

## **Trustees Annual Report**

Enniskillen Group of Riding for the Disabled 14 June 2022

Charity No. NI 104289

The Charity exists to provide therapeutic riding and associated activities to children in the age group 5-13 years old with special needs in the Fermanagh area.

The Principal Address of the Charity and contact for the Charity Commission is Mrs Marina Kidney, 97 Gola Road, Cappy, Tamlaght, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh BT74 4NQ

During the year, one of our Trustees (Dr Diana Cody) resigned to return to work within the NHS. She has been replaced by 2 new Trustees, Mrs Melanie Little and Mrs Liz McCaldin.

Our riding sessions are held at the Cafre Campus of the Enniskillen Agricultural College where we use their covered arena for most of the sessions. The Group meets on Tuesday mornings during term time. Due to Covid, we did not meet during most of 2021. Covid restrictions were eased and then tightened, and by August 2021 it looked as if the relaxing of regulations meant that we might be able to resume RDA. At the start, Cafre Campus and HQ Belfast were not keen for us to come back on site. Phone calls, begging and Risk Assessments later meant that we could re-start on 5 October 2021. After an outside meeting it was decided that with sanitising, face masks, social distancing and all the measuring duty bound for us to take, it was also decided to do lateral flow tests either the evening before or the morning of each RDA session - if positive, stay at home. Everything had to be signed off by RDA HQ, having filled in Health & Safety forms etc.

We started back with 5 ponies. We own one pony who is looked after by one of our members. One of our Coaches drives from Fivemiletown with 2 ponies, and our Treasurer brings a further 2. Another volunteer has also been able to bring a further pony. Willowbridge and the Model School were visited. Both schools had 5 pupils they wanted to send. All were kept in their own bubbles at school. We started with just one school (Willowbridge) to get used to the new regime - face masks, sanitising and social distancing etc. After Halloween 5 children from the Model School started. .

To comply with all Covid regulations, our Christmas Party was held in the Arena with Santa visiting us there, after which we stopped for the Christmas holiday. We returned on 11th January with a half-term on 15th March.

We have 2 Coaches at the present time, Barbara Lunny and Rushelle Kerr. Rushelle attended a Therapeutic Training Course on 30th November, 1st February, 29th March and 24th May which meant that on those occasions we were reduced to 3 ponies. Throughout the year both coaches worked hard with the children on their riding and equine knowledge. All the children finished the year gaining both Grade 1

and Grade 2 in Riding Proficiency and Horse Care Proficiency certificates. They all passed and our Regional Chairman - Celia McMorran, who came to visit us at the first of our 2 picnics organised for the end of the year, presented them.

Our first picnic and Ride was at Killyreagh, very kindly hosted by our Chairman Lord Anthony Hamilton and his wife Katie - wonderful weather and beautiful grounds. Our second Picnic and Ride was at Ely Lodge, and again the weather was good.. We were made very welcome by Mr and Mrs Ian Cathcart.

Our Treasurer circulated detailed copies of the accounts for the years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Due to Covid restrictions it had been impossible to complete in 2021. On 31 March 2021 the bank held £34,298.91 which included donations of £1,704.59 (£1,000 from Inner Wheel collected prior to the cancelled Breakfast at the Killyhevlin, and £600 in relation to the late Nuala Dolan Dicke) and expenses of £1,825. On 31 March 2022 Maeve reported that the total amount held by the Group was £34,451.77. Income for the year was £1,406.71 (including money raised by our Raffle and the sale of some tack) and Expenses for the year were £4,253.84.

We make every effort to ensure that the sessions are conducted safely by using suitably qualified Coaches and trained Volunteers. All volunteers are now accredited with Access NI for the next 3 years. The Group has a safeguarding policy which is reviewed annually. A qualified First Aider is always in attendance. We consider that we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and have fulfilled our obligations in this respect.

Signed: Mrs Marina Kidney - Organiser

On behalf of the following Trustees of the Group

Lord Anthony Hamilton - Chairman  
Mrs Maeve Lunny MRCVS  
Mrs Rosemary Wilkinson  
Mrs Avril Kee  
Mr Oliver Hanley  
Mrs Dinah Shortt  
Mrs Judi Tanner  
Mrs Erika Crawford  
Mrs Melanie Little  
Mrs Liz McCaldin