

## **RDA Furness Group**

### **Trustees Report for the Charities Commission 2021-22**

The 2021-22 year saw a very welcome return to riding activities in October 2021. We had been planning for this for a while so we were more than delighted to find that all our regular schools and riders were very happy to join us again for our regular sessions.

It was obvious before we started up again that we would have to review our payments to Seaview Riding School, due to their increased expenses after Covid. I put a proposal together, with the format agreed by the four previous trustees, and this was discussed by all the current trustees. It was agreed that payments would increase to £15 per pony per half-hour session and this would apply to Wednesday, Thursday and March sessions, which previously had different rates. This increase was applied as soon as we started riding again. Although these make a relatively large increase to our riding costs compared to previously, it rationalised the payment system and helps cover Seaview's higher costs. We also agreed that the donation paid by Thursday evening parents should increase to £5 per rider per session. All the parents were happy with this.

Although we were unable to do much of our usual fund-raising, volunteers, local people and organisations continued to be very generous with their own fund-raising activities and donating money to us. In addition to the money given to us in the previous financial year from the funeral of a much loved volunteer, one of his daughters married her partner and in lieu of presents asked that donations be given to us.

Apart from our usual expenditure on riding costs, instructor expenses and insurance, we also bought some much needed equipment, including a sheepskin saddle which helps make riding more comfortable for riders, particularly those with cerebral palsy. We renewed our contract for our website hosting but we plan to review this and get our website re-designed to give it a much-needed update.

A number of volunteers took part in an on-line course to update their safeguarding certificates. Also, twelve volunteers renewed their first-aid qualification with a one-day course designed for held locally. Three riding instructors for RDA were reviewed and their status was updated.

One of our trustees resigned but is continuing as a volunteer. We welcomed back most of our previous volunteers and also were very happy to see some new faces. We have also expanded our committee to make full use of the talents, ideas and connections of some of our younger volunteers.

During the Covid restrictions we were very concerned that we wouldn't get back to being a fully active RDA group. However, we are delighted to report that we are fully operational and as busy as before. We look forward to a strong future and developing our activities.

