

Meet RITA!

In May's edition of Review Ripon we saw big news from Ripon's business community with a free city centre car parking scheme for shoppers; but it would seem that this was only the start of things to come...

What is RITA?

RITA (otherwise known as the Ripon Independent Traders Association) is a group of highly motivated forward-thinking businesses within Ripon, both new and established, who have grouped together to promote Ripon as a shopping destination for tourists and locals alike*.

Brought together by concerns over the looming parking difficulties; the group quickly realised that, with the car parking initiative acting as a catalyst, the group could become something much more. Thus, this has now become an opportunity for like-minded individuals to get together and work in a proactive way for the good of Ripon city as a whole for years to come; and the car parking initiative has become a springboard from which to launch other initiatives and events in Ripon. **A list of the current members of RITA can be seen at the end of this article.*



Why should we support RITA?

People should be shopping in Ripon!

At the city's heart are unusual and fascinating businesses offering something out of the ordinary. From fresh food and affordable art, to individual crafts and gifts, glittering jewellery, exclusive fashions and fascinating accessories, toys and kitchenware;

Ripon's independent traders bring choice and diversity to the city – things perhaps in short supply in the uniformity of big chain stores.

Helpful advice and a tradition of looking after customers are also key to the independent shopping experience, and the personal service offered by Ripon's traders will add both to your shopping experience.

Ripon has a higher proportion of independent shops and businesses in its city centre and environs than in surrounding towns and cities. Anthony Blackburn, spokesman for RITA, says; "We want people to choose to visit Ripon as a shopping destination with a difference - as somewhere people can come for something a little out of the ordinary".

RITA Needs You!

Ripon's independent traders need the continued support of local people, so that they in turn can support the city of Ripon. With the ever-increasing number of chain stores up and down the country it would be all too easy for a small city like Ripon to lose its individuality. Ripon residents should remember that it's not just the Hornblower that gives Ripon it's unique character....do you want your city centre to look the same as any other, with less individual choice and only national chain stores?

You can expect to be hearing and seeing a lot more from RITA in the months to come. Already on RITA's busy agenda are: 'Independents' Day' on Saturday 7th July 2007, which promises to be a fabulous of showcase of the products and businesses Ripon has to offer; Ripon Heritage Weekend in September and RITA's Charity Week later in the year.

And look out for regular updates in **Review Ripon!**



Philip Hall (Ripon's very own independent department store)
20 Fishergate, Ripon HG4 1DX. Tel: 01765 690886

Storm in a Teacup (glamorous vintage-style accessories and gifts)
Court Terrace, Ripon HG4 1PD. Tel: 01765 608078

The Gallery (original and affordable contemporary art)
3 Kirkgate, Ripon HG4 1PA. Tel: 01765 602878

Langton's Fine Foods (luxury and speciality foods from local and international suppliers)
13 Kirkgate, Ripon HG4 1PA. Tel: 01765 698096

Deli on Duck Hill (cheeses, meats, pickles and the best made-to-order sandwiches)
Ripon Small Shops, Duck Hill, Ripon HG4 1BL. Tel: 01765 600972

March Hare Gallery (paintings, textiles, glass, ceramics, wood and metalwork)
Ripon Small Shops, Duck Hill, Ripon HG4 1BL. Tel: 01765 608833

Hilton Rose (elegant and inspirational fashion from international designers)
The Wakeman's House, Market Place South, Ripon HG4 1BZ. Tel: 01765 606990

Soles (fashionable boots, shoes, bags, belts & more)
10 Westgate, Ripon HG4 2TE. Tel: 01765 602266

Fountains Health Store (health foods and natural products and remedies)
7 North Street, Ripon HG4 1JY. Tel: 01765 604726

Drinkswell (specialist beers, fine wines and spirits)
34 Market Place South, Ripon HG4 1BZ. Tel: 01765 607766



Members of RITA and guest at a recent meeting at the Old Deanery discussing their free parking initiative. From left: Dan Hornsey from The Gallery, Wenzel from Fountains Health Store, Becky from Bronco Internet, Emma from Storm in a Teacup, Anthony from Philip Halls of Ripon and Anna from The Gallery.

Dinky 2 Dudes (baby and children's wear)
2 Bedern Bank, Ripon HG4 1PE. Tel: 605110

Stuff 4 Offices (stationery and office supplies)
11 Queen Street, Ripon HG4 1ED. Tel: 01765 608122

Let's-Move.net (residential lettings & d property management)
8 Bedern Bank, Ripon HG4 1PE. Tel: 01765 692888

Blackburn & Swallow (new & d second hand television and electricals)
25 Kirkgate, Ripon HG4 1PB. Tel: 01765 607030

Row Opticians
Moss Arcade, Ripon HG4 1AG. Tel: 01765 603484

12sj (contemporary British jewellery design)
85 North Street, Ripon HG4 1DP Tel: 01765 606612

The Old Deanery (hotel and restaurant)
Minster Road, Ripon HG4 1QS. Tel: 01765 600003

The Knowledge Magnet (simply the best toys in town)
8 Kirkgate, Ripon HG4 1PA. Tel: 01765 690118

Perk Up (café and restaurant)
The Market Place, Ripon HG4 1BZ. Tel: 01765 698888