

THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

England & Wales · Charity number 514981

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2015-09-07

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

Contact

Address Ivy House
4 Borrage Green Lane
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 2JH

Phone 07799528937

Email info@ripontheatrefestival.org

Website www.ripontheatrefestival.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY THE MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE KNOWLEDGE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE HISTORY AND THE HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CITY OF RIPON.

Activities: Assists other organisations in the arts and sporting fields by grants and donations and carries out various cultural community events.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£40,868	£50,250	-	-
2025-03-31	£57,276	£46,026	-	-
2024-03-31	£50,920	£37,702	-	-
2023-03-31	£32,690	£41,718	-	-
2022-03-31	£20,023	£4,008	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Anne Scott		2025-03-12
Julia Whitham		2025-03-12
Simon Hewitt		2025-03-12
TINA ELISABETH SALDEN		2025-03-12

THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

England & Wales - Charity number 514981

Accounts

The Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

Charity number 514981

Report and accounts for 1 April 2025 - 31 October 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR 1 APRIL 2025 - 31 OCTOBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NAME The Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 514981

REGISTERED OFFICE 3 The Crescent
Ripon
HG4 2JB

TRUSTEES

The trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Mr S. Hewitt
Mr B. Price
Mrs T. Salden
Mrs C. Scott
Mrs J. Whitham

BANKERS

HSBC
34 Westgate
Ripon
HG4 2BL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Alistair McLean
Dairy Cottage
48 Hurgill Road
Richmond
DL10 4SZ

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2025 - 31 OCTOBER 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Ripon City Festival Trust 1986 is a charitable trust, registered charity, number 514981. The governing constitution was adopted on 7 February 1984.

There were no resignations or appointments of trustees during this period.

Responding to the growth of the charity's main project, Ripon Theatre Festival, trustees have taken steps to strengthen governance and to improve financial reporting and strategic planning. A grant from North Yorkshire Council enabled the charity to engage a fundraising consultant to support on Governance Review and Business Planning. Trustees have also taken advice from Community First North Yorkshire in preparing to transfer the charity to a CIO in 2026.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main charitable objects are as follows:

To advance the education of the public by the maintenance improvement and development of the knowledge understanding and appreciation of the history and the historical archaeological architectural and cultural heritage of the City of Ripon (including its customs and traditions).

To present or assist in presenting public concerts dramatic performances recitals arts exhibitions lectures arts festival and other education and arts events.

To provide a means for bringing to the attention of the public the work of creative artists in the appropriate fields of the arts.

Ripon Theatre Festival's mission is to bring colour and culture to all the communities of the city, through performance, participation and community celebration.

The festival's aims are to:

- provide high quality, professional performing arts which are not normally available locally, tackling the barriers of access, affordability, geography and perception;
- animate the city's open spaces and venues, contributing to Ripon's development as a socially connected and vibrant place to live, work and visit;
- work collaboratively, making the most of local skills and partnerships, developing volunteers and creating participatory opportunities for all of the city's communities.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity and in planning future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of Ripon Theatre Festival 2025 (RTF25)

RTF25 was the fourth festival delivered by the charity and its most successful to date. RTF received project funding for the first time from Arts Council England (National Lottery Project Grant) which increased the quantity and quality of work presented and significantly supported the outreach and community work. Ticket income increased again in 2025 and the festival continued to be supported through partnership agreements with Ripon BID (Business Improvement District) and Ripon City Council. Grants from North Yorkshire Council, local trusts and a range of community groups supported the free family events and outreach projects. Corporate sponsorship from local businesses was down on previous years, but remained a vital income stream along with donations from individuals.

Events

RTF25 took place over six days and nights (1-6 July 2025). More than 2,500 people were involved as audiences, participants or performers, with total attendances to both free and ticketed events approaching 8,000. From bed-side puppetry for care-home residents and pop-up storytelling, to high-quality street acts and open-air family theatre in multiple locations, more than 130 events including drama, puppetry, circus, comedy and poetry were staged in varied and unique venues.

The majority of events for families were free and the city streets and open spaces hosted a variety of characters and acts, with community performers taking part alongside professional performers from across the UK.

Outreach & Education

RTF was able to deliver a number of community outreach activities and events both during and in the months ahead of the festival.

Artist Sharon Hockin worked with community groups to create an art installation in Ripon Spa Gardens. She delivered a total of 8 workshops, involving a total of 42 participants with learning disabilities and special educational needs.

Creative arts workshops with 14 young people were delivered in partnership with Ripon YMCA and RTF worked with volunteers from Ripon Museums Trust to present a community play staged across all three museum sites.

RTF also took dance, theatre and puppetry to 6 different residential care homes in Ripon, Boroughbridge and nearby villages, working with Spiltmilk Dance and with Eye of Newt Theatre. A total of 128 elderly residents took part.

RTF presented its first schools' day with performances from Swallows Wing Puppetry, introducing 193 key stage 1 & 2 children from 3 primary schools to West African stories.

The Storyteller in Residence, Peter Chand worked on oracy skills with 48 Year 2 pupils at 2 local primary Schools.

A Participation Zone as part of the Family Weekend provided taster workshops in flamenco, Morris dance, African drumming and circus skills.

A poetry-writing walking workshop and storytelling workshops offered creative education opportunities for adults.

A Question and Answer session with writer and performer Russell Lucas explored the research and creative process for his Titanic-inspired theatre piece.

Staffing and Volunteers

The trust has remained entirely volunteer-led during this period. A total of 48 volunteers supported the festival. A freelance marketer provided 3 hours of weekly support over the festival season. The volunteer team included 10 supporters working on the festival across the year with an additional 38 volunteers joining in to staff the festival events. These included a Youth Squad comprising 9 members who assisted at events and with monitoring, marketing and social media.

The trust recognises the considerable value of volunteer support, without which the charity could not deliver its programmes. Total estimated volunteer hours: 1,800 hours. In-kind value of volunteer hours at Living wage (£12.60 per hour): £22,680.

The 2025 Impact Report is here attached as an appendix.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trust's primary activity is Ripon Theatre Festival taking place in July each year, so trustees resolved to change the accounting year to reflect this. Trustees also resolved to submit signed accounts for a short year (1 April – 31 October) in the first instance. The change in accounting year was approved by the Charity Commission on 17 December 2025. The accounts therefore represent only seven months of activity. Some income and expenditure for the 2025 festival was reported in the previous year's accounts (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025).

In the financial period 1 April – 31 October 2025 the charity had an income of £40,868.44 and an expenditure of £50,249.56.

Overall for the 2025 Ripon Theatre Festival, the total revenue was £63,952.65 and the total costs were £57,110.26, resulting in a surplus of £6,842.39.

Moving forward, the financial year will be aligned with the festival year so the accounts will provide a better representation of results.

No trustees received any benefits during the year. Where trustees incurred expenses relating to festival activities they were reimbursed on presentation of receipts.

Reserves Policy

Trustees recognize the need to maintain a level of reserves that ensures the long-term sustainability of our annual theatre festival. This policy balances the need to invest in our artistic mission with the necessity of protecting the charity against financial unforeseen risks.

Purpose of Reserves: Reserves are maintained to:

- Manage the inherent financial risks associated with an annual event-based model.
- Bridge the gap between the timing of expenditure and the receipt of grant funding or ticket sales.
- Provide a contingency fund to ensure the following year's festival can proceed if key income targets are missed/key income is delayed.

The Charity distinguishes between General (unrestricted) Reserves and Designated Funds.

- **General Reserves:** Funds available for the daily purposes of the charity.
- **Designated Festival Delivery Fund:** A specific portion of unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees to underwrite the core costs of the next festival cycle.

Level of reserves:

The Trustees have set a target of 50% of annual turnover as Reserves. Of these, trustees designate £14,000 as a Festival Delivery Fund.

Rationale: The Charity is dependent on income from grants, donations and earned income which can fluctuate. Reserves at this level represents the minimum viable level of funds required to commit to artist contracts and venue hires months in advance of the annual festival.

Current Position: As of 31 October 2025, our total reserves represent approximately 30% of turnover. While these funds are unrestricted, they are not surplus; they are essential working capital required to mitigate the risk of a single failed funding round causing the permanent cessation of the festival.

Monitoring and Review: The Trustees will review the level of reserves and the designation of funds quarterly. This policy will be formally reviewed annually to ensure it remains proportionate to the scale of the festival and the external economic environment.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report and account demonstrate the trustees' commitment to discharging these responsibilities effectively.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Salden', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tina Salden

Chair of Trustees

12 February 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended **31 October 2025**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Name: Alistair McLean

Address: Dairy Cottage, 48 Hurgill Road, Richmond, N. Yorkshire, DL10 4SZ

Date: 11/01/2026

The Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

Accounts for 1st April 2025 to 31st October 2025

	31/10/2025	31/03/2025
Income		
RTF 2024		34191.72
RTF 2025		23084.21
Donations and Legacies		
Trusts/Community Donations	5525.00	
Individual Giving	2066.98	
Public Funds/Grants	4100.00	
Charitable Activities		
Ticket Revenue	18626.46	
Trading Activities		
Corporate Sponsorship	5550.00	
Ripon BID	5000.00	
Total Income	40868.44	57275.93
Expenditure		
Charitable activities - RTF 2024		39164.88
Charitable activities - RTF 2025	50249.56	6860.70
Total expenditure	50249.56	46025.58
Profit	-9381.12	11250.35
Balance sheet		
Bank	22523.57	31982.44
Cash	82.75	5.00
	22606.32	31987.44
Represented by		
Reserve b fwd	31987.44	20737.09
Profit/Loss for the year	-9381.12	11250.35
Reserve c fwd	22606.32	31987.44
Unrestricted Funds		31987.44
General funds	8606.32	
Designated fund – RTF Delivery Fund	14000.00	
	22606.32	31987.44



“Ripon has built something that feels both ambitious and accessible, professional and personal.”
The Yorkshire Times



The Headlines



Ripon Theatre Festival 2025 took place from **1-6 July** with workshops, warm-up performances and community outreach events in the preceding months.

"It was so inclusive and so varied. We really enjoyed it and the atmosphere it generated especially over the weekend. Thank you!" Audience Member

We reached new audiences

**We extended our
Community Outreach Programme**

We worked with new venues

We developed our partnerships

We supported the local economy

We developed our reputation



1,962

Tickets
sold

6,026

Free event
attendances

7,988

Total
attendances

412

Community
performers

78

Professional
performers



Audience ↗ Access



Our audience continues to grow and we are working hard to make our festival as inclusive and accessible as possible. We have managed to keep our ticket prices low with the vast majority of our events offered free of charge. We became partners in the Accessible Ripon project.

“It is a fantastic weekend, we come every year” Family Day Attendee

Ticket sales were up by 19%

Total attendances increased by 37%

80% of all available tickets were sold

44% were experiencing the festival for the first time

62% of attendees came from Ripon

**78% of events were free
Tickets cost £5 - £20**

15% of our ticketed audience parties included a disabled member

49% of ticket buyers also attended one of our free events

193 children attended an event with their school

“Really friendly atmosphere and even fun for my two teenagers”

Visitor from Falkirk, Scotland

“As a disabled viewer I was cared for perfectly”

Ripon Resident

“Really nice to reach people who might not ordinarily get to see theatre”

Performer from Notice this Notice

“A great festival yet again. Reasonably priced tickets for interesting shows.”

Ripon Resident



Our Events



We staged 134 events in total, from *Nana Funk* at our Launch Night in March to a Shakespeare finale in July.

We successfully trialled doubling up some evening performance options, worked with new venues and created a Participation Zone for drop-in workshops. We grew our outdoor arts offer and promoted our first Schools' Day.

We attended several performances and they were all very good, many were outstanding, powerful, moving and some raucous theatre! We loved it."

Audience Member

"It was a triumph!"

*The Very Reverend John Dobson, Dean of Ripon Cathedral
The Beloved Son*



95%

Survey respondents:
The quality was
excellent or very
good

"We saw Pirate Princess. What a joy. A lovely hour of silly to cheer up everyone there on a Friday evening. Just lovely."

Audience Member at Trinity Church

"The performance I attended was excellent in all respects. It was both entertaining and informative, and far exceeded my expectations."

Audience Member at Peelers, Poachers, Paupers

Ticketed theatre programme

Highlights included
The Beloved Son, *Third Class* and
Spy Movie: the Play!

Open air theatre

From *The Three Inch Fools*, *Illyria*,
Notice this Notice and
Wrongsemble

Street entertainment & Pop-Ups

Highlights included *Tit for Tat Circus*,
Cloudscapes, *Bee Cart* and
The Calamity Dames

Community Play with Ripon Museums

Peelers, *Poacher and Paupers* told
local history across 3 sites

New Venues

The Leper Chapel, The Portly Pig
and Ripon Races

Community art installation

From *Bandstand to Hatstand* with
artist Sharon Hockin

Our first Primary Schools' Day

Swallow's Wings Puppetry
presented *Anansi & the Lost Sun*

our Performers



We welcomed 78 professional artists from across the country with specialisms in puppetry, circus, magic, comedy, theatre, dance and storytelling. We provided a platform for a record 412 community performers from North and West Yorkshire.



“What a fantastic event, it was truly very inspirational to be around so many amazing acts and people.”

Lucy Hardy, Lula Hooper

“We've had such amazing feedback - so good to share the veterans memories and get this response.”

Helena Fox, Writer/Director, Bomb Happy

“We had such a lovely time. We were so well looked after and the festival (as always) is so well received in Ripon by the people out on the streets.”

Gil & Natalie, Kerfuffle Theatre



“Many thanks for the opportunity. It was great to give a stage to Ripon Poets.”

Caroline Matusiak, Poet

“We've come all the way from Cardiff and it's been lush!”

Kitsch n Sync Collective



Bringing The Community Together



Our festival belongs to the city and is shaped by our partners, volunteers, supporters and participants. We collaborate to make the most of the city's venues, resources and skills together with the talents of visiting artists.

"It was truly a pleasure to see Ripon come alive with creativity, talent, and community spirit. It was an honour to sponsor and take part in – the dedication and passion of everyone involved were clear to see, and the result was something really special."

Jackie Crozier, Little Bird Markets

76%

"RTF improved my sense of wellbeing"

88%

"RTF is welcoming for the whole community"

Survey respondents agreed *strongly* or *very strongly*



"It really feels like Ripon is very invested in this festival"

Natalie Bellingham, Performer with Pif Paf

"You've helped us achieve what we want which is to get this building better known and better used."

Ros Latham, Chaplain at The Leper Chapel

Event collaboration with Ripon Museums and Kirkgate traders

Venue partnerships with Ripon Races, Ripon Cathedral, The Old Deanery Hotel

Pop-up performances in The Portly Pig bar and The Little Ripon Bookshop

Family events with Ripon Library and Ohana charity

Local writers and performers supported with Short & Sweet Yorkshire

28 community groups took part as performers



Empowering People

We developed our team of trustees and volunteers, provided work experience and supported young volunteers.

“This role sharpened my skills and gave me valuable insight into working with a creative team under real-world deadlines. Seeing my work gain engagement which helped boost tickets sales gave me real confidence.”

Romily Abbott, Digital Marketing Assistant

48 volunteers including Youth Squad of 9

Volunteer development with Ripon YMCA

1 student internship – Digital Marketing Assistant

1 emerging artist placement – Assistant Director, *Peelers, Poachers, Paupers*

4 new trustees

New volunteer logistics team



“All the volunteers were super helpful and cheerful all contributing towards the fantastic atmosphere!

Ripon Resident

“The event was well managed, with helpful and friendly staff.”

Ripon Resident



“An incredibly rewarding experience, allowing me to grow both professionally and creatively. Being part of this project has expanded my portfolio and experience and also helped me form valuable connections with inspiring individuals.”

*Emily Briscombe, Assistant Director, *Peelers, Poachers, Paupers**

Reaching out



Project funding enabled us to deliver more community outreach activities, both during and in the months running up to the festival. We developed our relationship with care homes in the area and held our first Schools' Day.

Dance theatre in 4 care homes with *Bloom* from Spiltmilk Dance

Suitcase puppet show in 3 care homes with Eye of Newt including multiple bedroom performances

128 care home residents and those living with dementia enjoyed a live event

8 papier-mâché hat sessions with learning disabled adults



"We've displayed the hats in our new café area today and they look amazing. The members are suitably proud of their work."

Sue Orrey-Godden, Learning Disability Support Worker, Ripon Walled Garden

"I designed a blue planet style hat. I learnt to do a bit more detail and added a lot of features of the oceans from the tropics to the mysterious dark depths."

William, Jennyruth Workshops



**"It was a brilliant workshop - we were all so impressed.
Captivating."**

Burton Leonard Primary School response to Peter Chand

"It brought back some lovely feelings and memories"

**"When I go back to my room and close the door I will
keep thinking about this, and sing."**

Care home residents' responses to Bloom



**3 creative sessions
with Ripon YMCA young
people**

3 storytelling workshops



**24 care workers attended
Listening With Your Eyes
session with
Vamos Theatre**

**Flamenco, Morris Dance,
African Drumming &
Circus Skills sessions**



Supporting the Local Economy



We worked with Ripon BID (Business Improvement District) and with our corporate sponsors, partner venues and local businesses to make the most of the festival's commercial opportunities. Audiences spent money locally and RTF supported local suppliers.

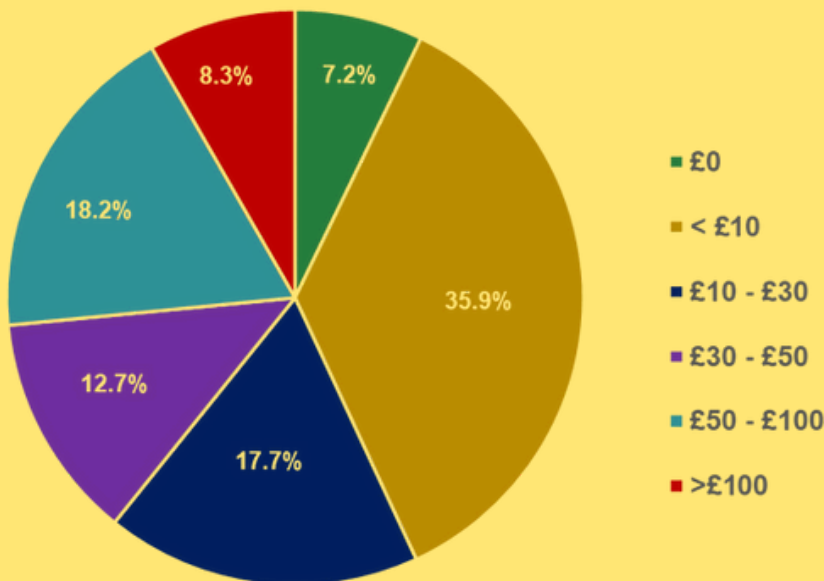


"It was my best ever day since the start of trading here" *The Portly Pig*

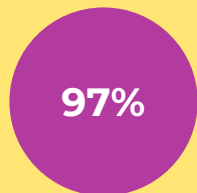


"I love Ripon and it was great to see it so buzzy!"
Fiona Hunt, Short & Sweet Yorkshire

RTF ticket purchasers and visitors told us how much they spent



Spent more than £50 with local businesses



"RTF is good for Ripon's image"

Survey respondents agreed strongly or very strongly



Footfall in Ripon across the week of the festival saw a marked uplift. On Festival Saturday, crowds remained longer in the city centre than in previous years.

We developed our partnership with traders on Kirkgate. A road closure enabled outdoor service for restaurants and bars and entertainment was co-curated with Ripon Open Mic Organisers, RoughCutUK.

Food and drink businesses reported significant increase in sales in the Cathedral Zone on Saturday, with product selling out in record time.

“RTF is a beacon in terms of our aspirations for a thriving city; a showcase of what quality, superbly organized and joined up arts and culture can bring to a market town economy.”

Richard Hughes, Kirkgate Traders



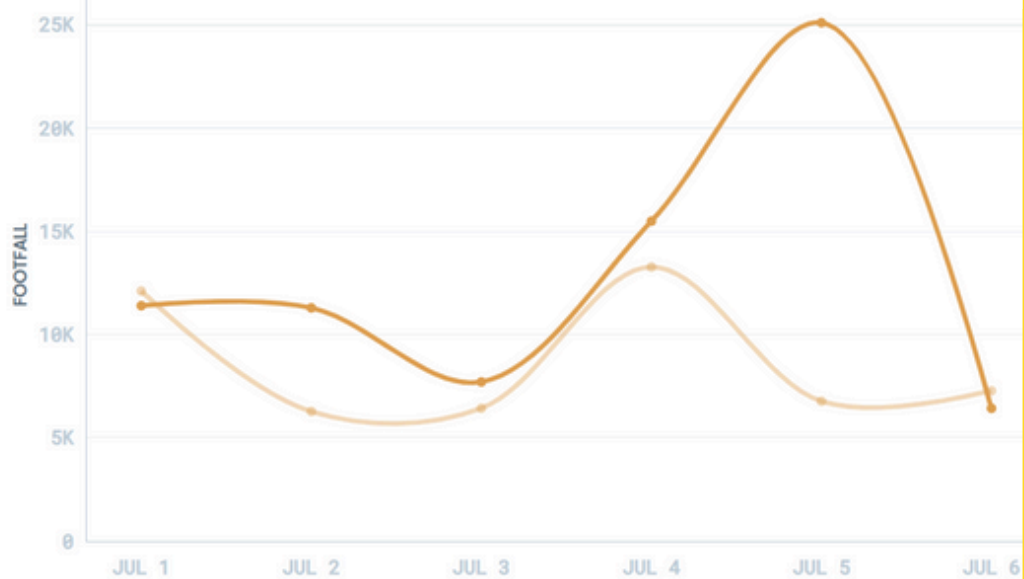
33% increase in footfall over Festival Week

DATES ▾
1 Jul 2025 - 6 Jul 2025

COMPARED TO ▾
2 Jul 2024 - 7 Jul 2024

CENTRE NAME +
Ripon BID

PURCHASING POWER +
All



77.4k +48.5%
12.9k +48.5%

Increasing our Reputation



“Ripon has cracked the code of what modern audiences actually want: intimacy, variety, and genuine connection.”
Yorkshire Times

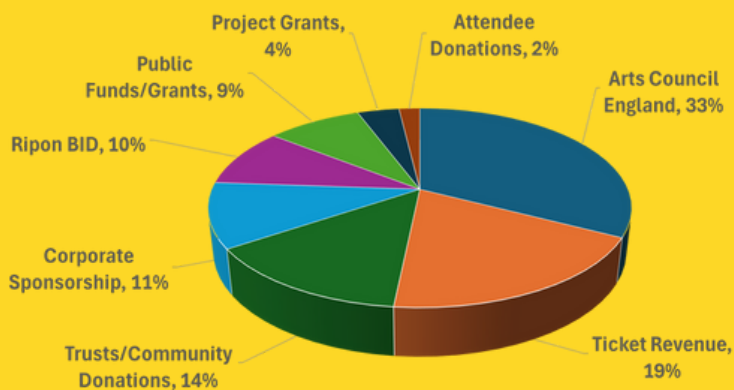
“It was a resounding success and adds cultural attraction to a city primed for expansion and growth by introducing diversity and content for all ages”
Martin Sterne, Sterne Properties

“Just excellent. The heart and the effort and care that went into it was outstanding.”
Visitor from West Yorkshire

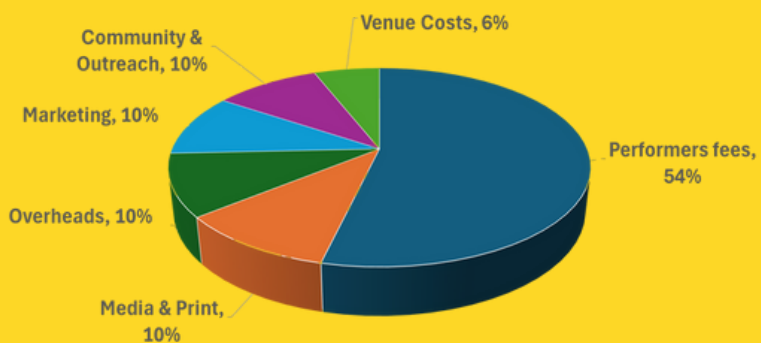
“You are going from strength to strength. Well done to everyone involved in the organisation of the event, it is much appreciated by Ripon residents and visitors to the city.”
Cllr Barbara Brodigan, North Yorkshire Council



Income



Expenditure



Audience and visitor information gathered from 312 face-to-face and online questionnaires.

Ripon Theatre Festival 2025 was generously supported by:



Performers

Nana Funk
Everwitch Theatre
Fell Foss Theatre
Lou Conran
Larry Dean
Andrew Harrison
Olivia Corbin-Phillip
Peter Chand
Russell Lucas
Mary-Jane Holmes
Ripon Ghost Walkers
On a Role Productions
Swallow's Wing Puppetry
Gemma Bond
Theatre Royal (Norwich)
Flamenco de Leeds
Slubbing Billy's
Ripon City Morris
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers
Rock Choir
Kerfuffle Street Theatre
Kitsch n Sync Collective
Lula Hooper
Gobbledegook Theatre
Tit for Tat Circus
Stories Alive
Grandly Strange
Dave Ford & Dimitri Ogden
The Wakeman Mummers' Musicians
Chicks on Sticks
Yorkshire Voices
The Fantastic Mr Forster
Catherine Jacob
Ripon Youth Theatre
Drums Agogo
Ripon Dance Academy
Skellside Folk Group
The Daytones
Lily Worth
Grace Hughes
Calle Oche
RoughCutUK
Short and Sweet Yorkshire
Nigel and Band
Illyria
Vagabond321
Glass Rockets
Louise Geller
Pif Paf Theatre
Ripon Trinity Singers

Handmade Theatre
Notice this Notice
Jolly Good Productions
Cricket on the Hearth
Ripon Goes to Bollywood
Wrongsemble
Open the Book
Dishforth Military Wives Choir
Ripon Walled Garden Performers
Medusa
Super B
The Three Inch Fools
Spiltmilk Dance
Eye of Newt

Venues

Ripon Arts Hub
Ripon Library
Ripon Cathedral
The Old Deanery
Holy Trinity Church
Market Place
Minster Gardens
Valentino's Ristorante
The Little Ripon Bookshop
Ripon Courthouse Museum
Kirkgate & City Centre streets
Ripon Spa Gardens
Ripon Workhouse Museum
The Leper Chapel
The Portly Pig
Allhallowgate Methodist Church Hall
Ripon Races
Lister House

Sponsors & Supporters

Arch Consulting	Calmcott Trust
Specsavers, Ripon	The George A Moore
Elstob Auctioneers	Foundation
Ripon Races	Ripon Rowels
Sterne Properties	Rotary Club
Little Bird	Ripon Rotary Club
Valentino's Ristorante	Ripon Library
Arts Council England	Action Group
Ripon BID	WW Spooner Trust
Ripon City Council	The Ramsden Trust
North Yorkshire Council	Ripon Charity
The Charles and Elsie	Pantomime Group
Sykes Trust	Bishop Monkton WI
Alfred Hymas	
Dr F Cole	

THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

England & Wales - Charity number 514981

Accounts

The Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

Charity number 514981

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the annual statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The charity's main charitable objects are to promote the appreciation of the historical, archaeological and cultural aspects of Ripon and the surrounding area. The principal activity of the trust in the year was Ripon Theatre Festival 2024.

Ripon Theatre Festival's mission is to bring colour and culture to all the communities of the city, through performance, participation and community celebration.

The festival's aims are to:

- provide high quality, professional performing arts which are not normally available locally, tackling the barriers of access, affordability, geography and perception;
- animate the city's open spaces and venues, contributing to Ripon's development as a socially connected and vibrant place to live, work and visit;
- work collaboratively, making the most of local skills and partnerships, developing volunteers and creating participatory opportunities for all of the city's communities.

Summary of Ripon Theatre Festival 2024 (RTF24)

RTF24 took place over six days and nights (2-7 July 2024). More than 2,500 people were involved as audiences, participants or performers, with total attendances exceeding 5,000. From digital theatre viewed through a VR headset to open-air family theatre in multiple locations, more than 100 events including drama, puppetry, circus, comedy and poetry were staged in varied and unique venues.

The focus of the weekend was on free family events – street entertainment on the Saturday and a Family Day in Ripon Spa Gardens on the Sunday.

The majority of weekend events were free and the city streets and open spaces hosted a variety of characters and acts, with community performers taking part alongside professional performers from across the UK.

- 69 different shows and acts
- 19 community performances
- 109 performances
- 71 professional performers
- 256 community performers

Outreach

RTF was able to deliver a number of community outreach activities and events both during and in the run-up to the festival.

Artist Sharon Hockin worked with community groups to create an art installation made from recycled umbrellas. She delivered a total of 9 workshops at Ripon Walled Garden, Jennyruth Workshops and Evolve College, involving a total of 60 participants with learning disabilities and special educational needs.

RTF also took theatre and music to 6 different care settings in Ripon, Boroughbridge and nearby villages, working with Goofus Theatre and with singer Nicola Mills. A total of 120 residents or service users took part.

The Storyteller in Residence, Ilaria Passeri, worked with a group of Year 2 pupils at Outwood Greystones School.

Continuing the festival's work in care homes and dementia settings, Vamos Theatre delivered a *Listening with Your Eyes* training session attended by 24 care workers.

Volunteers

A total of 38 volunteers supported the festival. This included a team of 9 volunteers working on the festival across the year with an additional 29 volunteers joining in to staff the festival events. These included a Youth Squad comprising 13 members who assisted at events and with monitoring, marketing and social media.

Total estimated volunteer hours: 1,500 hours

An Impact Report summarising the activities of the festival can be viewed on the website: www.ripontheatrefestival.org

Governance

The trustees who served during the year were:

Mr B. Elsworth

Mr A. Hutchinson

Mr B. Price

On 12 March 2025, Mr B. Elsworth and Mr A Hutchinson resigned and the following trustees were appointed:

Mr S. Hewitt

Mrs T. Salden

Mrs C. Scott

Mrs J. Whitham

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and ensuring its activities are compatible with the aims and objectives of the Trust.

Finance

The Trust's primary activity is the festival taking place in July each year, so the bank position at 31 March includes short-term liabilities for funding the 2025 festival.

As the festival is to some extent weather dependent, reserves are also deemed sufficient and necessary. The reserves on 31 March 2025 were £31,987.44

No trustees received any remuneration or benefits during the year.



Catherine Anne Scott

Trustee

28 September 2025

THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Council members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The council members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act), as amended by section 28 of the Charities Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act, as amended);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, as amended); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....

Date: 26-08-2025
.....

Ripon City Festival Trust 1986
Trading as Ripon Theatre Festival

	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
Income		
RTF 2023		38501.50
RTF 2024	34191.72	12418.81
RTF 2025	23084.21	
Total Income	57275.93	50920.31
Expenditure		
RTF 2023		32357.93
RTF 2024	39164.88	5256.05
RTF 2025	6860.70	
Bank charges		88.86
Total expenditure	46025.58	37702.84
Profit	11250.35	13217.47
Balance sheet		
Bank	31982.44	20737.09
Cash	5.00	
	31987.44	20737.09
Represented by		
Reserve b fwd	20737.09	7519.62
Profit/Loss for the year	11250.35	13217.47
Reserve c fwd	31987.44	20737.09
Unrestricted Reserves		
Theatre Festival	31987.44	20737.09
	31987.44	20737.09

THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

England & Wales - Charity number 514981

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for The Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

Charity no 514981

The trustees present their report and the annual statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The charity's main charitable objects are to promote the appreciation of the historical, archaeological and cultural aspects of Ripon and the surrounding area. The principal activity of the trust in the year was Ripon Theatre Festival. The trust has also organised the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake races. A full report of the activities of Ripon Theatre Festival can be viewed on the website: www.ripontheatrefestival.org.

The three trustees remain unchanged, and no new trustee has been appointed.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in section 4 of the charities act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and ensuring its activities are compatible with the aims and objectives of the Trust.

The Trust's main event is the festival taking place in July each year, so the bank position at 31 March includes short-term liabilities for funding the 2024 festival. As the festival is to some extent weather dependent reserves are also deemed sufficient and necessary. The reserves on 31st March 2024 were £20737.09.

No trustees received any remuneration, expenses or benefits during the year.

B Price FCA FCCA



Trustee

Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

DRAFT Accounts for the Year to 31st March 2024

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
Income		
Spectacular		3415.84
RTF 2022		23064.36
RTF 2023	38501.50	3550.00
RTF 2024	12418.81	
Bond refund HBC		2660.00
Total Income	50920.31	32690.20
Expenditure		
Spectacular		3037.30
RTF 2022		35713.53
RTF 2023	32357.93	2187.80
RTF 2024	5256.05	
Bank charges	88.86	96.93
Insurance		682.84
Creditors		
Total expenditure	37702.84	41718.40
Profit	13217.47	-9028.20
Balance sheet		
Bank	20737.09	7519.62
	20737.09	7519.62
Represented by		
Reserve b fwd	7519.62	16547.82
Profit/Loss for the year	13217.47	-9028.20
Reserve c fwd	20737.09	7519.62
Unrestricted Reserves		
General fund		1133.15
Theatre Festival	20737.09	6386.47
	20737.09	7519.62

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIPON Festival Trust 198
I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on page 1

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner:

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply.

It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement:


In connection with my examination, there are no matters which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirement of the Act

Which have not been met; or

To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached other than the following:


.....

Date: 10/12/2024
.....

THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

England & Wales - Charity number 514981

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report for Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

Charity no 514981

The trustees present their report and the annual statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The charities main charitable objects are to promote the appreciation of the Historical, Archaeological and cultural aspects of Ripon and the surrounding area.

The principal activity of the trust in the year was the Ripon Theatre festival event.

The trust has also supported concerts in Ripon Cathedral and organised the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake races.

During the year one of the trustees Mr Bernard Bateman sadly died. The other three trustees remain unchanged, and no new trustee has been appointed.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in section 4 of the charities act 2011 to have due regard to the charity commissions general guidance on public benefit and ensuring its activities are compatible with the aims and objectives of the Trust.

The trusts main event is the festival taking part in July each year and as it is to some extent weather dependant they feel the level of reserves is sufficient and necessary. The reserves on 31st March 2023 were £7519.

No trustees received any remuneration, expenses or benefits during the year.

B Price FCA FCCA

Trustee

Ripon City Festival Trust 1986

Accounts for the Year to 31st March 2023

	31/03/2023	31/03/2022
Income		
Spectacular	3415.84	
Band Concert		23.36
Theatre Festival 2022	23064.36	19000.00
Theatre Festival 2023	3550.00	
Bond refund HBC	2660.00	1000.00
Total Income	<u>32690.20</u>	<u>20023.36</u>

Expenditure		
Spectacular	3037.30	
Theatre Festival 2023	2187.80	
Theatre Festival 2022	35713.53	3986.56
Bank Charges	96.93	21.29
Insurance	682.84	
Total expenditure	<u>41718.40</u>	<u>4007.85</u>

Profit for year	<u>-9028.20</u>	<u>16015.51</u>
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Balance sheet

Bank	7519.62	16547.82
	<u>7519.62</u>	<u>16547.82</u>

Represented by

Reserve b fwd	16547.82	532.31
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Profit/Loss for the year	-9028.20	16015.51
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Reserve c fwd	<u>7519.62</u>	<u>16547.82</u>
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Unrestricted Reserves

General fund	1133.15	1534.38
Theatre Festival	6386.47	15013.44

	<u>7519.62</u>	<u>16547.82</u>
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THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE RIPON CITY FESTIVAL TRUST 1986

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Council members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The council members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act), as amended by section 28 of the Charities Act 2005) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act, as amended);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, as amended); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 27/10/2023