Woodhurst Group RDA
Charity No: 1164390

Annual report for 1/4/25 - 31/3/26

Background
The governing document is the Constitution signed 18/4/16. The Group is a Registered Charity no. 1164390 and it was registered 12/11/15. The working name is Woodhurst Group RDA which replaced the previous name Woodhurst RDA Group when the new Constitution was adopted, changing the status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The correspondence address for the Group is:-

Mrs Brenda Eade
1 Chapel Close
Hartford
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 1AR

Charitable Objects
These have remained unchanged and are to promote the objectives of the Riding for the Disabled Association (Charity no. 244108). We provide opportunities for disabled children in the Woodhurst/Huntingdon area to ride. We work with two schools and enable a total of 12 children to ride on a weekly basis.

Committee
The committee oversees regular riding sessions for children from Spring Common Academy and Prestley Wood Academy. The committee successfully raises funds for the work of the Group by carrying out various fund-raising activities throughout the year, supported by a membership group of volunteers. They hold regular meetings and an Annual General Meeting at the end of the Summer Term, inviting all volunteers.

The following served as committee members during the year 2024-2025

Chairperson: Gillian Luff (Trustee)
Secretary: Brenda Eade (Trustee)
Treasurer: Dawn Kemp (Trustee)

Other members of the Committee: Caroline Leafe (Trustee), Janet Thomason (Trustee), Judith Archer (Trustee from August 2025), Alison Mackenzie, Iris Richardson, Sue Grant and Alyson Winter.

Review

This last year proved to be a little challenging because Northbrook (the venue from which we have operated for many years) decided to close its doors as an operating riding school in June 2025. There was much concern and searching for an alternative venue, but after considerable discussion Northbrook decided to extend its 'Riding School Licence' to enable RDA Groups to continue using its facilities and the ponies that remained on site.

This agreement has worked well but we are unsure how long it will be before any other decisions regarding the future of the venue are undertaken as there is some concern it may be sold for development.

The committee is actively seeking a venue that will provide a longer-term assurance for the continuation of our operations.

With regard to the schools, our group has continued with the riding sessions for children from Spring Common Academy and we are pleased that attendance has been relatively consistent since the beginning of the academic year. There have been a couple of occasions on which communication from the school to us has been lacking, but this has been addressed and we hope resolved.

We also continued to run sessions for Prestley Wood School, and this has proven very successful.

Children from both schools have progressed well and clearly enjoy their sessions. The increased number of qualified instructors has worked well and we generally have sufficient number of volunteers at each session. However, there have been occasions when numbers have been low and some key volunteers have had to withdraw their attendance for a variety of reasons, one of which is age. The Group recognises that it is important a recruitment campaign is undertaken to try and encourage some younger members to join. The future of the Group depends on the ability to replace Committee members as the long-standing ones decide to retire.

Our group has benefited from two successful fundraising activities.

- Pleasure Ride: £1,671.00
- Pub Quiz: £683.00

and two donation events

- Island Hall Yoga for Children: £628.00
- Bucket Collection Huntingdon Race Course: £333.00

This added a total of £3,315.00 to the Group's funds

We very much appreciate the commitment of every one of our volunteers to attend sessions; prepare the ponies and work sympathetically with the children and also the work put in by committee members and trustees.

We are also grateful for the co-operation and support from the staff at Spring Common Academy, Prestley Wood Academy and Northbrook Equestrian Centre.

Signed: G. Luff Date: 8 June 2026

Gillian Luff (Chair)
On behalf of the committee