

Company registration number: 10089069

Charity registration number: 1166416

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Contents

Trustees' Report	1 to 22
Reference and Administrative Details	21
Independent Examiner's Report	23 to 24
Statement of Financial Activities	25
Balance Sheet	26
Statement of Cash Flows	27
Notes to the Financial Statements	28 to 35

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

Our purpose

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity seeks to provide a public benefit by:

- promoting research into the causes, prevention and treatment of bone cancer and other types of cancer;
- promoting the health and wellbeing of people with a disability or serious illness; or, people who are affected by the disability or serious illness of a close family member; or, people who are suffering from bereavement following the death of a close family member, by providing or assisting in the provision of opportunities to ride or enjoy other equestrian related experiences; and
- assisting in the treatment and care of people suffering from bone cancer and other types of cancer and to help people caring for them.

The Charity can provide:

- grants to organisations carrying out research into bone cancer, provided that the results of the research funded will be published. In the event that the Charity is not the sole funder of any research then the grant of funding will be subject to a condition that results of research will be published and available for general use;
- grants to organisations, individuals and their families to assist those affected by bone cancer and other types of cancer;
- an experience of an equestrian nature via our Willberry's Wishes team, making precious memories to treasure forever.

Background

Hannah Francis founded the charity, Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony, in March 2016, having been diagnosed with osteosarcoma the year before at just 17 years old. She wanted to leave a legacy and help people like her who are affected by a serious illness and wanted the Charity to raise money to fulfil two principal objectives: to fund research into osteosarcoma ("Willberry's Research"); and to provide equestrian experiences to seriously ill people and their families ("Willberry's Wishes"). The Charity went from strength to strength under Hannah's leadership and has continued to grow since her passing in August 2016, raising more than £2 million to date. The Charity has funded a number of significant research projects as Hannah so dearly wished; she fought so courageously and endured such arduous treatment that she never wanted anyone else to have to go through this. Hannah lived for her horses and whilst she was ill, she ticked many equine dreams off her bucket list, and this gave her the inspiration for "Willberry's Wishes". The Charity is granting Willberry's Wishes to seriously ill people in the hope that these experiences inspire others in the same way as they did Hannah, bringing a little happiness and hope during the darkest of times.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

We the Trustees are grateful to the thousands of people who have helped with donations, fundraising and spreading the word about Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity.

When necessary, the Charity engages the services of experts to assist with the running of the Charity but for the vast majority of the time it has been run by volunteers, including the Trustees, and we are very proud of everyone's efforts in keeping the cost of running the Charity to a minimum and thus ensuring maximum funds are available to apply to public benefit. However, the need for full time staff has been continually under review to ensure the Charity continues to run efficiently and maximises its public benefit and some changes in this respect have been made from 1 March 2025 and are reported in detail on page 19. That said, we are especially grateful to our volunteers for the financial protection they give us by giving many hours of their time, as well as opening their homes for meetings and providing storage space for our trading subsidiary's merchandise stock.

Our Activities During 2024/25 and Achievements to Date

We believe that the Charity has provided a public benefit in the following ways:

- In our ninth full year as a charity we have raised funds of £79,050 (previous year £83,630) on income of £155,090 (previous year £156,509). This was another successful year in terms of funds generation, with fundraising efforts delivering good growth in income. We are incredibly grateful for the fabulous fundraising efforts and donations from so many of our supporters. We also received generous donations from individuals, trusts and other charities. The money raised will help to provide funds to meet the Charity's objectives and provide public benefit in the years to come by helping fund bone cancer research and providing Willberry's Wishes.
- The trading subsidiary, which sells Willberry branded merchandise and donates all its profits to the Charity (£18,116 in 2024/25, previous year £24,438), has had another successful year. Demand remained steady for our Berry Ponies and for other items which were also sold at equestrian events including Badminton Horse Trials, where some riders still take to the cross-country course with their berry pony strapped to their backs, thus giving the Charity continued and valuable public profile. The portfolio of branded items offered is constantly reviewed to ensure that we keep our followers happy and achieve the best financial outcome.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

- During the year, we have provided a number of Willberry's Wishes to people who are fighting, or are affected by, serious illness. Spending during the year providing these experiences amounted to £4,485 which included:

- * A lady was very poorly with breast cancer and her pony of 25 years sadly died, she wanted a portrait of her pony. We arranged for an artist to paint this, the lady was overjoyed with the beautiful portrait of her beloved pony.

- * A little girl with a terminal brain tumour wanted to have a pony party at home with her friends and family. We arranged for some ponies to go to her house, the morning was packed full of pony rides and pony pampering. A special pony cake was delivered and everyone received a special rosette. The little girl could not believe that she had ponies in her own back garden! A lovely lady came and took photos which we then created a photo album for the family, memories for everyone.

- * A special girl who had battled cancer went to Badminton, where she had a lovely time. We also arranged for her to have a special VIP visit to the Badminton stables with a guided tour from Kitty King. She met many of the competitors and their famous horses.

- * We helped another special girl with a terminal diagnosis. She owned a spritely horse called Patrick, full of energy making him a little too much for her to ride as she was so poorly. She adored her horse, so we wanted to include him in her wish, so we organised a photo shoot with her horse and family. A beautiful sunny day in Cornwall, creating some exquisite photos that we made into a book, making memories forever.

- * For a tiny team, we created the largest wish - a pony party for the entire class, 38 children. A little girl with osteosarcoma who had missed so much school as she was in and out of hospital. She missed her friends and wanted to include them in her 'Willberry's Wish', so we travelled to Cornwall to hold a 'Pony Party' at her school. We arranged for a local riding school to join us; they brought some ponies and organised the rides for all the children. We split the class into four groups and they rotated around the activities, riding, dismounted gymkhana games, face painting, pin the tail on the donkey and decorating Willberry biscuits, a very busy afternoon! Then back to the classroom for a picnic, and to see the special cake we had made. Willberry had even brought party bags for all the children.

- We are extremely fortunate that many wonderful people in the equestrian community assist us in providing Wishes at no charge to the Charity. Since formation, many Wishes have been granted and all of these have been very well received by the recipients, although understandably not all permit publicity. We look forward to providing many more.

- In respect of medical research, we have in place an expert panel to assist the Trustees in selecting and analysing bone cancer research projects. The expert panel is headed by Dr Claire Clarkin, Associate Professor of Developmental Biology, University of Southampton, and she is very ably assisted by Dr Alice Goring, who completed a PhD related to the study of the role of blood vessels in bone diseases, and they both provide critical assistance to the Charity in managing the medical research investment process. We have continued to meet a number of clinical and academic specialists in the field of osteosarcoma research and have made significant progress in increasing the profile of the Charity in the academic and scientific communities, including advertising for PhD studentships with major universities.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

- In total to date, we have identified and committed to twelve research projects from leading English Universities that we are supporting, with a combined value of up to £1,155,480, of which £45,316 was spent in the financial year. We are confident that in the coming years we will identify projects from other institutions that will assist in the identification of the causes, prevention and treatment of bone cancer and other types of cancer. These efforts will be significantly enhanced by last year's announcement that the Charity will be working together with The Bone Cancer Research Trust to offer funding of up to £250,000 (£125,000 funded by each charity) to support projects focused on improving outcomes for osteosarcoma patients.

The lead time for identifying, reviewing, approving and funding research projects remains up to 2 years. The Trustees are very conscious of the need to select prospective research projects carefully and to ensure the Charity's money is invested in a considered and appropriate way.

Our Strategy Going Forwards

- The Trustees continue to review the strategy of the Charity to ensure that it provides public benefit and has the ability to meet its objectives. The Trustees are hopeful that income generated in 2025/26 will meet our target of £100,000 and this, together with our strong reserves, will enable us to carry out the Charity's objectives in future years.

FUNDING RESEARCH PROJECTS

- As mentioned above, the Charity has entered into agreements to fund twelve research projects since the charity's inception. It remains shocking to note that chemotherapy treatment for osteosarcoma has changed little in the past 30 years and has a limited success rate. The treatment is barbaric and causes suffering and horrific side effects. New ways to fight this devastating disease are urgently needed.

The projects that we have funded, or are currently funding, are listed below:

COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- The first is a fully funded post doctoral position and a part funded PhD student with the renowned Department of Oncology and Metabolism at Sheffield University with a total cost of £233,412. The project ran from 2019 to 2023 and can be summarised as follows:

Project Title: Can we identify new drugs for the treatment of osteosarcoma? and finding out why existing ones don't work

Key people: Professor Ali Gartland, Professor Dominique Heymann and Luke Tattersall and Victoria Tippet.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Osteosarcoma is the most common type of primary bone cancer affecting children and adolescents, it is a rare and often fatal disease. Historically, the overall 5-year survival rates for osteosarcoma were dire at below 20% with surgical intervention alone. The introduction of the addition of chemotherapy treatment after surgery in the 1970s radically increased rates to 50%. Since then, and the introduction of chemotherapy before surgery, the survival rate further increased to 60%. However, there has been no real advances in treatment options and the survival rates have remained poor. The 5-year survival rate is reported to be 53% for patients under 40, versus 22 % for those above. The rate is even worse for patients who present with metastatic disease at less than 30% and this has actually declined every decade, with no significant change in the survival when comparing the 21st Century figures to those from the 1970s.

Current treatments for osteosarcoma are also brutal and rely on classical chemotherapy drugs which have significant side effects due to the fact that they also kill non-cancerous cells and patients often become resistant to the therapy, meaning that they no longer work and further limiting their treatment options. This project aimed to find new kinder drugs that will work in osteosarcoma, even when they become resistant to the first line therapy.

KEY RESULTS

The Gartland lab has tested 4320 compounds from a "drug library", which includes many drugs and natural compounds that have already been shown to be harmless in people, for their effect at reducing the growth of osteosarcoma cells. Their extensive investigations using osteosarcoma cell lines in the laboratory have identified 5 compounds that are highly potent requiring low doses to reduce osteosarcoma cell growth. These drugs also reduced the ability of the osteosarcoma cells to move suggesting they may be able to prevent osteosarcoma spreading (metastasising) to other parts of the body.

The team also tested these drugs against osteosarcoma cells that they had made resistant to conventional doxorubicin chemotherapy and they were able to kill these cells too. In addition to these findings specifically in osteosarcoma, these drugs have been shown to have effects in other cancers.

They are now trying to get more evidence that these new drugs work so we can take them forward to being used in patients. The Gartland lab also used the chemoresistant cells they developed to investigate the way in which the osteosarcoma cells stop responding to the first line chemotherapy. Excitingly they have found new signalling pathways and potential drug targets that are involved in the cells becoming chemoresistant and now want to investigate these further as potential new treatment options for osteosarcoma.

Other outputs, knowledge and Future Steps

Publications:

The Gartland lab is currently refraining from publishing the full results from the studies of Dr Luke Tattersall until successful IP has been filed for; protecting the drug compounds, and increasing translatability into patients. The lab is trying to further validate the hits from the screening to get the pre-clinical evidence to take the hits forward to clinical use in patients. They are also trying to modify the drugs to target them specifically to bone and so reduce any potential side effects.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

V.L. Tippet, L. Tattersall, K.M. Shah, Ab Latif, N.B, M.A. Lawson, A. Gartland. "The strategy and clinical relevance of in vitro models of MAP resistance in osteosarcoma: a systematic review" Oncogene 2022

Presentations:

Oral Presentation at the first HWWPC research symposium, London, UK, "Can we find new effective treatments for osteosarcoma?" L. Tattersall, V.L Tippet, A. Higginbottom, A.Gartland

Poster Presentation at the Bone Research Society Annual Meeting, Liverpool, UK, "Establishment and characterisation of a human osteosarcoma metastatic cell line derived from a patient's lung for future preclinical use" L. Tattersall, V.L Tippet, J.K. Rantala, A. Higginbottom, A.Gartland.

Snap Oral Presentation at the 12th Annual Mellanby Centre Research day, Sheffield UK, "Establishment and characterisation of a human osteosarcoma metastatic cell line derived from a patient's lung for future preclinical use" L. Tattersall, V.L Tippet, J.K. Rantala, A. Higginbottom, A.Gartland.

Oral Presentation at the first PRESTO meeting, Ferrara, Italy. "The P2RX7B splice variant modulates osteosarcoma cell behaviour and metastatic properties" L. Tattersall, K.M. Shah, D.L. Lath, A. Singh, J.M. Down, E. De Marchi, A. Williamson, F. Di Virgilio, D. Heymann, E. Adinolfi, W.D. Fraser, D. Green, M.A. Lawson A.Gartland.

Oral Presentation at the Bone Cancer Research Trust Annual Conference (North) Leeds UK. "Can we find new effective treatments for osteosarcoma?" L. Tattersall, V.L Tippet, A. Higginbottom, A.Gartland

Snap Oral Presentation at the 11th Annual Mellanby Centre Research day, Sheffield UK, "Can we find new effective treatments for osteosarcoma?" L. Tattersall, V.L Tippet, A. Higginbottom, A.Gartland

Poster Presentation at the BSG annual conference Liverpool UK, "Can we find new effective treatments for osteosarcoma?" L. Tattersall, V.L Tippet, A. Higginbottom, A.Gartland

Oral Presentation at the 10 year UK Purine club anniversary conference, Sheffield UK, P2X7RB increases ectopic bone disease and lung metastasis in vivo L. Tattersall, K.M. Shah, D. Lath, J. Down, E. De Marchi, A. Williamson, F. Di Virgilio, E. Adinolfi, M.A. Lawson, A. Gartland.

Oral Presentation at the 9th Annual Mellanby Centre Research day, Sheffield UK, Effects of P2X7RB expression on MNNG-HOS osteosarcoma cells in vitro L. Tattersall, E. De Marchi, A. Williamson, F. Di Virgilio, M.A. Lawson, E. Adinolfi, A. Gartland

Poster Presentation at the BACR tumour microenvironment meeting, Nottingham UK P2X7RB increases ectopic bone disease and lung metastasis in vivo in osteosarcoma Tattersall. L, Down. J, Lath. D, De Marchi. E, Williamson. A, Di Virgilio. F, Adinolfi. E, Lawson. M.A, Gartland.

- The Charity has also part-funded a PhD student at the University of Manchester with a total cost of £51,057.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Project Title: Understanding how ERK5 controls osteosarcoma development and response to treatment.

Key people: Professor Katie Finegan, Kaye Williams, Adam McMahon, Alex Dzhoneva

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

There is evidence from current research work undertaken in this lab that a protein called ERK5 can promote the progression of osteosarcoma. Clinical studies have also revealed a strong link between ERK5 signalling and outcomes for osteosarcoma patients. A recent study of samples from osteosarcoma patients showed that high levels of ERK5 correlated with disease progression (87% of patients), resistance to chemotherapy (53% of patients), and was detected in 70% of metastases, where it correlated with decreased overall survival.

ERK5 is a protein and sends many messages to other proteins, which then tell the cell what to do. Cells responding to the signal are not only tumour cells, but also cells that belong to the body's immune system, which in cancer, are hijacked to aid cancer progression. The team have initial evidence that removing ERK5 interrupts the signals or "conversation" between the immune cells and the tumour cells. A tumour cells "conversation" with the immune system is essential for both tumour growth and spread to other parts of the body. When genetic approaches to remove ERK5 from osteosarcoma cells growing in mice are used, this stops spread of the osteosarcoma cells to the lung. However, although it is known that eliminating ERK5 from the cells has significant impact on osteosarcoma progression, it is not known exactly how this happens. Understanding the "how" is pivotal to understanding the best way to target this pathway and inform design of drugs acting against ERK5 signalling for future patient use.

KEY RESULTS

- Blocking ERK5 either by the Finegan lab's genetic approach or by their new patented drug stops osteosarcoma cells from being able to spread.
- Blocking ERK5 (drug/genetic approach) enabled the lab to use a lower dose of chemotherapy to get the same effect. This means, in the future, the drug could be used to lower chemotherapy doses and therefore enable kinder treatment plans for patients.
- Blocking ERK5 (drug/genetic approach) is a possible new immunotherapy for osteosarcoma. The Finegan lab found that their drug can make the immune system more able to attack osteosarcoma tumours and also that it may be able to make current on-the-shelf immunotherapy more effective.
- The Finegan lab analysed patient tumour samples and this suggested that we can use ERK5 levels in patient samples as a way to identify patients that might be at higher risk of their cancer spreading.
- They have also found that most osteosarcoma patients tumours (~80%), but especially those patients tumours whose osteosarcoma had spread or had gone on to spread, had high ERK5 in them. Due to having lots of ERK5, these 80% of osteosarcoma patients would be very likely to benefit from our drugs that block ERK5.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Outputs

This project has allowed the lab to secure onward funding from Sarcoma UK and LifeARc to progress their drugs further towards use in patients and to develop their work on ERK5 levels in patient tumours. This means that they can use this clinically to identify high risk patients early on and therefore offer the best opportunities for treatment.

- The charity has also funded two part-funded PhD projects at the University of Southampton, with a combined funding of £102,449 over 3 years each between 2019 and 2023.

First Project Title: Developing a 3-dimensional multicellular model of human osteosarcoma

Key People: Dr Janos Kanzler, Professor Steve Beers, Professor Juliet Gray, Hannah Smith

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The most common bone cancer in young people is osteosarcoma. It is an aggressive cancer and unfortunately treatment hasn't progressed much in 40 years. This team at Southampton have created a laboratory model of osteosarcoma to try and better understand how this disease arises from normal bone cells and to test potential new therapies to prevent the growth of this cancer.

The origin of osteosarcoma cells in bone is still unknown, and this lack of understanding prevents early detection of this disease. Bone grows from specialised cells located in the bone marrow (the soft, jelly-like tissue found in the centre of most bones). In Hannah's PhD project, the team were interested to see if there were differences between the cells of the bone marrow from distinct locations of the long thigh bone and whether these differences might impact their ability to initiate disease.

To do this, they collected and grew these specialised bone marrow cells from different regions of human bones (these were called red and yellow bone marrow) where osteosarcoma cancers tend to develop. They then looked at the ability of these cells to change into three types of cells, osteoblasts which make bone, adipocytes which make fat and chondrocytes which make cartilage, all of which are critical in shaping, growing, and repairing our skeleton particularly at a youthful age. The team compared the characteristics of these cells with two known osteosarcoma cells (called Saos-2 and MG63). From Hannah's studies, she found that bone marrow specialised cells changed differently when stimulated depending on the region of the bone they came from. Improved understanding of the origin and the bone environment where these osteosarcoma cells develop could allow for earlier detection and treatment of the disease to improve the patients overall outcome.

KEY RESULTS

Why and how osteosarcoma cells start growing is still unknown, and this lack of understanding prevents early detection of this disease. Bone grows from specialised cells located in the bone marrow (The soft, jelly-like tissue found in the centre of most bones).

During Hannah's PhD, the team was interested to see if there were differences between the bone marrow cells from distinct locations of the femur which might impact their ability to initiate disease. They collected and grew these specialised bone marrow cells from two different regions (called red and yellow bone marrow) and found that there were big differences in how they changed into cells which make bone, fat, and cartilage.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

They also looked at two types of osteosarcoma cancer cells and how similar they were to the bone marrow cells, with one called Saos-2 showing a similar ability to form bone like the bone marrow cells.

After incubating the bone cylinders they were successfully able to look at whether there was bone growth or loss, as well as changes in their features/traits. They identified that the cells stayed alive and were interacting in this model to recreate the human tumour.

Finally, the drug mifamurtide was tested on the bone model, and it was found that it resulted in a lower bone volume and changes in the model's characteristics, which will help in understanding why not all patients respond to mifamurtide.

Other outputs, knowledge and Future Steps

Publications:

*Smith, H. L., Beers, S. A., Kanczler, J. M., & Gray, J. C. Developing a 3D model of osteosarcoma to investigate cancer mechanisms and evaluate treatments. Submitted for publication Dec 2023 and under revision.

*Smith, H. L., Gray, J. C., Beers, S. A., & Kanczler, J. M. (2023). Tri-Lineage Differentiation Potential of Osteosarcoma Cell Lines and Human Bone Marrow Stromal Cells from Different Anatomical Locations. *Int J Mol Sci*, 24(4). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms24043667>

*Smith, H. L., Beers, S. A., Gray, J. C., & Kanczler, J. M. (2020). The Role of Pre-Clinical 3-Dimensional Models of Osteosarcoma. *Int J Mol Sci*, 21(15). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21155499>

*Smith, H. L., Kanczler, J. M., Gray, J. C., & Beers, S. A. Monocyte Derived Macrophages: Peripheral Blood vs Bone Marrow. In final preparation for submission. Estimated End of Feb 2024.

Presentations:

2023 - Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity Symposium - Oral presentation

2022 - Centre for Human Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration conference Oral presentation

2020 - Bone Research Society: Osteosarcoma cells modulate skeletal stromal cell phenotype- site specific interactions. - Poster presentation

2020 - Cancer Research Club -Oral Presentation

2019 - 11th Annual Cancer Sciences Unit Conference - Poster Presentation

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Second Project Title: Harnessing Label-Free, Second Harmonic Generation Microscopy for Research and Diagnosis of Osteosarcoma

Key people: Belle Creith, Dr Claire Clarkin, Professor Sumeet Mahajan, Professor Richard Oreffo and University of Southampton

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

This research project aims to introduce a new technology for the diagnosis and examination of osteosarcoma tumours. Current diagnosis of osteosarcoma is a very time-consuming process involving a number of imaging techniques and a confirmative biopsy.

Cutting-edge laser microscopes that allow the imaging of biological samples in a non-invasive manner are being widely explored in the field of cancer research as they do not require the use of any special dyes of labels.

This research project utilises one such laser microscope - known as second harmonic generation microscopy - being used as a new method for the diagnosis of osteosarcoma by examining abnormal collagen - a protein in our bones which is thought to be changed drastically within bone tumours.

KEY RESULTS

During this research project, the team developed an optimised imaging and analysis methodology that allowed accurate examination of collagen in human bone and osteosarcoma biopsies. Their findings provide proof-of-concept for osteosarcoma diagnosis by identifying abnormally short collagen fibres within osteosarcoma tumours compared to healthy bone. They also identified that these changes to collagen length become more pronounced with progression of osteosarcoma. Furthermore, the Southampton team discovered that the collagen of osteosarcoma tumours also shows some differences from the collagen in other bone cancers. Together, these results demonstrate the diagnostic ability of SHG microscopes by identifying diseased collagen. This could help with both diagnosis of the disease as well as prediction of osteosarcoma progression and response to treatment. Moreover, their findings also highlight diseased collagen as a biological molecule that may be targeted in future osteosarcoma treatment.

Other Outputs & Knowledge and Future Steps

Creith B, Johnson PB, Harrison J, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S and Clarkin CE (2021). Prospects of multi-modal non-linear microscopy for research and diagnosis of osteosarcoma. Accepted for oral presentation. Bone Research Society Annual Meeting (virtual program), 28-30 June.

Creith B, Johnson PB, Harrison J, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S and Clarkin CE (2022). Characterisation of Diagnostic Collagen Phenotypes in Human Osteosarcoma Biopsies Using Second Harmonic Generation Imaging. Accepted for poster presentation. Bone Research Society Annual Meeting, Manchester, 6-8 July.

Creith B, Johnson PB, Harrison J, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S and Clarkin CE (2022). Disclosing Diagnostic Collagen Phenotypes in Osteosarcoma Biopsies with Second Harmonic Generation Imaging. Accepted for oral presentation. Gordon Research Seminar on Musculoskeletal Biological and Bioengineering, New Hampshire, USA, 6-7 August.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Creith B, Johnson PB, Harrison J, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S and Clarkin CE (2022). Disclosing Diagnostic Collagen Phenotypes in Osteosarcoma Biopsies with Second Harmonic Generation Imaging. Accepted for poster presentation. Gordon Research Conference on Musculoskeletal Biological and Bioengineering, New Hampshire, USA, 7-12 August.

Creith B, Johnson PB, Harrison J, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S and Clarkin CE (2022). Prospects of Label-Free Microscopy for Research and Diagnosis of Osteosarcoma. Invited for Talk. North Bone Cancer Research Trust Conference, Leeds, UK, 14-15 October.

Future steps: -

In parallel with our PhD funding Southampton was successful in obtaining further funding from Children with Cancer UK in collaboration with Janos Kanczler, University of Southampton on a project entitled Developing 3-dimensional multicellular models of osteosarcoma which was undertaken by Dr Aikta Sharma

Background : OS has been shown to be very sensitive to its surroundings and particularly that of circulating immune cells called macrophages. Macrophages protect the body by locating and “eating” particles, such as cancer cells, bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. The presence of macrophages in OS has been reported to be associated with increased patient survival and has led to a targeted drug treatment called mifamurtide, a macrophage activator. However, recent evidence has questioned the benefit of this treatment approach in all patients. We urgently need to understand the microenvironment of OS and investigate how these macrophages can influence the clinical outcome of young OS patients. In this project, Dr Claire Clarkin and her team will develop a live 3D multicellular model of OS by combining human bone pieces, OS cells and immune cells, which will be kept alive and grown together inside a developing chicken egg. This sophisticated model of OS will better replicate the complex tumour microenvironment than existing models and will be used to assess the mechanisms underlying specific drugs, like mifamurtide, in killing OS cells. The research team will then use a powerful imaging technique called Raman Spectroscopy to identify any unique disease signatures. Identification of such signatures could act as an indicator for OS to improve diagnosis and will provide greater understanding into the role of immune cells in the progression of OS. This study will assess the potential for macrophage activation to be used in the treatment of OS and will allow drugs to be screened very rapidly to assess their effectiveness. The research team will identify and characterise unique OS cell signatures which could be used as indicators for the disease and could improve the speed of diagnosis.

Findings have demonstrated the utility of Raman spectroscopy in the characterisation of matrix signatures of osteosarcoma. The team have performed in-depth in vitro characterisation of low-to-high grade human osteosarcoma cell lines and validated the attained spectral signatures with biochemical assays which have enabled the deduction of cellular metastatic and differentiation capacities directly from extracellular matrix signatures. The project team's approaches can be used a platform for rapid screening of novel therapies for osteosarcoma treatments ahead of administration to larger preclinical models. The Clarkin lab's future funding strategy will utilise the methodologies developed herein to form the basis of a larger grant application (Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, Bone Cancer Research Trust) with focus on improving osteosarcoma diagnosis and treatment using multidisciplinary approaches.

Outputs:

Hornsey T, Sharma A, Michels L, Kerns J , Clarkin CE (2024). Machine Learning predicts unique extracellular matrix characteristics between osteosarcoma cell phenotypes. Submitted for oral and poster presentation at the European Calcified Tissue Congress, Marseille, France, May 2024.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Sharma A, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S, Beers S, Kanczler J and Clarkin CE (2024). Raman spectroscopy reveals the association between nanomolecular matrix signatures with pro-angiogenic potential in osteosarcoma. Accepted for poster presentation at the Bone Cancer Research Trust Meeting: Advancing diagnosis of bone and soft tissue sarcomas, Leeds, UK, January 2024.

Sharma A, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S, Beers S, Kanczler J and Clarkin CE (2023). Characterisation of osteosarcoma matrix signatures reveals nanoscale molecular composition is linked to pro-angiogenic potential. Accepted for oral and poster presentation at the Bone Research Society Annual Meeting and European Calcified Tissue Society Congress 2023, Liverpool, UK, April 2023.

Sharma A, Oreffo ROC, Mahajan S, Beers S, Kanczler J & Clarkin CE (2022). Nanoscale characterisation of osteosarcoma cell matrix signatures link to pro-angiogenic potential. Accepted for poster presentation at the Gordon Research Seminar and Conference on Musculoskeletal Biology and Bioengineering: Multi-scale Approaches to Understanding Musculoskeletal Tissues, New Hampshire, USA, August 2022.

- The Charity has also part-funded two PhD projects at the University of Middlesex with a combined projected cost of £204,325 between 2021 and 2028

First Project Title: Delineating the metastatic process: the role of bone cells, the cell environment and autophagy

Key people: Dr Helen Robert, Dr Scott Roberts and Daniela Paternina Martinez

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Metastatic disease is one of the major factors affecting osteosarcoma (OS) prognosis. Survival rate of patients with metastasis is 20% to 30% compared to up to 80% in non-metastatic patients. This project aims to identify how osteosarcoma cells spread to other tissues such as the lungs. Recent evidence shows that loss of osteoclasts ((OCs); cells that break down bone) in the bone microenvironment is associated with lung metastasis.

KEY RESULTS

Due to the absence of innovative treatments for osteosarcoma (OS) since the advances in chemotherapy treatment in the early 1980s and the stagnant survival rates for patients with metastatic OS, there is a pressing demand for enhanced therapeutic approaches.

The Roberts lab have established a model for osteosarcoma initiation and metastasis, alongside the identification of key targets through sequencing that may be able to stop osteosarcoma in its tracks.

Other Outputs & Knowledge and Future Steps

Presentations:

Paternina Martinez, D., Roberts, S. and Roberts, H.C. (2022). Migratory bodies express markers of tumour initiating cells and may represent an early stage of osteosarcoma sarcosphere initiation and metastasis. Journal of Bone and Mineral Research Plus.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Paternina Martinez, D., Roberts, S.J and Roberts, H.C (2022). Migratory bodies express markers of tumour initiating cells and may represent an early stage of osteosarcoma sarcosphere initiation and metastasis. Research Students' Summer Conference. Middlesex University, London, UK June 2022.

Paternina Martinez, D., Roberts, S.J and Roberts, H.C (2023.) Osteoclasts and mesenchymal stromal cells release factors that modulate migratory body formation in highly metastatic osteosarcoma cells. Research Students' Summer Conference. Middlesex University, London, UK July 2023.

- Oral presentation at the Skeletal Biology Group Research Seminar - Presentation titled "Delineating the metastatic process in osteosarcoma: the role of bone cells, the cell environment and autophagy". Royal Veterinary College - February 2022, London.

- Poster presentation and poster pitch of abstract entitled "Migratory bodies express markers of tumour initiating cells and may represent an early stage of osteosarcoma sarcosphere initiation and metastasis" Bone Research Society Annual Meeting -July 2022, Manchester.

- Oral presentation titled "Bone cells modulate migratory behaviour of osteosarcoma: implications for metastasis" Bloomsbury Centre for Skeletal Research Meeting - June 2023, London.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

The second follow on project with Middlesex is titled: **Suppress-OS: Targeting Osteoclast-Tumour Interactions to Suppress Osteosarcoma Metastasis**

Key people Dr Helen Roberts, Dr Song Wen

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, becomes more challenging when it spreads, reducing the chance of survival. The Robert's lab hypothesise that OS establishes itself in bones by interacting with osteoclasts, specialised cells responsible for breaking down bone tissue. Disrupting this interaction allows osteosarcoma to spread to the lungs.

In Daniella's PhD project, the Roberts lab identified 'Migratory Bodies' (MBs) as a valuable laboratory model for studying the spread of osteosarcoma. Osteoclast factors slow down MBs, but the drug zoledronic acid (used to treat osteoporosis) can counteract this effect.

The team now look to explore this further by using genetic engineering to unravel how osteosarcoma spreads, with a particular focus on potential treatment targets STAT3 and MMP9.

Additionally, the team plan to examine osteosarcoma metabolism to enhance their understanding of metastasis. This research holds promise for refining osteosarcoma treatment strategies, incorporating insights into osteoclast interactions, with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for patients.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

PRELIMINARY DATA

This project is starting soon and marks our first follow-on funding project, where the teams behind our previous successfully funded projects were invited to apply for funding to ensure that the most successful of these projects remain supported and continue to grow.

- The Charity has also part-funded a PhD project at Kings College London with a project cost of £87,576 between 2022 and October 2025

Project Title: Drug repurposing targeting Haem oxygenase-1 (HO-1) for prevention of osteosarcoma growth and metastasis

Key people: Professor Agamemnon Grigoriadis, Dr James N Arnold, Michael Dack

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The project focuses on understanding and preventing the growth of cancer cells in osteosarcoma patients, as well as looking to stop the spread of cancer around the body. The ability of osteosarcoma to metastasise or spread to different sites is what makes it so aggressive and therefore focusing the research on this is really important. Michael is looking at repurposing a pre-existing drug, which is currently used to treat neonatal jaundice, to block the action of HO-1. HO-1 is a factor which is produced by osteosarcoma patients and prevents the activation of the immune system. By 'kick-starting' the immune system into action, the project will assess if the chemotherapy drugs are able to fight the cancer and stop it from moving to other areas of the body.

KEY RESULTS

Michael is now in his second year of his PhD and has been busy making progress on his project. Using a technique called Flow cytometry, Michael has been able to identify the key cell types within the lung that could be helping osteosarcoma spread to this site. Armed with this finding, Michael is now delving deeper into the mechanism of how these cells are helping the spread and how might the drug, SnMP, be working to reactivate good immune cells to prevent osteosarcoma metastasis.

To share his research to potential collaborators, Michael attended EuSARC 2024 in June hosted in Le Pouligen, France and presented a 5-minute flash talk to an international audience of sarcoma researchers. He received excellent feedback from peers. In July, Michael also attended the Bone Research Society Annual meeting in Sheffield. Here he won the Best Poster award.

•In addition the Trustees are excited to confirm that the Charity is working together with The Bone Cancer Research Trust and jointly funding a postdoctoral 3 year research project of up to £250,000 (£125,000 funded by each charity)commencing in the 2024/25 academic year with Imperial College London led by Dr Jun Ishihara.

Project title: Overcoming osteosarcoma immunotherapy resistance by tumour-localised IL-12 driven anti-tumour immunity.

Key people: Dr Jun Ishihara, Dr Koichi Sasaki, and Dr Akinobu Hamada

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Despite optimal management of localised osteosarcoma disease, over 50% of patients develop metastatic disease or recurrence, which lead to poor survival outcomes in approximately 19 months. Immunotherapies, activating immune cells to attack cancers, became standard therapy in many other cancer types and enabled prolonged effects including prevention of recurrence and metastasis. However, osteosarcoma responds poorly to current standard immunotherapies due to A) inactivation of the immune system, B) resistance to immunotherapy, and C) difficulty in locally delivering drugs to tumour sites. Immunotherapies can achieve long-term effects including prevention of metastasis and recurrence. There remains huge room for improvement for immunotherapy in osteosarcoma as many patients suffer due to lack of treatment options and recurrence/metastasis.

PRELIMINARY DATA

Preliminary data from the Ishihara lab has produced promising immunotherapy protein called interleukin-12 (IL-12) that is known to successfully activate anti-tumour immune cells against several cancers. Despite its strong antitumour activity, IL-12 induces severe systemic toxicity in its native form. The lab found that several cancers including osteosarcoma increase collagen expression compared to normal tissue. They successfully reduced its toxicity, by attaching a collagen-binding domain (CBD), which enables tumour-specific delivery of IL-12.

The team hypothesise that their newly developed tumour-specific bioengineered immunotherapy (CBD-IL-12) can become a breakthrough for osteosarcoma, especially against recurrent metastatic osteosarcoma.

- We have also approved funding for a project with Southampton University total grant £130,379 over 4 years (2025-2029)

Project title: Developing a Bioengineered 3-D Multifactorial Humanized Bone Osteosarcoma Model to Assess Tumour Invasiveness and Therapeutic Response

Key people: Dr Janos Kanczler, Professor Stephen Beers, Professor Juliet Gray, Dr Yanghee Kim

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT

For the success of effective anti-bone cancer therapies, it is crucial to understand how bone cancers such as osteosarcoma switch on, progress and develop unregulated in the bone micro-environment. Various cells in combination play a critical role in the progression of the disease inside of the bone structures. Furthermore, a soft gel- like structure (cell matrix) produced by these cells is also involved in the development of the bone cancer diseases. Southampton have previously developed a lab-based model using human bone cores and a mixture of key cells to generate a 3D model of osteosarcoma growth to test a cancer drug.

In this study, the team will combine the unique bone gel matrix that they have previously developed with multiple cells in the human bone cores to further enhance this 3D model and understand if new therapies targeted to the cells in this environment or targeted to the newly developing cell matrix can prevent the onset of the osteosarcoma tumour. At the same time, the team will combine the cancer therapy agents with specialised biomaterials to help rebuild and regenerate the disease bone.

- We have also approved funding for a project with Queen Mary's University total grant £122,749 over 4 years (2025-2029)

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Project title: Development of an Osteosarcoma-on-a-Chip Model to Investigate Chemoresistance and the Role of CHI3L1 in Tumour Microenvironment

Key people: Dr Stefan Verbruggen, Dr Lucia Cottone, Associate Professor Fiona Freeman, Professor Sandra Strauss

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Survival of individuals with osteosarcoma, the most common primary bone cancer which mainly affects teenagers and young adults, has not improved in the last 40 years since chemotherapy was introduced. The response to this toxic treatment is poor in nearly half of the treated patients, contributing significantly to their tumour returning, but the reasons for this failure have not been fully explained. Research into osteosarcoma has been significantly challenging due to the rarity of this disease and to the lack of good experimental systems to understand the causes of chemoresistance. Moreover, traditional drug testing using cancer cells in a dish and in small rodents have poor track records for identifying new treatments, because they are too dissimilar from the tumours.

With this project we will generate an osteosarcoma 'organ-on-a-chip', a novel experimental setup that replicates the bone environment inside a bone tumour. The organ-on-a-chip will include osteosarcoma cells donated by patients and the elements of bone found in patients. We will then use the organ-on-a-chip to investigate what makes cancer cells resistant to chemotherapy. Therefore, this project will provide a new tool to advance research and find better treatments for this paediatric cancer.

- We have also approved follow-on funding for a project with Kings College London, total grant £96,577 over 3 years (2025-2028)

Project title: Drug repurposing targeting Heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) for prevention of osteosarcoma growth and metastasis

Key people: Professor Agamemnon Grigoriadis, Professor James Arnold

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Osteosarcoma is a devastating malignancy that affects children. Metastatic disease remains the most important prognostic indicator of survival, and despite advances in adjuvant chemotherapy and limb-sparing surgery, 5-year survival is 60-70%, dropping to ~20% with metastatic disease, and these frequencies have not improved.

The team at King's have made recent progress in their ongoing HWWPC-funded project that is identifying a novel target for OS metastasis therapy. The enzyme, HO-1, is made by cells in the tumour immune environment, that are normally hijacked by tumour cells to evade the immune system. The initial project uses a drug called SnMP that stops HO-1 from working, reduces OS metastasis in animal models by reactivating the immune system and enables killing of tumour cells. This project follows on from this work to show that this HO-1 pathway interacts with a target in tumour cells themselves, called FGFR. Blocking FGFR in tumour cells can inhibit metastasis but whether this affects the interaction of tumour cells with the microenvironment is not known. This project will establish for the first time whether these pathways communicate and cooperate with each other to drive OS metastasis.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

PRELIMINARY DATA

PhD student Michael Dack has used Flow cytometry to identify key cell types within the lung that could be helping osteosarcoma to spread to this site. Armed with this finding, Michael is now delving deeper into the mechanism of how these cells are helping the spread and how might the drug SnMP, be working to reactivate good immune cells to prevent osteosarcoma metastasis. This HWWPC follow-on fund gives the King's team the opportunity to continue and further the work on the current HWWPC studentship, which is in it's final year.

PROVISION OF WISHES

- In respect of Willberry's Wishes, the Charity has a small team of volunteers dedicated to helping organise and provide these equestrian-related Wishes. Interest is growing and is expected to continue to do so, as word has spread about how we can help seriously ill people and their families during the darkest of times by giving them experiences to look forward to, whilst making memories for all those involved. We share details of some of the vital Wishes we grant, but other recipients understandably wish to keep them private. We are immensely grateful for the continued support of so many people and organisations in the equestrian world, as this is critical in supporting our ability to provide Willberry's Wishes.

- Willberry's Wishes helps so many people, not only the Wishee but also their families, and we always have a number of Wishes that we are working on.

- Willberry's Wishes is about making memories, giving people things to look forward to and to forget what is happening to them even if it is just for a little while. We hope to help lots of people by granting many more Willberry's Wishes.

Financial review

The following section on Financial Review and Future Developments constitutes the Strategic Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and the Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

- In its ninth year of operation, the Charity generated a surplus of £79,050 (previous year £83,630), all of which were unrestricted funds.

The Charity's main source of finance is donations, with a significant contribution also being made from the trading subsidiary.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Reserves policy

The Trustees of the Charity have reviewed the Charity's reserves policy in line with the existing commitments and intended future commitments to osteosarcoma research, Willberry's Wishes and estimates of future administration costs. At 31 March 2025, reserves stood at £1,698,037 (£1,618,987 in the previous year) which was substantially more than the amount required to meet these commitments. These funds are held in low risk deposit accounts with various financial institutions.

As previously highlighted, the Charity has committed to expenditure on twelve osteosarcoma research projects to date with a value of £1,155,480, of which £594,027 has been spent and the balance of £561,453 is committed expenditure over the next 4 years.

The Charity is currently in the process of preparing for the invitation of applications for further project funding requests from the research community, with the aim of awarding more fully funded research projects. It is anticipated that there will be at least 1 new project costing approximately £130,000 (project duration 4 years) committed to in each of the next 5 years, total aim to be committed £650,000.

As previously reported the Trustees are excited to confirm the continuation of collaboration with The Bone Cancer Research Trust and expect to offer funding of up to £250,000 (£125,000 funded by each charity) each year to support projects focused on improving outcomes for osteosarcoma patients. Over 5 years this would amount to future commitments of £625,000.

So in summary current reserves of £1,698,037 will fund existing commitments on grant funded research projects of £561,453, new grant funded project commitments of £650,000 over the next 5 years, new jointly funded projects with BCRT of £625,000, Wishes costs of £25,000 and 5 years operating costs of £240,000 (£48,000 per annum). These future commitments will rely on the continued generation of income from donations and interest on cash balances of £100,000 per annum. In the event that suitable research projects cannot be identified then donations to other cancer research charities could be considered.

Conclusion

The Trustees believe that the Charity has, through the kind and generous help of our supporters and volunteers, raised funds that will provide a public benefit in years to come through the funding of bone cancer research and the provision of Willberry's Wishes.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The company is a registered charity, number 1166416, and was incorporated on 29 March 2016. It is governed by the articles and memorandum of association of that date.

The company is limited by guarantee and without a share capital. All Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, such amounts as may be required not exceeding £10.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Our Trustees and Management

As reported in previous years, the need for employed staff has been continually under review to ensure the Charity continues to run efficiently and maximises its public benefit. The volume of work has continually increased over recent years, making it increasingly difficult to operate on a volunteer-only basis. As a result on 1st March 2025 we appointed Rachel Francis as General Manager of the charity working three days per week and as a consequence she has resigned her position of trustee. This appointment was subject to approval of the Charity Commission in line with the requirements of the charity's Articles of Association and the Charity Commission's guidance. This appointment is a real positive for the charity as Rachel has been the driving force and has very much been seen as the voice of the charity, which bears her daughter's name, for many years. Her deep knowledge of the equestrian sector where Wishes are focussed and her empathetic, considerate and sensitive engagement with recipients of Wishes (many of whom are seriously or terminally ill) and their families will be extremely important in continuing to deliver this aspect of public benefit for years to come. In addition her knowledge gained as a trustee of the scientific research environment particularly cancer / osteosarcoma and close working with other charities in the sector will assist with the ongoing development of our research activities.

At the same time as Rachel's appointment we are delighted to report that we have appointed 2 new trustees to the charity, firstly Dr Alice Goring, who is a senior molecular scientist and completed her PhD at Southampton University. Whilst studying there, she introduced us to her supervisor, Dr Claire Clarkin, who has been the Chair of our Scientific Panel for the past few years. In her capacity as Trustee, Alice will provide vital knowledge of the scientific community and will help guide us with our research activities.

Secondly, Matthew Clark who is Operations Director of Old Mill, an accountancy and financial advisory practice. Matt is also a survivor of osteosarcoma, which he was diagnosed with at 18 years of age, and he told us about his remarkable journey of recovery when we first met him. Matt then set himself the hugely onerous task of cycling over 1,000 miles to all the major equestrian eventing venues with his Travelling Willberrys, raising not only a remarkable amount of money for the Charity (over £14,000) but also increasing awareness of this hideous disease. Matt will contribute his business experience to the Charity and, crucially, a patient perspective to add to all Hannah's extraordinarily powerful testimony.

As a result of these changes the Charity is now run by 6 trustees, including Hannah's father (James Francis) and her grandmother (June Clothier). The other four Trustees are Ian Peters, former Financial Controller of Hanson plc, General Manager of Hanson Europe and Finance Director of Breedon Aggregates PLC, and Miles Toulson-Clarke, a former Main Board Director of Williams Lea Group and currently UK CEO/Group COO of Innovation Group and District Commissioner of the Wyllye Valley Pony Club, plus the newly appointed trustees, Dr Alice Goring and Matthew Clark. Each of the Trustees gives their time freely, both in their roles as Trustees and carrying out day to day tasks in running the Charity.

Day to day activities of the Charity are run by the newly appointed General Manager, former trustee, Rachel Francis. Each of the Trustees have oversight of particular activities on a functional basis as follows: Alice Goring – first point of contact for research; James Francis – first point of contact for Willberry's Wishes, media and communications and research; June Clothier – trading subsidiary sales including online and at events and research; Miles Toulson-Clarke – fund raising, research and media and communications; Ian Peters – finance and legal; Matthew Clark – IT and charity operations.

The charity has adopted a conflicts of interest policy which ensures that any remuneration and employee performance decisions do not involve any connected or conflicted persons.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Recruitment and induction of new trustees

Before being appointed, a potential new trustee is encouraged to meet a number of times with the existing trustees to familiarise themselves with the work of the Charity. A newly appointed trustee receives guidance and informal training to enable them to perform their duties effectively, including governance and management, an induction to the history and current activities of the Charity, code of conduct and charity ethics. New trustees are provided with copies of key documents including the Charity's governing documents, minutes of recent Trustee's meetings and, once these are available, the latest set of financial statements and Trustees' report.

Financial Instruments

Objectives and policies

The Charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks, principally liquidity. The Charity does not use derivative financial instruments.

Liquidity risk and interest rates

The Charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The Charity has deliberately taken a conservative approach to investing its available funds during the course of the financial year which, given the current international interest environment, has generated a low rate of return. There is some residual risk to the Charity should interest rates turn negative.

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the Charity has adopted a conservative reserves policy.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees J S Clothier
J R Francis
I A Peters
C T M Toulson-Clarke
M P Clark
A L Goring


Charity Registration Number 1166416

Company Registration Number 10089069

Registered Office The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
Manor Farm
Hemington
Radstock
BA3 5XX

Independent Examiner Paul Giessler FCA
Francis Clark LLP
Hitchcock House
Hilltop Park
Devizes Road
Salisbury
SP3 4UF

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 30/10/25 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
I A Peters
Trustee

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".


Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 30/10/25 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
I A Peters
Trustee

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity ('the Company')



.....
Paul Giessler FCA
Francis Clark LLP

Hitchcock House
Hilltop Park
Devizes Road
Salisbury
SP3 4UF

Date: 4 November 2025
.....

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	107,674	107,674
Investment income	4	<u>47,416</u>	<u>47,416</u>
Total income		<u>155,090</u>	<u>155,090</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	<u>(76,040)</u>	<u>(76,040)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(76,040)</u>	<u>(76,040)</u>
Net income		<u>79,050</u>	<u>79,050</u>
Net movement in funds		79,050	79,050
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,618,987</u>	<u>1,618,987</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>1,698,037</u></u>	<u><u>1,698,037</u></u>

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	123,497	123,497
Investment income	4	<u>33,012</u>	<u>33,012</u>
Total income		<u>156,509</u>	<u>156,509</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	<u>(72,879)</u>	<u>(72,879)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(72,879)</u>	<u>(72,879)</u>
Net income		<u>83,630</u>	<u>83,630</u>
Net movement in funds		83,630	83,630
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,535,357</u>	<u>1,535,357</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>1,618,987</u></u>	<u><u>1,618,987</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 16.

The notes on pages 28 to 35 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

(Registration number: 10089069)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

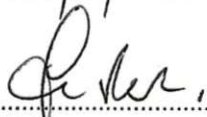
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	1	1
Current assets			
Debtors	11	30,390	27,638
Cash at bank and in hand	12	1,697,955	1,605,355
		1,728,345	1,632,993
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(30,309)	(14,007)
Net current assets		1,698,036	1,618,986
Net assets		1,698,037	1,618,987
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		1,698,037	1,618,987
Total funds	16	1,698,037	1,618,987

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 25 to 35 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 30.11.25 and signed on their behalf by:


 I A Peters
 Trustee

The notes on pages 28 to 35 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		79,050	83,630
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	4	<u>(47,416)</u>	<u>(33,012)</u>
		31,634	50,618
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in debtors	11	(2,752)	(14,801)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13	<u>16,302</u>	<u>(6,798)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		45,184	29,019
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	<u>47,416</u>	<u>33,012</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		92,600	62,031
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		<u>1,605,355</u>	<u>1,543,324</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u><u>1,697,955</u></u>	<u><u>1,605,355</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Manor Farm
Hemington
Radstock
BA3 5XX

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

These financial statements are presented in Sterling, rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured. Donations received through third party organisations such as Just Giving are shown net of any fees charged by these organisations.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grants

Grants are recognised at the amount payable when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient and the conditions of the grant have been met.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Fixed asset investments

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at historical cost less provision for any diminution in value.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;		
General donations	89,558	89,558
Donation from trading subsidiary	18,116	18,116
Total for 2025	107,674	107,674
Total for 2024	123,497	123,497

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	47,416	47,416
Total for 2025	47,416	47,416
Total for 2024	33,012	33,012

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Grant funding of activities		49,801	49,801
Staff costs		2,266	2,266
Allocated support costs	6	18,872	18,872
Governance costs	6	5,101	5,101
Total for 2025		76,040	76,040
Total for 2024		72,879	72,879

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also governance costs of £5,101 (2024 - £5,762) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 6 for further details.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Advertising, promotion and fundraising	7,889	7,889	2,000
Insurance	636	636	1,227
Legal and professional fees	4,196	4,196	35
Printing, postage and stationary	-	-	4
IT related costs	813	813	830
Bank fees	5,338	5,338	3,448
Governance costs	5,101	5,101	5,762
	<u>23,973</u>	<u>23,973</u>	<u>13,306</u>

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	
	General	Total
	£	funds
	£	£
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	3,061	3,061
Other fees paid to examiners	2,040	2,040
Total for 2025	<u>5,101</u>	<u>5,101</u>
Total for 2024	<u>5,762</u>	<u>5,762</u>

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

One trustee received reimbursed travel and subsistence of £423 (2024 £267).

No trustees have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

Rachel Francis received one month's salary in her capacity as General Manager. Her husband James Francis, a trustee, is deemed to be a connected person.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £
Staff costs during the year were:	
Wages and salaries	2,083
Social security costs	183
	<u>2,266</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No
	-

One employee was employed from 1 March 2025.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>3,061</u>	<u>2,915</u>
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	<u>2,040</u>	<u>2,847</u>

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

10 Fixed asset investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Shares in group undertakings and participating interests	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Details of undertakings

Details of the investments in which the charity holds 20% or more of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

Undertaking	Country of incorporation	Holding	Proportion of voting rights and shares held		Principal activity
			2025	2024	
Subsidiary undertakings					
The Willberry Wonder Pony Trading Company Limited Manor Farm, Hemington, Radstock,BA3 5XX	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%	100%	Sale of merchandise and soft toys branded with Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony

Subsidiaries

The trading subsidiary company donates its profits to the charity. For the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the subsidiary's turnover was £29,477 (2024 - £42,000) and total expenditure was £29,477 (2024 - £42,000).

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due from group undertakings	<u>30,390</u>	<u>27,638</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	<u>1,697,955</u>	<u>1,605,355</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	<u>30,309</u>	<u>14,007</u>

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 March 2025 £
Fixed asset investments	1	1
Current assets	1,728,345	1,728,345
Current liabilities	<u>(30,309)</u>	<u>(30,309)</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,698,037</u>	<u>1,698,037</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	1	1
Current assets	1,632,993	1,632,993
Current liabilities	<u>(14,007)</u>	<u>(14,007)</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,618,987</u>	<u>1,618,987</u>

15 Related party transactions

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standards 102 chapter 33 "Related Party Disclosure" and has not disclosed transactions with wholly owned group undertakings.

Donations made by the trustees without any conditions attached totalled £150 (2024 - £415) for the year.

Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
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Unrestricted funds

General	<u>1,618,987</u>	<u>155,090</u>	<u>(76,040)</u>	<u>1,698,037</u>
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	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
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Unrestricted funds

General	<u>1,535,357</u>	<u>156,509</u>	<u>(72,879)</u>	<u>1,618,987</u>
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Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony Charity

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
Donation from Willberry Trading Co	18,116	24,438
Other Donations	89,558	99,059
	<u>107,674</u>	<u>123,497</u>
<i>Investment income</i>		
Interest Received on savings a/c	47,416	33,012
	<u>47,416</u>	<u>33,012</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Payroll	(2,083)	-
Employer NI	(183)	-
Insurance	(636)	(1,227)
Printing	-	(4)
Wishes costs	(4,485)	(2,250)
IT related costs	(813)	(830)
Project costs	(45,316)	(57,323)
Advertising	(7,889)	(2,000)
Compliance inc legal	(4,196)	(35)
Bank Fees	(5,338)	(3,448)
Independent examiner's remuneration	(3,061)	(2,915)
Other fees paid to independent examiners	(2,040)	(2,847)
	<u>(76,040)</u>	<u>(72,879)</u>