schemes from England, Wales and Scotland. NRTF has been increasing member benefits and continues to support scheme members, for whom it was set up to support and advocate for. This is as well as supporting associate members (artists, promoters, and arts organisations (including festivals)), all with an aim to create more capacity in the rural touring sector.

Associate Membership: we made this membership free of charge through the pandemic in recognition that work and income had crashed. There was evidence for the need for increased support in the growth of membership in this type. In 20/21 we have been re-introducing fees to join NRTF of £25 for an individual artist.

Benefits: training, information, and networking; advice and resources; innovative work, partnerships, and commissions; research and advocacy; grant schemes and conference discounts.

Membership growth - 2019 – Schemes 32, Associates 93. 2020 – Schemes 32, Associates 187. 2021 – Schemes 31, Associates 458

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. Professional Development Opportunities / Grants

NRTF continues to offer Bursaries and Grants for schemes and other members. This includes grants for Go-Sees, enabling schemes and promoters to see more work; access grants to join the online lab and conferences; and conference bursaries. Alongside the regular grant amounts are the commissions and Go-see offer via the TAIL project.

Key developments for the organisation

The strengthening of NRTF governance to include companies and performers, voluntary promoters, and representatives from across the UK enables NRTF to advocate for a dynamic and thriving small scale sector. The board of NRTF remained stable during 2021/22 with trustees representing the touring scheme, voluntary promoter and producer and artist sectors.

NRTF Director and Board have been reviewing Governance and the MOAs/AOAs and constitution with an ambition to diversity the executive board and increase support for all membership groups. A governance solicitor was been appointed to support creating a constitution that is up to date with Charity Commission guidelines and EDI policies.

A new constitution was presented and accepted at the AGM by the members and submitted to Companies House.

NRTF commenced a 4-year funding relationship as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) with Arts Council England from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2022 (there is now a COVID-19 extension on this to 2023).

Financial Review

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at a level which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs. The charity has increased the amount held on reserve from £27,000 to £31,000 and plans a further increase over the final year of the current NPO to £35,000.

This is the ninth year as an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) of the Arts Council England. The Charity received its tenth NPO grant from Arts Council England receiving in 2021/22 £88,176. (2020/21 £ 88,176, 2019/20 £86,583 2018/19 £85,583, 2017/18 £86,583, 2016/17 £86,583, 2015/16 £86,583, 2014/15 £86,583, 2013/14 £86,233, 2012/13 £86,000).

The Charity received an interim final payment of £20,842 (second £104,214 and third instalment £104,214 2019/20, first instalment £166,742 received 2018/19) for the RTDI 2 project. (Total grant £416,855). The final payment of £20,843 is due in 2022/23.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Charity did not receive any money during the year from Arts Council England for a Libraries Project. (Total £77,000). The final instalment of £7,070 is due in 2022/23.

Membership fees for the year totalled £15,464. The Charity is not reliant on donations.

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 18 February 1997 and registered as a charity on 14 May 1997. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Trustee selection methods:

New Trustees are presented at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the terms laid down in NRTF's Memorandum and Articles of Association. This board of management are the trustees of the Charity. Decisions are made by the board of management at quarterly meetings. The board of management reports on work undertaken, future and present financial accounts to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. No more than 14 and not less than 6 persons may be elected. One third of the trustees must retire from office at each AGM. The members to retire shall be those longest in office since their last election. These members are eligible for re-election.

Additional governance issues:

The Charity is governed by a board of management who are elected to office by the membership of the NRTF at the AGM. This board elects a Chair for the organisation.

At 2021 AGM the following actions took place: -

- Philip Holyman, who is co-opted member stood down from the Board permanently this year
- The following members, as longest standing members of the board, stepped down and were re-elected:
 - Tom Speight Chair of the Board
 - Elizabeth Freestone – Co-opted Artist Trustee

The Board of Directors reviewed how Trustees are appointed to the Board. Before 2021, only scheme representatives could be full members of the board. Anyone else was a co-opted member with a 4-year term limit. To help diversify the Board it was decided to ask members to amend the Memorandum of Articles to enable at least 50% of the board to be from scheme representatives and 50% from interested individuals or organisations, who could fill skills gaps.

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The revisions went through a rigorous, consultative, and thorough process. Proposals were carefully reviewed and scrutinised for over two years with additional evaluation and edits, for compliance and accuracy, by Sean Egan Consultants.

Why was this done ?

- To be more equitable in terms of who can be a Board Trustee, enabling a wider pool of skills and expertise from more diverse individuals.
- To be in line with NRTF's Equality Diversity and Inclusivity aims.
- To fit with a developing and dynamic organisation and sector that aims to better support the whole Rural Touring sector with greater positive impact and advocacy support.
- To be in line with Charity Commission recommendations on good practice for Governance.
- To modernise the documents and bring them up to date.

Points of change

- Terminology changes – Subscription Members and Board of Trustees replacing - Associate and Scheme Members, and Board Members.
- Trustee positions in numbers - between 6 minimum and 14 maximum on the Board of Trustees.
- Terms - Maximum of 8 years with an annual rotation of longest-standing. Previously there were no term limits for full board members.
- Updated to be one Articles of Association document instead of two (MOA and AOA's).
- All subscription members to gain voting rights, previously only Schemes
- All Trustees to be full board Trustees, with equal rights and terms. Previously only Scheme representatives were full Board members, with everyone else being Associate co-opted members able to give a maximum of 4-year terms.

Members accepted the changes unanimously at the AGM.

Board:

Four full board meetings were held during the year 21/22. In addition, Covid response meetings were held between board meetings in 2020 as needed. A Board away day was held in Warwick February 2022 to finalise submission for the new Arts Council England funding round. The board agreed to change from a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) to an Investment Principle Support Organisation (IPSO).

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

The management committee (who are also directors of The National Rural Touring Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

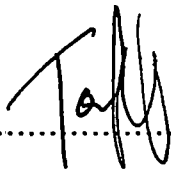
Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the management committee are required to:

- Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small company exemption of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on September 6th 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Tom Speight (Chair) 

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON THE
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

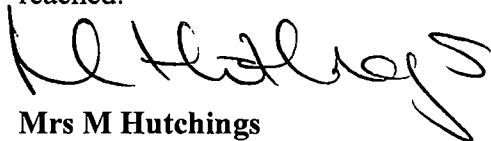
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs M Hutchings

Apsleys

Chartered Accountants

21 Bampton Street

Tiverton

Devon

Date: 21/11/2022

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants receivable from government and other public bodies		20,842	93,876	114,718	143,378
Investment income		-	12	12	116
Income from trading activities:					
Trading activities within the objects		47,203	2,945	50,148	16,031
Membership fees		-	15,464	15,464	14,281
Total income		<u>68,045</u>	<u>112,297</u>	<u>180,342</u>	<u>173,806</u>
Expenditure					
Grants payable	6		2,779	2,779	9,885
Other direct charitable expenditure		181,103	22,030	203,133	127,875
Management of the charity		-	71,220	71,220	62,613
Administration of the charity		-	7,348	7,348	6,612
Total expenditure		<u>181,103</u>	<u>103,377</u>	<u>284,480</u>	<u>206,985</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(113,058)	8,920	(104,138)	(33,179)
Transfers		(4,600)	4,600	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(117,658)</u>	<u>13,520</u>	<u>(104,138)</u>	<u>(33,179)</u>
Funds b/f at 1 April 2021		<u>144,407</u>	<u>72,174</u>	<u>216,581</u>	<u>249,760</u>
Funds c/f at 31 March 2022		<u><u>26,749</u></u>	<u><u>85,694</u></u>	<u><u>112,443</u></u>	<u><u>216,581</u></u>

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Amounts falling due within one year	3	7,013	6,592
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>109,096</u>	<u>212,328</u>
		116,109	218,920
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>3,666</u>	<u>2,339</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u><u>112,443</u></u>	<u><u>216,581</u></u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	26,749	144,407
Unrestricted	8	<u>85,694</u>	<u>72,174</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>112,443</u></u>	<u><u>216,581</u></u>

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Committee on ... *September 6th 2022*

and signed on its behalf by: Tom Speight (Chair)

.....
 Director

Company registration number 03319947

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

National Rural Touring Forum is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The company is registered charity in England within the United Kingdom. In the event of being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Grants payable;
- Expenditure on charitable activities
- Management of the charity; and
- Administration of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

(e) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(f) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(g) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(h) Going concern

Following the global impact of 'COVID-19', at the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts paid to examiner for:		
The preparation of the financial statements	785	785
Independent examination	1,591	1,591
	<u>1,591</u>	<u>1,591</u>

3. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	350	750
Prepayments	5,842	5,842
Other debtors	821	-
	<u>7,013</u>	<u>6,592</u>

4. Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,834	454
Accruals	1,560	1,560
Other Creditors	272	325
	<u>3,666</u>	<u>2,339</u>

5. Directors remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	54,201	52,108
Social security costs	1,035	770
Pension costs	1,250	1,984
	<u>56,486</u>	<u>54,862</u>

Average number of employees

	2022	2021
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the employee. The costs for the year was £1,250 (2021 £1984).

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6. Grants paid to institutions Professional	2022	2021
	£	£
Development CPD		
Regional get together South West	199	-
Unconscious Bias Training	2,580	2,385
Total CPD	<u>2,779</u>	<u>2,385</u>
 Rural Touring Unlocked Grants		
Arts Alive	-	1,500
Highlights	-	1,750
Cheshire West and Chester	-	1,500
Carn to Cove	-	1,750
Total Unlocked	<u>-</u>	<u>6,500</u>
 Pilot Project Grants		
Live & Local	-	1,000
Total Pilot Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
 Total Grants Awarded	<u>2,779</u>	<u>9,885</u>
 7. Restricted funds	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Social Impact Study Research Project (CONCERTA)</u>		
Balance at 1 April 2021	-	(15,622)
Grants Receivable	-	15,622
Earned Income	-	-
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	-	-
Transfer to Core	-	-
Social Impact Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 <u>NSRTDI 2</u>		
Balance at 1st April 2021	91,852	167,753
Grants Receivable	20,842	8,000
Contributed Income	47,203	11,995
Transfer of funds (to Core)	(4,600)	-
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(162,889)	(95,896)
NSRTDI 2 Balance at 31st March 2022	<u>(7,592)</u>	<u>91,852</u>
 <u>Libraries Project</u>		
Balance as at 1st April 2021	52,555	37,199
Grants receivable	-	31,080
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(18,214)	(15,724)
Libraries Project Balance as at 31 March 2022	<u>34,341</u>	<u>52,555</u>
 Total Restricted funds at 31st March 2022	<u>26,749</u>	<u>144,407</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8. Unrestricted funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2021	72,174	60,430
Surplus for the year	8,920	11,744
Transfer	4,600	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>85,694</u>	<u>72,174</u>

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Funds balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:			
Current assets	26,749	89,360	116,109
Current liabilities		(3,666)	(3,666)
	<u>26,749</u>	<u>85,694</u>	<u>112,443</u>

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

Nil remuneration was paid to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021: Nil).

£340 expenses were reimbursed to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021: £Nil). £2,760 was paid for governance advice and re-drafting memorandum and articles.

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England NPO	88,176		88,176	
What Next Culture	-		500	
Equality Diversity Inclusion	<u>5,700</u>		<u>-</u>	
		93,876		88,676
Restricted Income: NSRTDI (2)				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England	20,842		-	
Arts Council Wales	-		3,000	
Dance East	-		1,000	
Pavillion Dance South West	<u>-</u>		<u>4,000</u>	
Total		20,842		8,000
Restricted Income: Libraries Project				
Grant Income				
Arts Council England		<u>-</u>		<u>31,080</u>
Restricted Income: Research Project (SIS)				
Grant Income				
Arts Council England		<u>-</u>		<u>13,022</u>
Total Restricted Grant Income		<u>20,842</u>		<u>54,702</u>
Total Grant Income		<u>114,718</u>		<u>143,378</u>
NSRTDI (2) Contributed Income		47,203		11,995
Unrestricted Income				
Earned Income:				
Membership Fees	15,464		14,281	
Trading activities within the objects:				
Bank Interest	12		116	
Conference Buxton Schemes	1,300		-	
Training Fees	1,274		1,834	
Donations	-		272	
Furlough	<u>371</u>		<u>1,929</u>	
Total Unrestricted Income		<u>18,421</u>		<u>18,432</u>
Total Earned and Contributed Income		<u>65,624</u>		<u>30,427</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>160,342</u>		<u>173,805</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Balance BF		180,342		173,805
Restricted funds: NSRTDI (2)				
Marketing Audience Dev	47,096		23,316	
Development	36,164		46,300	
Artistic Costs	77,461		25,021	
Overheads	<u>2,168</u>		<u>1,259</u>	
Total		162,889		95,896
Restricted Funds: Libraries Project				
Project management	12,481		11,501	
Project Expenditure	<u>5,733</u>		<u>4,363</u>	
		18,214		15,724
Total Restricted funds		<u><u>181,103</u></u>		<u><u>111,620</u></u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2022	2021
Unrestricted Funds:		
<u>Grants payable:</u>		
Professional Development Grants	199	-
Unlocked Grants	-	6,500
Pilot Project Grants	-	1,000
Unconscious Bias	2,580	2,385
Total	<u>2,779</u>	<u>9,885</u>
<u>Other direct charitable activity:</u>		
Dance Director fee/exp	407	4,093
Online Community Dev	-	-
Touring Projects	-	-
Conference Hi Viz 2020	6,266	6,943
Village Halls Week	-	-
Rural Touring Awards	-	-
Advocacy Digital Resources	1,022	5,219
Artists Lab	4,615	-
Diversity Audit	9,720	-
Total	<u>22,030</u>	<u>16,255</u>
<u>Management of the charity:</u>		
Finances	4,300	4,300
Staff Salary/ Tax/ NI/ Pension	38,188	36,923
Staff Travel	1,596	44
Governance/ Board Meetings/ Travel/ Subsistence	3,962	960
Staff CPD and Membership	195	146
Communications/Admin Manager	14,345	12,895
Insurances	871	767
Project Manager	5,564	5,808
Staffing Costs (NI)	1,215	770
Fundraising	984	-
Total	<u>71,220</u>	<u>62,613</u>
<u>Administration of the charity:</u>		
Printing Postage Stationery, Office Costs	1,343	1,396
Web Design/ Hosting/ Maintenance	4,180	3,315
Accountancy Fees	1,825	1,901
Total	<u>7,348</u>	<u>6,612</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>103,377</u>	<u>95,365</u>
Total expenditure	<u>284,480</u>	<u>206,985</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>(104,138)</u>	<u>(33,180)</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1062366

Accounts

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	National Rural Touring Forum
Other names the charity is known by:	NRTF
Charity registration number:	1062366
Company registration number:	3319947
Registered Office and Operational address:	Manor Farm, Stanford Dingley, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 6LS

Trustees and Directors

Tom Speight	Co-opted/ Chair
John Laidlaw	
Dawn Badland	
Barbara Tremewan	
Natalie Jode	Treasurer
Ed O'Driscoll	
Chris Bridgman	
Emyr Bell	
Elizabeth Freestone	Co-opted
Philip Holyman	Co-opted
Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)

Company secretary

Holly Lombardo

Names of observers

Cassie Catchpole, Arts Council England, SE
Peter Gregory, Arts Council Wales & Night Out

Independent Examiner

Mrs M Hutchings, Aspen Waite South West, 21 Bampton Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6AA

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 1-3 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9BH

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

National Rural Touring Forum is a charitable company limited by guarantee and set up on 18 February 1997. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. Its objects are to foster and promote public education in the arts through the maintenance, improvement and development of knowledge, understanding, appreciation of, and participation in, the arts, in particular at rural and local neighbourhood levels through the United Kingdom.

Summary of the main objections and aims in relation to these objects.

NRTF Mission

To lead and underpin a diverse, sustainable, and collaborative Rural Touring Arts sector that delivers dynamic, high quality cultural performances, enhances wellbeing, and provides equality of opportunity for people living in rural satellite areas.

NRTF Values

Leadership – Playing a leading role in the creative sector to drive growth and equality principles that result in positive cultural change. Resilience & relevance – driving sectoral stability and development and reacting and responding to cultural change. Quality, Innovation & Ambition– learning from evidence to take calculated risks and make innovative business decisions. Diversity & Inclusivity – generating and enabling the widest possible range of voices and perspectives. Social impact – measuring impact of work which brings wider positive and meaningful benefit to society. Collaboration & Dynamism – cultivating collaborations and partnerships which enhance, empower, and respond to sector challenges. Environmental sustainability – maximising opportunity through initiatives that reduce carbon footprint and improve sustainability

NRTF Aims

Each of the 4 aims is underpinned by several key objectives, which are measurable and time relevant.

Aim 1: NRTF will support rural touring and rural creative communities to be collaborative and resilient, ensuring it has the appropriate expertise to meet their evolving needs. To support the leaders of organisations in realising their ambitions.

Aim 2: NRTF will explore and understand the needs of the sector by using quality data to promote inclusivity, equality and a diverse range of voices, cultural content and training that is reflective of the UKs diverse population.

Aim 3: NRTF will demonstrate sectorial impact through effective research and analysis, the evidence of which has a share of voice at national policy and communications level.

Aim 4: NRTF will be an influential, ambitious, and innovative organisation which is fit for purpose in delivering against its mission.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Delivery of Aims

Delivery will be undertaken by concentrating on 5 areas of activity:

Membership – to benefit, support and communicate effectively with members.

Future Interventions – to lead in the Rural Touring sector, to plan and to enable work and projects.

Social Impact – to research, to think ambitiously, to explore partnerships, to benefit the rural ecology.

Organisation – to ensure NRTF is well run, well led, and that it works fairly and properly.

Finance – to be sound financially and to look for opportunities to increase income where necessary.

Public benefit:

The National Rural Touring Forum exists to deliver high quality art experiences that strengthen rural and other communities:

NRTF Research project CONCERTA (Contributing to Community Enhancement through Rural Touring Arts) show English schemes promote over 2500 events per year. These are distributed across 1,000 venues. Over the last five years, English Schemes have jointly delivered 9,500 events to audiences numbering just over 700,000. Annual average audiences per event sit at a highly consistent 70 to 80-person annual average.

The UK approach to rural touring shows what the independent arts sector, public authorities and communities can achieve by working together: it is a model of good practice and value for money in the contemporary arts world.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and believe this is achieved via the Charity's objectives and activities.

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) networks, develops and supports the ecosystem that delivers high-quality creative experiences across communities and rural areas in the UK. The aim of the NRTF is to strengthen and support rural populations to bring professional work to their venues. NRTF regularly consults with the sector; the findings of which directly inform the organisation's key priority areas. Through consultation it charts and champions nationwide impact, shares national and regional achievement and good news, and identifies shared sectoral challenges for which it advocates to policymakers and other influential stakeholders.

NRTF and its members do not underestimate rural audiences. Funding for the Arts is still a city-centric issue; travelling to large towns and cities to see productions can be time and financially prohibitive.

There are also physiological barriers to some who don't feel as comfortable in larger cultural institutions. Access to the arts is important for everyone in society. It is important to the sector that communities have meaningful engagements with the art by participating in, or seeing, high quality and innovative performance.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Achievements of NRTF's year, listed below, focus on areas in the business plan that continue the strategic and developmental role that the organisation is playing in delivering a dynamic thriving rural and community touring sector.

These address the areas for development identified in the business plan and underlines our recognition that the rural touring network consists of several key constituents including touring schemes, voluntary promoters, small scale venues, festivals, libraries, in and outdoor community spaces, performing companies and artists and organisations that support touring arts.

NRTF during the Pandemic

Covid-19 Pandemic resulted in over 2500 rural touring shows being cancelled. There was a rapid growth in need from the sector in terms of support and increased communications and connection. The NRTF team pivoted quickly, firefighting the unknown and reacting to rapid changes in situation and law. NRTF stepped up to support the sector and artists whose livelihoods and organisations that had been devastated by the pandemic. Since the first performance cancellation in March 2020, NRTF has worked in collaboration with the 30 rural touring schemes across the UK, to respond and directly support the creative sector.

In early April, NRTF supported the schemes to create a public pledge of support to artists and saw schemes honouring fees to artists whose events had been cancelled. This included RTDI, which is NRTF's flagship touring and commissioning project in conjunction with the Place, Take Art and China Plate.

Shortly before the beginning of the Pandemic, we employed a new part time member of staff (Jess, Project manager) to deliver NRTF projects including the Library Project (Touring Arts In Libraries), which highlights how Rural Touring works with libraries and library touring. Through joined up thinking and mapping the TAIL project will open the door to new ways of working with libraries.

NRTF Communications Manager (Stephie) has been managing the transition of a new website alongside increased communications and artist's support. This has been a huge undertaking.

NRTF started weekly zoom conversations for the sector, hosting meetings with schemes, artists (for the first time we had over 80 rural touring promoters from across the country on one zoom meeting). Each meeting type held completely different themes tailored to the needs, and to support, those in attendance.

NRTF repurposed its budget and shuffled around finances (such as Board of Trustee and Staff travel budgets, Go See Grants) and event costs (such as Edinburgh and Brighton Fringe professional development sessions). These funds enabled membership for all Associate Members to be free for a year and to deliver a free conference, while maintaining payment of the artists and speakers taking part. It was noted that there was not a more ambitious conference being delivered for free in this way that year. NRTF were proud to deliver this on behalf of the Rural Touring sector.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Horizons, the online conference had over 50 speakers and artists employed to take part, 450 delegates registered, and sessions were viewed over 12,000 times, some live, some on demand and replayed.

Support was given to offline initiatives which enabled scheme and promoters to further their connection to local communities. Advocating for the hyper local and for the safety of audiences. The Rural Touring sector was very aware that many audience members could not access the rise in digital work being distributed. NRTF saw a need to help schemes support audience members who were in isolation, with unreliable or no access to broad band or computers to still access culture. In response to this NRTF launched "Rural Touring Unlocked" which has led to 6 collaborative projects being developed in the sector.

NRTF staff also listened when global events such as Black Lives Matter, reflecting internally at processes and policies and created a plan to do better. NRTF were able to use some of the repurposed budget to subsidise 72 places on an Unconscious Bias training course, which was in partnership with Farnham Maltings and Equality and Diversity UK.

Alongside this, NRTF resourced lobbying and advocating for the needs of the rural arts, artists, freelance artists, and touring industries. Effort was made to translate the differing needs of the sector to larger institutions and city-based organisations. NRTF fed into DCMS round table and had regularly email correspondence with DCMS.

NRTF director was also appointed to the What Next? Steering Group gaining one of 10 places from over 100 applications. Here NRTF feed into What Next? UK meetings about rural needs and issues. What Next? Lobby and submit responses to Government consultations and they sit on the Task Force. There was an ACE round table via Rural Stakeholders meeting, here Nic Serota (who sits on the Task Force) heard directly about the needs of our sector. He understood that for many we are yet to see the fallout of the COVID 19 cuts and cancellations and next year will be a crisis point for many.

NRTF Director and Trustees held regular and monthly board meetings by Zoom to ensure the organisation was able react quickly in support of rural arts and touring. Good governance was upheld, while ensuring delivery of the business plan and day to day business.

Staff were stretched and under pressure like many in the sector. They completed all this additional support and delivery with the equivalent of just over two full time members of staff.

1. Artistic Partnerships

Edinburgh Fringe presentation

NRTF attendance at Edinburgh Fringe is aimed at improving voluntary promoter confidence in booking a diverse programme of work, raising the profile of rural touring at the Edinburgh Fringe professional Development sessions, and introducing more diverse and interesting work to the rural touring circuit.

Each year, the NRTF hosts a free Introduction to Rural Touring event for performers, companies and producers. It provides a great opportunity for artists to hear from the rural touring sector and to find out if rural touring's for them. This year this was undertaken online via Zoom.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Brighton Fringe presentation

NRTF as part of the Brighton Fringe professional development Academy. It focuses on how to engage with Rural Touring and the nuances difference to touring in urban spaces.

“Rural Touring UK: How does rural touring work? How can you take part? Gain insights on the benefits and opportunities of professional rural touring. This is a chance for companies, artists and producers to network, discuss their work and potentially tour the UK.” This year the session was run online via Zoom.

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

The RTDI’s response to the cancelation live performance has led to a number of digital initiatives.

RTDI designed ‘Share A Show’ working with 3 dance companies promoting digital live performances across the rural sector. Followed by online Q&A sessions. The artists/company’s and shows were; Lanre Malalou, Elephant In The Room, Protein (Luca Silverstrini) Border Tales and Uchenna (Vicki Igbokwe) Headwrap Diaries.

RTDI co commissioned Lost Dog (Ben Duke) to make a piece specifically for the digital space. This resulted in the critically acclaimed ‘Nutshell’.

RTDI supported artists to make digital audience development tools including Joshua Nash online Krump tutorials and Scottish Dance Theatre’s - ‘Meet Antigone’ a hybrid of live and recorded performance with the dancer and choreographer introducing the show and offering a chance for audiences to interact.

RTDI supported AMATA in Cornwall to live stream a performance that was due to be in front of a live audience of Mr and Mrs Clark’s Louder Is Not Always Clearer.

Alleyne Dance made a dance film for a digital audience which we shared across the sector in a limited time frame.

RTDI worked with companies and schemes to repurpose show fees. Enabling a collaboration between Beaford Arts and Josh Nash that resulted in ‘BURNOUT’, a film made with young people in Devon who learnt their choreography prior to filming, on zoom.

Performance fees from 15 dates of New Art Clubs Cupid’s Revenge have been repurposed in a new commission of their associated company ‘Anatomical’ to make a rural touring version of their family show ‘The Snowy Showy’. A residency in a village hall will take place in November.

As part of The Place’s CRF-2 bid to ACE RTDI have instigated a digital audience development project with 3 artists pairing with 6 schemes. The artists selected for this project are Jamaal Burkmar, Kesha Raithatha and Peut Etre.

CRF funds mean RTDI are partnering The Place and NRTF to design an Online Artists Lab for artists wanting to know more about Rural Touring.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Throughout the pandemic we have been supporting our cohort of artists by keeping them informed of the situation within the sector as it has developed.

Arts & Health – Based on a recommendation from Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance, NRTF is working with Rural England on an exploration into Rural Touring and how it affects those living in isolation or loneliness. This is in early stages of fund raising and exploration.

TAIL Project

National Rural Touring Forum is in receipt of strategic funds from ACE to support touring into Libraries in a two-year national project. TAIL – ‘Touring Arts In Libraries’ explores the challenges and potential of our nation’s libraries to expand their service offer and diversify audiences through a programme of touring arts. The project now supports a network of more than 150 artists, libraries, rural touring schemes and arts organisations. The project continues to share resources, successful collaborations, new initiatives, and relevant touring shows. It has funded 3 commissions and will embark on a mentoring scheme with key partners looking to deliver a programme of touring work in Spring Summer 2022. Overview & Context: With 3,600 libraries open in the UK, a task force of more than 50,000 volunteers providing a range of services, and a staggering 60% of the population now holding a current library card, it’s maybe not surprising to hear that in 2015 visitor numbers to public libraries in England reached 225 million.

NRTF Conference -

The conference is a chance for the Rural Touring and Arts sector to get together via talks, speakers, networking, and performance showcasing. The delegates get to disseminate resources and learn together. Every time our conference happens the sector goes back enthused, encouraged, and stronger. It is a place to meet like-minded fellow practitioners, generate partnerships, and project development.

NRTF aspires to be bold in the following areas:

- High-quality professional arts experiences suited to local needs and interests
- Fair partnerships between communities, organisations, artists, and public bodies
- Creative diversity in artistic programming and among our audiences
- Creative innovation in arts practice, management, and policy
- Maintaining and developing our unique relationship with thousands of community volunteers
- Developing an appropriate mindset for NRTF’s role as a strategic and national leader.

Statistics 2020:

- Attendees 462
- Sessions 533
- Photos 29
- Messages 985
- Interactions 2226

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Most viewed sessions:

• Welcome - Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, day overview	449
• Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Panel Discussion Terry Adams	436
• Keynote: Sue Williamson Arts Council England	385
• Welcome - Libraries & Rural Touring, day overview	365
• Keynote: Amanda Parker	364
• Panel Discussion: Future Proofing the RT Sector	363
• Keynote: Stella Duffy - Fun Palaces Campaign	349
• Panel Discussion: Libraries & Rural Touring	340

Artist's member benefits

- A year's free membership
- Monthly Artist What Next Meetings/Support Calls
- Monthly What Next All Hand Meeting
- Monthly Scheme Meetings
- Contact with NRTF staff through direct emails
- Social Media
- Public Resources
- Latest news on website
- Shared Covid Risk Assessment Document
- Artists FAQ - Covid Edition
- Blog
- Scheme Map and Directory
- Suitability Form
- Member Only Resources and Benefits
- Eyes Wide Open
- Marketing for Rural Touring Video Presentation
- What About the Tech? - Video Presentation
- Discussion boards
- Friday bulletins
- NRTF Projects and core delivered work
- Conference
- Showcases
- Unlocked Grants
- Libraries Project
- Village Halls Week
- RTDI
- Go & See bursaries
- Rural Touring in the UK talks delivered at Brighton, Edinburgh, and other festivals

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2. Digital Platforms

Website

NRTF launched a new website and logo in 2019. This helped us reform our resources, navigation, and usability of the website. This has supported wider advocacy and visibility of the Rural Touring sector and NRTF.

Social Media

NRTF use social media outlets for different purposes – Twitter for live updates on events and general news, Facebook for scheme information and events, Instagram for communications to artists. The all link into NRTF discussion board information and news. Followers: Twitter 4303 / Facebook 998 / Instagram 1264 / RTDI Facebook – 564 followers /

What Next Rural & Digital

NRTF runs a Digital Rural What Next? Chapter – What Next? All Hands. This brings all members together in one place. What Next? is a movement bringing together arts and cultural organisations in the UK to champion and strengthen the role of art and culture in our society.

Conference Platform

NRTF used a brand-new online conferencing platform called Attendify. It enabled delegates to register, create a profile, chat, network and comment during the conference. This engagement stayed throughout the conference and allowed those who could not attend live events to feel part of the conference community. It was important that the platform went some way to creating the atmosphere and connection opportunities that a live conference did.

Meeting spaces

NRTF started using Zoom in 2018 for online meetings, team and board meetings regularly. The pandemic was a catalyst for many more people to understand and use the platform for communication. The opening of this to more individuals offered a lifeline in peer-to-peer support and the dissemination of information during the pandemic.

Village Halls Week

NRTF teamed up with ACRE in celebrating and share the benefits of the UK's Village Halls. This year was a virtual celebration of poetry and prose about Village Halls. There was good coverage from schemes in support of the week and good partnership with ACRE. NRTF printed VHW posters and mailed them to all schemes and Acre members for their venues and members.

3. Membership

Scheme membership remained at 31 with schemes from England, Wales and Scotland. NRTF have been increasing member benefits and continues to support the scheme members, to whom it is set up to advocate for. As well as supporting associate members, which consist of artists, promoters, and arts organisations (including festivals) with an aim to create more capacity in rural touring sector.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Associate Membership We made this membership free of charge through the pandemic in recognition that work and income had crashed. There was evidence in need for increased support in the growth of membership in this type.

Benefits include – Training, information, and networking; Advice and Resources; Innovative work, partnerships, and commissions; Research and Advocacy; Grant schemes and conference discounts.

Membership growth - 2019 – Schemes 32, Associates 93. 2020 – Schemes 32, Associates 187. 2021 – Schemes 31, Associates 458

4. Professional Development Opportunities / Grants

Rural Touring Unlocked

NRTF and Rural Touring Schemes wish to collaboratively support initiatives that reach communities in lockdown, in meaningful and creative ways. Covid-19 has taken away opportunities for in-person community engagement, requiring the creative sector to explore new ways of working both online and offline. Through these new initiatives, we will ensure the shared experience of a live performance audiences' value so much continues to happen.

In response, the National Rural Touring Forum is repurposing their Professional Development fund budget to launch grants, which supports projects that are of national value. Funded projects will consider audiences with limited or no access to digital and online material and propose innovative ways of engaging local communities. Each project will capture the process of delivering art and culture in these new ways.

Symphony of the Countryside, a short film collaboration, led by Rural touring Scheme Carn to Cove in Cornwall. It involved rural promoters and audiences across England, professional musicians, poets, plus amateur and professionally shot images of the British Countryside capturing the summer of lockdown. Arts Alive in Shropshire and Herefordshire launched Arts Alive on Wheels, touring small scale shows outdoors on the back of a lorry. Highlights across the north of England commissioned a series of special concerts, Highlights at Home, which aimed to cut through the digital divide, premiered on BBC local radio. Cheshire Rural Touring Arts supported Stute Theatre to develop a new piece of telephone theatre called 'You Don't Know Me But...' which was a 1-1 live 20 min piece of theatre down the phone incorporating a soundscape and music as well as a live performer. Take Art in Somerset has developed a new network called Totally Local, incorporating 14 outdoor performances in 6 villages.

Key developments for the organisation

The strengthening of NRTF governance to include companies and performers, voluntary promoters, and representatives from across the UK enables NRTF to advocate for a dynamic and thriving small scale sector. The board of NRTF remained stable during 2020/21 with trustees representing the touring scheme, voluntary promoter and producer and artist sectors.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

NRTF Director and Board have been reviewing Governance and the MOAs/AOAs and constitution with an ambition to diversify the executive board and increase support for all membership groups. A governance solicitor has been appointed to support creating a constitution that is up to date with Charity Commission guidelines and EDI policies.

NRTF commenced a 4-year funding relationship as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) with Arts Council England from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2022 (there is now a COVID-19 extension on this to 2023).

Financial Review

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at a level which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs. The charity has increased the amount held on reserve from £23,000 to £27,000 and plans a year on year increase over the next year of the current NPO.

This is the ninth year as an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) of the Arts Council England. The Charity received its ninth NPO grant from Arts Council England receiving in 2020/21 £ 88,176, (2019/20 £86,583 2018/19 £85,583, 2017/18 £86,583, 2016/17 £86,583, 2015/16 £86,583, 2014/15 £86,583, 2013/14 £86,233, 2012/13 £86,000).

The Charity did not receive any funds from Arts Council England (second £104,214 and third instalment £104,214 2019/20, first instalment £166,742 received 2018/19) for the RTDI 2 project. (Total grant £416,855). The final payment of £41,685 is due in 2021/22.

In addition, the Charity received the second instalment £38,080 from Arts Council England for a Libraries Project. (Total £77,000).

The Charity is received a final instalment of £15,622 from Arts Council England for the Social Impact Study (Total £156,202).

Membership fees for the year totalled £14,281 The Charity is not reliant on donations.

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 18 February 1997 and registered as a charity on 14 May 1997. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Trustee selection methods:

Trustees are elected from and by the full members at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the terms laid down in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. This board of management are the trustees of the Charity. In addition the board may co-opt up to three persons who need not be members of the company but are deemed to have specialist skills. These co-opted members are not trustees of the Charity. Decisions are made by the board of management at quarterly meetings. The board of management reports on work undertaken, future plans and present financial accounts to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. No more than 10 and not less than 3 persons may be elected. One third of the trustees must retire from office at each AGM. The members to retire shall be those longest in office since their last election. These members are eligible for re-election.

Additional governance issues:

The Charity is governed by a board of management who are elected to office by the membership of the NRTF at the AGM. This board elects a Chair for the organisation.

At 2020 AGM to following actions took place: -

- There are no Board members stepping down permanently this year
- The following members, as longest standing members of the board, are stepping down and are to be re-elected: Chris Bridgman of Arts Out West rural touring scheme – (Nominated by Natalie Jode, seconded by Emyr Bell) Natalie Jode of Creative Arts East Rural Touring Scheme – (Nominated by Elizabeth Freestone, seconded by Sarah Peterkin). Ed O’Driscoll of Arts in Rural Gloucestershire Rural Touring Scheme – (Nominated by Philip Holyman, seconded by Emyr Bell)
- Company Secretary appointed is – Holly Lombardo – Director of NRTF. Co-opted members Philip Holyman (Nominated by Emyr Bell, seconded by Natalie Jode) and Elizabeth Freestone (Nominated by Philip Holyman, seconded by Dawn Badland) been asked to stay on as co-opted members for another year.

Day to Day Co-ordination:

In 2018 the membership organisation underwent a radical restructure – employing a new full time Director and three other members of staff working on a freelance and/or part time basis. Part time staff consist of Finance Manager 0.5 days, Communications Manager 2 days, Projects Manager 3 days

Board:

Four full board meetings were held during the year 19/20. Two in person and two virtually. In addition, the board held a facilitated away day in Cumbria to assist with business planning. The board revised priorities for an amended business plan for 2020-2022 to take us to the end of ACE funded NP round.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

The management committee (who are also directors of The National Rural Touring Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

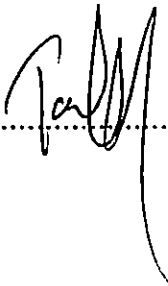
Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the management committee are required to:

- Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small company exemption of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on 14/9/21 and signed on their behalf by

Tom Speight (Chair) 

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON THE
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 17 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs M Hutchings
Aspen Waite South West
Chartered Accountants
21 Bampton Street
Tiverton
Devon

Date: 14/10/2021

**(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants receivable from government and other public bodies		54,702	88,676	143,378	347,861
Investment income		-	116	116	361
Income from trading activities:					
Trading activities within the objects		11,995	4,036	16,031	88,831
Membership fees		-	14,281	14,281	17,826
Total income		<u>66,697</u>	<u>107,109</u>	<u>173,806</u>	<u>454,879</u>
Expenditure					
Grants payable	6		9,885	9,885	9,710
Other direct charitable expenditure		111,620	16,255	127,875	339,936
Management of the charity		-	62,613	62,613	51,862
Administration of the charity		-	6,612	6,612	6,208
Total expenditure		<u>111,620</u>	<u>95,365</u>	<u>206,985</u>	<u>407,716</u>
Net income for the year		(44,923)	11,744	(33,179)	47,163
Transfers					
Net movement in funds		<u>(44,923)</u>	<u>11,744</u>	<u>(33,179)</u>	<u>47,163</u>
Funds b/f at 1 April 2020		189,330	60,430	249,760	202,597
Funds c/f at 31 March 2021		<u>144,407</u>	<u>72,174</u>	<u>216,581</u>	<u>249,760</u>

18
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Amounts falling due within one year	3	6,592	8,611
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>212,328</u>	<u>263,154</u>
		218,920	271,765
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>2,339</u>	<u>22,005</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u><u>216,581</u></u>	<u><u>249,760</u></u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	144,407	189,330
Unrestricted	8	<u>72,174</u>	<u>60,430</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>216,581</u></u>	<u><u>249,760</u></u>

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Committee on 14/9/21...

and signed on its behalf by: Tom Speight (Chair)

.....
 Director

Company registration number 03319947

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

National Rural Touring Forum is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The company is registered charity in England within the United Kingdom. In the event of being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Grants payable;
- Expenditure on charitable activities
- Management of the charity; and
- Administration of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

(e) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(f) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(g) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

(h) Going concern

Following the global impact of 'COVID-19', at the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts paid to examiner for:		
The preparation of the financial statements	785	735
Independent examination	<u>1,591</u>	<u>1,465</u>

3. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	750	2,150
Prepayments	<u>5,842</u>	<u>6,461</u>
	<u>6,592</u>	<u>8,611</u>

4. Creditors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	454	19,174
Accruals	1,560	2,620
Other Creditors	<u>325</u>	<u>211</u>
	<u>2,339</u>	<u>22,005</u>

5. Directors remuneration

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	52,108	35,286
Social security costs	770	578
Pension costs	<u>1,984</u>	<u>859</u>
	<u>54,862</u>	<u>36,723</u>

Average number of employees	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
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There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the employee. The costs for the year was £1984 (2020 £859).

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

6. Grants paid to institutions Professional	2021	2020
Development CPD	£	£
ArtERY	-	200
Promoter Bursaries Conference/ND	-	2,267
Unconscious Bias Training	2,385	-
Total CPD	<u>2,385</u>	<u>2,467</u>
 Edinburgh/Brighton Village Hall		
Cheshire	-	225
Highlights	-	450
NEAT	-	300
Live & Local	-	450
Spot on Lancashire (Brighton)	-	225
Creative Arts East	-	450
Arts Alive	-	450
Black Country Touring	-	438
Arts Out West	-	450
Carn to Cove	-	300
Rural Arts Wiltshire	-	-
Total Edinburgh/ Brighton	<u>-</u>	<u>3,738</u>
 Rural Touring Unlocked Grants		
Arts Alive	1,500	-
Highlights	1,750	-
Cheshire West and Chester	1,500	-
Carn to Cove	1,750	-
Total Unlocked	<u>6,500</u>	<u>-</u>
 Pilot Project Grants		
Live & Local	1,000	-
Total Pilot Grants	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total Grants Awarded	<u>9,885</u>	<u>6,205</u>

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Grants paid to institutions Restricted Funds NSRTDI 2	2021	2020
	£	£
Black Country Touring	-	300
Cheshire	-	300
Craven District Council	-	200
Beaford	-	250
Live & Local	-	38
Beaford Promoter	-	250
ArtERY	-	250
Creative Arts East	-	250
Live & Local Promoter	-	250
Take Art Promoter	-	250
Carn to Cove Promoter	-	250
Artsreach	-	250
Theatre Orchard	-	500
Highlights North	-	167
Total Grants from NSRTDI 2	-	3,505

7. Restricted funds	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>Social Impact Study Research Project (CONCERTA)</u>		
Balance at 1 April 2020	(15,622)	62,230
Grants Receivable	15,622	-
Earned Income	-	-
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	-	(76,277)
Transfer to Core	-	(1,575)
Social Impact Balance at 31 March 2021	-	(15,622)
 <u>NSRTDI 2</u>		
Balance at 1st April 2020	167,753	84,400
Grants Receivable	8,000	221,928
Contributed Income	11,995	60,692
Transfer of funds (from Core)	-	15,000
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(95,896)	(214,267)
NSRTDI 2 Balance at 31st March 2021	91,852	167,753
 <u>Libraries Project</u>		
Balance as at 1st April 2020	37,199	-
Grants receivable	31,080	38,850
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	(15,724)	(1,651)
Libraries Project Balance as at 31 March 2021	52,555	37,199
 Total Restricted funds at 31st March 2021	144,407	189,330

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

8. Unrestricted funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2020	60,430	55,967
Surplus for the year	11,744	17,888
Transfer	-	(13,425)
Balance at 31 March 2021	<u>72,174</u>	<u>60,430</u>

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Funds balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Current assets	144,407	74,513	218,920
Current liabilities		(2,339)	(2,339)
	<u>144,407</u>	<u>72,174</u>	<u>216,581</u>

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

Nil remuneration was paid to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2021 (2020: Nil).

No expenses were reimbursed to committee members for the year ended 31 March 2021 (2020: £2,006).

**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England NPO	88,176		86,583	
What Next Culture	<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>	
		88,676		87,083
Restricted Income: NSRTDI (2)				
Grant Income:				
Arts Council England	-		208,428	
Arts Council Wales	3,000		13,500	
Dance East	1,000		-	
	<u>4,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total		8,000		221,928
Restricted Income: Libraries Project				
Grant Income				
Arts Council England		<u>31,080</u>		<u>38,850</u>
Restricted Income: Research Project (SIS)				
Grant Income				
Arts Council England		<u>15,622</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Restricted Grant Income		<u>54,702</u>		<u>260,778</u>
Total Grant Income		<u>143,378</u>		<u>347,861</u>
NSRTDI (2) Contributed Income		11,995		60,692
Unrestricted Income				
Earned Income:				
Membership Fees	14,281		17,826	
Trading activities within the objects:				
Bank Interest	116		361	
New Directions 2018	-		-	
Conference Hi Viz 2020	-		27,724	
Publications	-		65	
Rural Touring Award	-		350	
Training Fees	1,834			
Donations	272			
Furlough	<u>1,929</u>			
Total Unrestricted Income		<u>18,432</u>		<u>46,326</u>
Total Earned and Contributed Income		<u>30,427</u>		<u>107,018</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>173,805</u>		<u>454,879</u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Balance BF		173,805		454,879
Restricted funds: Research Project				
University Research Costs	-		59,533	
NRTF Costs	-		<u>16,744</u>	
Total		0		76,277
Restricted funds: NSRTDI (2)				
CPD grants	-		3,505	
Marketing Audience Dev	23,316		39,679	
Development	46,300		43,180	
Artistic Costs	25,021		118,181	
Overheads	<u>1,259</u>		<u>9,722</u>	
Total		95,896		214,267
Restricted Funds: Libraries Project				
Project Management	11,361		1,651	
Project Expenditure	<u>4,363</u>		-	
		15,724		1,651
Total Restricted funds		<u><u>111,620</u></u>		<u><u>292,195</u></u>

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

	2021	2020
Unrestricted Funds:		
<u>Grants payable:</u>		
Edinburgh Village Hall	-	3,438
Brighton Village Hall	-	300
Professional Development Grants	-	2,467
Unlocked Grants	6,500	
Pilot Project Grants	1,000	
Unconscious Bias	2,385	
Total	9,885	6,205
<u>Other direct charitable activity:</u>		
Dance Director fee/exp	4,093	2,000
Online Community Dev	-	5,436
Touring Projects	-	1,200
Conference Hi Viz 2020	6,943	30,980
Village Halls Week	-	788
Rural Touring Awards	-	957
Advocacy Digital Resources	5,219	9,885
Total	16,255	51,246
<u>Management of the charity:</u>		
Finances	4,300	4,200
Staff Salary/ Tax/ NI/ Pension	43,501	35,929
Staff Travel	44	3,881
Governance/ Board Meetings/ Travel/ Subsistence	960	3,484
Staff CPD and Membership	146	1,800
Communications/Admin Manager	12,895	1,812
Insurances	767	756
Total	62,613	51,862
<u>Administration of the charity:</u>		
Printing Postage Stationery, Office Costs	1,396	2,644
Web Design/ Hosting/ Maintenance	3,315	800
Accountancy Fees	1,901	2,764
Total	6,612	6,208
Total unrestricted	95,365	115,521
Total expenditure	206,985	407,716
Excess of income over expenditure	(33,180)	47,163