

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