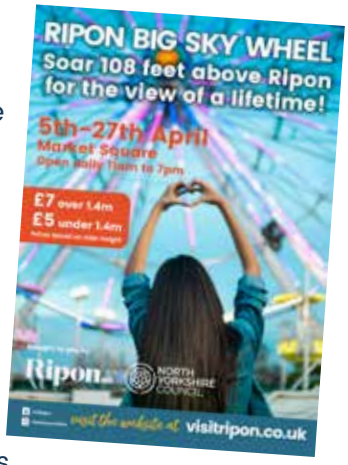
Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

MARCH & APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Get ready for the Ripon Big Sky Wheel!



With huge thanks to North Yorkshire Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team, a giant 33 metre high observation wheel will be coming to Ripon from Saturday 5th April until Sunday 27th April 2025. Situated on the south side of the Market Square, the Ripon Big Sky Wheel will be open daily from 11am to 7pm.

Admission will be £5.00 for people under 1.4m and £7.00 for people over 1.4m. There are no advanced bookings available so just turn up and enjoy the historic sights of Ripon as you have never seen them before! Bring friends and family and see the amazing views from this fantastic attraction.

With the Ripon Big Sky Wheel set to stand higher than the obelisk, expect to be able to see over the whole of Ripon and beyond – on a clear day we are hoping to be able to see as far as UNESCO World Heritage site at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal.

We very much hope that this new addition for the 2025 Easter holidays will draw in visitors from a large catchment area, increasing dwell time and spend whilst encouraging them to discover all of Ripon's wonderful businesses. We are calling businesses to get behind the idea and are keen that they help promote this across their social media to maximise the impact the wheel will have on footfall.

After a couple of months of road resurfacing which has caused disruption to our businesses this is a real boost. With our proximity to the A1 we are very much hoping that we will see visitors from that corridor coming to experience the wheel, take in the amazing sights and discover Ripon and all it has to offer for the first time.

Please note the wheel will not be operating in adverse weather conditions and can close to the public at short notice in such circumstances. For details of all Easter holiday activities in Ripon visit www.visitripon.co.uk

Egg-cellent Easter Plans

The Ripon BID Easter Trail is back for 2025 and will be running through the Easter holidays from 5th - 22nd of April. Lightwater Valley Family Adventure Park is sponsoring the trail by offering three family day passes as prizes and we know from last year this was a popular event across the city.

The aim of the trail is to try and maximise over-threshold footfall and hopefully customer spend. If you are offering any "egg-tras" for trail-goers let us know and we can include that in our promotional material.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be supported by two FREE crafting sessions and an opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny at The Claro Lounge on the 8th & 17th of April too. By running the trail and the Easter craft sessions we hope to encourage families to hop to it and visit as many BID businesses as possible.

Going Green

Did you know, you can bulk buy eco-friendly cleaning products for your business from The Greenhouse on North Street? They supply products such as washing up liquid, hand wash and anti-bacterial spray, all with safety data sheets, from Miniml, a sustainable manufacturing company in West Yorkshire. Miniml operate a closed loop system, cleaning and reusing their containers.

They optimise delivery routes for efficiency and even their production plant is solar powered. All their product formulations are eco-friendly, cruelty-free and vegan. By leaving out harsh chemicals such as sulphates and phosphates, they are kinder both to our skin and to the environment.

The GreenHouse price matches buying 5l containers direct from Miniml, but with no delivery charges - you can either collect from the store or arrange free delivery within Ripon. Further discounts may be negotiated for large orders.

Many local businesses - shops, cafes and holiday cottages - already use Miniml products from The GreenHouse. Why not pop in and speak to Rebecca or email the_greenhouse_ripon@yahoo.com and you too could boost your company's eco-credentials without increasing costs.

Go to visitripon.substack.com to sign up to our visitor newsletter which contains news, events and more!

Don't forget to follow us: **@visitripon @RiponBID** **@visitriponyorkshire** **Ripon BID**

Ripon Shop Watch Scheme

Did you know that there are 95 businesses signed up to the Shop Watch radio scheme within Harrogate, Knaresborough, and Ripon and 24% of those are in Ripon?

North Yorkshire Police have made a change to how they collect evidence; they now use a system called NICE investigate. If a crime has occurred, the investigating police officer will send a link for you to upload any footage or evidence of the crime, this gives officers immediate access to it. There will be tips and advice for using NICE in the Shop Watch pack being distributed before April. Once you have reported a crime or incident to the CCTV control room, it is also important to report on 101 or 999 if an emergency. The CCTV control room will be able to direct police to the incident or offenders in the meantime, however police still need a first-hand account of the incident from the source. Reporting to police as well as CCTV control also means there is a higher likelihood for units to attend.

A new policing app has been launched to allow the public to report crimes and incidents, find out information about local policing teams and access prevention advice and support for victims and witnesses of crimes. The app is called Police.UK. You can report crimes such as shop thefts on the app. Several stores in Harrogate use the app and will report multiple minor thefts at one time, this can be a more efficient way of reporting, saving staff time on hold to 101.

From November 1st 2024 till March 1st 2025, there have been 148 incidents in Ripon that the CCTV control room has been made aware of.

The radio in action: On 5th March 2025, the police made the CCTV control room aware of a black Mercedes C Class spotted near Ripon. The vehicle was linked to thefts from Booths stores across Yorkshire. The CCTV operator broadcast to shops on the radio that there was a vehicle in Ripon that is known for shoplifting. No response was heard from Booths. They then called Booths directly on the phone, staff at Booths stated they had just been shoplifted from and were about to report it to the police. The CCTV operator obtained a list of goods that had been stolen and informed the police of the shop theft. Shortly after, the vehicle was sighted and stopped by police after a short pursuit. Goods valued at £974.25 were recovered from the vehicle and 4 males were arrested. The list of goods obtained by the CCTV control room meant that police could quickly link the vehicle to the theft at Booths and the items could be returned.

If you do not have a radio at your business, you can always ask a participating member to report incidents from theirs. A list of current members is below:

Boots	Booths	Cathedral Shop	Crescent Lodge	DeFacto	Fat Face
G Craggs	Halls of Ripon	Holland & Barratt	Hornblower	Library	Morrisons
Mountain Warehouse	Nisa	North Yorkshire Police	Poundstretcher	Sainsbury's	Specsavers
Superdrug	The Original Factory Shop		Tourist Information Centre	Tresspass	Unicorn
Upstairs Downstairs	WH Smiths	Yorkshire Trading			

£40,000 Towns Boost Grant Update

In October 2024, Ripon was chosen as one of 5 places to receive funding from UKSPF Towns Boost. Ripon BID, working in partnership with York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, The Federation of Small Businesses and North Yorkshire Council, has delivered the following projects with the awarded grant fund:

- Enhanced digital mapping on Visit Ripon website
- First aid training - 130 people booked onto our fully funded Emergency First Aid at Work Level 3 courses
- Heritage photography project - 10 panels created at Spa Baths and 4 new pop up banners for use in empty units
- 16 new robust and long lasting planters sourced for Kirkgate to replace the damaged wooden ones
- City image bank - professional photography of Ripon and 30 businesses with each business owning the rights to use their photographs and those of Ripon
- Media advertising: Sponsorship of Drivetime with Simon Mayo on Greatest Hits Radio plus targeted A1 corridor digital advertising alongside sponsorship of the Your Harrogate Jamline to appeal to local audiences and a 'Love Your High Street' social media campaign
- Shop frontage grants: offered to businesses to improve the look of their premises

In partnership with the FSB online and in person training sessions

- 16th January Social Media Plan – 13 attendees
- 23rd January Google Digital Garage - 28 attendees
- 5th March Tik Tok – 13 attendees
- 11th March Video for Smartphone Users – 30 attendees

Ripon BID will continue to try to secure further funding to enhance our offer and deliver on our objective of a busier and brighter Ripon.

Go to visitripon.substack.com to sign up to our visitor newsletter which contains news, events and more!

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