Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Social Media Training with Your Harrogate!

Whether you're just starting out or looking to take your social media skills to the next level, Your Harrogate is running two hands-on training sessions designed to help you get the most out of your online presence. These sessions are fully funded by Ripon BID and are available to Ripon BID members.

Beginner Session – Build Your Foundations

8th June 10am-12:30pm Community House, Allhallogate

Perfect for anyone new to social media or wanting a confidence boost.

We'll cover:
- The main social media channels and what makes each one unique
- What you can do on them and how they work
- Types of content that perform well
- How businesses can use social media effectively
- When to post and what to post for the best results

Intermediate Session – Grow Your Impact

8th June 1:30pm-4:30pm Community House, Allhallogate

Ideal if you already use social media and want to sharpen your strategy.

We'll explore:
- How social media algorithms work
- Ways to increase reach and engagement
- Copyright essentials every business should know
- Tools and software that make content creation easier
- How to plan and schedule posts like a pro

Ripon After Dark – Window Wanderland Festival

This October half term, Ripon will host its first Window Wanderland festival, celebrating local stories, wildlife, and heritage through illuminated window displays.

Anyone can join in — businesses, households, and artists. Displays can use recycled materials and found objects. Ripon BID will register with Window Wanderland to provide access to toolkits, maps, and promotional resources.

Sign up: windowwanderland.com/event/ripon-2026

Major Cinema Investment for Ripon - and the BID's Role in Making It Happen

Plans have now been submitted for a new three screen independent cinema in the former Original Factory Shop on Fishergate - a £1.25 million investment that would bring big screen entertainment back to Ripon for the first time in years. The proposal comes from award winning operators John Tate and John Hewitt, whose cinemas in Ilkley and Wetherby have earned national recognition, including Cinema of the Year at the Big Screen Awards.

Ripon BID's role in driving the project forward - From the earliest conversations, Ripon BID has played a proactive role in helping this opportunity take shape.

Over recent months, the BID has:
- Facilitated introductions between the operators and key local stakeholders
- Provided media contacts and communication support to help raise awareness and build momentum
- Advocated strongly for the project as part of Ripon's wider retail and leisure strategy

These behind the scenes connections have helped ensure the operators received the local insight and support needed to move confidently toward a planning submission. We strongly encourage the business community to support the planning application by commenting in support via https://publicaccess.northyorks.gov.uk - reference no: 26/01508/FUL

A boost for Ripon's growing leisure offer - If approved, the cinema will bring:
- A diverse programme of films and live screenings
- A welcoming lounge with food and drink
- Dedicated schemes for over 60s, families with babies, and community groups

Ripon BID Manager Lilla Bathurst said:

"We will do everything within our power to support this application, which will add substantially to the city's retail and leisure offering. This investment is a clear sign of the confidence that independent operators have in Ripon's future."

Complementary developments on North Street

Sterne Properties, owners of the former Curzon building, have also welcomed the news and remain committed to bringing their site back into active use as a family focused leisure facility. They believe the Fishergate cinema would complement future plans for North Street and help safeguard a landmark building.

Easter Trail Success

Families of all ages enjoyed the Amazing Animals Easter Trail, with glowing feedback from participants. The event brought smiles across generations and strengthened Ripon's reputation for family-friendly fun.

"Kit, 7, his younger brother Nye, 2, and his Gran, 81, had a brilliant afternoon completing the trail and they all send their thanks to the organisers and poster hosts." Kit, Nye & Gran! *"What a good trail."* Henry *"Thank you so much for a really enjoyable Easter holiday activity!"* Jenny (Mum of Amazing-Easter-Animal-hunter Harrison!) *"We had a great day!"* Ruby and Hazel (pictured left)

Turn Yorkshire Yellow – 6–12 July

From 6–12 July, Yorkshire Air Ambulance is inviting businesses, schools and community groups to go yellow in support of their life saving work. Dress your windows, wear yellow, bake yellow cakes - anything goes. Let's show the crews how much Ripon appreciates them. Find out how to get involved: www.yaa.org.uk/event/yellow-yorkshire-2026

A perfect warm up to Ripon's Yorkshire celebrations starting 1 August - Read the full story on our blog. visitripon.co.uk/bid-blog/

Catch the Spirit – Women's T20 World Cup Celebration

28 May, 4–9:30pm, Ripon Cricket Club — A free community event with cricket activities, music, food, and family fun.

Supported by Yorkshire Cricket Foundation, Ripon City Council, North Yorkshire Council, Queen Ethelburga's College, Ripon BID, and Little Bird Made.

Hybrid Business Rate Proposal from HOLBA

HOLBA's Real Rates Reform report proposes a Hybrid Business Rate to modernise the outdated system:

- Reset property rate to 1990 level (34.8p), cutting bills by 31–37%.
- Add a small 1–2% levy on online sales via VAT.
- No new tax — just fairer distribution.

Benefits:

- Reduces rates for physical businesses
- Ensures online sellers contribute fairly
- Simplifies reliefs and stabilises the system

HOLBA urges businesses to support this reform to protect high streets and create a sustainable, modern tax model.

Sign up to the Real Rates Reform newsletter at https://holba.london/our-newsletters and read the full report online at https://holba.london/projects-campaigns/

Ripon BID Meeting with Highways & Waste

Lilla Bathurst met with Barrie Mason, Head of Service for Highways & Waste, to discuss city maintenance and improvements:

- Increased road sweeping ahead of the Theatre Festival
- Updated coach route: North Road > North Street > Moss Arcade
- Weed spraying and dog fouling enforcement to begin shortly
- Temporary Market Square closures in May/June for carriageway repairs and works on Kirkgate
- New parking machines with app-based payments and remote extensions coming soon
- Lighting upgrades and signage improvements planned; Cathedral Car Park power issue under review
- Dallamires Lane resurfacing scheduled for late summer

Lilla thanked NYC's Jessica for supporting the new Ripon City Litter Pickers Group.

Check out our blog https://visitripon.co.uk/bid-blog/ which contains good news stories, events and more!

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