



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
From		1 st	April	2007	To	31 st	March 2008

Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Wechiau Group

Other names charity is known by FoW

Registered charity number (if any) 1113023

Charity's principal address

c/o 55 Lunt Road	
Bootle	
Merseyside	
Postcode	L20 5EZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ann Bannister	Chairperson		
2	John Flynn	Treasurer		
3	Lisa Porter	Secretary		
4	Janet Kirk	Deputy Chairperson		
5	Ian Brown			
6	Martin Upson			

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by members at Annual General Meeting

Additional governance issues

Membership is open to any individual aged 18 years and over who agrees with the objectives of the Friends of Wechiau Group and who has paid the annual fee, agreed from time to time by the Annual General Meeting (AGM), currently £10 per year. Members are drawn from people across the world.

Contact is maintained with members through email, a website and by post. Members are invited to attend a minimum of one meeting per year in England.

Additional governance issues

The Friends of Wechiau Group are working with the Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) in Ghana to facilitate the transfer of funds, assist with the decision making about who and what to fund, and to monitor the use of funds.

The trustees are aware of the difficulties in monitoring the appropriate use of funds when relying on a third party to provide the information. The Group maintains contact with individuals from NCRC who provide regular reports on progress through email, text messages, telephone calls and letters including written reports and the provision of photographs.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The advancement of education of people resident within the boundaries of the Wechiau Hippo Sanctuary, Ghana, or surrounding areas by the provision of educational materials, funding of teachers and supplies and at the discretion of the trustees the provision of scholarships for individuals to extend their education and training.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

To develop an international network of visitors to the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary who wish to provide support

To co-ordinate the sending of finance and educational materials to the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary

To provide a scholarship fund for people in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary to further their education

To enable information exchange between people in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary and members

To work with other NGOs and agencies to co-ordinate support to the people in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary

Additional details of objectives and activities

All grants are awarded on the decision of the trustees of the charity. An education committee exists in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary with members from teachers of local schools, local leaders and NCRC who make recommendations on how funding should be awarded.

Achievements and performance

The prospects for education for people living in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary area are very limited. Some children have no or limited access to primary education. Access to secondary school requires the passing of exams, payment of school fees and moving away from home. Most families are subsistence farmers and usually do not have the funds to be able support sons and daughters to continue their education. Community leaders in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary identified several years ago that the provision of scholarships for young people to attend senior secondary school would assist in the development of the area. Friends of Wechiau started providing funding in 2005 with the awarding of one scholarship and the numbers of scholarships have increased each year.

Achievements and performance

During this year FoW have provide scholarships to the 3 students funded in previous years so that they can continue at senior secondary school. In addition 3 new students, including the first young woman, were given educational scholarships, bringing the total to 6 students being given funds of £100 per year each to attend senior secondary school.

As a new initiative FoW provided a scholarship of £200 to the previous non-formal teacher at the Heather Graham primary school to enable the recipient to attend Wa polytechnic to study for a 2 year secretarial programme (Diploma in Business Studies).

The aim is to make all awards for funding as equitable as possible in relation to gender, ethnic group/tribe and religion, with a particular emphasis towards providing funds for more disadvantaged individuals or groups to enable young people to receive education who might not have access by any other means. FoW is therefore monitoring the ethnicity, tribe, age, religion and village of origin of the recipients of the funds to ensure the more disadvantaged groups are able to access the scholarships. So far scholarships have been awarded to 6 males and one female, 4 are from the Waala tribe and 3 from the Brifour tribe. 4 are from the Muslim faith and 3 are Christians. 4 originate from Wechiau, and one from each of the villages of Dornye, Cheban, and Kachau. The ages range from 16 to 22 years.

In addition to the scholarships FoW have provided a £100 annual grant to a primary school for educational materials. This year the grant was provided to the newly founded Tokali Junior Secondary School.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Friends of Wechiau Group ensures at any time that it has sufficient reserves to enable funding students to complete the current course of education.

Further financial review details


The funds raised during the year have come from donations by individual members, and fundraising through the sale of Christmas cards and sponsored walks.

All the funds are used directly to further the education of people in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary area. Administration costs are kept to a minimum and include bank charges for transfer of funds to Ghana, postage and cost of telephone calls to Ghana.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ann Bannister	
Position (eg secretary, chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	13 th July 2008	