

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104201

Details

Status Received

Registered 2015-11-12

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

Contact

Address 98 Kilntown Road
Dromore
Co Down
Bt25 1hs
BT25 1HS

Phone 02892692988

Email lurganrda@hotmail.co.uk

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 Lurgan 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, Sport/recreation

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£2,559	£2,367	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Terry Alexander Ingles		
Mrs Anne Cochrane		
Mrs Anne Elise Coburn		
Mrs Hilary Idzikowska		
Mrs Patricia Eileen Mclean		
Mrs Sara Mccorkell		
Mrs Sheelagh McAfee		

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Accounts

Riding for the Disabled Association, Lurgan R.D.A. NIC 104201
Statement of Receipts and Payments - Year End 31 August 2025

	Unrestricted / Total Funds £
<u>Receipts</u>	
Donations	1400.00
Fundraising appeals	1157.70
Bank Interest	2.13
	<u>2559.83</u>
<u>Payments</u>	
Cost of Charitable Activities	25.00
Governance costs	2322.89
Asset and Investment purchase	
Purchase of equipment	20.00
Total Payments	<u>2367.89</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	191.94
Reconciliation 31.8.25	
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.24	1733.33
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	191.94
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.25	<u>1925.27</u>

Riding for the Disabled Association, Lurgan R.D.A. NIC 104201
Statement of assets and liabilities - Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Unrestricted / Total Funds £
Funds Reconciliation	
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.24	1733.33
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	194.44
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.25	<u>1925.27</u>
Bank and Cash Balances	
Bank balance as at 31.8.25	1830.64
Other Assets	
Equipment	200.00
Liabilities	
Liabilities	Nil

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Accounts

Riding for the Disabled Association, Lurgan R.D.A. NIC 104201
Statement of Receipts and Payments - Year End 31 August 2024

	Unrestricted / Total Funds £	Unrestricted / Total Funds £	
Receipts			
Donations	2309.19	520.00	
Fundraising appeals	272.86	1270.42	
Bank Interest	2.63	2.63	
	1733.33		
		1793.05	
Payments			
Cost of Charitable Activities		25.00	
Governance costs		2343.91	
Asset and Investment purchase			
Purchase of equipment		NIL	
Total Payments		2368.91	
Net receipts/(payments)		-	575.86
Reconciliation 31.8.24			
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.23		2309.19	
Surplus/(deficit) this year end		-	575.86
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.24		1733.33	

Riding for the Disabled Association, Lurgan R.D.A. NIC 104201
Statement of assets and liabilities - Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Unrestricted / Total Funds £	Unrestricted / Total Funds £
Funds Reconciliation		
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.23	2309.19	2309.19
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	- 575.86	- 575.86
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.24	<u>1733.33</u>	<u>1733.33</u>
 Bank and Cash Balances		
Bank balance as at 31.8.24	<u>1733.33</u>	1605.90
 Other Assets		
Equipment	200.00	200.00
 Liabilities		
Liabilities	Nil	Nil
	<u>1733.33</u>	<u>1733.33</u>

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Annual report

Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024
Lurgan Riding for the Disabled Group

Registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland as Lurgan RDA
NIC number 104201

Purpose: Lurgan RDA, a Group of the UK National Riding for the Disabled Association, works with young people with a range of disabilities and reasons for taking part in therapeutic riding sessions. The Group provides specialist tuition, training and support for people with disabilities, to ride and take part in equestrian vaulting.

Beneficiaries: The main beneficiaries of the Group during the year were school pupils with a range of special needs from Ceara School Lurgan and St Anthony's School Craigavon.

Activities: The Autumn term started on 19th September 2023, with the St Anthony's group including three new riders.

The Ceara School group included two new riders. This was the more challenging class with at least one child who often just stayed on the bus. Another usually came into the riding school, but sat and watched and was encouraged to just take in the atmosphere and enjoy the view of the others riding and taking part in the activities. One of the children had ridden before, however, but would never get on the horse of her own accord and had to be lifted on, once aboard however, was reasonably confident.

The Group provided 11 sessions this term with a regular attendance of 7 to 8 riders from each school in the two lessons each session. Amongst other things, we were teaching the more capable St Anthony's pupils to rise to the trot. In addition some of them were entered in a UK wide RDA Countryside Challenge competition and practised their manoeuvres for the Virtual National Championships which was entered by submitting videos of their performances. We were delighted to discover that, out of a class of 20, our riders were placed 7th 9th, 10th and 11th. A very good result for the riders and thanks are due to the Coach and two others who did the filming and entry submission. The term finished on 5th December with the traditional visit of Father Christmas, with the stable's tractor and trailer suitably bedecked for his transport along with his sack of presents. Two of the volunteers had gone the 'extra mile' and knitted horses which were greatly appreciated by the children. The spare woolly horses were sold to volunteers, to raise funds for the Group. We finished with Christmas Dinner in the Halfway House, Banbridge.

The first RDA lesson in the New Year was on 23 January 2024 for St Anthony's only in the first instance, as Ceara School couldn't get transport that day. There were 3 new 'recruits' although one was too timid to attempt to ride, but did get on the barrel, an artificial "horse" designed to encourage reluctant riders to have a go and take part in the activities.

Ceara School children were able to return on 30th January 2024. These children included a wheelchair bound pupil whom the teachers were very keen should take part in the riding. With assessment of the situation and agreement including with the pupil, the child was lifted out of the wheelchair and placed on the horse and with suitable support and tuition from a

physiotherapy qualified volunteer, enjoyed the experience and gained physical benefit and improvement from the riding. One of the pupils was a very reluctant starter and it was an achievement to get the riding hat on, but did eventually ride on 12th March near the end of term.

A Parents' Day for the Ceara riders was held at the end of the Spring term (19th March). Nearly all the riders had a parent (or another supporter) and it was a huge success. The children behaved brilliantly and the parents were extremely proud of their children. All the children received rosettes and lots of photographs were taken. Meantime, St Anthony's marked the end of term with an Easter Egg hunt after their session.

The summer term started on Tuesday 16th April. St Anthony's brought 2 new riders, who both rode on their first occasion.

A Ceara teacher attended some sessions with a therapy dog called Sargent Pepper. It has a rigorous training regime so behaves well with everyone at school and was good in the presence of the horses. When it is in school it is considered to be working, but is homed with the teacher's family. The riders from Ceara presented various problems including again, a child who could not be persuaded to get on a horse, but eventually got on the barrel. Coping with the different behaviours of some of the children is both challenging and interesting with the teachers able to assist in decisions as to whether or not to proceed with attempts to get the children on a horse, or, as is often the case, it is sufficient merely to be in the presence of the horses and activities.

The Northern Ireland RDA Regional Qualifier Competition for the National event was held on Wed 8th May at the Laurelvie Equestrian Centre. We did not send a rider from our Group, but the St Anthony's children took part in the RDA Art Competition. On 14th May Celia McMorran (RDA NI Chairman) came to the Group to present Art Prizes to two of the children who had achieved second and third places in the competition.

The ninth lesson & the last day of the Summer term was on 11th June. This was a very happy occasion as the parents of both schools were invited to come and watch their children ride during their session. The Principal of Ceara also attended and was suitably impressed. St Anthony's riders put on a good demonstration of the Countryside Challenge. Thanks again to one of our coaches who had made most of the props. Thanks are also due to the extremely talented bakers in the Group who provided delicious goodies for everyone to enjoy – some even RDA themed!

Planning: Planning included assessment of the children's fitness to ride based on parents' completed agreement forms and teachers' advice, decisions regarding suitability and choice of the horses, preparation for activities, continuation of safeguarding requirements for volunteers, discussions and decisions on fundraising

Training and Volunteers: On a freezing January day three of the volunteers set out for a Regional RDA Training Day at Laurelvie riding establishment, near Antrim. After a difficult frozen-road journey the day went well with activities and specific training divided around the indoor school, with volunteers working in small groups to both learn and revise

techniques in tacking up, mounting, other routines and RDA techniques and requirements involved in the provision of riding for a wide range of riders' abilities.

Our Coaches maintain their competence as required and tested by the RDA organisation, on-line and in person.

Two of the volunteers attended the RDA Regional Qualifier session at Laurelview Wednesday 8 May as judges and markers for the Countryside Challenge competition.

Achievements: We had our main Fundraiser at Tesco in Lurgan on 8th February 2024. £834.18 was a most satisfactory result. We are grateful to Edel Foy, Community Champion, who is so welcoming and makes it easy for us to collect at Tesco. In addition we received assistance from within the Group in the provision of display material and donation stickers.

The Group considers it a major achievement to be able to report continuation of normal activities with the two schools and the Ballyknock Riding School. In addition we supported and encouraged participation and gained success in National and Regional competitions as appropriate for the two groups of riders.

The Group's delivery of service to the standards required is a credit to the volunteers and an overall benefit to the children of both schools, now routinely attending and enjoying weekly riding classes during term time.

Mitigation of Harm: In providing the voluntary service to our beneficiaries, the Group continued to ensure that its volunteers received the necessary training and awareness of their responsibilities under safeguarding regulations and health and safety requirements of the RDA. To carry out our activities, coaches and office bearers are in possession of the required qualifications.

Risk assessments were carried out and will be reviewed in order to ensure the safe delivery of the activities provided. A number of Group volunteers have current certification in First Aid at Work training, which will be renewed as necessary to ensure that at least one volunteer is designated to act as First Aider at each session.

Private Benefit: No private benefit has been derived by anyone in connection with the Group. Ballyknock riding establishment continued to provide the Group with facilities at very favourable rates, much less than the usual commercial cost, for which the Group is very grateful.

Financial position: As reported, the traditional Lurgan RDA Collection Day at Lurgan Tesco took place again in 2024. The purchase of a credit card reader and setting up of the associated account provided a valuable asset in the cashless collection of donations.

As recorded in the accompanying end of year financial statement, the Group's expenditure was £2,368 including hire of ponies, RDA membership, insurances and subscription fees. Total income of £1,793 was made up of donations, for which we are extremely grateful and amounts from fund raising activities. This resulted in a loss for the year of £575. A closing credit balance of £1,733 was only assisted by a good balance at the end of the previous

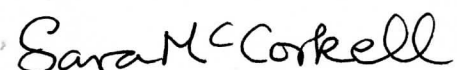
Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024
Lurgan Riding for the Disabled Group – cont.

financial year and whilst ensuring immediate continuation of service, will require the Group to endeavour to fundraise to a greater extent in order to continue its activities over the forthcoming year.

In setting our objectives, planning and carrying out our activities for the year, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have continued to achieve the charity's purposes.

Signed for the Trustees of Lurgan RDA, NIC no: 104201, for the financial year, September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

Sara McCorkell, Group Chairperson



Terry Ingles, Group Charity contact: 98 Kilntown Road. Dromore. Co Down, BT25 1HS

Anne Cochrane

Anne Elise Coburn

Sheelagh McAfee

Hilary Idzikowska

Patricia McLean

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Annual return

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Riding for the Disabled, Lurgan Group
NIC104201**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities as attached.

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

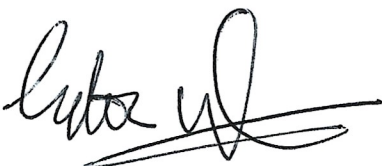
I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

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.

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



Gordon Myers

14 Magherahinch Road
Moir
BT67 0XD

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Accounts

Riding for the Disabled Association, Lurgan R.D.A. NIC 104201
Statement of Receipts and Payments - Year End 31 August 2023

	Unrestricted / Total Funds £
<u>Receipts</u>	
Donations	950.00
Fundraising appeals	2272.31
Bank Interest	2.59
	<hr/>
	3224.90
<u>Payments</u>	
Cost of Charitable Activities	25.00
Governance costs	2672.33
Asset and Investment purchase	
Purchase of equipment	NIL
	<hr/>
Total Payments	2697.33
	<hr/>
Net receipts/(payments)	527.57
Reconciliation 31.8.22	
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.22	1781.62
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	527.57
	<hr/>
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.23	2309.19

Riding for the Disabled Association, Lurgan R.D.A. NIC 104201
Statement of assets and liabilities - Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Unrestricted / Total Funds £
Funds Reconciliation	
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.22	1781.62
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	527.57
Cash at bank & in hand 31.8.23	<u>2309.19</u>
Bank and Cash Balances	
Bank balance as at 31.8.23	2263.96
Other Assets	
Equipment	200.00
Liabilities	
Liabilities	Nil

Lurgan RDA

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Annual report

Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023
Lurgan Riding for the Disabled Group

Registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland as Lurgan RDA
NIC number 104201

Purpose: Lurgan RDA works with young people with a range of disabilities and reasons for taking part in therapeutic riding sessions. The Group provides specialist tuition, training and support for people with disabilities, to ride and take part in equestrian vaulting.

Beneficiaries: The main beneficiaries of the Group during the year were school pupils with a range of special needs from Ceara School Lurgan and St Anthony's School Craigavon.

Activities: After the suspension of all RDA Group riding sessions because of Covid restrictions and re-commencement in the last financial year of closely controlled classes with the necessary Covid 19 precautions and mitigations, full sessions without these additional precautions commenced for the two schools 27 September 2022.

Full sessions continued until half term 1 November, with the group from St Anthony's developing good basic riding skills and the Ceara School group requiring more attention, but gaining valuable benefit from a simpler riding experience.

At the end of term session, the Christmas visit of Santa Claus took place 6 December 2022, with the children being given gifts of woolly hats, knitted by two of the volunteers and then given rides with Santa in his "sleigh" (enclosed trailer!) around the arena.

The sessions re-commenced in the New Year on 17 January with both schools. The Ceara group included some challenging pupils, which required a different approach to ensure individuals were able, at a minimum, to get on a horse in a calm and quiet environment, which led to continuing this approach with the group. For a couple of children in this group, use was made of "Bluey" an artificial horse based on an oil drum on a stand, on which budding, but fearful riders could be introduced and persuaded to go through the motions of mounting, sitting and dismounting, before attempting the real thing. The school's teachers accompanying the children were of great assistance in planning and developing different tactics with children for whom in some cases, just approaching and sitting on a horse was a major accomplishment.

A Parents' Day was held for the Ceara School Group on the last day of the term on 28 March, at which their headmaster attended in addition to parents and family members of the pupils.

The Summer sessions commenced 18 April 2023 and the St Anthony's class continued to improve their riding abilities, while the Ceara class, although more challenging, also showed the value of "equine therapy". Some children, although proving very difficult to get into riding helmets and then mounted on a horse, became much calmer once the horse was walking. This enabled them to take part in mounted activities, with some showing good dexterity, interest and pleasure in the simple task of collecting balls and bean bags from

saucers on poles and putting them in a bucket, while maintaining balance and position on their horse, aided by the volunteer side-walkers.

Parents' Days for the schools were scheduled for the end of the term in June, but St Anthony's was cancelled due to problems with their bus. Ceara School however, went ahead on 13 June with parents able to take part in photo sessions after the presentation of rosettes to the children.

The National Riding for the Disabled organisation devised a Virtual Championship including a Countryside Challenge competition designed to include participants unable to travel to a National event. Groups were offered the opportunity to film entrants at their own establishments tackling a standard cross country challenge course layout. Volunteers from the Lurgan Group, with great ingenuity and skill, produced the elements of the course as required for the competition, including bushes, sheep, gates, archways and bridges. Riders in the St Anthony's School class, then had to complete the challenge unaided while being filmed, with the leader loosely holding the lead rope, but not otherwise controlling the horse, with a single side walker alongside. Other volunteers in the Group assisted in editing the videos and deciding on a selection to enter for the competition, which will be live-streamed on-line in November 2023.

Planning: In addition to the Virtual Countryside Challenge competition and renewing of First Aid certificates, the major planning involved ensuring the continuation of normal services to the two schools after the necessary and restricting precautions involved in mitigating the problems of providing services in the presence of the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic. This included ensuring the continuing financing of the Group after the inability to hold public collection sessions for the donation of funds.

Training and Volunteers: Lurgan RDA Committee meetings continued as required. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was planned for 12 September 2023 at which our achievements in continuing riding sessions for the schools in 2022-23 are reported and recorded.

Refresher sessions were held regularly at routine classes to ensure continuation of good practice and the completion of required RDA certificates of competence for new volunteers, two of whom joined the Lurgan Group at the beginning of the Summer Term.

The Safeguarding Officer for the Group with others, ensured the required safeguarding requirements were completed and updated for each volunteer. A First Aid at Work course was organised for 25 October 2022 at which 14 participants from the Lurgan Group and others gained their three year certificates, ensuring the presence of a qualified first-aider at all our sessions.

Achievements: The Group considers it a major achievement to be able to report continuation of normal activities with the two schools and the Ballyknock Riding School. A public donation session within the Tesco Supermarket in Lurgan was re-established in February 2023, with the kind permission of the Company's management, enabling the Group to again take advantage of the local public's generosity in donating funds towards the continuation of our service to the two schools, well known in the area.

The Group's delivery of service to the standards required is a credit to the volunteers and an overall benefit to the children of both schools, now routinely attending and enjoying weekly riding classes during term time as before.

Mitigation of Harm: In providing the voluntary service to our beneficiaries, the Group continued to ensure that its volunteers received the necessary training and awareness of their responsibilities under safeguarding and health and safety requirements of the RDA. To carry out our activities, coaches and office bearers are in possession of the required qualifications.

Risk assessments were carried out and will be reviewed in order to ensure the safe delivery of the activities provided. A number of Group volunteers have current certification in First Aid at Work training, which will be renewed as necessary to ensure that at least one volunteer is designated to act as First Aider at each session.

Private Benefit: No private benefit has been derived by anyone in connection with the Group. Ballyknock riding establishment continued to provide the Group with facilities at very favourable rates, much less than the usual commercial cost, for which the Group is very grateful.

Financial position: As reported, the traditional Lurgan RDA Collection Day at Lurgan Tesco took place again in 2023. This with other generous donations and a grant from the National RDA fund has brought the Group back into a positive financial situation with the ever present caution of unexpected costs.

As recorded in the accompanying end of year financial statement, the Group's expenditure was £2,697 including hire of ponies, RDA membership, insurances and subscription fees. Total income of £3,225 was made up of donations, for which we are extremely grateful and amounts from fund raising activities. This resulted in a surplus for the year of £528. A closing credit balance of £2,264 whilst ensuring immediate continuation of service, will require the Group to endeavour to fundraise in order to continue its activities over the forthcoming year.

In setting our objectives, planning and carrying out our activities for the year, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have continued to achieve the charity's purposes.

Signed for the Trustees of Lurgan RDA, NIC no: 104201, for the financial year, September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

Sara McCorkell, Group Chairperson



Terry Ingles, Group Charity contact: 98 Kilntown Road. Dromore. Co Down, BT25 1HS
Anne Cochrane
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Northern Ireland - Charity number 104201

Annual return

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Basis of independent examiner's report

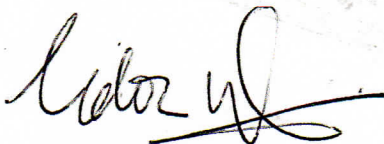
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Gordon Myers

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Moira
BT67 0XD