Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

JULY/AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Summer Fun from Ripon BID

To complement the fantastic summer activities being organised by Ripon City Council and The St Wilfrid's Procession, Ripon BID is delighted to bring a mobile climbing wall to Ripon Market Square on the following Saturdays:

8th August, 15th August & 22nd August

The climbing wall will be open from 10am to 4pm.

We're also pleased to be providing a free face painter in the Cabmen's Shelter on each of these Saturdays, making it a great day out for families visiting the city.

Terms & Conditions apply

Operation is subject to suitable weather conditions. The wall will not operate in adverse weather, including high winds, heavy rain, or lightning. The organisers reserve the right to suspend or cancel activity if the wall is damaged or deemed unsafe.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Participants climb at their own risk and must follow staff instructions for safety.

Summer Trail 2026 Welcomes Walter's Whippet Walk

The team at Ripon BID and Visit Ripon are delighted to launch this year's Walter's Whippet Walk, taking place from 18 July to 16 August.

Designed to encourage families to visit Ripon and explore everything our wonderful city has to offer, the trail showcases our fantastic independent businesses alongside Ripon's outstanding attractions, making it the perfect summer day out. A huge thank you to all the businesses that have signed up to take part as we look forward to another successful Summer Trail! There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. We'd love to help promote your in-store offers, seasonal products, window displays, or business competitions during the trail to maximise the benefits for BID businesses.

Throughout the campaign, we're expecting thousands of visitors to our Summer in Ripon webpage. If you have an event, special offer, promotion or competition you'd like us to feature on the website or across our social media channels, please email the details to info@riponbid.co.uk.

As with all Ripon BID events, our Summer Trail is completely FREE, helping to drive footfall, encourage visitors to stay longer, and support spending with local businesses.

Supporting Events That Bring Ripon to Life

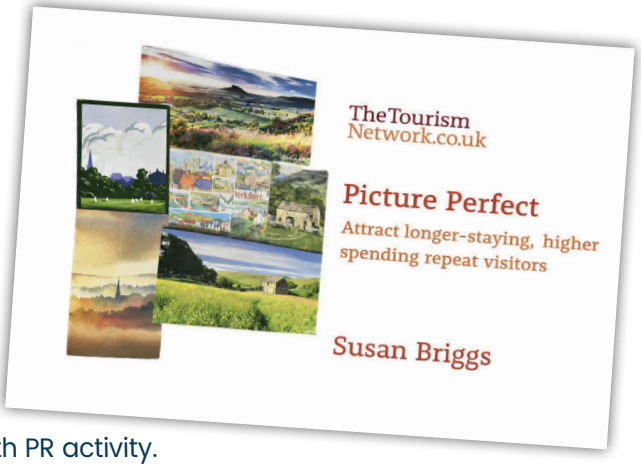
One of Ripon BID's key priorities is supporting events that help attract visitors, increase footfall and encourage spending with our local businesses. Wherever possible, we're pleased to work with BID businesses and event organisers to help promote and deliver successful events across the city.

This summer, we've been delighted to support a range of events and initiatives, including:

- A Summer Events Flyer on the 36 bus, promoting what's happening in Ripon.
- Karma's Yoga & Wellness Event at The Old Deanery, with the free loan of a gazebo, plus blog and press coverage.
- Our fifth consecutive year as a Major Sponsor of the Ripon Theatre Festival, alongside arranging the use of the North Yorkshire Council bond for council-owned land and providing press and blog coverage.
- Promotion of various Portly Pig events through our blog and local press.
- Support for the St Wilfrid's Day Procession, again including the use of the North Yorkshire Council bond for Market Square, the loan of a gazebo and blog coverage.

If you're planning an event and would like to discuss how Ripon BID may be able to support you through promotion, equipment loan or other assistance, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch to discuss your ideas.

Picture Perfect Ripon - Could your business benefit from more word-of-mouth recommendations?



Visit Ripon is encouraging visitor-facing businesses across the city to take a look at Picture Perfect, a new FREE initiative from tourism expert Susan Briggs, launched recently.

The idea is beautifully simple – encourage visitors to write and send a postcard to friends and family while they're enjoying their time in Ripon. It's a nostalgic experience that creates lasting memories, sparks conversations and inspires future visits.

Accommodation providers, attractions, shops, galleries, cafés, pubs and activity businesses can all get involved. By signing up, businesses will receive free marketing materials, ready-made social media content, a printable poster, collaboration ideas and support with PR activity.

Find out more and register for free at: https://tourismnetwork.co.uk/postcard

Response from Government on Business Rates

In December 2025, Ripon BID asked Skipton & Ripon MP Sir Julian Smith to raise concerns with the Government about the significant increases in business rates facing many of Ripon's hospitality businesses following the April 2026 business rates revaluation.

Sir Julian subsequently raised the issue with Dan Tomlinson MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, and we have now received a response, which you can read here:

https://visitripon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/D-Tomlinson-Letter-BR.pdf

While we welcome the response, it is Ripon BID's view that the Government is still not recognising the full impact these changes are having on hospitality businesses. Although transitional relief has been introduced, in many cases the benefit is largely outweighed by the increase in rateable values, leaving businesses facing substantially higher bills.

Ripon BID will continue to lobby for greater support and for a fairer, more sustainable business rates system.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to support the Hospitality & Licensed Businesses Association (HOLBA) campaign for a Hybrid Business Rate, which aims to create a fairer and more future-proof system. Adding your voice helps demonstrate the strength of feeling across the business community.

You can sign up to the Real Rates Reform newsletter and read the full HOLBA report via the links below.

Ripon BID is also supporting the VAT's The Problem campaign, which is calling for a fairer VAT rate for pubs, restaurants, cafés and the wider hospitality sector. Rising costs, increasing business rates and tightening margins are placing enormous pressure on businesses that are at the heart of our communities.

This is an important opportunity to demonstrate the need for change.

How you can support the campaign:

Sign the petition calling for a fairer, reduced VAT rate.

Use the campaign toolkit to share the message across your own channels.

Help build momentum as the campaign continues nationally.

Find everything you need here: www.vatstheproblem.co.uk

What Would You Like Visit Ripon to Promote This Summer?

Summer is one of Ripon's busiest seasons, and Visit Ripon wants to help put your business in the spotlight.

We're planning lots of summer promotion across our website, social media and newsletters, so we'd love to know what you'd like us to shout about.

Whether it's a special offer, new product, seasonal menu, event or service, we're here to help spread the word.

Ideas include:

- Summer sales and new arrivals
- Seasonal menus and specials
- Outdoor dining and family offers
- Beauty, wellness and holiday packages
- In-store events and experiences

To take part, simply click here - visitripon.co.uk/ripon-bid/contact/submit-offer

Let's help more people discover your business this summer!

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

Ripon BID Contact Details:
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