

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**

Contents	Page
Report of the Management Committee	3 – 15
Independent Examiners Report	16
Statement of Financial Activities	17
Balance Sheet	18
Notes to the financial statements	19-27

**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).

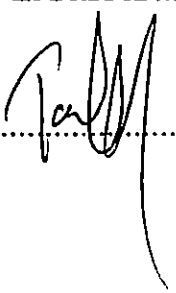
Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the 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 on14/9/21..... 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>216,581</u>	<u>249,760</u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	144,407	189,330
Unrestricted	8	<u>72,174</u>	<u>60,430</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>216,581</u>	<u>249,760</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 on14/5/21...

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>

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	2,385	2,467
 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	-	3,738
 Rural Touring Unlocked Grants		
Arts Alive	1,500	-
Highlights	1,750	-
Cheshire West and Chester	1,500	-
Carn to Cove	1,750	-
Total Unlocked	6,500	-
 Pilot Project Grants		
Live & Local	1,000	-
Total Pilot Grants	1,000	-
 Total Grants Awarded	9,885	6,205

**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)

NSRTDI 2

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

Libraries Project

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	-		16,744	
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	1,259		9,722	
Total		95,896		214,267
Restricted Funds: Libraries Project				
Project Management	11,361		1,651	
Project Expenditure	4,363		-	
		15,724		1,651
Total Restricted funds		<u>111,620</u>		<u>292,195</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