

# WOOD GREEN RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING

England & Wales · Charity number 1191398

## Details

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**Other names** WOOD GREEN RDA GROUP

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-09-22

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

## Contact

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Pertenhall  
Bedford  
MK44 2BA

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## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTS OF THE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING A CHARITY REGISTERED UNDER CHARITY NUMBER 244108 ("RDA") BY PROVIDING DISABLED PEOPLE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE AND/OR TO CARRIAGE DRIVE TO BENEFIT THEIR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA.

**Activities:** The aim of the Charity is to provide riding to disabled people from the Huntingdon area who might benefit from it in their general health and well-being.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

## Geography

- Cambridgeshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,159	£6,930	-	-
2023-12-31	£1,159	£6,930	-	-
2022-12-31	£238	£3,524	-	-
2021-12-31	£1,577	£3,440	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Steven Pollard	Chair	2020-10-30
Andrea Marie Farnden		2021-10-22
Angela Pollard		2020-10-30
Jane Buckham		2024-04-01
Jeanette Soer		2023-04-14
Jeanette Soer		2020-10-30
Laura Travis		2023-12-01
Paula Salvi		2024-04-01
Peter Daum		2020-10-30
Rosalind Brown		2020-10-30
Sarah Croft		2023-12-10

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# Accounts

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## Report of the Trustees Wood Green RDA

This has, by any measure, been a successful year for the group. We have offered in the region of 420 lessons and this equates, at the commercial rate at Northbrook, to £11,700 of benefit provided. Of course the benefit, and *raison d'être* of the group, is not primarily financial and the lessons to both adults and children provide physical and mental therapy. In conversation with the Spring Common staff, who provide our child riders, it is clear that children with very complex behavioural needs become transformed by their experience of horses and for many of them it is the highlight of their week. The physical benefits of improving core strength, balance, coordination etc are also clear to see.

We have a very good body of volunteers in the group and while there are occasional sessions when we are a bit short we generally have sufficient and have never had to cancel a session due to having too few helpers. One additional aspect is that, over the past two or three years we have acquired a larger number of helpers with considerable equestrian experience and this has made running sessions considerably easier and great thanks should go to all of the volunteers for their dedication. Riders of all ages clearly value the rapport they develop with the helpers.

A major development, and improvement, this year has been in the coaching provision. Sessions can not run without a coach being present to conduct the lesson and it was therefore imperative that we were able to have a larger pool. It is excellent to report that Fiona Bayliss and Jeanette Soer are now qualified group coaches and that Sally Bowes and Paula Salvi are on the pathway to qualification. This has already taken some of the burden from our existing coaches and has given us greater flexibility.

The groups finances remain in a healthy state as outlined in the Treasurer's Report. Some problems with the transition of the banking facility have meant that we have not been able to follow up potential revenue sources such as Just Giving but it is the hope that this will be rectified soon.

Relations with Northbrook have generally been good despite one or two issues with tack and with difficulties in providing weight-bearing ponies at times. The staff at Northbrook have become more aware of the group's competence and professionalism and this has led to a more collaborative approach. Relations with Spring Common have been excellent and their staff have been very helpful and communication has improved. This will be furthered by the designation of Jane Buckham as our Special Needs specialist to act as a conduit between the Spring Common staff and us, advising as to successful strategies etc. Dealings with the external agencies involved with the adult riders have remained good.

Looking to the year, and years, ahead an issue potentially on the horizon is the possible closure of Northbrook. This is not imminent but, as a group, we need to be considering contingencies if it were to happen. The Trustees have been assured by the owner that nothing will be sprung on us with short notice. It is a tricky environment for riding schools at the moment and this makes future planning difficult.

We will continue to encourage volunteers to go on training courses whenever appropriate and we had in-house training earlier in the year.

Notwithstanding the sound financial position, we also need to explore ways of raising money so that we can continue our policy of not charging our riders.

Sally Gray has resigned from the Trustees and as a volunteer. She was an enormous help to the group, volunteering with both adults and children and her presence is missed. We thank her for all she did.

Next year will probably be one of consolidation and continued development; let us hope for smooth waters in which to operate.

# WOOD GREEN RDA INC CARRIAGE DRIVING GROUP

(Registered charity 1074365)

## Accounts for period 1 November 2023 to 30 September 2024

### Balance Sheet at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Capital Account at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	£99,202.13
Minus Deficit	£5770.91
Capital Account at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	£93,431.22

### Fixed Assets

B/forward 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	£3910.02
Add	None
Less Depreciation	£1282.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2627.36</b>

### Current Assets

Skipton BS	£50,000
Virgin Money	£36,157.79
Barclays	£7,273.43
Fixed Assets	£2627.36

**Total** **£96,058.58**

**INCOME**

Skipton BS Interest	£725.00
£5719.92	
Virgin Money Interest	£284.81
£200.32	
Gifts	£150.00
£477.00	
£533.48	

**TOTAL** **£1159.81**  
**£6930.72**

**Deficit** **£5770.91**

**EXPENDITURE**

Northbrooke Equestrian  
Training  
Membership & Insurance  
Miscellaneous

**DEPRECIATION**

Halter Straps	£8.64
Weigh Scales	£566.40
Fish Sticks	£95.40
Halters	£18.20
Hat Silks	£28.20
Ann Items	£244.42
Jump Poles	£79.20
Alice Reins	£26.00
Mount Block	£198.00
Halter Straps	£18.20

**TOTAL**

**£1282.66**

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**EXPENDITURE**

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Training

Membership & Insurance

Miscellaneous

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TOTAL

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## Report of the Trustees

After two years of disruption, the first part of this year saw us return to a semblance of normality. The children from Spring Common came every week and we had four regular adult riders. All in all we gave a total of approximately 250 rides during the course of the year. Given that we do not charge our riders this is a remarkable contribution to their welfare and brings incalculable benefit. Unfortunately we have had a break since July with our adults and I will cover that later in this report.

We have continued to build a good, and improving, relationship with Spring Common and we have benefited from increased communication with regard to our riders. This is very important.

During the past year we have found a number of new helpers who have brought a wealth of skill and sensitivity to the group and I feel we are an efficient and coherent team who meet each session as something to enjoy. All helpers are involved in the de-briefs after our sessions and lots of sage comment is imparted.

We have had a First Aid Training Day at which a large number of our members became qualified in Equestrian First Aid.

The hiatus with the adult riders was the consequence of Jean Charles, our head coach's decision to step down from her role. Jean has provided such expertise and guidance over the past few years, and I want to formally thank her for all she has done at this juncture, that it was inevitably going to be difficult to move forward with the adults immediately. This proved to be the case. Luckily a combination of Jo Cordell and Roz Brown have risen to the challenge and we are close to having two qualified coaches for the Monday sessions and I want to publicly thank Jo and Roz for all that they have done to facilitate a return to adult riding. It is good to report that adult riding started again four days ago. We are now in a much

stronger position with three coaches, Jo, Roz and Angie, with Fiona Baylis also on the path to RDA qualification.

As the financial report will indicate later, we remain in a healthy financial position and we continue to be able to not charge for lessons. We have also spent the legacy left from Ann Fitzsimons on the beginnings of sensory equipment which we intend to build upon.

All in all this has been a positive year and I look forward to increased activity and exciting developments over the next twelve months.

## Wood Green RDA

### Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2023

**Balance brought forward £106,027.39**

#### **BARCLAYS**

##### **INCOME**

Donations £238.94

**Total income £238.94**

##### **EXPENDITURE**

DBS Checks £18.90

Miscellaneous £78.05

Northbrooke £1890.00

Mounting Block £990.00

Legacy Items £547.35

**Total expenditure £3524.30**

Balance brought forward £20541.53

Income £238.94

Expenditure £3524.30

**Balance £17256.17**

**Barclays £17256.17**

**Virgin £35,485.86**

**Skipton BS £50,000.00**

**TOTAL £102,742.03**

Peter Daum – Treasurer

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# Accounts

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## Chairman's report 2021

I ended my report last year with these words:

**That ends the report and we can only hope that our next report will be able to end on a positive note with accounts of lots of activities.**

Sadly the reality was very different as COVID maintained its grip and we were unable to carry out any sessions.

It is good to report that we are now functioning again and, although the start has been slow and a little frustrating, beginning to get back to normal. We currently have three adult riders, including one new participant, and Spring Common are sending us four riders, hopefully rising to eight, when they have the transport and logistics in place.

We also carried out something of a recruitment drive for volunteers and, thanks in part to the power of Facebook, we had an excellent response and have a large number of new volunteers with an excellent range of expertise with both equines and children with special needs. This is exciting and gives us the scope to be more ambitious in our activities.

Several courses have been undertaken by members, including Angie working through the labyrinthine process of becoming a Green Coach and new members are encouraged to look at the MyRDA website to see if there are courses of interest.

Before our re-start we assessed all the equines we use and thanks are due to Jean and her expertise in this regard. We also weighed all of Northbrook's equines so we have a clear idea their weight bearing capacity.

Several volunteers have stepped down since the first lockdown, either temporarily or permanently, and I would like to thank Rita Hobson from the Friday contingent for her loyal service. Rosemary and Hilary are also currently not participating but this may not be final so I will hold fire on thanking them. From the Monday team Sally and Diane have decided not to continue. Overall we are in a strong position with regard to helpers.

This will be dealt with more fully elsewhere on the agenda but I wanted to formally thank Gill Linnette on the group's behalf as she steps down. The group has benefited from her commitment, energy and dedication - not to mention her administrative acumen- for many years and I am enormously grateful for all she has done, both for the group as a whole as well as guiding me through the tricky waters involved in running the group.

Finally I will end by repeating last year's hope that next year's report will be full of lots of accounts of exciting activities!



# WOOD GREEN RDA GROUP

(Registered charity 1074365)

## Balance Sheet at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Capital Account at 31st March 2020	£115,063.05
Minus deficit	£1862.56
Capital Account at 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021	£113,200.49

## Fixed Assets

B/fwd	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	£3609.14
Add	Halters	£91.00
Less	Depreciation	£769.68

**Total** **£2930.46**

## CURRENT ASSETS

Skipton BS	£50,000
Virgin Money	£35,687.03
Barclays	£27513.46
Fixed Assets	£2930.46

**Total** **£116,130.95**