

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1074656

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1999-03-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 17 Mayfield Road
Ashton-On-Ribble
Preston
PR2 1EX

Phone 07864990941

Email Rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

Website <http://www.rwandagrouptrust.org>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF AND RELIEVE THE POVERTY AND SICKNESS OF PERSONS IN RWANDA BY SUCH CHARITABLE MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES DECIDE FROM TIME TO TIME

Activities: The trust was established by deed on December 9th 1998 to advance the education and relieve the poverty and sickness of people in Rwanda. The Trust took on the work of its predecessor organisation, The Rwanda Group, which had been working with the same objectives since 1983.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** RWANDA
- Rwanda

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£42,000	£27,438	-	-
2024-12-31	£19,838	£34,180	-	-
2023-12-31	£48,169	£34,740	-	-
2022-12-31	£25,820	£37,965	-	-
2021-12-31	£48,821	£39,250	-	-
2020-12-31	£36,536	£35,953	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Joseph Donlan	Chair	
Bernadette Mary Roberts		2017-08-22
Clare Elizabeth Mary Spicer		2022-10-06
Dr Mark Gerard IBISON		2015-09-12
Judith Mary Potts		2022-10-06
Mary Veronica Sanders		2017-07-11
Myra Gregory		2014-11-19

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1074656

Accounts

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
(A charitable trust registered in England and Wales under number 1074656)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For
The year ended 31st December 2025

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The trust was established by deed on December 9th 1998 to advance the education and relieve the poverty and sickness of people in Rwanda. The Trust took on the work of its predecessor organisation, The Rwanda Group, which had been working with the same objectives since 1983.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in Central Africa. It has a predominantly rural population of approximately 14.1 million people. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.

2025 saw the 31st anniversary of the 1994 genocide when an estimated one million people lost their lives. Much progress has been made in overcoming this disaster but there is still much more work required to complete the task.

Rwanda is a poor country with the bulk of its population living in considerable need. World Bank figures show the average life expectancy at birth as approx. 69 years with 26 out of every 1000 children dying before reaching their fifth birthday.

TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for the assets, administration and work of the Trust.

Mr Joseph Bamber RIP, together with his wife Rosemary, RIP, and fellow trustee Sister Mary McCarren FCJ, began the work in 1983 after a visit to Rwanda and seeing the difficulties under which its people laboured.

Mr Bamber has overseen the growth and remarkable achievements of the charity since its registration in 1998. However in December 2021 he announced his decision to retire as a trustee and, sadly he died in April 2022.

There are currently 7 trustees who meet together at least once per quarter. The current chair of the trust is Mr Michael Donlan. The other trustees are Bernadette Roberts, Veronica Sanders, Mark Ibison and Myra Gregory, together with Mr Bamber's daughters, Judith Potts and Clare Spicer, who became trustees on the death of their father in April 2022.

In addition we were delighted when in October 2023 Bishop Paul Swarbrick of the Lancaster Catholic Diocese, attended our meeting and agreed to become a patron of the trust. We are extremely grateful to him for this honour.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The donor strategy is to fill some of the many gaps in provision left by the major aid charities with relatively small but effective gifts. The help given is designed to be in the nature of help to friends by friends. This is being accomplished by –

- 1) Building friendships with communities, schools, individuals and families in need and providing help to them in this spirit.
- 2) Establishing committees of Rwandans in the provinces of Rwanda to advise on need, opportunities to help and to assist in the distribution of grants.

The trust works to achieve these objectives through the excellent co-operation of 4 committees in Kigali, Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Nyundo.

The funding strategy of the Trust is to make Rwanda, its people and their difficulties known to wider audiences and to accept donations of cash and goods for resale from those sympathetic to the objectives of the Trust.

The administrative strategy is to keep the work of the Trust as simple as possible and incur a minimum of expense in carrying it out.

FUNDRAISING

Our income this year continued to be focussed around several areas of fund raising. These included our quarterly newsletter which is well received and continues to produce a successful regular income via donations including standing orders. Donations to our very successful keep fit classes and regular table top sales also produces a regular income. We are grateful to one of our trustees, Bernadette Roberts, in regard to these. Internet sales, and a very successful sponsored walk by Mark Ibison visiting the 6 designated churches of Salford Diocese nominated for the Jubilee Year. We are also grateful to Our Lady & St Edward's parish in Fulwood, who kindly donated the profits from one of their charity lunches to the RGT. In addition we received a very generous anonymous donation of £20,000.

INCOME

Cash donations for 2025 amounted to a total of £35,162.19. This resulted in a gift aid refund of £3,139.29. Sales of donated items amounted to £3,622.77 and bank interest of £75.92 resulted in a total income of £42,000.17

EXPENDITURE

In 2025 the Trust made grants of £26,400 to the four committees in Rwanda for distribution to the poorest in their communities as deemed appropriate by them and in accordance with the trust's objectives. The Trust also made grants of £750 towards various projects in Rwanda. The addition of bank charges of £100, insurance cover of £89.60 and room hire of £98 resulted in a total expenditure of £27,437.60.

SAFEGUARDING

At our trustees meeting in October 2023 it was agreed that the trust should have a safeguarding policy in place. We are now pleased to confirm that such a policy has now been prepared by trustee Clare Spicer, and agreed by the trustees. It can now be viewed on the Trust's website.

UTILISATION REPORTS

Another addition to our protocols is the formalising of the reports we require from the groups in Rwanda. These now give detailed uniformity to the information we receive regarding the purpose and amounts for which our tranche payments have been utilised. We are now able to understand and easily request clarification where there may be any issue regarding the use of funds.

COMMUNICATION & FUTURE PLANS

Our foremost means of communication continues to be our quarterly newsletter. This has proved to be a very effective way of informing donors how their donations are being used to help the poorest of the poor.

Our website can be found at www.rwandagrouptrust.org

We are always looking for potential to promote our work in the wider community. For the first time this year, in November, we held a memorial Mass for all deceased volunteers and benefactors of the RGT. This Mass was well attended and we hope will become an annual event.

The trustees agreed, as last year, that our priority will continue to be our ongoing commitments and only to take on new projects when funds are available.

Finally I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors, supporters and fellow trustees for their dedication enabling the charity to continue our work for another year.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The address of the Trust is: 17 Mayfield Road Ashton Preston, PR2 1EX

Email: rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com
Website: rwandagrouptrust.org

This Report was approved by the Trustees & Signed on their behalf by the chair
Michael Donlan.
18 April 2026

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2025

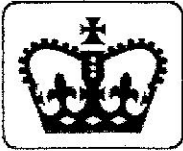
RECEIPTS

	£	£	£
<u>Balances as at 31st December 2024</u>			
Santander current account		155.34	
Santander savings account		4641.39	
Total bank balances		<u>4796.73</u>	
Sale of Goods	3622.77		
Donations	34574.49		
Gift Aided Small Donations	587.70		
Gift Aid Refund	3139.29		
Bank interest	75.92		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>42000.17</u>		
			46796.90

PAYMENTS

Bank Charges	100.00		
Rwandan Projects	750.00		
Rwanda Committees	26400.00		
Insurance	89.60		
Room hire	98.00		
Total Expenses	<u>27437.60</u>		
<u>Bank Balances as at 31st December 2025</u>			
Santander current account		391.99	
Santander savings account		18967.31	
Total Bank Balances		<u>19359.30</u>	
			<u>46796.90</u>

Ms A M Waddingham Independent Examiner Date



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Rwanda Group Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/25

**Charity no
(if any)**

1074 656

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

24/4/26

Name:

ANNE-MARIE WADDINGHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACA

Address:

4 SPRUCE CLOSE FULLWOOD PRESIDON PK2 9WS

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1074656

Accounts

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
(A charitable trust registered in England and Wales under number 1074656)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For
The year ended 31st December 2023

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The trust was established by deed on December 9th 1998 to advance the education and relieve the poverty and sickness of people in Rwanda. The Trust took on the work of its predecessor organisation, The Rwanda Group, which had been working with the same objectives since 1983.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in Central Africa. It has a predominantly rural population of approximately 14.1 million people. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.

2023 saw the 29th anniversary of the 1994 genocide when an estimated one million people lost their lives. Much progress has been made in overcoming this disaster but there is still much more work required to complete the task.

Rwanda is a poor country with the bulk of its population living in considerable need. World Bank figures show the average life expectancy at birth as approx. 69 years with 26 out of every 1000 children dying before reaching their fifth birthday.

TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for the assets, administration and work of the Trust.

Mr Joseph Bamber RIP, together with his wife Rosemary, RIP, and fellow trustee Sister Mary McCarren FCJ, began the work in 1983 after a visit to Rwanda and seeing the difficulties under which its people laboured.

Mr Bamber has overseen the growth and remarkable achievements of the charity since its registration in 1998. However in December 2021 he announced his decision to retire as a trustee and, sadly he died in April 2022.

There are currently 7 trustees who meet together at least once per quarter. The current chair of the trust is Mr Michael Donlan.

The other trustees are Bernadette Roberts, Veronica Sanders, Mark Ibison and Myra Gregory, together with Mr Bamber's daughters, Judith Potts and Clare Spicer who became trustees on the death of their father in April 2022.

In addition we were delighted to announce that Bishop Paul Swarbrick of the Lancaster Catholic Diocese attended our October meeting and agreed to become a patron of the trust. We are extremely grateful to him for this honour.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The donor strategy is to fill some of the many gaps in provision left by the major aid charities with relatively small but effective gifts. The help given is designed to be in the nature of help to friends by friends. This is being accomplished by –

- 1) Building friendships with communities, schools, individuals and families in need and providing help to them in this spirit.
- 2) Establishing committees of Rwandans in the provinces of Rwanda to advise on need, opportunities to help and to assist in the distribution of grants.

The trust works to achieve these objectives through the excellent co-operation of 4 committees – in Kigali, Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Nyundo.

The funding strategy of the Trust is to make Rwanda, its people and their difficulties known to wider audiences and to accept donations of cash and goods for resale from those sympathetic to the objectives of the Trust.

The administrative strategy is to keep the work of the Trust as simple as possible and incur a minimum of expense in carrying it out.

FUNDRAISING

This year the necessary change in our fund raising methods since the Covid pandemic resulted in a very successful year for the charity. Despite a year when disposable incomes were hit by a sharp rise in the cost of living the charity has prospered. We are particularly grateful to the Bamber family of our deceased founder Joe Bamber. They have enabled us to undertake a project to build a classroom as a legacy to Joe through a large family donation and a very successful sponsored event. Our thanks go out to them.

In addition our keep fit class continues to produce a successful regular income. The quarterly newsletter is well received and stimulates many donations. We also held market stalls through the warmer months, continued with internet sales, a very successful sponsored walk in the summer and equally successful Table Top sales in the Autumn all contributed to a strong growth in income.

INCOME

Cash donations for 2023 amounted to a total of £38,323 an increase of approx £17,926 on last year. This resulted in a gift aid refund of £7,272 Sales of donated items of £2,533 and bank interest of £39 resulted in a total income of £48,168

EXPENDITURE

In 2023 the Trust made grants of £26,000 to the four committees in Rwanda for distribution to the poorest in their communities as deemed appropriate by them and in accordance with the trust's objectives. The Trust also made grants of £8,565 towards various projects in Rwanda. The addition of bank charges of £175 resulted in a total expenditure of £34,740. The net increase of the charity's income over last year was approximately £13,428.

COMMUNICATION & FUTURE PLANS

Our foremost means of communication is now our quarterly newsletter. This has proved to be a very effective way of informing donors how their donations are being used to help the poorest of the poor.

We will also continue to hold our annual Lenten Appeal in the churches of the Lancaster diocese as well as publicity articles in the Lancaster Catholic Voice monthly periodical. Our website: rwandagrouptrust.org has a rising number of visitors.

We continue to produce information leaflets and submit articles in local magazines and newspapers as well as advertising in supermarkets

We are always looking for potential opportunities to promote our work in the wider community.

The trustees agreed, as last year, that our priority will continue to be our ongoing commitments and only to take on new projects when funds are available.

Finally I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors and supporters for their dedication resulting in such a successful year for the charity.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The address of the Trust is: 17 Mayfield Road Ashton Preston, PR2 1EX

Email: rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

Website: rwandagrouptrust.org

This Report was approved by the Trustees & Signed on their behalf by the chair

Michael Donlan.

20 April 2024

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS

	£	£	£
<u>Balances as at 31st December 2022</u>			
Santander current account		5689.78	
Santander savings account		20.03	
		<u>5709.81</u>	
Sale of Goods	2533.60		
Donations Gift Aided	29784.90		
Donations Non Gift Aided	8085.81		
Gift Aided Small Donations	452.10		
Gift Aid Refund	7272.51		
Bank interest	39.70		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>48168.62</u>		
			<u>53878.43</u>

PAYMENTS

Bank Charges	175.00		
Rwandan Projects	8565.00		
Rwanda Committees	26000.00		
Total Expenses	<u>34740.00</u>		
<u>Bank Balances as at 31st December 2023</u>			
Santander current account		778.70	
Santander savings account		18359.73	
Total Bank Balances		<u>19138.43</u>	
			<u>53,878.43</u>

Ms A M Waddingham Independent Examiner Date

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Rwanda Group Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rwanda Group Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name:  Anne-Marie Waddingham ACA

Address: 4 Spruce Close, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9WB

Date:

6/4/24

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1074656

Accounts

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
(A charitable trust registered in England and Wales under number 1074656)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For
The year ended 31st December 2022

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The trust was established by deed on December 9th 1998 to advance the education and relieve the poverty and sickness of people in Rwanda. The Trust took on the work of its predecessor organisation, The Rwanda Group, which had been working with the same objectives since 1983.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in Central Africa. It has a predominantly rural population of approximately 12.5 million people. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.

2022 saw the 28th anniversary of the 1994 genocide when an estimated one million people lost their lives. Much progress has been made in overcoming this disaster but there is still much more work required to complete the task.

Rwanda is a poor country with the bulk of its population living in considerable need. World Bank figures show the average life expectancy at birth as approx. 69 years with 24 out of every 1000 children dying before reaching their fifth birthday.

TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for the assets, administration and work of the Trust.

Mr Joseph Bamber RIP, together with his wife Rosemary, RIP, and fellow trustee Sister Mary McCarren FCJ, began the work in 1983 after a visit to Rwanda and seeing the difficulties under which its people laboured.

Mr Bamber has overseen the growth and remarkable achievements of the charity since its registration in 1998. However in December 2021 he announced his decision to retire as a trustee and, sadly he died in April 2022.

There are currently 7 trustees who meet together at least once per quarter. The current chair of the trust is Mr Michael Donlan.

The other trustees are Bernadette Roberts, Veronica Sanders, Mark Ibison and Myra Gregory, together with Mr Bamber's daughters, Judith Potts and Clare Spicer who became trustees on the death of their father in April 2022.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The donor strategy is to fill some of the many gaps in provision left by the major aid charities with relatively small but effective gifts. The help given is designed to be in the nature of help to friends by friends. This is being accomplished by –

- 1) Building friendships with communities, schools, individuals and families in need and providing help to them in this spirit.
- 2) Establishing committees of Rwandans in the provinces of Rwanda to advise on need, opportunities to help and to assist in the distribution of grants.

The trust works to achieve these objectives through the excellent co-operation of 4 committees – in Kigali, Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Nyundo.

The funding strategy of the Trust is to make Rwanda, its people and their difficulties known to wider audiences and to accept donations of cash and goods for resale from those sympathetic to the objectives of the Trust.

The administrative strategy is to keep the work of the Trust as simple as possible and incur a minimum of expense in carrying it out.

FUNDRAISING

The year 2022 has seen a consolidation of the changes to our fund raising methods forced on us by the continuing difficulties with the Covid pandemic. The emphasis therefore been on maintaining as stable an income as possible to the charity at time when disposable incomes have now been hit by a sharp rise in the cost of living . Appeals have been launched in all the parishes of the Lancaster Catholic Diocese and the local parishes of the Liverpool and Salford dioceses. We have continued with the charity's quarterly newsletter and are creating an ever expanding mailing list. Car boot sales, market stalls and internet sales have also made significant contributions as well as a sponsored event. A recent innovation has been the setting up of a 'Keep Fit for Rwanda' class which has been providing a regular monthly income.

INCOME

Cash donations for 2022 amounted to a total of £20,397 a decrease of approx £22,366 on last year. This resulted in a gift aid refund of £4,127. Sales of donated items of £1,297 resulted in a total income of £25,821.

EXPENDITURE

In 2022 the Trust made grants of £33,000 to the four committees in Rwanda for distribution to the poorest in their communities as deemed appropriate by them and in accordance with the trust's objectives. The Trust also made grants of £4,865 towards various projects in Rwanda. The addition of bank charges of £100 resulted in a total expenditure of £37,965. The net decrease of the charity's income over last year was approximately £12,145.

COMMUNICATION & FUTURE PLANS

Our foremost means of communication is now our quarterly newsletter. This has proved to be a very effective way of informing donors how their donations are being used to help the poorest of the poor. It also accounts largely for the wonderful increase in donations.

It is intended to continue to sell donated items through such as market stalls, car boot sales and seasonal fairs, as well as through the internet.

We also have plans to develop our website to increase its versatility for information giving and provide an alternative and easier ways to donate.

We will continue to produce information leaflets and submit articles in local magazines and newspapers as well as advertising in supermarkets and churches throughout the Lancaster diocese.

Donations can continue to be given through the methods explained on our website at:- Rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

We are always looking for potential opportunities to promote our work in the wider community.

The trustees agreed, as last year, that our priority will continue to be our ongoing commitments and only to take on new projects when funds are available.

Finally I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors and supporters for their dedication resulting in such a successful year for the charity.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The address of the Trust is: 17 Mayfield Road Ashton Preston, PR2 1EX

Email: rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

Website: rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

This Report was approved by the Trustees & Signed on their behalf by the chair

Michael Donlan.

14 April 2023

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS

	£	£	£
<u>Balances as at 1st January 2022</u>			
Santander current account		17,834.46	
Santander savings account		20.03	
		<u>17,854.49</u>	
Sale of Goods	1297.00		
Donations Gift Aided	14,199.00		
Donations Non Gift Aided	5854.82		
Gift Aided Small Donations	343.00		
Gift Aid Refund	4126.50		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>25,820.32</u>		<u>43,674.81</u>

PAYMENTS

Bank Charges	100.00		
Rwandan Projects	4865.00		
Rwanda Committees	33,000.00		
Total Expenses	<u>37,965.00</u>		
<u>Bank Balances as at 31st December 2022</u>			
Santander current account		5,689.78	
Santander savings account		20.03	
Total Bank Balances		<u>5,709.81</u>	
			43,674.81

Ms A M Waddingham Independent Examiner Date



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Rwanda Group Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 Dec 22

**Charity no
(if any)**

1074656

Set out on pages

1

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Anne-Marie Waddingham

Date:

20/12/23

Name:

ANNE-MARIE WADDINGHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACA

Address:

4 SPRUCE CLOSE, FULWOOD
PRESTON, PR2 9WB

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1074656

Accounts

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
(A charitable trust registered in England and Wales under number 1074656)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For
The year ended 31st December 2021

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The trust was established by deed on December 9th 1998 to advance the education and relieve the poverty and sickness of people in Rwanda. The Trust took on the work of its predecessor organisation, The Rwanda Group, which had been working with the same objectives since 1983.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in Central Africa. It has a predominantly rural population of approximately 12.5 million people. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.

2021 saw the 27th anniversary of the 1994 genocide when an estimated one million people lost their lives. Much progress has been made in overcoming this disaster but there is still much more work required to complete the task.

Rwanda is a poor country with the bulk of its population living in considerable need. World Bank figures show the average life expectancy at birth as approx. 69 years with 24 out of every 1000 children dying before reaching their fifth birthday.

TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for the assets, administration and work of the Trust.

Mr Joseph Bamber together with his wife Rosemary, R.I.P., and fellow trustee Sister Mary McCarren FCJ, began the work in 1983 after a visit to Rwanda and seeing the difficulties under which its people laboured.

Mr Bamber has overseen the growth and remarkable achievements of the charity since its registration in 1998. However in December 2021 he announced his decision to retire as a trustee. He does continue to take a keen interest in its work.

There are currently 5 trustees who meet together at least once per quarter.

The current chair of the trust is Mr Michael Donlan.

The other trustees are Bernadette Roberts, Veronica Sanders, Mark Ibison and Myra Gregory.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The donor strategy is to fill some of the many gaps in provision left by the major aid charities with relatively small but effective gifts. The help given is designed to be in the nature of help to friends by friends. This is being accomplished by –

- 1) Building friendships with communities, schools, individuals and families in need and providing help to them in this spirit.
- 2) Establishing committees of Rwandans in the provinces of Rwanda to advise on need, opportunities to help and to assist in the distribution of grants.

The trust works to achieve these objectives through the excellent cooperation of 4 committees – in Kigali, Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Nyundo.

The funding strategy of the Trust is to make Rwanda, its people and their difficulties known to wider audiences and to accept donations of cash and goods for resale from those sympathetic to the objectives of the Trust.

The administrative strategy is to keep the work of the Trust as simple as possible and incur a minimum of expense in carrying it out.

FUNDRAISING

The year 2021 has seen a consolidation of the changes to our fund raising methods forced on us by the continuing difficulties with the Covid pandemic. The emphasis has been on increasing donations to the charity. Appeals have been launched in all the parishes of the Lancaster Catholic Diocese and the local parishes of the Liverpool and Salford dioceses. We have continued with the charity's quarterly newsletter and are creating an ever expanding mailing list. Car boot sales and market stalls have also made significant contributions as well as a sponsored event.

Income

Cash donations for 2021 amounted to a total of £42,763 an increase of approx £27,805 on last year. This resulted in an increased gift aid refunds to £5,468. Sales of donated items of £588 resulted in a total income of £48,820.

Expenditure

In 2021 the Trust made grants of £30,400 to the four committees in Rwanda for distribution to the poorest in their communities as deemed appropriate by them and in accordance with the trust's objectives. The Trust also made grants of £8,730 towards various projects in Rwanda. The addition of bank charges of £120 resulted in a total expenditure of £39,250. The net increase of the charity's income over last year was approximately £12,280.

COMMUNICATION & FUTURE PLANS

Our foremost means of communication is now our quarterly newsletter. This has proved to be a very effective way of informing donors how their donations are being used to help the poorest of the poor. It also accounts largely for the wonderful increase in donations.

It is intended to continue to sell donated items through such as market stalls, car boot sales and seasonal fairs.

Also we have plans to develop our website to increase its versatility for information giving and provide an alternative and easier ways to donate.

We will continue to produce information leaflets and submit articles in local magazines and newspapers as well as advertising in supermarkets and churches throughout the Lancaster diocese.

Donations can continue to be given through the methods explained on our website at:- Rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

We are always looking for potential opportunities to promote our work in the wider community.

The trustees agreed, as last year, that our priority will continue to be our ongoing commitments and only to take on new projects when funds are available.

Finally I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors and supporters for their dedication resulting in such a successful year for the charity.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The address of the Trust is: 17 Mayfield Road Ashton Preston, PR2 1EX

Email: rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

Website: rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

This Report was approved by the Trustees & Signed on their behalf by the chair

Michael Donlan.

20th April 2022

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2021

RECEIPTS

	£	£	£
<u>Balances as at 1st January 2021</u>			
Santander current account		8,263.77	
Santander savings account		<u>20.03</u>	
		8283.80	
Sale of Goods	588.07		
Donations Gift Aided	20,505.50		
Donations Non Gift Aided	20,744.27		
Gift Aided Small Donations	1,514.47		
Gift Aid Refund	5,468.38		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>48,820.69</u>		<u>57,104.49</u>

PAYMENTS

Bank Charges	120.00		
Rwandan Projects	8,730.00		
Rwanda Committees	30,400.00		
Total Expenses	<u>39,250.00</u>		
<u>Bank Balances as at 31st December 2021</u>			
Santander current account		17,834.46	
Santander savings account		20.03	
Total Bank Balances		<u>17,854.49</u>	
			<u>57,104.49</u>

Ms A M Waddingham Independent Examiner Date



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Wanda Group Trust

On accounts for the year ended

31/12/21

Charity no (if any)

1074656

Set out on pages

Attached

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

9/5/22

Name:

ANNE-MARIE WIDDINGHAM

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ACA

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1074656

Accounts

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
(A charitable trust registered in England and Wales under number 1074656)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For
The year ended 31st December 2020

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The trust was established by deed on December 9th 1998 to advance the education and relieve the poverty and sickness of people in Rwanda. The Trust took on the work of its predecessor organisation, The Rwanda Group, which had been working with the same objectives since 1983.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in Central Africa. It has a predominantly rural population of approximately 12.5 million people. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.

2020 saw the 26th anniversary of the 1994 genocide when an estimated one million people lost their lives. Much progress has been made in overcoming this disaster but there is still much more work required to complete the task.

Rwanda is a poor country with the bulk of its population living in considerable need. World Bank figures show the average life expectancy at birth as approx. 69 years with 24 out of every 1000 children dying before reaching their fifth birthday.

TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for the assets, administration and work of the Trust.

Mr Joseph Bamber together with his wife Rosemary, R.I.P., and fellow trustee Sister Mary McCarren FCJ, began the work in 1983 after a visit to Rwanda and seeing the difficulties under which its people laboured.

There are currently 6 trustees who meet together at least once per quarter.

The current chairperson of the trust is Mr Joseph Bamber.

The other trustees are Bernadette Roberts, Veronica Sanders, Mark Ibison, Myra Gregory and Michael Donlan.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The donor strategy is to fill some of the many gaps in provision left by the major aid charities with relatively small but effective gifts. The help given is designed to be in the nature of help to friends by friends. This is being accomplished by –

- 1) Building friendships with communities, schools, individuals and families in need and providing help to them in this spirit.
- 2) Establishing committees of Rwandans in the provinces of Rwanda to advise on need, opportunities to help and to assist in the distribution of grants.

The trust works to achieve these objectives through the excellent cooperation of 4 committees – in Kigali, Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Nyundo.

The funding strategy of the Trust is to make Rwanda, its people and their difficulties known to wider audiences and to accept donations of cash and goods for resale from those sympathetic to the objectives of the Trust.

The administrative strategy is to keep the work of the Trust as simple as possible and incur a minimum of expense in carrying it out.

ACTIVITIES

The year 2020 proved to be a year of considerable change for the Trust. In April the Covid 19 pandemic forced the decision to permanently close our charity shop after 20 years of successful trading. This of course resulted in a serious reduction in income and the decision was only made after much discussion. The trustees wish to take this opportunity to thank our customers and also give a sincere thank you to our marvellous volunteers who kept it thriving for many years.

At the same time the pandemic was also exacerbating the plight of the poor in Rwanda and we were determined to keep the charity viable. The remaining stock was sold on the pavement outside the shop as well as at car boot sales. Other fundraising events have included a sponsored walk, projects to encourage donations for the purchase of goats and the production of a quarterly newsletter sent to an ever increasing mailing list. A grant of £10,000 from H.M. Govt. was also a great help.

Grants and Expenditure

In 2020 the Trust made grants of £24,000 to the four committees in Rwanda for distribution to the poorest in their communities as deemed appropriate by them and in accordance with the trust's objectives. The Trust also made grants of £6,920 towards various projects in Rwanda and a further £2,300 specifically for pandemic relief.

The net income of the Trust was £36,535 a decrease of approx £12,200 on 2019, a total residual bank balance of £8,283 was carried forward to 2021.

The total expenses in 2020 were approx £2,730 a reduction of £4,670 on 2019.

Fundraising

This year the major income sources of the Trust have been cash donations, shop takings and the H.M. Govt. grant.

Cash donations for 2020 amounted to a total of £14,280 an increase of approx £2,000 on last year. The proceeds from the Trust's shop were unsurprisingly greatly reduced, due to its April closure at approx £8,280 a reduction of £22,300.

COMMUNICATION & FUTURE PLANS

Clearly the Covid 19 pandemic this year has caused a marked change in the trust's activities and consequently has meant a change in emphasis for its plans for the future.

It is hoped with Covid 19 restrictions permitting to continue to sell some donated items through such as car boot sales and seasonal fairs.

Also we have plans to develop our website to increase its versatility for information giving and easier ways to donate to fundraising events which take place.

We will continue to produce information leaflets and submit articles in local magazines and newspapers as well as advertising in supermarkets and churches throughout the Lancaster diocese.

Donations can continue to be given through the methods explained on our website at:- Rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

We are always looking for potential opportunities to promote our work in the wider community.

The trustees agreed, as last year, that our priority will continue to be our ongoing commitments and only to take on new projects when funds are available.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The address of the Trust is: 17 Mayfield Road Ashton Preston, PR2 1EX

Email: rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

Website: rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com

This Report was approved by the Trustees & Signed on their behalf by the Chairperson.

Joseph Bamber

20th April 2021

RWANDA GROUP TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2020

RECEIPTS

	£	£	£
<u>Balances as at 1st January 2020</u>			
Santander current account		789.94	
Santander savings account		6,911.31	
			<u>7,701.25</u>
Shop takings	8,277.57		
Donations Gift Aided	10,555.00		
Donations Non Gift Aided	2,728.00		
Donation Legacy	1,000.00		
Gift Aided Small Donations	675.57		
Gift Aid Refund	2,036.42		
Recycling	1,055.20		
Bank Interest	8.73		
Repayment Bulb Energy	109.97		
Preston City Council Refund	89.04		
HM Govt. Covid 19 Grant	10,000.00		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>36,535.50</u>	36,535.50	<u>44,236.75</u>

PAYMENTS

Bank Charges	125.00		
Preston City Council	00.02		
Shop Insurances	264.33		
Rwandan Projects	6,920.00		
Rwanda Committees	24,000.00		
Rwanda Covid Relief	2,300.00		
Shop Rental	1,906.68		
Electricity	256.00		
United Utilities Water	180.92		
Total Expenses	<u>35,952.95</u>	35,952.95	

Bank Balances as at 31st December 2020

Santander current account		8,263.77	
Santander savings account		20.03	
Total Bank Balances		<u>8,283.80</u>	<u>44,236.75</u>

Ms A M Waddingham Independent Examiner Date



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Rwanda Group Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/20

**Charity no
(if any)**

10774656

Set out on pages

Attached

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

30/4/20

Name:

ANNE-MARIE WARRINGTON

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACA

Address:

*4 SARVE CLOSE, FULLWOOD
PRESTON
PR2 9LB*