

Olney—Newton Link

February 2011

Registered Charity 1117694

ONL



OLNEY - NEWTON LINK

"To advance education and to relieve poverty in the village of Newton, Sierra Leone, by the provision of charitable assistance"

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL Trustees

Rachel Lintern—Chair
Claire Lintern—Secretary
Tricia Selwood—Treasurer
Sheila Ware—Friends Group
Andrew Betts
Graham Mabbutt
Anne McCallum
Brian Partridge
Kate Vilkaite
Sheila Woodhead

ONL Committee, Newton

Dominic Usman—Chair
Abu Bakarr Fofana—Secretary
Mabinty Sesay—Treasurer
R E Elba
Osseh Jones
Brima James Kabia
Valicious King
The Hon Claude D M Kamanda MP
Mariatu Kamara
Mohamed Kamara
M S Koroma
Ebu Sawyer Manley
Momoh Sesay

Contact:

Rachel Lintern—Chair
21 Austen Avenue
Olney, Bucks
MK46 5DL
Tel: 01234 711751



The Olney-Newton Link has funded a wheelchair costing £65 for Aminata Sesay, who gave birth to baby Marie in December last year. Mother and baby are both doing well.

OLNEY/NEWTON LINK COMMITTEE U.K/SIERRA LEONE

Report On The Skill Training center Development

FROM: The Secretary
TO: The Secretary OLN U.K
SUBJECT: Progress Report
DATE: 6th December 2010

I am delighted to report to you that, the committee has receive the sum of one thousand pound (£1000) sent in the last past weeks. It is also disappointing to hear that there was misunderstanding in the bank, for which all the said amount was not paid full, rather it was partly paid. No reason was accounted for; the treasurer received from the bank the sum of six million Leones and balance of three hundred and some Leones was not paid. The chairman has instructed that we see the bank Manager for ratification next week. We have also asked the Treasurer to send over to you the details of expenditure with the said amount.

Much progress has been made in terms of the skills center's development. No other report is more worthy than the photos of the building. We are preparing to send out all other things that have taken place. What is going on presently is the preparation of the computer lab, and minor finishing. We have bought some pieces of board to make the lab which is preferential and to start making school furnitures. More over we needed 100 school benches for a start, because we are expecting to enrol learners in and out of the community. The Chairman Mr. Dominic Usman has asked that registration forms should be printed by the Secretary: we have also made negotiation with the two tutors needed for the tutorials.

Further more, we have negotiated for the inclusion of the Ahmadiyya Senior Secondary School pupils from (SSS1) ie Senior Secondary School Level one, to be part of the school curriculum. The pupils shall register with the skills, and offer classes as well as attending their normal school classes. We have planned to schedule a pilot time table to start. It is hopeful that by January registration begins. The institution will be officially register to the appropriate body, and as well to formally re-open the center (launching ceremony), all other proposition will be discussed in our next meeting schedule to take place on the 19th December 2010.

The Treasurer has been asked to make a financial report on the last expenditure. Photos will be sent next week hopefully. With regard to the hospital project, we have asked the C.H. O to report to us, by given us update on the expenditure of the toilet project as well as to look for a contractor for themselves to do the job. Feed back will expected by next week.

We shall send you minute of the meeting to be held as stated above.

Look forward to your response.

Submitted by
A.B Fofanah



CHORAL LOLLIPOPS

With a title of Choral Lollipops we wondered what this concert might be all about! We were treated to a superb evening of entertainment by *Andante*, a local choir formed specifically with the aim of fund raising for local charities. It was an interesting programme, sung with skill and enthusiasm.

Our thanks go to the Choir, and to the Baptist Church for the use of their facilities. A magnificent sum of £274 was raised for the Link,

Strange Sightings at Dickens of a Christmas 2010

If you were in Olney on Dickens Day you may remember seeing a rather strangely clad group of street performers. You may not have known that they were the Stony Stratford Mummings who delighted onlookers with the performance of their Mummings Play. One of their members, Sheila



White a teacher at Olney Infant School, also persuaded her fellow

performers to allow the collection of £150 to be given to ONL. We are very grateful to them and hope they will visit Olney again next year.

The Link stall in the Market Square was very successful and £393.84 was taken, an excellent result. Our thanks to all our helpers who make the task so much easier.



Goat rearing – the fastest income earner for rural communities

The rearing of goats as part of agricultural activities by farmers in rural communities is fast becoming a lucrative business. Most farmers in the Moyamba District, Southern Sierra Leone are now concentrating on raising goats for commercial purposes.

The high demand for goats by members of the public has had a corresponding increase in farmers to rear this specie as a way of making money.

For most communities in the Moyamba District and beyond goat is a coveted commodity and a farmer can pay a whole year school fees for a child attending primary or Junior secondary school from the proceeds of a single goat sold.

As a way of responding to this growing demand for goat the Animal Science Department of Njala University has established a barn specially meant for raising goats.

Following a visit to Njala University last week our reporter caught up with Roland Suluku who happens to be a Research Scientist, Lecturer and head of Animal Health Club at the University. In a brief interview with Mr. Suluku he intimated that there is need for government and other NGOs to put more emphasis on goat rearing as it is a potential factor that will lead to economic break through for most rural communities.

Roland Suluku disclosed to Awoko that the Animal Health Club has vaccinated close to 500 goats in the Moyamba District as a way of encouraging more goat production.

“Before the war the cost of a medium sized goat was around Le20,000 to Le30,000 but now the cost for a goat is around Le150,000 and Le300,000” the Research Scientist stated.

By William Freeman, Awoko





Music for Newton

*Saturday, 19th February 2011 at 7.30 pm
in St Peter and St Paul's Church, Olney*

*An evening of colourful
orchestral music*

with the Newton Ensemble

Leader: Cathy Gough

Conductor: Catherine Rose

*Soloists: Julie Lloyd (flute) and David Lloyd (oboe);
Tom Molloy (horn)*

Programme

Rossini: Overture: Italian Girl in Algiers

Salleri: Concerto for Flute and Oboe

Dukas: Villanelle for Horn

Beethoven: Symphony No 1



*Tickets: £10, under-16s free of charge.
Available from Wardrobe in Rose Court
and on the door.*

Refreshments available.

In aid of the Olney-Newton Link.

BOOKS!

Tricia Selwood has a large number of very beautiful books for sale, many of which are on display



in the windows of her house at 14 East Street, Olney. All money raised by their sale will go to the Link.

Below is listed a few of the titles (all at £3 each), but there are many more, so please call Tricia on 01234-712919 if you would like to view them.

*The Stately Homes of Britain
Enigmatic England
Victorian and Edwardian Canals
Secrets of the Lost Races
Stained Glass—an Illustrated History
The Oxford Book of Wild Flowers
Rails in the Valleys
Prague in Colour
The Great Wall of China
Furniture Making
Oriental Rugs
The Coasts of India
Imperial Chinese Art
The Darkroom Handbook
Atlas of the World
Along the Thames
Historical Encyclopaedia of Costume
Great Days Out
The National Maritime Museum
Zwinger Palace, Dresden
The Book of the Samurai
Whitsunday's Child*

SNIPPETS

In January we sent four more computers from Computer Aid International, which will give Newton a total of eight. We now need to work on getting the Internet into the Skills Centre.

Also in January, some £1600 was sent out for the Health Centre Toilets.

We are grateful to the Sutcliff Baptist Church for helping us with their annual sponsored walk.



We never miss an opportunity to raise funds! Here we are at the Broughton Centre, Milton Keynes

BARN DANCE



with **Winnie and the Whirly Pits**

Carlton House Club
Saturday 12 March
8 'til Late £8 [Bar facilities available]
Tickets available from:
Phonebox, Stanley Court
Carlton House Club
Or Telephone 01234 711751
All Profits to Olney-Newton Link

NEWSLETTER UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!!

From the next issue (May 2011), Chloe Kegg will be taking over the Editorship of the ONL Newsletter.

Chloe has worked in Sierra Leone and has much experience of the country.

We wish her every success with the newsletter.

I am most grateful for your support over the past seventeen issues. Please keep your contributions coming in to Chloe—her contact details are at the foot of this page.

Sheila Ware
Editor

Could YOU become a Trustee?

The Olney to Newton Link are looking for local residents who are interested in the Link's work to come and join us as a trustees. The work is not onerous, and you can chose just how involved you would like to be. There are regular committee meetings usually about every two months and the occasional fundraising event, but how much time you want to give is up to you.

It is a very rewarding role knowing that you are helping to improve the quality of life and learning of those living in Newton, Sierra Leone. Over the years we have assisted in various ways, supplying computers, books etc. assisting with the development of housing, a skills centre for learning, and we have established links and support for their local schools.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rachel Lintern at: blintern@aol.com

Items for the next Newsletter will be welcomed by the new editor, Chloe Kegg.

Email: chlokegg@yahoo.co.uk

The next deadline is:
Friday 20th May 2011



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

Saturday 19 February 7.30pm	Music for Newton—an evening of colourful orchestral music at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Olney
Tuesday 8 March a.m.	Pancake Day—ONL stall
Saturday 12 March 8.00pm	Barn Dance—with Winnie and the Whirly Pits at The Carlton House Club, Olney
Wednesday 30 March 10.00am—1.00pm	Coffee morning—in aid of the Link and the Friends of All Saints, Emberton, at 18 Colsons Way, Olney (Sheila Ware)
Wednesday 18 May 7.30pm	Annual General Meeting—Gravett Hall, Sutcliffe Baptist Church, Olney
Saturday 25 June	Cherry Fair—ONL stall
Saturday 2 July	Summer Fair at Olney Infant School—ONL stall



Adama Kargbo and her three year old daughter from Makarayvon village.

Adama is pictured with her new goats—the ninth set to be given to beneficiaries.

Members of the **Sutcliff Baptist Church** have donated £500 to the Link. This money was sent to James (Brima) Kabia to be used in the continued refurbishment of the Baptist Chapel in Newton.

BBC NEWS Africa **Extreme world: dying**

This article was too long to print for the newsletter, but it's an extremely worthwhile and moving read.

Click on the link or paste it into your browser:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12343178>

LAVENDON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR 2010

This year's fair took place on a wet, cold Saturday in early December. Despite the inauspicious start, the afternoon proved to be a big success. Our stall selling mainly Christmas tree decorations, Sheila's ever popular knitted Santas and other Christmassy items, experienced a slowish start, but the baubles suddenly became a drawing point..... After that things went from strength to strength and we felt the effort was well worth it.

As usual, we received a warm welcome from Janet, the staff and parents, including a restorative cup of tea. Best of all was the enthusiasm of the pupils. They seemed so interested in the Link's work and helping to raise funds.

We look forward to next year. Thank you, Lavendon.

COFFEE MORNING!



Wednesday 30 March
11.00—1.00pm

18 Colsons Way, Olney, MK46 5EQ

Please come and join us—just drop in for a few minutes or stay longer. There will be a 'Bring and Buy'.

Proceeds to the Olney-Newton Link and Friends of All Saints Church, Emberton

Sheila Ware