

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103831

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2015-08-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	8 Carclinty Road Cullybackey Ballymena Bt42 1ph BT42 1PH
Phone	02825 881718
Email	jane.hanna@btinternet.com

Activities

Purposes: The objects of the Group are to promote the objects of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving (Company No 5010395) a charity registered in England and Wales under Charity Number 244108 ("the Company") by providing disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage drive to benefit their health and wellbeing in the Ballymena area.

What the charity does: The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of amateur sport, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Disability, Education/training, Sport/recreation

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Learning disabilities, Physical disabilities

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£12,844	£7,776	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bronagh Mckee		
Emma Wells		
Joanne Byrne		
Lady Juliet Frazer		
Marian Keenan		
Mrs Catherine Maybin		
Mrs Jane Hanna		
Mrs Patsy Morrogh		
Mrs Sally Glass		
Ms Sheelagh Canty		
Yvonne Parker		

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Accounts

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled Group. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Receipts		Expenses		
Balance at Bank 01.01.24		£ 8,858.58	Insurance and Membership	£ 477.00
EA Grant		£ 1,291.00	Electric club house	£ 200.00
Evening Ride		£ 335.00	Galgorm Parks Arena Rental	£ 6,350.00
Donations			Old Mill Saddlery - hats	£ 394.01
Mrs Ruth Clarke	£ 250.00		Fire Extinguisher service	£ 191.21
Ballymena Academy Past Pupils Association	£ 200.00		Refreshments	£ 36.75
Paul McIlroy via Benevity	£ 3,000.00		BBQ	£ 63.50
Ahoghill WI	£ 170.00			
Country Garage	£ 394.01			
Yvonne Ried birthday	£ 660.00			
NFU Mutual	£ 6,509.00			
Anonymous	£ 35.62		Bank Fees	£ 63.76
		£ 11,218.63		
Total Income		£ 12,844.63	Total Expenses	£ 7,776.23
			Balance at 31.12.24	£ 13,926.98
Total		£ 21,703.21	Total	£ 21,703.21

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Accounts

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled Group. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Receipts				Expenses	
Balance at Bank 01.01.23		£ 10,969.02		Insurance and Membership	£ 460.00
				Electric club house	£ 200.00
EA Grant		£ 1,000.00		Galgorm Parks Arena Rental	£ 5,925.00
Evening Ride Autumn Term		£ 110.00		Christmas Party	£ 48.85
				Fire Extinguisher service	£ 174.65
Donations				Refreshments	£ 54.92
1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church	£ 800.00			BBQ	£ 75.00
Ballymena Academy Past Pupils Association	£ 200.00				
Paul McIlroy	£ 1,500.00				
Summer scheme/evening ride families	£ 400.00				
Bann Valley Riding Club	£ 500.00				
In memory J Russell	£ 219.37				
Anonymous	£ 162.16			Bank Fees	<u>£ 63.55</u>
		£ 3,781.53			
Total Income		£ 4,891.53		Total Expenses	£ 7,001.97
				Balance at 31.12.23	£ 8,858.58
Total		£ 15,860.55		Total	£ 15,860.55

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Annual report

Trustees Annual Report

Mid-Antrim Riding for the Disabled, 1st January 2023-31st December 2023

Charity No. NI 103831

The Charity exists to provide Therapeutic Riding and associated activities to children with Special Needs in the Ballymena and surrounding Area.

The Principal Address of the Charity and contact for the Charity Commission is:

Mrs Jane Hanna, 8 Carclinty Road, Cullybackey BT42 1PH.

The riding year began on the 26th January and the group decided to maintain the volunteer rota on a weekly basis allowing the rotation of volunteers. There were 10 riders for the morning session who rode weekly during term time until the Easter break. 8 of the riders came from Castle Tower School, who due to the continued reduced availability of buses and bus drivers were only able to send a single class of pupils each week. The 8 pupils were split into 2 groups with each group getting both a riding session and a session in the clubroom where they worked towards the theory part of their riding experience – stable management, horse care and other riding related information. Of the class, 6 pupils completed their Grade 1 Riding and Horse care, 1 pupil Grade 2 Riding and Horse care and 1 pupil their Endeavour Award. The pupils received their certificates and badges from The County Chairperson and County Coach who had visited the group to complete coaching assessments with 2 of the group coaches. The school group were joined by 2 private riders, 1 of whom achieved Grade 2 Riding and the other Grade 1 Riding and Horse care.

Following the Easter break, a new class from Castle Tower School rode until the beginning of June, along with 2 private riders. Of the class of 9 students, 6 pupils achieved Grade 1 riding and 3 Endeavour Awards. The certificates and badges were presented at the annual countryside challenge and BBQ at Galgorm Parks Riding School.

Due to demand and the success in August 2022, the group operated a 4-week summer scheme for young people from both Castle Tower School and the local community. We had two sessions each morning, with ten riders overall who were accompanied by their parents and grandparents. This was a great opportunity for the families to see the progress their children made each week. At the end of the 4 weeks, the proud parents watched on as the riders received rosettes. The group were delighted to increase the opportunity to ride to a larger number of young people and the development of not only their riding skills, but also their confidence, self-esteem and social skills was evident. At the request of the parents for a continuation of the riding opportunity, the group decided to offer an extra session on a Thursday afternoon for a maximum of 4 riders at any one time. Our exciting new development began on 9th November at 4.30pm. Four riders benefited from this and the children's joy and parents' appreciation was very much evident.

In September, we resumed our weekly Thursday morning rides for Castle Tower School and 2 private riders who were able to continue their riding with the group. We were restricted to one class of pupils (9 pupils), who again split into 2 groups, both having the opportunity to ride and be taught stable management, horse care and other riding information mapped to the RDA Grade 1 Horse Care and Riding awards. This enhanced their understanding of their riding experience and the stable environment. At their final week, before half term, we awarded 6 Grade 1 Riding and 5 Grade 1 Horse care. Due to several cancellations by school in November, the same students attended until the Christmas party in early December, where a visit from Santa Claus and some games was a celebration for the young riders who had developed not only their riding skills

but also their confidence, communication, and social skills. It was a farewell to one of our private riders, who had been riding with the group for several years and has progressed so much that they are now able to attend riding lessons independently.

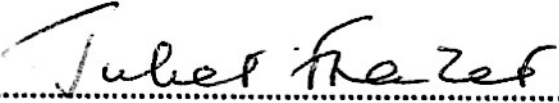
The group continue to benefit from the hiring of the excellent riding facilities and equines, from Mrs Sara Kyle at Galgorm Parks Riding School, Sand Road, Ballymena. As well as exclusive use of all of the facilities for £150-£175 per session, Sara continues to support the group with advice to help provide the most beneficial experience for the pupils. The rent of the facilities is the main annual cost for the group as all support is provided by volunteers, both Coaches, leaders and side walkers. Other operational costs included: RDA membership and insurance, and our annual BBQ/Countryside Challenge and Christmas Party.

The principal sources of income during the year included £1000 in a grant from the Education Authority. The group also received a number of generous donations: £800 from 1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church, £500 from Bann Valley Riding Club, £219.37 in lieu of flowers for J Russell, £200 from Ballymena Academy Past Pupils Association and £1500 from other supporters of the charity. We are grateful for the generous donations but will continue to actively source extra funds next year. The introduction of the evening ride has resulted in increased costs as we only charge a nominal fee of £5 per rider per session but must continue to pay a commercial rate for the hire of ponies and facilities.

The Public Benefit delivered by Mid-Antrim RDA is detailed above in terms of achievements of the riders. It is less easy to quantify but equally beneficial, is the opportunity provided by having close contact with a horse and the sense of achievement and enjoyment which can be observed in many of the young riders, especially those who were initially nervous or unwilling to take part. It is often the physical benefits of improved core strength, balance and co-ordination which are most apparent. To be able to increase the opportunity for young riders outside of school was very much appreciated by the riders' families.

As a group, we make every effort to ensure that the sessions are conducted safely by using suitably qualified Coaches and trained volunteers. Ongoing training is provided for the volunteer leaders and side walkers, both by our group and attendance at sessions organised by RDA NI. A number of the volunteers attended a regional training session in January. During the year the group continued to update Access NI checks for existing volunteers meanwhile all new volunteers will complete an Access NI check and provide 2 references. The Group's Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually along with the Health and Safety, First Aid and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. For health and safety, a qualified first aider is always in attendance, and during the year a number of volunteers renewed their first aid course and this is monitored to ensure a regular update in qualified first aiders. Equine welfare is also important to us and we are careful to ensure that the riders' weight and ability to maintain their balance is matched as closely as possible to the age and ability of the ponies to carry them comfortably and safely.

We consider that we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and have fulfilled our obligations in this respect.

Signed: 

Lady Juliet Frazer

Chairman

On behalf of the following Trustees of the Group

Lady Juliet Frazer

Mrs Patsy Morrogh

Mrs Catherine Maybin

Mrs Heather Robinson

Miss Yvonne Parker

Mrs Sheelagh Canty

Mrs Emma Wells

Mrs Sally Glass

Mrs Madeline McIlroy

Mrs Jane Hanna

Attachments

- 1. Copy of the Accounts and List of Assets**
- 2. Copy of Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees**

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Annual return

Mid-Antrim Riding for the Disabled Association

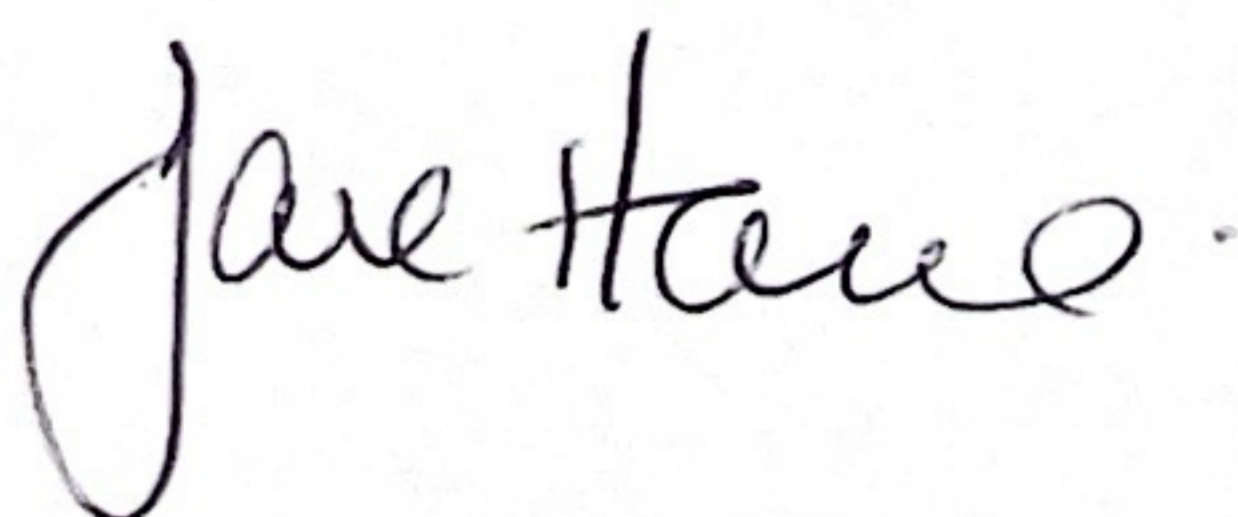
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ending 31st December 2023

Cash at bank	01/01/23	10969.02	
Cash at bank	31/12/23		8858.58
Other Assets			
Clubhouse Equipment (estimated value)			180.00
Defibrillator			420.00
Riding Equipment (estimated value)			
Hats			250.00
Games Equipment and Mounting Block			50.00
Special Tack			160.00
Liabilities			0.00
Total Assets			9918.58

Approved by the Trustees on 17th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

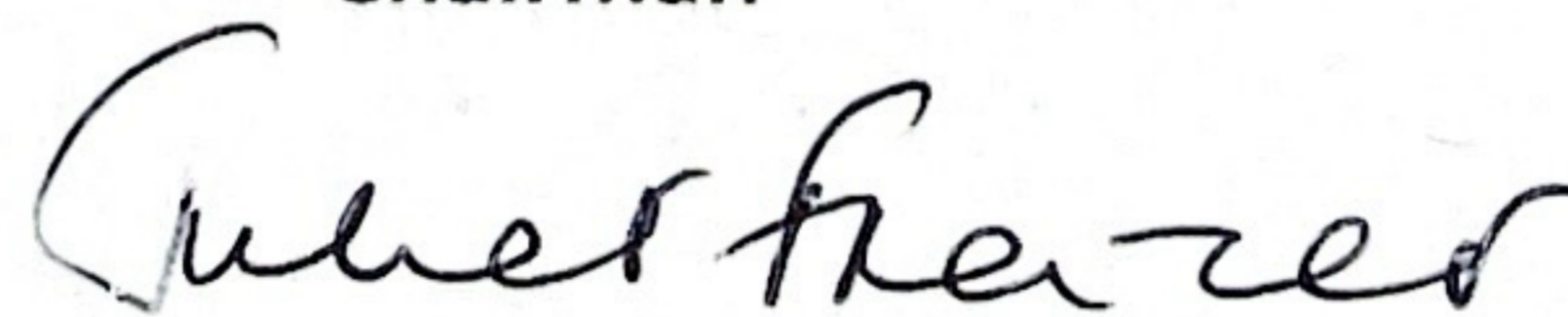
Jane Hanna

Treasurer



Lady Juliet Frazer

Chairman



Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: JEAN CLARKE.

Signature: Jean Clarke

Relevant professional qualification or body: Retired Head Teacher.

Address: 94, Stroud Road.
Gracehill
Ballymena.
BT 42 2RF.

Date: 28. 10. 2024~

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Mid-Antrim Riding for the Disabled

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Accounts

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled Group. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

Receipts				Expenses	
Balance at Bank 01.01.22		£ 14,260.10		Insurance and Membership	£ 460.00
				Defribulator	£ 480.00
EA Grant		£ 1,000.00		Galgorm Parks Arena Rental	£ 4,650.00
				Christmas Party	£ 176.05
				Fire Extinguisher service	£ 170.87
Donations				Refreshments	£ 30.32
1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church	£ 800.00			EA Refund of unspent covid grant	£ 150.00
Ballymena Academy Charity Committee	£ 250.00				
Brenda Ross	£ 80.00				
Summer scheme families	£ 260.00				
In memory Hilary Robinson	£ 425.00				
Anonymous	£ 70.00			Bank Fees	£ 58.84
		£ 1,885.00			
Total Income		£ 2,885.00		Total Expenses	£ 6,176.08
				Balance at 31.12.22	£ 10,969.02
Total		£ 17,145.10		Total	£ 17,145.10

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Annual report

Trustees Annual Report

Mid-Antrim Riding for the Disabled, 1st January 2022-31st December 2022

Charity No. NI 103831

The Charity exists to provide Therapeutic Riding and associated activities to children with Special Needs in the Ballymena and surrounding Area.

The Principal Address of the Charity and contact for the Charity Commission is:

Mrs Jane Hanna, 8 Carclinty Road, Cullybackey BT42 1PH.

The 2022 year continued to be impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, with the group deciding to maintain the volunteer rota on a weekly basis. Due to the poor weather in February, the riders started in March and rode weekly during term time until the beginning of June. The riders came from Castle Tower School, who due to the reduced availability of buses and bus drivers were only able to send a single class of pupils each week. The 8 pupils were split into 2 groups with each group getting both a riding session and a session in the clubroom where they worked towards the theory part of their riding experience – stable management, horse care and other riding related information. Of the class, 6 pupils completed their Grade 1 Riding and Horse care and received their badges and certificates. The pupils ended their term of riding by taking part in a countryside challenge and BBQ at Galgorm Parks Riding School.

Following on from the success of the summer scheme in August 2021, the group operated a 4-week summer scheme for young people from both Castle Tower School and the local community. We had two sessions each morning, with nine riders overall who were accompanied by their parents and grandparents. This was a great opportunity for the families to see the progress their children made each week. At the end of the 4 weeks, the proud riders received rosettes. The group were delighted to increase the opportunity to ride to a larger number of young people and the development of not only their riding skills, but also their confidence, self-esteem and social skills was evident.

In September, we resumed our weekly Thursday morning rides for Castle Tower School and 2 external riders (who had attended the summer scheme). Unfortunately, again due to the impact of bus availability in school, we were restricted to one class of pupils (9 pupils), who came in their class bubble. We continued with our covid friendly protocols which resulted in two rides of 4-5 riders – while not riding the young people were once again taught stable management, horse care and other riding information mapped to the RDA Grade 1 Horse Care and Riding awards. This enhanced their understanding of their riding experience and the stable environment. One of the students did not want to ride but as a group they were encouraged to work with Geronimo (a miniature pony) and over the weeks developed their confidence around the pony and learnt stable management and horse care. In December, 6 riders were awarded Grade 1 Riding and Horse Care certificates and badges, 3 riders achieved Grade 2 Riding and 1 student their Endeavour certificate. As a group, we were delighted to see the young riders develop not only their riding skills but also their confidence, communication, and social skills. The final day was to be a Christmas party which unfortunately, was cancelled due to bad weather, but Santa made a visit to school instead.

The group continue to benefit from the hiring of the excellent riding facilities and equines, from Mrs Sara Kyle at Galgorm Parks Riding School, Sand Road, Ballymena. As well as exclusive use of all the facilities for £150-£175 per morning, Sara continues to support the group with advice to help provide the most beneficial experience for the pupils. The rent of the facilities is the main annual cost for the group as all support is

provided by volunteers, including Coaches, leaders and side walkers. Other operational costs included: RDA membership and insurance, and our annual BBQ/Countryside Challenge and Christmas Party.

The principal sources of income during the year included £1000 in a grant from the Education Authority. The group also received a number of generous donations: £800 from 1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church, £425 in lieu of flowers for Hilary Robinson, £250 from Ballymena Academy Charity Committee and £510 from other supporters of the charity. We also purchased a defibrillator using the funds received in memory of a longstanding volunteer. Due to the generous donations during the year, the group's funds remain in a more secure position however, applications for funding may be necessary in 2023, for example: Children in Need and Big Lottery.

The Public Benefit delivered by Mid-Antrim RDA is detailed above in terms of achievements of the riders. Less easy to quantify but equally beneficial is the opportunity provided by having close contact with a horse and the sense of achievement and enjoyment which can be observed in many of the young riders, especially those who were initially nervous or unwilling to take part. It is often the physical benefits of improved core strength, balance and co-ordination which are most apparent.

As a group, we make every effort to ensure that the sessions are conducted safely by using suitably qualified Coaches and trained volunteers. Ongoing training is provided for the volunteer leaders and side walkers, both by our group and attendance at sessions organised by RDA NI. During the year the group continued to update Access NI checks for existing volunteers meanwhile all new volunteers will complete an Access NI check and provide 2 references. The Group's Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually along with the Health and Safety, First Aid and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. For health and safety, a qualified first aider is always in attendance, and during the year a number of volunteers renewed their first aid course.

We consider that we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and have fulfilled our obligations in this respect.

Signed:



Lady Juliet Frazer

Chairman

On behalf of the following Trustees of the Group

Lady Juliet Frazer	Mrs Patsy Morrogh
Mrs Catherine Maybin	Mrs Emma Wells
Mrs Heather Robinson	Mrs Sally Glass
Miss Yvonne Parker	Mrs Madeline McIlroy
Mrs Sheelagh Canty	Mrs Jane Hanna

Attachments

1. Copy of the Accounts and List of Assets
2. Copy of Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

Mid Antrim Riding for the Disabled

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103831

Annual return

Mid-Antrim Riding for the Disabled Association

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ending 31st December 2022

Cash at back	01/01/22	14260.10	
Cash at bank	31/12/22		10969.02

Other Assets

Clubhouse Equipment (estimated value)		200.00	
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Defibrillator		480.00	
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Riding Equipment (estimated value)

Hats		300.00	
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Games Equipment and Mounting Block		50.00	
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Special Tack		190.00	
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Liabilities			0.00
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Total Assets		12189.02	
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Approved by the Trustees on 19th October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Jane Hanna

Treasurer



Lady Juliet Frazer

Chairman

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Mid-Antrim Riding for the Disabled

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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: JEAN CLARKE

Signature: Jean Clarke

Relevant professional qualification or body: Retired Head Teacher

Address:
94, Strand Road
Gracehill
Ballymena
BT 42 2AF

Date: 19/10/2023