

**Friends of Nixon** [www.friendsofnixon.org](http://www.friendsofnixon.orgk) Charity no. 1145455

C/O 11a Denbigh Road, London, W11 2SJ

Documents relating to

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the

Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital, Segbwema, Sierra Leone

Saturday 26th November 2022

at

Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, London, W11 4AH

**Present**

A full register was taken of friends attending in person and friends attending online via group zoom call with a total of 31 attendees. Trustees to be reference by initials.

A warm welcome to all.

Minutes from 2021 AGM reviewed and adopted – proposed SY, seconded JC

Chairman’s Welcome and Annual Report presented by RB (attached below)

* Positive year – update on hospital and projects
* Thanks to all donors and fundraising – hugely appreciated
* TK stepping down as secretary – thanks for work past 5 years.

Financial Report presented by RD (attached below)

* Thanks to NHMC for hosting AGM today
* Thanks to RB for dedication and all hard work
* Update on change in accounting software subscription

Election of Officers

Chairperson RB proposed by SY and seconded by TK

Vice chairchairperson SY proposed by RB and seconded by Celia Gibbs

Treasurer RD proposed by JC and seconded by EC

Meeting Secretary RR proposed by TK and seconded by RD

General Secretary JBu proposed by RD and seconded by SY

Presentations delivered by several trustees as outlined below

* Nursing School
* Mortuary
* Fundraising

Questions and positive general discussion. A huge thanks to all for the generous donations and fundraising throughout the year.

Date for Diary – Next year’s AGM will be on Saturday 25th November 2023

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 **ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT** November 2022

*Introduction*

The past year has seen our Trust continue its support of the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema, Sierra Leone. Through responding to hospital led requests and locally identified needs, we continue to enact our aims of improving healthcare provision for the community in Segbwema and its surrounds through effective partnership activity.

The Trust has successfully built an effective working relationship with a new senior administrative team appointed by the hospital board to lead the hospital through the next stages of its development. The ability for our small Trust to provide continuity of support in the context of evolving challenges at the hospital is testament to the longevity and clarity in our focussed support of specific health related projects. Particular acknowledgement must be given to the hospital’s new Administrator, Augustine Iscandari, for his strategic vision and meticulous accountability.

*Trustees*

The make-up of Trustees had remained stable. We have met regularly, both virtually and in person, throughout the year to administer the work of the charity, review applications for support and provide governance and monitoring of ongoing projects. We continue to seek external advice as needed and have used a combination of in-country contractors and international suppliers where appropriate to ensure the necessary equipment and infrastructure requirements for projects are met.

A particular vote of thanks is owed to Dr Thomas Kenny who is stepping down as Secretary to the Trust at the end of year. Tom will remain as a Trustee but we are immensely grateful that, following a role as a volunteer doctor at Nixon several years ago, he has continued to offer invaluable support to the hospital via his work as Secretary.

*Fundraising*

Despite having a notable drop in income during the last financial year, our existing reserves and the sustained support from generous individuals and groups have made it possible for us to continue to respond positively to the hospitals request for significant support, including two large scale projects.

We wish to pay particular respect to friends of the Trust, Betty Treinnick and JE Sergent who after their passing chose to remember the hospital through legacy donations to the charity. We also remain incredibly grateful for the ongoing major support from our central donors the Stamford Methodist Church, whose continued fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated. Very significant ongoing support from the Gibbs Trust and Linda Wilson is also kindly acknowledged. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the unsung heroes of fundraising; from the organisers of the Stamford Dog Show, to endurance marathon runners and newsletter creators.

We are aware that as a Trust our fundraising efforts will require additional input over the next financial year in order for us to maintain current levels of support and are exploring strategies for this.

*Charitable Activity*

As requested by the local hospital management team, the trust has embarked on the funding of two significant projects: Firstly, an appropriately equipped skills lab and further rehabilitation of the Nixon nursing school to facilitate its re-opening and secondly, a new hospital mortuary.

Despite collaborative efforts, the nursing school at the hospital is yet to re-open. The new administrative team, in liaison with the relevant regulatory bodies in Sierra Leone, have provided a revised schedule of works and pre-requisites in order for the nursing school to commence delivering the State Registered Nursing Qualification. There is a joint acknowledgment of the desire to have high quality appropriately resourced training intuitions in Sierra Leone; therefore the requirements for educational establishments have been raised. Although the trust is mindful of delays and earlier setbacks in the re-opening of the school, we recognise the huge potential value of a functioning nursing training institution on the hospital site. The benefits to the hospital’s future, healthcare training and wider economic progress within Segbwema and its surrounds would be substantial. In view of this and the detailed plans provided for its development, we have agreed further investment to enable this ambition. We have taken on two key elements; equipment provision for a well resourced skills labs including simulation models (an in-country priority) which will be sourced by a supplier in India, and further equipping and refurbishment of the class rooms.

The second large infrastructure project we have committed to is the building and equipping of a hospital mortuary, now made possible due to recently funded improvements in the electrical supply. The provision of a mortuary has been a priority of the hospital board and the local community for a number of years. A mortuary will form part of hospitals appropriate infection prevention and control procedures but also help reassure families that patients who receive end of life care at the hospital will be treated with dignity after their deaths. It is anticipated that such re-assurances around end-of life care will encourage attendance.

Although the new administrative team have directed their focus on stabilising the hospital’s core functions, we have been able to continue our support for community health work. Following the completion of two community water wells last year, we have been able to support outreach work in these communities through funding the resources needed for health promotion and screening for diabetes and high blood pressure. We acknowledge that although the prevalence of infectious disease such as Malaria remains high, there is an increasing and hidden burden of non-communicable disease such as diabetes and high blood pressure which when untreated can increase the risk of stroke and heart attacks. We hope these preventative steps will form part of efforts to engage communities to address this growing issue.

Considerable work funded by the Trust, to extend the hospitals solar electrical field was completed at the end of 2021. Following this we additionally funded the installation of a “Mindite” Solar controller which was recommended by our external advisor to improve the efficiency of the system. Together with the hospital’s electricians, our contractor has been overseeing maintenance of the system over the last year and we continue to negotiate arrangements for future local upkeep with expert input to safeguard the correct working of the system.

The new Olympus microscope funded by the trust arrived at the hospital in 2022. It is in daily use providing improved diagnostic capacity and facilitating the gold standard test for Malaria to be available as well as providing important information to diagnose a variety of conditions.

Benefits from the considerable on-site training provided last year in the form of contraception provision, ultrasound education and blood pressure monitoring have continued. It has been encouraging to see evidence of staff sharing this learning and leading training given at a district level to other healthcare providers. The Two staff members whom the trust is supporting through scholarship support have continued their training Community Health and Nursing respectively.

Our long-term commitment to supporting Essential Medicine provision at the hospital through funding support has continued. As planned, we have been able to successfully reduce this level of funding as the hospital begins to sustainably manage its own pharmaceutical supplies through governmental and non-governmental programmes. We continue to have open dialogue with the hospital management to ensure we make the most effective use of our collective limited resources.

*Conclusion*

As we continue into our second decade as a registered charity, we remain committed to the hospital, its staff and, most importantly, its patients. We remain focussed on overseeing two significant projects during 2023, namely the re-opening of the nursing school and construction of the hospital mortuary. In parallel, we hope to maintain support, governance and maintenance of our previous investments in education, patient care improvements and infrastructure. As we move forward, we look to expand our board of Trustees to ensure we can effectively fulfil the small but incredibly necessary role for the trust in the hospital’s future success.

Thank you for your ongoing interest, advice and support.

 Dr Rob Burnie Chairman

