



Friends of Wechiau Group Charity number: 1113023

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Newsletter

August 2018

Dear Friend,

Thank you from Friends of Wechiau

A big thank you to all the supporters of Friends of Wechiau who replied to my email about the new European requirements about Data Protection. Nearly every supporter replied and said that they wished to continue to receive updates about the work of Friends of Wechiau. It is good to know there is so much interest in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.

As we enter our fourteenth year of providing funding for education at Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary we are appealing to our supporters to help us find new trustees. The education programme has proved to be extremely successful and beneficial to the Wechiau community and we want to ensure its continuation for another 14 years. Given the age profile of the existing trustees and members we need some younger people involved who could potentially take over the work of the charity at some point in the future. Please note trustees can be from outside the UK and do not have to be British citizens.

Senior High School Scholarships



There has been a big step forward for education in Ghana with the government providing the funding for the Senior High School fees for all students starting in the academic year of 2017/18. This does not mean education is totally free as there are other fees that have to be paid. Uniforms and equipment have to be bought and there is the additional expense of living away from home.

For 2017/18 Friends of Wechiau increased the number of new students selected from four to five and reduced the amount of the scholarship for the

new students to reflect the additional support they now receive from the government. It was disappointing that only one out of the five of the new students selected for scholarships was a young woman, despite the previous year when all four students selected being women. However four out of the five students selected were from the minority Birifor and Christian communities which further improves the diversity of students selected over the years of the programme. We will continue to monitor the gender, tribe and religious balance and endeavour to promote more young women and people from the minority communities to study further.

In addition to the newly selected students, 8 senior high school students continuing with their studies received scholarships and one previous senior high school student studying to become a teacher at NJA College of Education received a scholarship for their final of study. This brings the total number of scholarships



awarded to be 53 (49 scholarships to study at senior high school and four scholarships for study at university or polytechnic). 43 of the scholarships were funded by Friends of Wechiau and 10 further were funded by the Sanctuary Management Board from other funders.

Of the 53 scholarships awarded, 3 were for students receiving an additional scholarship for study to gain a professional qualification which means the total number of students receiving scholarships was 50. 37 of the students were male and 13 female. The requirement of all scholarship students to provide at least one years voluntary service to the Hippo Sanctuary as guides or volunteer teachers at local primary schools continues to be successful and has become integral to the work of the sanctuary.



A 'WhatsApp' social media group has been set up this year to facilitate communication between current and former scholarship students, sanctuary staff and trustees to enable discussion about improvements to the scholarship programme.

A selection of school supplies funded by FoW were given to Kpanfa D/A Primary School Primary School at an awards ceremony with pupils, teachers and parents.

Support into University

Most students have continued their study after completing senior high school and the trustees follow the progress of the former students with great interest, especially Hasehni Vampere (known as Hassan) who obtained a first class honours B.Sc in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Hassan wishes to continue his studies and was initially offered places to study for a Masters Degree at Universities outside Ghana. However it was impossible for Hassan to secure the necessary funds to take up any of these places. But the good news is that Hassan now has a place and the funding to study for a Masters degree in Kumasi in Ghana for 2 years from September. It is thanks to the hard work of one of our trustees, Janet Kirk, that a source of funding has been found for Hassan.

Fundraising

The funds raised during the year have come from donations by individual members, speaking at meetings and fundraising initiatives. Two of the trustees spoke at the Bristol Breakfast Rotary Club about the work of the charity and were extremely grateful to receive a donation.

You can donate on line through our website www.friendsofwechiau.org.uk using Paypal or [MyDonate](#), or send a cheque to the address on the letterhead overleaf.

Thank you for your continued support,

Ann

Ann Bannister, Chair, Friends of Wechiau Group

[Thank you to R.Y. Abudulai Issahaku, Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary for the photographs and for administering the project locally and the Savannah Fruits Company for their continued support in disbursing the funds and providing a monitoring role]