

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Number: 1062366
Company Number: 03319947

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
(A company limited by guarantee)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

Reference and Administrative Information

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

Trustees and Directors

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

Company secretary (Day to day management)

Holly Lombardo	(Director Only)
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Names of observers

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

Independent Examiner

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

Bankers

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

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

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

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the objects of the charity

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

Summary of the main activities in relation to those objects.

NRTF Mission

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

NRTF Values

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

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

NRTF Aims

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delivery of Aims

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public benefit:

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

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

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

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

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

Achievements and Performance:

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

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

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

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

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

IN 2022 NRTF was successful in securing increased investment as an Investment Principal Support

Organisation (IPSO), from Arts Council England in the current funding round. The new funding round began in April 2023. In the last two rounds of funding as an NPO we received £88,176 a year. In this round 2023 - 2027, we are being awarded £154,000.

Annual Conference

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

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

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

NRTF aspires to be bold in the following areas:

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

Rural Touring Dance Initiative

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

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

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

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

RTDI 2024 -2025 Summary -

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

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

Rural Press Agency

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

Sector Networks

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

Artistic Partnership

Edinburgh Fringe Presentation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brighton Fringe Presentation

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

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

Communications**Website**

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

Social Media

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

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

Village Halls Week

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

Membership

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

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

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

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

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

Training

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

Media Training Initiatives

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

Resource development for Artists

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

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

Language and Data Workshops

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

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

Advocacy and Communications

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

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

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

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

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

Member Drop-Ins

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

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

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

NRTF Open Spaces

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

Scheme Meeting – Birmingham 2025

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

Projects

Environmental Sustainability

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

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

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

Professional Development, Inclusion, and Equality

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

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

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

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

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

Key developments for the organisation

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

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

Financial Review

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

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

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

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

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

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

Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document:

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

Trustee selection methods:

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

Additional governance issues:

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

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

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

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

Board Meetings

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

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

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

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

Tom Speight (Chair)

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

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

reached.


Mrs M Hutchings

Apsleys

Chartered Accountants

21 Bampton Street

Tiverton

Devon

Date: 27/11/2025

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

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

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NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025

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

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

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

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

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

.....
Director

Company registration number 03319947

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

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

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

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

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

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

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

(b) Funds

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

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

(c) Income recognition

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Expenditure recognition

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

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

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

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

(e) Cash

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

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

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

(g) Tax

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

(h) Going concern

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

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

2. Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

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

3. Debtors

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

4. Creditors

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

5. Directors remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	91,850	90,157
Social security costs	2,687	1,983
Pension costs	<u>2,013</u>	<u>1,879</u>
	<u>96,550</u>	<u>94,019</u>
 Average number of employees	 <u>4</u>	 <u>4</u>

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

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

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

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

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

8. Unrestricted funds

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

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

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

10. Related party transactions

No officials of the Charity were remunerated for their services.

11. Management committee members remuneration and expenses

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

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

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

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