



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1 st	April	2006	To	31 st	March	2007

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

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	David Warren		Resigned 25.6.06	
6	Ian Brown		Appointed 18.12.2006	
7	Martin Upson		Appointed 18.12.2006	

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

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

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.
- The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.
- Relationship with any related parties.
- Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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. All documents relating to the AGM, including an action plan of activities for the forthcoming year are forwarded to members for comment before the annual meeting.

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 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 or 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 (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- Policy on grantmaking
- Policy programme related investment
- Contribution made by Volunteers

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The prospects for education for people living in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary area are extremely limited. Some children have no access to primary education. Where children are able to go to primary and junior school, only a few achieve the examination results to enter senior secondary school. To go to senior secondary school means living away from home which is beyond the means of many families.

The Friends of Wechiau Group are committed to providing resources in an equitable and fair way to enable young people to receive education who might not have access by any other means.

In November 2006, the Friends of Wechiau Group continued to fund the student receiving a scholarship from the previous year into their second year of senior secondary school. In addition two further students were funded to attend their first year of senior secondary school. The scholarships have been able to pay the school fees for the year, and the costs of boarding, books, school uniform and other fees. Without these scholarships these individuals would not have been able to further their education. The decision to award the scholarships was based on a combination of academic ability and individual needs.

In addition the Friends of Wechiau provided £100 towards the provision of educational materials for the Wechiau primary school. These included textbooks, pens, pencils, exercise books and various teaching materials. This school was chosen for funding as it has not recently received any donations, unlike other primary schools in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary area.

During the year communication between NCRC and the Friends of Wechiau Group have been improved. The chair of the trustees is in regular contact with Donna Sheppard, the sanctuary advisor. Also Donna visited the UK in December 2006 and was able to provide a report in person to the trustees which included a presentation with photographs. The trustees are now much clearer about what is possible, and the timescales involved.

During the year the group has recruited 2 new trustees and one resigned.

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 their education (including university).

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising).
- How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.
- Investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The funds raised during the year have come from donations by individual members, and fundraising through 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. At the moment these are predominantly the bank charges for transfer of funds 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)		
Position (eg secretary, chair, etc)		
Date		