

# Olney—Newton Link

February 2014

Registered Charity 1117694

**ONL**



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

[www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk](http://www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk)

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### Contact:

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## **Contribute for conveniences to combat cholera!**



The proposed building

# Nowhere to go?



There are no toilet facilities in Newton for public use. What do you do? A dash for the bush? What about snakes, scorpions, the danger of being a woman alone in the bush at night... Not to mention disease carried by flies onto your food and excrement lying around everywhere. It is little surprise that there have been numerous outbreaks of cholera this year.

We have been asked to provide materials so they can build a set of four toilets, two each for men and women.

We'd like to pull the chain on cholera! So we are asking you to spend a penny and complete the form on the back page to tell us what you can give.

50p buys a concrete block. 80p a paintbrush. £5 a roof board. £10 a bag of nails. £12 a bag of whitewash. £50 a toilet and seat. £76 a steel door (wood is eaten by termites).

**Together we can defy disease.**

# Progress so far

From Newton...

Hi Mum,

I wish u all a HAPPY BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR. Attached to this email are photos of Newton public toilet photos we received from Mr Sesay.

Thank you very much for all efforts been made for the progress of our community.  
Thanks & God bless u.

Mabinty Sesay (Newton Treasurer)



The next stage is making the concrete blocks.

See the back page to send your donation.



## The Dyson Bursary

Congratulations go to Saidu Bangura who has been awarded the Dyson Bursary of £500 on the recommendation of the Newton Committee. Saidu was a pupil at the Ahmadiyya Agricultural Secondary School and he is now studying Business Administration. Rachel and Brian hope to meet Saidu on their visit to Newton in April.

*Items for the next Newsletter will be welcomed by the Editor, Janet Howe. E mail: [olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com)*

*The next deadline is:  
Friday 25th April 2014*



# A Remarkable Concert



As I walked into the Great Hall at Bedford School I couldn't help being impressed by the surroundings. Catherine Rose had chosen the venue to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, largely because it was the only place available to book on a Sunday that had an organ, an essential ingredient of what she had planned as her birthday present to herself.

Catherine had wanted to conduct an orchestra to play "An Alpine Symphony" by Richard Strauss for some time so the occasion of her birthday presented her with an ideal opportunity to realise her dream. She invited her many musical contacts to play and managed to assemble around 120 musicians (no mean feat in itself) to come together on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October. The orchestra rehearsed during the day and the early evening performance to invited guests formed the centrepiece of the party.

The magnificence of the setting was matched by the splendour of hearing so many musicians playing together in one orchestra. The sheer range of instruments, including two harps, was breathtaking, as was the sheer dynamic range offered by such an enormous orchestra. The piece portrays a day climbing in the mountains, beginning with a most evocative and unforgettable depiction of sunrise and moving through a soundscape of the many different emotions and experiences of alpine life. A truly amazing visual and aural experience which was greatly enjoyed by both the audience and the players, all of whom felt honoured to be part of such an occasion.

Catherine also raised funds for three charities by requesting donations instead of gifts. £297 was raised for Olney -Newton Link.

Sheila Woodhead

# A Dickens of a Day!



Thank you to all who supported us at Dickens. This year we had a bottle tombola, using donations provided by many generous people—companies in Olney and friends of the link, thank you everyone — and a children's tombola with soft toy prizes (editor's note: my daughter's bedroom is much clearer now!). The magnificent sum of £849 was raised.

# Singin' in the Rain

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT-----

Some of us are still laughing about what happened next! The afternoon of December 23rd was dire with driving rain and wind but by 6 o'clock it had stopped raining and there was no wind. Off I went into the Market Square and was soon joined by 10 other intrepid Carol Singers including the Heron family who provide the music, an essential ingredient! We decided to give the residents of Chantry Rise the benefit of our talents this year but soon after we arrived under the first lamp post it started to drizzle. This got steadily worse until after about half an hour we were drenched. Silent Night under a lamp post with rain dripping down one's neck and penetrating all the little places was an experience! Was it worth it? YES INDEED! We collected in that short time £118.45! Some was, no doubt, sympathy money but from the comments that have appeared on Facebook it did no harm to our PR!



Thank you to all who contributed to this unforgettable experience!  
Rachel Lintern

## Car Raffle

Thank you to all those who bought tickets for the Community Car Raffle, which will be drawn on 15th February. £138 was raised for the link.



## Market Trading

Thank you to Olney Town Council for allowing us to run a market stall which raised a small sum of money for the link and recycled a number of books and toys.



## Computers to Newton

We have had several requests over recent months for computers and laptops but we had stopped sending them due to the imposition of Import Duty which put them beyond our reach financially. However we have recently learned of another shipping company who promised us that once we had paid them their charges for collection and boxing there would be no further charges payable. At the time of writing the 2 PCs we sent for the Skills Centre and 2 laptops for the Secondary School are still on their way. Fingers crossed! Rachel



## A 'Souper' Gathering?

Four pans of soup, all different colours and flavours, were bubbling away on the cooker; the table looked good with some really scrummy home-made bread. Five minutes later there was a lively buzz of conversation as the diners began to arrive and join in the fun of choosing which soup to try.

The result? A very happy time and the magnificent sum of £303 for our 'Loos for Newton' project. A huge thank you to Sheila and Tony for hosting the event, to Anne, Rose, Sheila and Rachel for providing the soup, to Tony to making some lovely bread and to all who came along and supported us.

Yes, we will do it again!



**HELP NEEDED**— We are collecting tombola prizes again, for our stall at the Cherry Fair. Have you got anything you could donate? Please give items to any trustee.



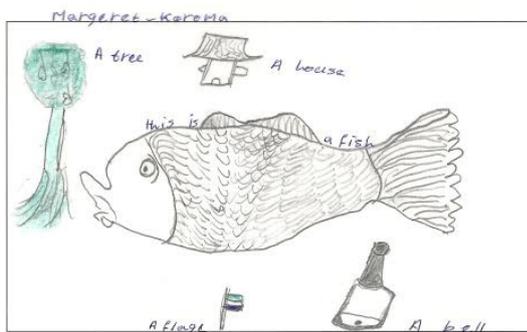
# Schools' Report

All the schools here have recently received work or letters from the children in Newton. Last October the children in Olney and Lavendon described what school is like for them. They wrote about their lessons, what happens at lunchtime, their uniform and all the clubs that are available at school. This was sent out with blank paper so that the children in Sierra Leone could write about their school life also.

When we received the work back a few weeks ago the children here were very excited to read about their friends in Newton. They were very interested in how some things were very different but also that there were a lot of similarities, like playing football.

The sharing of this work is essential if we are to be successful in applying for another grant to enable the teachers from both countries to visit their link schools.

Marilyn Watkins



My name is Margeret Korama. I am in year six. The top diagrams are tree, house fish, bell, flag. In the drawings above. I love fish. I sometimes goes to the streams and watch how fishes do swim. The flag that you see is our national flag.



My name is Serie Karama. I am in class six. I draw the following diagrams. The diagrams are @Palm tree @hut @Lorry. I love the hut because during the dry season it is very comfortable to sleep in. The atmosphere is cool inside. When ever we have hot hours in the day season.

## **STOP PRESS MK Half Marathon & Festival of Running**

Isobel and Alexandra Howe are running in the Milton Keynes Half Marathon. Will you reward their efforts and sponsor them to raise funds for the ONL? To find out more visit <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Howe>



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2014

Tuesday 4th March	<b>Olney Pancake Race</b> — support our stall
Wednesday 7th May	<b>AGM</b> — everyone welcome (venue to be confirmed)
In the summer	<b>60s / 70s Disco</b>

More details can be found on our website: [www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk](http://www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk)

## CORPORATE MEMBERS SCHEME

We are already fortunate to receive support from local businesses, both financial and practical. We have decided to formalise this arrangement and to offer the opportunity to join the scheme to a wider range of business within the area who may not be fully cognisant with the charity. The scheme will provide existing supporters with greater and more tangible recognition as well. Corporate members will be requested to sponsor the Link's work through a series of packages, briefly:

**Bronze Membership**, £50 per annum – Benefits:- your website link and name on ONL's website.

**Silver Membership**, £100 per annum – Benefits:- your website and name and description on ONL's website and your company name and logo in our newsletter.

**Gold Membership**, £150 per annum – Benefits:- your website name and link and profile (maximum 30 words) on ONL's website and listing as sponsor in newsletter and logo.

**Platinum Membership**, £500 per annum - Benefits; link, profile (maximum 200 words) on ONL website, logo and advert carrying their logo in newsletter

Our very grateful thanks to those who have already joined the scheme—**David Coles, Heron Opticians, J Garrard & Allen, Souls Garages and Stephen Oakley.**

### GOLD

	<p><b>J Garrard &amp; Allen</b>, Solicitors, has been established for over 200 years. The firm has a local and international clientele. We like to provide a friendly, efficient and prompt service to our clients, many of whom have been with us for years. The firm is pleased to sponsor the Link's work. For more details of the areas of law covered by the firm, please view the website—<a href="http://www.jgalaw.co.uk">www.jgalaw.co.uk</a></p>
	<p><b>Heron Opticians</b> a friendly, professional family business.</p>
	<p><b>David Coles Architects</b></p>

### SILVER

	<p><b>Stephen Oakley</b></p>
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### BRONZE

<p><b>Souls Garages</b></p>
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# Commit a little cash... to make a splash in Sierra Leone!

To the Olney-Newton link: I want to help fight disease in Newton

Tick to buy	Cost	Item
	50p	Concrete block
	80p	Paint brush
	£5	Roof board
	£10	Box of nails
	£12	Bag of whitewash
	£50	Toilet pan and seat
	£76	Steel door

I will contribute £.....

Please contact me on .....(Telephone)

Name .....

Signed .....

Please give this form to a trustee with your donation  
or e mail it to

[olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com) and we will contact you.

