

HAPPY LANDINGS DRIVING GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING

England & Wales · Charity number 1196839

Details

Other names HAPPY LANDINGS DRIVING GROUP

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-11-30

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

Contact

Address Ash Tree Cottage
Coolham Road
Coolham
Horsham
RH13 8GP

Phone 01403741355

Email carolporte@aol.com

Website www.Happylandings-RDA.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE CIO IS ESTABLISHED ARE 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 WEST SUSSEX AND NEIGHBOURING AREA.

Activities: Carriage Driving for people with disabilities located in West Sussex and surrounding areas.

Classification

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

Geography

- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,179	£12,673	-	-
2024-03-31	£33,460	£24,720	-	-
2023-03-31	£10,201	£8,076	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Raymond Massey OBE	Chair	2023-01-11
ANGELA FIGGIS		2023-01-11
Carol Porter		2023-01-11
JANICE MASSEY		2023-01-11
SUSAN UNDERHILL		2023-01-11

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HAPPY LANDINGS
DRIVING GROUP
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING
CARRIAGE DRIVING

Annual Report and Accounts

for year ended

31st March 2025

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OUR AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

Happy Landings Carriage Driving Group's (the Group) objective is to promote the objects of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving (RDA) by providing disabled people with the opportunity to carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being in the West Sussex and neighbouring area.

The Group's activities enable our disabled driver participants to live more fulfilling lives and provides them with direct and indirect benefits some of which can be life changing. All participants that can are able to learn new skills in a safe environment including horsemanship, carriage driving and communication as well as improving their personal well-being through activity and social interaction. For the more disabled we take them out to experience the pleasure of carriage driving along quiet lanes while the more ambitious are able to progress to participation in local or even national competitions with other groups.

Many of the disabled people we seek to help are in urban residential care and, by reason of mental or physical disability, are socially isolated without access to external stimulus and activity. They include, for example, people with acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy, challenging behaviour and epilepsy. For many, carriage driving in specially adapted vehicles, supported by trained coaches and helpers, is the only activity they are able to do.

The Trustees confirm that they have taken regard of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance

The RDA with which we are affiliated, has clearly shown the benefits of association with horses. Carriage driving, in specially adapted vehicles, offers the same therapy for those unable to sit on a horse. Many of the disabled drivers (those that are able enough) have shown their desire for improvement by taking and passing approved proficiency tests.

Benefits to our participants include:

- social interaction at regular meetings
- physical improvement
- better communication and relationships
- development of horsemanship skills
- increased motivation and personal satisfaction
- enhanced personal confidence and independence.

Equestrian activities are physically demanding, and our disabled drivers are given the opportunity to participate to their fullest ability. We help both our disabled members and volunteers lead healthier and active outdoor lives.

We receive a lot of feedback from the disabled drivers, their relatives and carers as to how much they look forward to our regular sessions. The disabled drivers remain with the Group for many years usually until they are unable to attend our sessions.

Volunteer Members

The Group enjoys strong support from a committed team of volunteer members, several of whom have been trained as qualified coaches that are needed to accompany the disabled participants. All volunteers are required to complete basic training before being able to help with our activities to ensure safe delivery of our activities. Records of training and skills acquired are maintained in accordance with RDA National guidelines. All volunteers are required to be cleared to work with vulnerable adults and children.

There are also many supporters assisting with fund raising and increasing community awareness to the needs of the disabled.

Location and Facilities

The Group operates from a country estate at Tismans Common, near Rudgwick, West Sussex, where we drive from April to October each year on Wednesday mornings. Our facilities and the use of the grounds of the estate are kindly provided by the owner at no expense to the Group. We also use RDA Cranleigh indoor school on Monday afternoons in the winter months to provide extra sessions.

Our horses are kept stabled or loaned to us by our volunteers who ensure their welfare. They are brought to the venue for each session. The Group also owns a number of specially adapted horse drawn carriages that will take wheelchairs and ambulant disabled drivers.

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

This Report and Accounts relate to the year ending 31st March 2025.

Financial performance

Income for the year was £7,179, reflecting significantly lower receipts from cash donations. These had been particularly high in the previous period due to a large legacy. An operating loss of £5,494 was recorded compared to a surplus of £8,741 for the prior year. We were fortunate, however, to be given a suitably experienced pony by our President along with a custom carriage and trailer. The value of this gift is not reflected in the financial statement but has enabled the Group to avoid the previously expected cost of acquisition of a new pony.

Operating expenditure was higher by 14% due mainly to a 25% increase in horse welfare costs and additional travelling expenses. Costs have increased by 120% over the past 4 years, a trend which seems likely to continue.

Cash reserves remain healthy and should be sufficient to meet the Group's needs for the foreseeable future.

The Group is operated entirely by our dedicated volunteers.

Outlook

The number of driving sessions that can be offered is expected to remain similar to the previous year given the number of ponies that we have. Personal development of our volunteer helpers and coaches will continue and new volunteers will be welcomed.

Risk Management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

John Massey OBE – Chairman

ORGANISERS REPORT

Last year's driving went well. Sadly, we had to have our pony, Misty, put to sleep in the summer due to her chronic breathing issues. Leighton, one of our volunteers, continued to bring his pony, Jake, for training each week. Jake was assessed and passed with flying colours in September 2024. In December we were fortunate to be given pony Goldie by our president Ann Sheldrake, his owner, along with his carriage driving equipment. Goldie is a very experienced driving pony and is a perfect replacement for Misty.

In September, our volunteer, Amanda, passed her RDA coach assessment and is now a very valued member of our coaching team. There were 30 volunteers in total, five of whom are RDA coaches. We had one new volunteer who has fitted in really well.

A total of 127 participant sessions were held with 12 participants driving fortnightly. This was down on 2023/2024 as we started the year with only two ponies, Misty and Rocky.

Our 30th Anniversary party at our venue, Tismans, was a great success. As well as the delicious food, we were entertained to a very good driving demo given by Dick Lane and Andy. We were also pleased to welcome our President and Founder who cut the anniversary cake.

One of our participants competed in the RDA South-East Region's carriage driving show. Deirdre, a long-standing volunteer and coach, was the deserving winner of the National RDA Tora Bray award for her dedication and commitment to the Group and her care of Misty.

Driving finished for the season on the 16th October 2024.

Socially, we enjoyed another very successful lunch and croquet match for our volunteers which was hosted by our Chairman and his wife. Fund raising continued with a well-supported skittles evening, the 100 Club and our Christmas raffle.

Carol Porter -Trustee and Group Organiser

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Group is a CIO affiliated with the RDA and is governed in accordance with its founding constitution which is in accordance with RDA requirements.

The board of five Trustees is responsible for governance and oversight of the charity's activities. The board aims to meet at least quarterly. Trustees are nominated and elected by the membership.

Membership is open to anyone wishing to assist in furthering the purpose of the Group and who agrees to exercise their powers as a member in good faith. Membership is subject to approval by the Trustees to ensure that they are suitable and meet the safeguarding requirements. All volunteers are required to be "Green Carded" to show they meet the required standard of training before being allowed to participate in driver session

An operations committee, chaired by the Group Organiser and Trustee, comprises a number of members who meet frequently to plan all participant sessions, events and review performance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	2025	2024
Receipts	£	£
Donations	1,801	27,621
Fundraising (Note 2)	2,863	2,939
Drivers Donations	1,615	2,500
Goods sold	0	0
	6,279	33,060
Assets sold	900	400
Total Receipts	7,179	33,460
Expenditure		
Operating expenses (Note 3)	12,073	10,551
Assets purchased	600	14,169
Total Expenditure	12,673	24,720
Surplus for the period	-5,494	8,741
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st MARCH 2024		
Bank balance	26,672	32,166
Equipment	7,160	7,356
Carriages	21,098	24,342
Horses	2,500	2,500
Total Assets (Note 4)	57,431	66,365

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with UK charities Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102 - 2019) on a receipts and payment basis.
- Fundraising

	2025	2024
	£	£
Events	1,888	1,773
Raffles	605	536
100 Club Net	370	380
Other	0	250
	2,863	2,939

- Operating expenses

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fundraising Events	1,599	1,516
Facility Hire	395	540
Insurances	2,467	2,543
Admin	477	201
Volunteer Expenses	869	446
Equipment maintenance	0	280
Horse welfare	6,267	5,025
	12,073	10,551

- Fixed assets (except horses) are valued at cost less 10% annual depreciation. Horse valuations are estimated at the year-end based on likely resale value.

	2024	2025
	£	£
Equipment		
Equipment at 31 March 2024	7,356	
Additions	600	
Less 10%	796	
		7,160
Carriages at 31st March 2024	24,342	
Less disposals	900	
Less 10%	2,344	
		21,098

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Charity name Happy Landings Driving Group Riding for the Disabled
Association Incorporating Carriage Driving

Charity number 1196839

Contact details Carol Porter
Ash Tree Cottage
Coolham Road
Coolham
HORSHAM
RH13 8GP

01403741355
carolporte@aol.com

www.Happylandings-RDA.co.uk

Trustees

Chairman	John Massey OBE
Secretary	Angela Figgis
Treasurer	Susan Underhill
RDA Representative	Janice Massey
Organiser	Carol Porter

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31st March 2024

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OUR AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

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The Trustees confirm that they have taken regard of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance

The RDA with which we are affiliated, has clearly shown the benefits of association with horses. Carriage driving, in specially adapted vehicles, offers the same therapy for those unable to sit on a horse. Many of the disabled drivers (those that are able enough) have shown their desire for improvement by taking and passing approved proficiency tests.

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There are also many supporters assisting with fund raising and increasing community awareness to the needs of the disabled.

Location and Facilities

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Our horses are kept stabled or loaned to us by our volunteers who ensure their welfare. They are brought to the venue for each session. HLDG also owns a number of specially adapted horse drawn carriages that will take wheelchairs and ambulant disabled drivers.

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

This Report and Accounts relate to the year ending 31st March 2024.

Financial performance

A surplus for the year of £8,741 was achieved (£2,125 – 2023). Assets of £14,169 were acquired including a new custom built Fenix Freedom carriage designed to carry wheelchairs. Reserves increased to £32,166 which should enable the Group to cover expected operating costs and acquire another pony over the next two years.

Donations of £27,621 were significantly higher than the prior year due, in part, to a generous legacy from a former volunteer. Operating expenses increased by 46% to £10,551 due to a significant increase in insurance and horse welfare costs coupled with general inflation.

HLDG is operated entirely by our dedicated volunteers.

Outlook

Availability of suitable ponies is a primary constraint to the number of driving sessions that can be offered. There are three ponies currently in regular use. Efforts to increase the availability by one or two will continue but the number of driving sessions for the 2024 season are expected to be maintained at previous levels.

Personal development of our volunteer helpers and coaches will continue and new volunteers will be welcomed.

Risk Management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

John Massey
John Massey (Sep 20, 2024 10:20 GMT+1)

John Massey OBE – Chairman

ORGANISERS REPORT

Last year's driving was very successful with not a single session having to be cancelled due to the weather. The three ponies worked well all year. It was the last year that Flash would be available to HLDG and we were on the lookout for another pony as a replacement. A new Fenix carriage was bought for use with Rocky.

A total of 211 participant sessions were held. There were 18 drivers who each drove fortnightly. Sadly, one of our regular drivers, Norman Watson, died in November 2023. He had been driving with us for many years and whose passion for the sport saw him win numerous trophies and rosettes. His family said carriage driving gave him so much joy.

Three new volunteers joined HLDG and all fitted in well. There were 30 volunteers in total, five of whom are RDA coaches and one who has started training. Carolyn Mudford, a great helper who continued to come between bouts of medical treatment, sadly died. Such was her commitment that she left a handsome legacy to HLDG.

Driving finished at Tismans in October 2023 and then moved to Cranleigh RDA on a Monday afternoon. Sessions at Cranleigh continued until March 2024 with a couple of weeks break over the Christmas period.

Socially, another very successful lunch and croquet match for the volunteers was hosted by the Chairman and his wife. HLDG celebrated the King's coronation on the 3rd May with a red, white and blue themed party at Tismans and our president and founder, Ann Sheldrake, made a special appearance to join in. Fund raising continued with a skittles evening, 100 Club and the Christmas raffle.

Carol Porter

Carol Porter (Sep 20, 2024 08:45 GMT+1)

Carol Porter -Trustee and Group Organiser

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

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The board of five Trustees is responsible for governance and oversight of the charity's activities. The board aims to meet at least quarterly. Trustees are nominated and elected by the membership.

Membership is open to anyone wishing to assist in furthering the purpose of HLDG and who agrees to exercise their powers as a member in good faith. Membership is subject to approval by the Trustees to ensure that they are suitable and meet the safeguarding requirements. All volunteers are required to be "Green Carded" to show they meet the required standard of training before being allowed to participate in driver session

An operations committee, chaired by the Group Organiser and Trustee, comprises a number of members who meet frequently to plan all participant sessions, events and review performance.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the Trustees and Members of Happy Landings Driving Group Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving (Charity no: 1196839) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 set out on pages 7 to 8

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (HLDG) for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the Charity Trustees of HLDG you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

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

Independent Examiner's Statement:

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

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or

the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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


Stephen Monk (Sep 19, 2024 21:29 GMT+1)

S G Monk FCA (retired)

35, Portland Avenue

Hove, East Sussex, BN3 5NF

FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	2024	2023
Receipts	£	£
Donations	27,621	5,621
Fundraising (Note 2)	2,939	2,425
Drivers Donations	2,500	2,100
Goods sold	0	55
	33,060	10,201
Assets sold	400	0
Total Receipts	33,460	10,201
Expenditure		
Operating expenses (Note 3)	10,551	7231
Assets purchased	14,169	845
Total Expenditure	24,720	8,076
Surplus for the period	8,741	2,125
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st MARCH 2024		
Bank balance	32,166	23,425
Equipment	7,356	6,592
Carriages	24,342	14,860
Horses	2,500	2,500
Total Assets (Note 4)	66,365	47,377

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with UK charities Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102 - 2019) on a receipts and payment basis.

- Fundraising

	2024	2023
	£	£
Events	1,773	1,425
Raffles	536	479
100 Club	380	150
Other	250	371
	2,939	2,425

- Operating expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising Events	1,516	1,393
Facility Hire	540	585
Insurances	2,543	1,734
Admin	201	746
Volunteer Expenses	446	
Equipment maintenance	280	0
Horse welfare	5,025	2,773
	10,551	7,231

- Fixed assets (except horses) are valued at cost less 10% annual depreciation. Horse valuations are estimated at the yearend based on likely resale value.

	£	£
Equipment at 31 March 2023		6,592
Defibrillator	1,450	
Other	132	
Less 10% depreciation		818
		7,356
Carriages at 31st March 2023		14,860
New carriage	12,587	
Less disposals	400	
Less 10% depreciation		2,705
		24,342

REFERENCE INFORMATION

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Charity number 1196839

Contact details Carol Porter
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Achievement and Performance

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There are also many supporters assisting with fund raising and increasing community awareness to the needs of the disabled.

Location and Facilities

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Our horses are kept stabled or loaned to us by our volunteers who ensure their welfare. They are brought to the venue for each session. The group also owns a number of specially adapted horse drawn carriages that will take wheelchairs and ambulant disabled drivers.

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

The group registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) No 1196839 in November 2021 and received the assets of the previous unincorporated charity No 1073580 that had been in existence for since 1994. The services of the CIO commenced on 1st April 2022. This Report and Accounts relate to the period ending 31st March 2023 and prior year comparisons are made with those of the unincorporated charity.

Financial performance

A surplus of £2,125 was achieved increasing our cash reserves to £23,425. The reserves are sufficient to meet the expected horse welfare cost and minimum operating expenses for two years. In addition, there are plans to replace aging equipment and purchase another horse as soon as a suitable one can be found.

Generous donations, representing 55% of the total income, were made by repeat donors and individuals. A further 24% was raised through our own fundraising effort such as social events. Contributions from driver participants make up most of the remaining 20%.

HLDG is operated entirely by volunteers.

Outlook

Our strategy is to at least maintain the number of sessions that we are able to offer to our participants throughout the 2023 season. To this end, we will be seeking to obtain a new lighter carriage and look to acquire another horse. We will continue to encourage personal development of our volunteer helpers and coaches to support our activities.

Risk Management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.



John Massey OBE – Chairman

Date: 15 October 2023

ORGANISERS REPORT

During the year there were 18 driver participants registered which was an increase of one over the previous year. The three ponies, Misty, who the group owns, Rocky and Flash worked well throughout the year providing a total of 201 participant sessions.

There were 31 volunteer members including five RDA coaches assessed to drive out with our participants. Five volunteers joined HLDG although unfortunately one has since left for personal reasons. A number of volunteers were also able to update their First Aid qualifications.

We had a very good year driving at our driving venue, Tismans, and for the first time we used Cranleigh RDA's indoor school on a Monday afternoon during the winter. This proved very successful and the drivers that attended learnt a lot.

We started the year with our usual clean-up day followed by our in-house training day. Driving sessions started on the 6th April 2022.

The RDA Regional committee ran a qualifier for the National championships at Bradbourne in May but none of our drivers felt they had had enough practice, and we did not go. On the 26th July 2022 we took four drivers to the Carriage Driving summer show. Our drivers, Sally, Norman, Caroline and Emma, all drove well and came home with lots of rosettes.

Once again, our annual helpers' lunch and croquet match was very kindly hosted at Oldsmith. It was a lovely day, and the match was won by Liz and Jonathan.

We finished driving on the 19th October 2022 and continued to hold our monthly coffee mornings over the winter months at Alfold village hall.

On the 14th December we held our Christmas party at a new venue of Old Barn Nursery. It was a very popular venue, and we were looked after really well. We also drew our annual raffle and our 100 Club draw. The entertainment was excellent with Santa making an appearance with one of his reindeer and everyone joined in singing a selection of Carols.

It is good to be able to report that we are now back to full strength following the Covid lockdowns. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for all they have done to make it such a successful year.

Carol Porter - Trustee and Group Organiser

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

HLDG is a CIO affiliated with the RDA and is governed in accordance with its founding constitution which is in accordance with RDA requirements.

The board of four Trustees is responsible for governance and oversight of the charity's activities. The board aims to meet at least quarterly. Trustees are nominated and elected by the membership.

Membership is open to anyone wishing to assist in furthering the purpose of HLDG and who agrees to exercise their powers as a member in good faith. Membership is subject to approval by the Trustees to ensure that they are suitable and meet the safeguarding requirements. All volunteers are required to be "Green Carded" to show they meet the required standard of training before being allowed to participate in driver session

An operations committee, chaired by the Group Organiser and Trustee, comprises a number of members who meet frequently to plan all participant sessions, events and review performance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Donations	5,621	4,537
Fundraising (Note 2)	2,425	352
Drivers Donations	2,100	780
Goods sold	55	270
	10,201	5,889
Assets sold	0	1,500
Total Receipts	10,201	7,389
Expenditure		
Operating expenses (Note 3)	4,459	896
Horse welfare	2,773	2,614
Goods purchased	0	124
	7,231	5,473
Assets purchased	845	1,709
Total Expenditure	8,076	7,182
Surplus for the period	2,125	207
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31ST MARCH 2023		
Bank balance	23,425	21,300
Equipment	6,592	6,480
Carriages	14,860	16,511
Horses	2,500	2500
Total Assets (Note 4)	47,377	46,791

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with UK charities Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102 - 2019) on a receipts and payment basis.
2. Fundraising

	2023	2022
	£	£
Events	1,425	
Raffles	479	
!00 Club	150	25
Other	371	327
Total Fundraising	2,425	352

3. Operating expenses

	£	£
Training and Conferences	490	80
Sundry expenses	256	118
Hire/Event costs	1978	402
Insurance	1734	1838
Equipment repairs	0	296
Total Operating Expenses	4,459	2,734

4. Fixed assets (except horses) are valued at cost less 10% annual depreciation. Horse valuations are estimated at the yearend based on likely resale value.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Charity name Happy Landings Driving Group Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving

Charity number 1196839

Contact details Carol Porter
Ash Tree Cottage
Coolham Road
Coolham
HORSHAM
RH13 8GP

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carolporte@aol.com

www.Happylandings-RDA.co.uk

Trustees

Chairman	John Massey OBE
Secretary	Angela Figgis
Treasurer	Susan Underhill
RDA Representative	Janice Massey
Organiser	Carol Porter