

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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	19-26

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

Reference and Administrative Information

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

Trustees and Directors

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

Company secretary (Day to day management)

Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)
----------------	-----------------

Names of observers

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

Independent Examiner

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

Bankers

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

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

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

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

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

Summary of the main activities in relation to those objects.

NRTF Mission

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

NRTF Values

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

NRTF Aims

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delivery of Aims

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public benefit:

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

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

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

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

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

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

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

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

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

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

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

Artistic Partnerships

Edinburgh Fringe presentation

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

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

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

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

Brighton Fringe presentation

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

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

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

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

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

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

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

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

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

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

RTDI 2023 -2024 Summary -

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

Stats: 79 shows & 3032 Audience Members

Annual Conference

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

8
**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

NRTF aspires to be bold in the following areas:

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

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

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

Who was there?

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

50 guests (staff, participants, board)

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

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

Communications & Membership

Website

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

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

Social Media

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

Village Halls Week

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

Membership

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

Our NRTF members/beneficiaries include:

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

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

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

Training

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

10
**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Member Meetings

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

What Next? Rural

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

Member Drop-Ins

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

NRTF Open Spaces

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

Scheme Meeting- Newbury, Berkshire 2024

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

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

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

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

Projects & Interventions

Environmental Sustainability

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

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

11

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

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

Professional Development Opportunities / Grants

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

Equality Diversity & Inclusion

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

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

Outputs include:

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

12
**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Key developments for the organisation

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

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

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

2022/23 - In post

Director

Finance Manager

Project Manager (left Sept 23)

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

RTDI Coordinator (joined Feb 2023)

2023/24 - successfully recruited

Membership Manager (joined December 2023)

RTDI NRTF Marketing (joined April 2023)

2024/25 -To be recruited

Conference Manager 2-day pw

Funding Manager 1-day pw

Press Manager 1-day pw

Financial Review

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

13
**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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

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

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

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

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

Trustee selection methods:

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

Additional governance issues:

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

At 2023 AGM the following actions took place: -

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

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

- Tom Speight, Chair
- Chris Bridgman
- Emyr Bell

14
**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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

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

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

Board Meetings

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

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

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

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

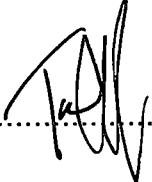
- Select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures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

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

15
**NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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

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

Tom Speight (Chair)

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

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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



Mrs M Hutchings

Apsleys

Chartered Accountants

21 Bampton Street

Tiverton

Devon

Date: 18/11/2024

17

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

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

18
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

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

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

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

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

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

.....
Director

Company registration number 03319947

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

19
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

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

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

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

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

(b) Funds

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

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

(c) Income recognition

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

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

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

20
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

(d) Expenditure recognition

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

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

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

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

(e) Cash

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

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

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

(g) Tax

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

(h) Going concern

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

21
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

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

3. Debtors

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

4. Creditors

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

5. Directors remuneration

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

Average number of employees	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
-----------------------------	----------	----------

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

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

22
NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

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

RTDI 3

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

8. Unrestricted funds

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

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

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

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

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

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

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