



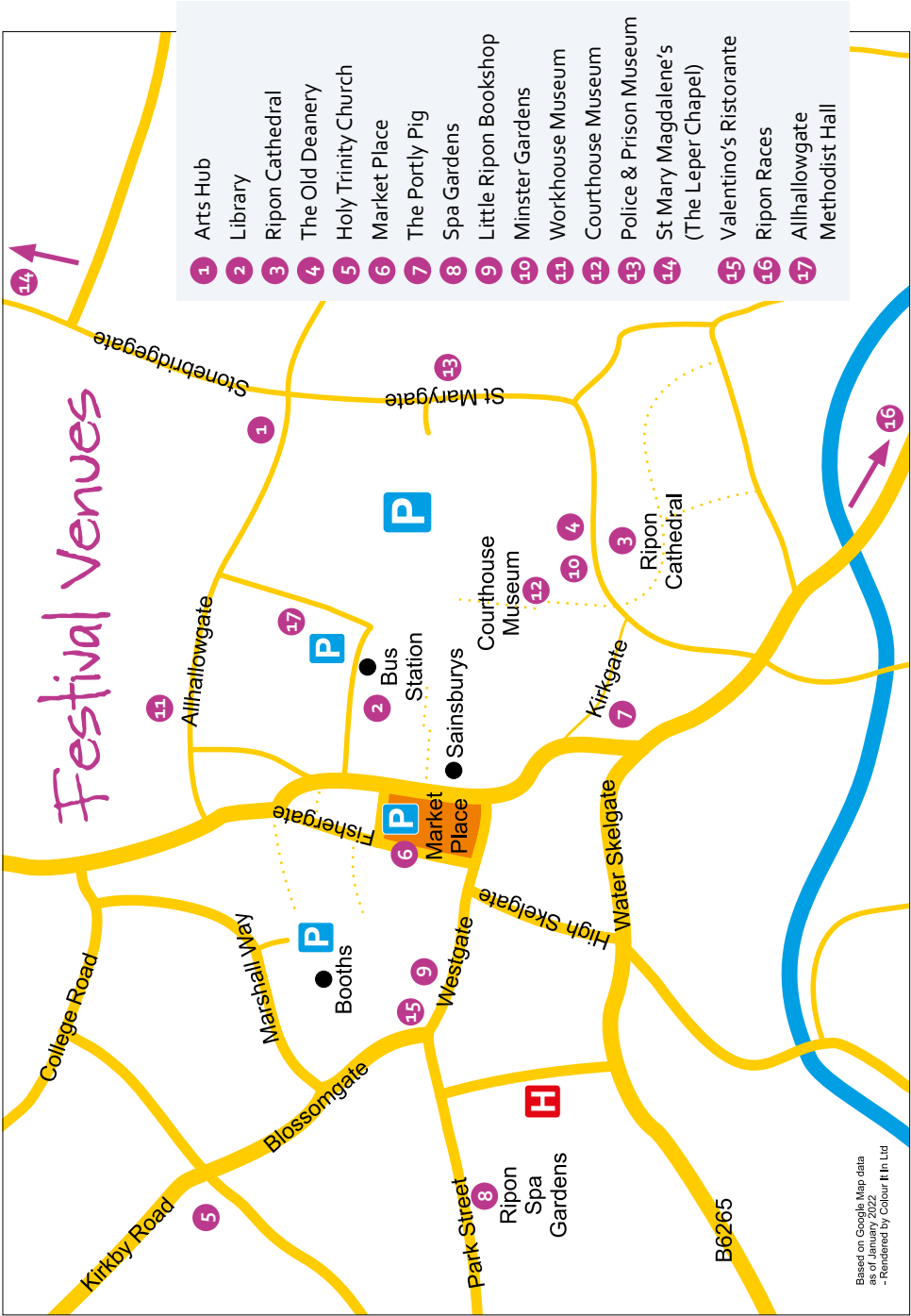
RIPON Theatre FESTIVAL

1-6 July
2025



2025 Festival Guide

www.ripontheatrefestival.org



Welcome!

We're thrilled to be celebrating our fourth year of bringing colour, culture and community spirit to our wonderful city! As you browse these pages, you'll find a programme bursting with six days of drama and dance, cabaret and comedy, puppetry and storytelling – something for everyone to enjoy.

The excitement begins even before July, with workshops, events and activities reaching into the heart of our community, including the culmination of Ripon Museums' inspiring Community Theatre project. This year, we're also introducing even more opportunities to get involved, from our first ever performance for primary schools to a brand new Storyteller in Residence – plus plenty of surprises along the way!

The festival comes to a head with a spectacular weekend of street theatre and open-air events that are bigger, bolder and brighter than ever. With around 25 local community groups and performers taking part, alongside incredible acts from across the country, it's set to be a blockbuster.

So, pull up a chair, dive into the programme, and start planning your festival adventure. We can't wait to welcome you!

The Festival Team



WILF
THE DRAMA
LLAMA

watch out
for wilf!

Our furry
festival friend
points the way
to fun family
events...

Thanks to all our funders, sponsors and supporters



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



LEADING LIGHTS



valentino's



WITH SUPPORT FROM



The George A Moore Foundation, The Calmcott Trust,
Ripon Rowels Rotary Club, Ripon Rotary Club,
Ripon Charity Pantomime Group, W W Spooner Trust,
Ripon Library Action Group

Pre-Festival Events

Sunday 11 May, 2.30pm | Lister House

Bomb Happy

Two ordinary Yorkshire lads find themselves in extraordinary circumstances.

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, a poignant and lyrical double-bill telling the stories of Yorkshire Normandy Veterans in their own words.

Using spoken word, film and haunting *a cappella* vocals, the first-hand experiences of Ken "Smudger" Smith and Derek "Hank" Haydock are sensitively brought to life by playwright Helena Fox.

At times humorous, at times harrowing, a close-up into the reality of the frontline and a rare glimpse into the life of someone beset by memories of war.



£10

Age guide 14+

Everwitch Theatre

Presented in partnership with Ripon Community Poppy Project



Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 June, 1.30pm – 4.30pm & 5pm – 8pm | Ripon Museums

Peelers, Poachers and Paupers

A tale of resistance, survival and defiance in Victorian Yorkshire

Experience a brand new unmissable theatrical journey staged across all three of Ripon's historic museums.

Step into the gripping true story of Elisha and John Sinkler, brothers born into a gamekeeping family who turned to poaching and paid the ultimate price. From the moors of Nidderdale to an Australian penal colony - witness their desperate fight to return home and the struggles of those left behind.

An immersive, promenade theatre experience giving voice to forgotten lives. Don't miss this extraordinary story told in extraordinary spaces.

Full details of performance and timings on website.



£10

Age guide 10+ tbc

The Workhouse Theatre Ensemble and Fell Foss Theatre

Presented in partnership with Ripon Museums

Opening Night Events

7.30pm | Ripon Cathedral

The Beloved Son

Henri Nouwen (1932–1996) was a Dutch Catholic priest and psychologist who reached the heights of academic success before abandoning everything for a new calling. Caring for people with intellectual disabilities, to some Nouwen put his brilliant career into reverse, to others his life was a welcome challenge to church and society.

A gripping and moving solo performance with multiple characters played with dizzying speed. Hope and longing, family dynamics, sexual and emotional crisis, and the profound insights of a man who became one of the greatest spiritual writers of the 20th century.



£14

Age guide 12+

Andrew Harrison
Written by Murray Watts

Presented in partnership
with Ripon Cathedral



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

Doors 7.30pm, Show 8pm | Ripon Arts Hub

Hilarity Bites Festival Special

An unmissable comedy collab headlined by Larry Dean. Three-time Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, Larry's credits include the Royal Variety Performance in 2024, two appearances on *Live at the Apollo* (once as host), *Mock the Week*, *House of Games* and *Michael McIntyre's Big Show*.

Joining Larry is the "filthy and fabulous" Lou Conran, fresh from comedy festivals in Australia and New Zealand and supporting her great friend Sarah Millican on her international tour. Lou is a regular voice on BBC Radio 4, and is one half of the award-nominated podcast *Spit or Swallow* and the new podcast *Tough Gig*.



£12

Age guide 18+

Hilarity Bites
Comedy Club

9.30am – 11am | Valentino's
& The Little Ripon Bookshop

Babies, Books & Biscotti



Start your morning with a sociable coffee, then pop next door for a gentle sensory storytelling session with your baby. Meet other parents and share baby book ideas. Calm, connection and creativity led by *Stories with Liv*. It's the perfect way to pause, play, and make memories.

Olivia Corbin-Phillip is an Early Years and Literacy Consultant as well as a popular professional storyteller. She leads regular sessions at Leeds Playhouse and across the region.



£7 per grown-up

Age guide 0–24 months

Stories with Liv

Tickets include coffee and biscotti at Valentino's.

3pm – 4.30pm | St Mary Magdalen's
(The Leper Chapel)

Mangoes on the Beach

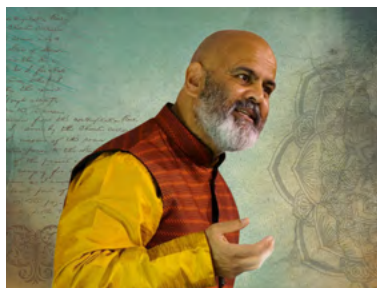
Love.. Loss.. Separation.. and the ties that bind a family.

1937. India is still under British rule, and in a small village in the north a ten-year-old boy dreams of a better life - a life free from the shackles of the caste system which has imprisoned his family for as long as anyone can remember.

RTF Storyteller in Residence, Peter Chand, takes the story of his parents' journey from the Punjab to England in the 1950s and weaves it with traditional Indian folk talks. A moving, witty and thoughtful tribute to a generation, delivered by one of Europe's most accomplished storytellers.

One-hour performance followed by refreshments.

Peter will also be visiting local schools and will lead a Storytelling for Beginners workshop at Ripon Library – see page 9 for details.



£12

Age guide 14+

Peter Chand

Tickets include Flavours of India bun and tea from Realitea, Ripon's own Indian tearoom.

Supported by Ripon Rotary Club

8pm | Ripon Arts Hub

Third Class - A Titanic Story

A one-man show based on the life of Titanic survivor, Edward Dorking.

Edward was gay. Openly gay, and on Wednesday April 10th, 1912, he set sail on a ticket bought for him by his parents in the hope his American family could put him 'right'.

Third Class charts Edward's journey of survival and how, upon arriving in New York, he toured the Vaudeville circuit, recreating the stories for a fact-hungry public.

But Edward didn't want fame; he wanted revenge. When everyone was talking about the deaths of millionaires and society figures, few were discussing the people who took the lion's share of the losses that night: the third class.

Edward was coming for the upper classes.



£14

Age guide 12+

**Written and performed by
Russell Lucas**

11am – 3pm | Meet in the Market Place

Walking and Writing City and Country

Wetlands and rivers, canals and monasteries, monuments and follies; Ripon is an inspirational landscape that has attracted creatives such as Daniel Defoe, Wilfred Owen and Naomi Jacobs.

Join acclaimed writer, Mary-Jane Holmes, for a walk-and-create workshop combining 'attentive' walking, a performance of poetic works and fun writing exercises.

Take time to stroll snickets and paths and reflect on how our experience of environments shapes us. Learn how to harness powers of deeper observation and develop new ways of seeing the world we inhabit.



£20

Age guide 14+

Mary-Jane Holmes

Walk repeated on Saturday 4 October as part of Ripon Poetry Festival.

Thurs 2 – Sat 4 October
www.riponpoetryfestival.co.uk



7pm – 9pm | Meet in the
Market Place

Ripon ghost walk



Wander the ancient streets and places of Ripon with expert and knowledgeable guides.

Expect tales of characters long gone, but thought to have left something behind. Discover frightening events in the most unlikely places.



£6 (£4)

Age guide 6+

Ripon Ghost Walkers

Timed to end with the Ripon Hornblower at 9pm.

7.30pm | Ripon Arts Hub

Mrs Churchill - My Life with Winston

Behind every great man, there is a great woman. Winston Churchill is arguably one of the most famous Englishmen. But what of Clementine, his wife for 56 years?

Winston said, "my most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me."

Liz Grand, whose portrayal of Agatha Christie wowed RTF audiences in 2023, returns with her latest superb, sensitive and informative portrayal.

"Her finest hour." *Showtime*



£14

Age guide 12+

On a Role Productions

Sponsored by Specsavers

Specsavers Ripon
proudly sponsors
**Ripon Theatre
Festival 2025**

28-29 Market Square
Tel 01765 694 777

Specsavers

10.30am – 12.30pm | Ripon Library

Storytelling for Beginners

Are you thinking of dipping your toe into live storytelling? A parent, teacher or tour guide who loves telling or reading stories to others? If you use public speaking in your work, or are just curious about this ancient art, Peter's workshop is for you.

From voice techniques to how to personalise a story; a fun and relaxed introductory session with our RTF Storyteller in Residence.



£10

Peter Chand - RTF Storyteller in Residence

11.30am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Holy Trinity Church

Anansi and the Lost Sun



An inspiring and entertaining West African tale mixing puppetry and traditional music. *One day darkness covers the face of the land. Lion appeals for someone to bring back the light and save the world. Who will succeed? The powerful Eagle? The clever Monkey? Or Anansi the Spider and his mates?*

"Carolene is a captivating storyteller. Our Year 2 pupils were gripped and older students fascinated by the use of materials to tell stories."

Presented with school groups in mind, but all welcome.



£5

Age guide 5+

Swallow's Wings Puppetry

School group tickets available

More for Schools

RTF Storyteller-in-Residence, Peter Chand, will be visiting primary schools during RTF Week. He'll be inspiring Key Stage 2 pupils to stretch their imaginations and bring their stories to life. Email info@ripontheatrefestival for further details.

5.30pm – 6.30pm | Holy Trinity Church

Pirate Princess



Poor shipwrecked Princess Poppy - can she overcome a big dress, extreme weather and the ultimate test of strength to see her way to safety?

A heart-warming story of hope against adversity told with physical theatre, clowning and circus, inspired by strong and inventive women from history.

A fun-filled family show, with colourful costumes and a unique crow's nest.

The show lasts 35 minutes and will be followed by a tasty pirate party tea courtesy of Holy Trinity Church.



Blue Whistle Design

£8

Age guide 5–11

Gemma Bond

Tickets include party tea

8pm | Ripon Arts Hub

Spy Movie: The Play!

Agent Blonde has 24 hours to save the world. The only things standing in her way are dastardly villains, an outrageous plot, and... a lack of funding.

When Hollywood rejects her script, a frustrated screenwriter invites you, an audience of producers, to a one-night-only presentation of *The Greatest Spy Movie (n)Ever Made!*

A new hilarious homage to Bond movies and fringe theatre, from the stars of *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*.



£16 (£14)

Age guide 12+

Norwich Theatre and Albert Cabbage

10.30am & 12 noon | Ripon Library

Scrumptious!



All is well at Sylvie's Scrumptious Sweet Shop, PC Lee can't resist the fruit cake, Stanley the Horse loves peppermint creams, and the Talkative Twins only cause a crumb of chaos. That is until a stranger arrives, and their irresistible ice cream threatens to spoil everything.

A magical show about friendship and ice cream, with hilarious songs, dancing, storytelling and gentle audience participation – the perfect treat for families and anyone young at heart.

Running time approximately 40 minutes.

Tickets include a tub of *Riccardo's Gelato* courtesy of Valentino's.



£6

Age guide 4+

Beggars Belief



12 noon – 12.45pm |

The Little Ripon Bookshop

Doctor Fairytale - Meet the Author



Catherine Jacob introduces her beautiful rhyming book for little ones. Set in a magical land, Doctor Fairytale and her dog, Nurse Pup, travel far and wide to help injured or poorly people.



£5 per child

Age guide 3–6

Catherine Jacob



Proud supporters of Ripon Theatre Festival

Opening hours:

Wednesday to Saturday

9.00am to 2.00pm, 5.00pm to 10.00pm

Sunday - 5.00pm to 10.00pm

01765 604201

info@valentinosripon.co.uk | www.valentinosripon.co.uk

Pop-Up Events

FREE
events

Poetry at the Pig

12 noon – 1pm | The Portly Pig

Join writers featured in the newly-published anthology of Ripon Poets, *This Here, This Now*. An informal drop-in performance. Come for a poem and a pint and explore the hidden depths of familiar places.

Short & Sweet Minis

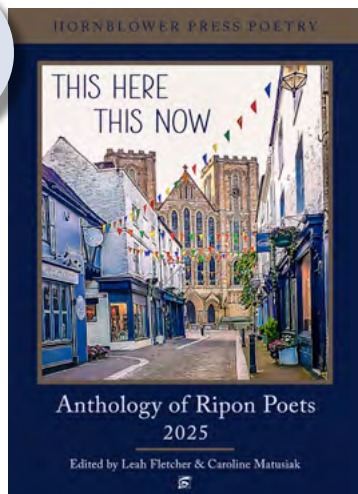
2pm – 2.45pm | The Little Ripon Bookshop

Showcase of three short new works, written and performed by up-and-coming artists.

Pop-up Poetry

3pm – 3.45pm | The Little Ripon Bookshop

More poetry-in-performance from the new anthology



Pay What You Can

Age guide 14+

Ripon Poets and Short & Sweet Yorkshire

Allhallowgate Methodist Hall

Saturday Participation Zone

New for
2025

Like the look of what you've seen on the streets?
Fancy trying something new?

Flamenco Dance Taster
with Flamenco de Leeds

10am – 11am

Morris Dancing for the Terrified
with Ripon City Morris

Give it a go – you know you want to really!

11am – 12 noon

African Drumming Workshop
with Drums Agogo

12.30pm – 1.30pm



PWYC

Taster sessions are **Pay What You Can** events. You can just turn up, but places are limited so advance booking is recommended.

Age guide 8+ for all taster sessions




2025 AT A GLANCE


SUNDAY 11 MAY

<i>Bomb Happy</i>	2.30pm	Lister House	Powerful performances to commemorate VE Day 
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SATURDAY 28 & SUNDAY 29 JUNE

<i>Peelers, Poachers & Paupers</i>	1.30-4.30pm & 5-8pm	Ripon Museums	Resistance, survival and defiance in Victorian Yorkshire 
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TUESDAY 1 JULY

<i>The Beloved Son</i>	7.30pm	Ripon Cathedral	Gripping solo performance 
<i>Hilarity Bites Festival Special</i>	8pm	Ripon Arts Hub	Comedy with Larry Dean headlining 

WEDNESDAY 2 JULY

<i>Babies, Books & Biscotti</i>	9.30-11am	Valentinos/Little Ripon Bookshop	Relaxed baby session with storytelling and coffee 
<i>Mangoes on the Beach</i>	3-4.30pm	Leper Chapel	Migration stories & folk tales for grown-ups 
<i>Third Class – A Titanic Story</i>	8pm	Ripon Arts Hub	One man's Titanic survival story 

THURSDAY 3 JULY

<i>Walking & Writing City & Country</i>	11am-3pm	Meet Market Place	Poetry & mindfulness creative walk 
<i>Ripon Ghost Walk</i>	7-9pm	Meet Market Place	Spooky guided walk for all the family 
<i>Mrs Churchill – My Life with Winston</i>	7.30pm	Ripon Arts Hub	Portrayal of the woman behind the great leader 

FRIDAY 4 JULY

<i>Storytelling for Beginners</i>	10.30am -12.30pm	Ripon Library	Informal & fun introductory session 
<i>Anansi & the Lost Sun</i>	11.30am & 1.30pm	Holy Trinity Church	West African tale with puppetry & traditional music 
<i>Pirate Princess</i>	5.30-6.30pm	Holy Trinity Church	Fun-filled family show with Pirate tea 
<i>Spy Movie: The Play!</i>	8pm	Ripon Arts Hub	Hilarious homage to Bond movies 

2025 AT A GLANCE











SATURDAY 5 JULY

Street Entertainment	10am-4pm	Market Place, Minster Gardens & City Streets	Theatre, circus, dance, music & more	FREE
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*Featuring The Calamity Dames, Books!,
The Knighty Knights and more
Plus talented community performers
from across the region*






Flamenco Dance Taster	10-11am	Allhallowgate Methodist Hall	Expert tuition for beginners from Flamenco de Leeds	 PWYC
Scrumptious!	10.30-11.15am	Ripon Library	A magical show about friendship & ice cream	 PWYC
Cloudscapes	10.30am-3.30pm	Cathedral Forecourt (Green)	Headphones on for a chilled-out digital experience	 PWYC
Morris Dance Taster	11am-12 noon	Allhallowgate Methodist Hall	Go on, have a go! With Ripon City Morris	 PWYC
Doctor Fairytale	12-12.45pm	The Little Ripon Bookshop	Meet the author of this beautiful rhyming book	 PWYC
Scrumptious!	12-12.45pm	Ripon Library	A magical show about friendship & ice cream	 PWYC
Poetry at the Pig	12-1pm	The Portly Pig	Informal readings from Ripon-inspired poets	 PWYC
African Drumming Taster	12.30-1.30pm	Allhallowgate Methodist Hall	Hand drumming for beginners with Drums Agogo	 PWYC
Short & Sweet Minis	2-2.45pm	The Little Ripon Bookshop	Three of the best 10-min new writing works	 PWYC
Pop-up Poetry	3-3.45pm	The Little Ripon Bookshop	Informal readings from Ripon-inspired poets	 PWYC
Kirkgate Street Party	4-8pm	Kirkgate	The entertainment goes on	FREE



= You'll need a ticket for this event

PWYC = Pay What You Can

SATURDAY 5 JULY

<i>Short & Sweet Yorkshire</i>	5-6.20pm	Ripon Arts Hub	Finalists' showcase of 10-min new writing works 
<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>	5.30-7.15pm	Ripon Races	Timeless tale from the riverbank 
<i>Almost Austen</i>	8pm	Ripon Arts Hub	Musical theatre meets Austen in a modern romance 

SUNDAY 6 JULY

<i>Street Entertainment at Little Bird Artisan Market</i>	10am-3pm	Market Place	Theatre, circus, dance, music and more FREE
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*Featuring A Knight Away, Bee Cart,
The Pied Piper and more
Plus talented community performers
from across the region*





<i>Family Day</i>	10am-4pm	Spa Gardens	Open-air theatre, music & community fun FREE
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*Featuring Breadcrumbs, The Puppet Petting Farm,
Punch & Judy and more
Plus talented community performers
from across the region*



<i>Build a Giant Puppet</i>	11am-2pm	Ripon Arts Hub	Hands-on session leading to short performance 
<i>Circus Skills Drop-In</i>	11am-12.30pm & 1.30-3pm	Spa Gardens	Drop-in session with Tit for Tat circus theatre company FREE
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	7pm	The Old Deanery	Shakespeare's popular comedy of love & disguise 

See you again next year!

RIPON
Theatre
FESTIVAL

30 June
– 5 July
2026

Street Entertainment

MARKET PLACE, CITY STREETS,
CATHEDRAL FORECOURT & MINSTER
GARDENS

10am–4pm

Spend the day in Ripon soaking up the atmosphere - the best in street theatre, circus, dance, magic and fun.

Calamity Dames

These rootin' tootin', gun slingin', whip crackin' cowgirls will give any cowboy a run for their money! Buckle up, it's going to be a bumpy ride!



© Paul Branchflower 2023



Paul Branchflower

Market Place
highlights



Books!

A high-energy show featuring acrobatics, fire-juggling, jokes and, of course, books. Four bedraggled book enthusiasts travel from town to town – forced between the margins – on a mission to protect literature.



PLUS TALENTED COMMUNITY PERFORMERS FROM ACROSS THE REGION

Cloudscapes

Take some time to chill out, festival-style. Visit the Cloud Museum Trailer and relax on a giant beanbag to enjoy this fabulous part-installation/part-performance.

*Cathedral
Zone
highlights*

Ellie Kurtz



The Dame Judy and Mr Punchinello Show!

An anarchic, updated, family-friendly, 'parallel universe' glove puppet show. That's (not) the way to do it!!!



**FREE
EVENTS**

The Knightly Knights

Two brave and fearless knights on a quest to travel the land and bring forth joy and laughter.



Tooti Fruity

A "pear" of flamboyant, fruit-obsessed, banana-battling eccentrics take to the streets.



Street Entertainment

**MARKET PLACE, CITY STREETS,
CATHEDRAL FORECOURT & MINSTER
GARDENS**

10am-4pm

Lula Hooper

Dynamic hula hoop circus act. Rhythmic gymnastics, dance and fun. You might even get a chance to give it go yourself!



Victoria Sponge & Flour Power

A living, breathing and beautifully-dressed dessert, accompanied by her proud baker. The sweetest duo in town!



The Fantastic Mr Forster

Captivating magic act for all the family. Laughs, tricks, and loads of audience participation.



**FREE
EVENTS**

The Story Cart

A travelling storyteller and his medieval cart. Choose a myth or a monster and see where the story leads. Presented by Stories Alive.



Kirkgate Street Party

The festival fun goes on with buskers, bands and more. Enjoy a meal in one of the Kirkgate restaurants, or have an al fresco drink on Ripon's prettiest street before taking in another show.

4pm-8pm



Helen Tabor

5.30pm (gates 4.45pm) | Ripon Races

The Wind in the willows

Mole yearns to explore the wide world. Gruff old Badger enjoys peace and quiet. And Rat likes picnics and just messing about in boats. Their idyllic lives on the Riverbank are turned upside down when Toad, bewitched by the roar of an engine and the screech of burning tyres, pursues his latest in a long line of extravagant obsessions: a fast, red motor-car.

Multiple award-winning Illyria celebrates Kenneth Grahame's timeless tale of friendship, laughter, the longing for home and the lure of adventure.

Bring something to sit on, pack a picnic and come prepared for the weather.

Running time approximately 100 minutes including interval.

Sponsored by
Elstob Auctioneers



£17 (£11); family ticket £52

Age guide 5+

Illyria

Adapted by Oliver Grey



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5pm | Ripon Arts Hub

Short + Sweet Yorkshire Showcase

Celebrating the very best in local new writing, with a diverse line-up spanning theatre, spoken word and music.

Short and Sweet Yorkshire is an annual festival of 10-minute new writing, with previous finalists showcased here. Expect a thrilling mix of genres and styles, from thought-provoking drama to laugh-out-loud comedy, and from heartfelt storytelling to bold, boundary-pushing performances.

Running time approximately 80 minutes



£7

Age guide 16+

Short & Sweet Yorkshire

8pm | Ripon Arts Hub

Almost Austen

Catherine is a modern girl in love with Jane Austen's world. She can't believe her luck when she meets her very own Mr Tilney.

Through passages from *Northanger Abbey*, songs from musicals and operatic classics, singer Louise Geller relates Catherine's romantic ups and downs as real life and fantasy collide.

Following a sold-out run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024, celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday festival-style. 'A must for any Janeite'

Running time approximately 60 minutes



£14

Age guide 12+

Louise Geller

Family Day

Sponsored by Ripon Races

RIPON SPA GARDENS
& MARKET PLACE

10am–4pm

FREE
EVENTS

Bring a picnic to the park
and stay all day, or be entertained
whilst you browse at the Little
Bird Artisan Market

Bee Cart

Join Bombus and Borage on a journey of
discovery into the weird and wonderful
world of bees and all things nature.



The Puppet Petting Farm

Come down on the farm with HandMade
Theatre. Featuring a wonderful collection of
loveable animal puppets from the cheeky goat
to the giant highland cow. Original music, songs
and plenty of interaction.



Spa Gardens
highlights



Family Day

Sponsored by Ripon Races

**RIPON SPA GARDENS
& MARKET PLACE**

10am–4pm

Bring a picnic to the park and stay all day, or be entertained whilst you browse at the Little Bird Artisan Market

Punch and Judy

Traditional show with beautiful hand carved wooden puppets. Fast-moving and funny.



**FREE
EVENTS**

A Knight Away

A bumbling entourage of knightly stupidity. Sir Kuss feels he deserves a well-earned mini-break. His ever-loyal, but overburdened squire is not so sure.



Circus Skills with Tit for Tat

Have a go with juggling balls and clubs, poi and ribbon twirling, staff spinning, Chinese yoyo, diabolo, balancing props and handstand tuition.

Ripon Spa Gardens
11am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3pm

FREE drop-in session



Breadcrumbs

Hansel and Gretel are siblings that argue about everything. When they wake up lost and confused in the heart of the enchanted forest one night, they'll have to put aside their differences once and for all to solve the mystery of how they got there and make it home! Music, magic and puppetry from Wrongsemble.



Head in the Clouds

2024 favourites Kitsch n Sync (*The Tea Cosies & Hedge Heads*) return with a serene and beautiful walkabout act. These airheads will leave you feeling on Cloud 9!



Market Place highlights

Build a Giant Puppet and Perform!

Work as a team to build and operate a giant puppet. A fun and practical workshop ending with a short performance in the Market Place.

Age guide 16+ No previous puppetry experience needed.

Ripon Arts Hub 11am-2pm
(including performance)

Book your place in advance £7



The Pied Piper

Theatre on the move, based on Robert Browning's much-loved poem. The mischievous Piper outwits the greedy townsfolk and their plague of pesky rats. Follow the performers around the park with music, witty wordplay, and plenty of audience participation.



**PLUS A LINE-UP OF
COMMUNITY PERFORMERS
FROM ACROSS THE REGION**

7pm (gates 6.15pm) | The Old Deanery

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Deep in an enchanted forest mischief is stirring. The Fairy King and Queen are feuding, four runaway lovers are tying themselves in knots, and a troupe of quite appalling actors are preparing a theatrical extravaganza destined to impress. With shapeshifting trouble-maker Puck at the helm, the course of true love never did run smooth.

One of the UK's leading open-air touring companies, Three Inch Fools, bring their fresh and lively style of music, history, and hilarity to Shakespeare's most iconic comedy.

"So entertaining...laugh-out-loud funny"

"The ultimate British theatrical experience"

Bring something to sit on, pack a picnic and come prepared for the weather.

£20

Age guide 8+

Three Inch Fools

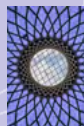


Wilson Smith

Ripon Theatre Festival
Official Photographer



Helen Tabor Photography



Providing impactful events, food and property images to help businesses stand out from the crowd, build their brand, raise their visibility and attract new clients.

helentaborphotography.com

Widening Our Reach 2025

Bringing the Outside In

Bloom is a magical new show from *Spilt Milk Dance*. It's specially made for older adults, including those living with Dementia.

With live music, dance and extravagant costumes, **Bloom** will visit care settings ahead of the festival, celebrating light, hope and the changing seasons.



We'll also be welcoming back our friends Sandra and Mel from *Eye of Newt* with their suitcase puppet show **The Hare and the Moon**.



This charming little piece will also be performed in care homes and for those confined to their beds.



Hands-on Activities

Remember **Brollies in the Bandstand**? Community Artist Sharon Hockin will be out and about again this summer. She'll be bringing fun and creativity to a variety of groups and brightening some of our festival spaces too.

We can't wait to see what they will create this year!



At **RTF** we're passionate about involving all our local communities and sharing the joy of live performance far and wide. Funding from ticket sales, along with grants and donations, helps us keep many events free or low cost.

We also put together projects and activities which reach those who have less chance to enjoy theatre and the arts. We love working with other local organisations and charities to do this. Get in touch to suggest a way in which we could bring some festival magic to you!

Booking Information

Please book your tickets online at: **www.ripontheatrefestival.org**

If you have any queries or additional ticketing requirements, please email **boxoffice@ripontheatrefestival.org**.

- We may alter the programme in the event of unforeseen circumstances
- Advance booking is advised for all ticketed events
- Seats are not numbered in any of our venues
- At ticketed events, everyone needs a ticket except infants (under 2)
- Concession eligibility varies – see individual events when booking
- Doors open at least 15 minutes before the start time
- Please either print your ticket or bring it on your phone or tablet
- Tickets may be available at the door, email boxoffice@ripontheatrefestival.org to check
- We cannot offer refunds, so please check your booking carefully before confirming

Where to Stay, Eat and Drink

Why not stay the night to make the most of the festival? The **Visit Ripon** website has plenty of options.

You'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to eating and drinking. There's a thriving scene of independent restaurants, bars and cafés, perfect for your pre- or post-show enjoyment.

Check out the options at **www.VisitRipon.co.uk** and watch out for special Festival deals and discounts on the Offers page.



Manchega photo: Helen Tabor

We Couldn't Do it without you!

The festival would not be possible without our incredible team of valiant volunteers. THANK YOU!

If you are interested in joining the team for 2025 – please get in touch! We're a lively bunch and there's fun to be had in a variety of roles.

And if you are aged 14-18, why not lend a hand over the Festival Weekend as one of our Youth Squad?

Email **info@ripontheatrefestival.org** to find out more about becoming an RTF Volunteer.



showcasing Local Talent



— A LINE-UP OF COMMUNITY PERFORMERS FROM ACROSS THE REGION —

★ Saturday

Yorkshire Voices
Flamenco de Leeds
Ripon Dance Academy
Belebele
The Soul Choir
Ripon City Morris Dancers
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers
The Wakeman Mummers
Hampsthwaite School Rock Band
The Rock Choir
Ripon Youth Theatre
Skellside Folk
Grace Hughes
Calle Oche
The Daytones
Lily Worth
The Vagabonds



★ Sunday

Trinity Singers
Ripon Goes to Bollywood
Cricket on the Hearth
Slubbing Billy's North West Morris
The U3A Ukulele Group
Dishforth Military Wives Choir
Ripon Walled Garden Performers
Ripon Dance Academy
Medusa Gothic Morris



Thanks for taking part!

See website for full running orders and location details.



Set the Stage for Summer

A City of History, Heritage & Drama



Newby Hall

Fountains Abbey

Ripon Races



Find events, offers, news, local businesses & much more at

www.visitripon.co.uk



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