

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.

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**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).

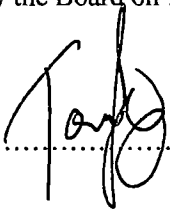
Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the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

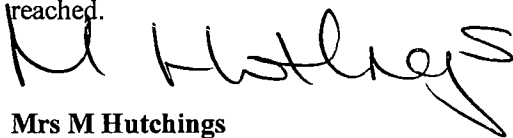
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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		<u>26,749</u>	<u>85,694</u>	<u>112,443</u>	<u>216,581</u>
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>84,924</u>	<u>112,443</u>
 Represented by			
FUNDS			
Restricted	7	9,049	26,749
Unrestricted	8	<u>75,875</u>	<u>85,694</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>84,924</u>	<u>112,443</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.

16
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.

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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	<u>3,306</u>	<u>1,591</u>

3. Debtors

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

4. Creditors

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

5. Directors remuneration

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

Average number of employees	<u>2</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 £1,375 (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	<u>1,700</u>	<u>2,779</u>
 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	<u>2,053</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total Grants Awarded	<u><u>3,753</u></u>	<u><u>2,779</u></u>
 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	<u>(13,170)</u>	<u>(162,889)</u>
NSRTDI 2 Balance at 31st March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,592)</u>
 <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	<u>(34,611)</u>	<u>(18,214)</u>
Libraries Project Balance as at 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>34,341</u>
 <u>RTDI 3</u>		
Balance at 1 April 2022	-	-
Contributed Income	10,792	-
Less Direct Charitable expenditure	<u>(1,743)</u>	<u>-</u>
RTDI 3 Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>9,049</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total Restricted funds at 31st March 2023	<u><u>9,049</u></u>	<u><u>26,749</u></u>

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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	<u>75,875</u>	<u>85,694</u>

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)
	<u>9,049</u>	<u>75,875</u>	<u>84,924</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 2023 (2022: Nil).

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

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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>		
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>

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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)