

# Olney—Newton Link

November 2013

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)

## ONL Trustees

Rachel Lintern—Chair  
Anne McCallum—Vice Chair  
Tricia Selwood—Treasurer  
Janet Howe—Secretary  
Paul Collins  
Tom James  
Claire Lintern  
Brian Partridge  
Marilyn Watkins  
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## ONL Committee, Newton

Valicious King—Chair  
Abu Bakarr Fofana—Secretary  
Mabinty Sesay—Treasurer  
Mariatu Kamara  
Oseh Jones  
Mohamed Y Sesay  
Doris Harding  
Unisa Turay  
Mohamed Koroma

## Contact:

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

## Help needed, please!

We are collecting for a tombola. Bottles of anything are needed—shampoo, washing up liquid, car cleaner, wine, beer, even champagne!



Perhaps you could take advantage of those ‘Buy 2 get 1 free offers’ and give the link (any trustee) the one that cost nothing?



## The Skills Centre



See page 2 for a report from Newton

## BBQ raises £530 for Newton



The weather wasn't brilliant but the occasion was!

More photographs page 4

# The Skills Centre



This report has just been received from  
Abu Bakarr Forfana,  
Secretary, Newton Committee:



## **1. Status of the skills training centre.**

*The skills centre project is near completion. we have just completed the other building. This presupposes that among the three building, we have successfully completed the two. The building left to be completed is the administrative building. We have plastered the inside and outside the building, what is left to be done is as follows*

*a, paving the rooms*

*b, tiling the floor*

*c, sealing the roof*

*d, Electrification of the building*

*e, internal toilet system*

*f, Internal Doors.*

*We have send over to you a photo on the status of the building two weeks ago. We have barely three weeks to reopen the institute. At the moment the inst. needs more computers. Some of the computers sent last are not in good order. We are also raising the toilet that was damaged during the heavy down rain pour.*

# The Skills Centre

## **2. The opening of the college in October.**

*In April 2013 we decided to partner with an affiliate college with the University of Sierra Leone to establish a formal polytechnic in the centre. We partner with the Institute of Business Administration and Technology to offer the followings*

*Bachelor's degree*

*Higher certificates and Diplomas*

*Ordinary Diplomas and Certificates*

*We have established terms and agreement on how the partnership will have to operate. This provision was made possible out of the desire to capacitate our drop out youths from school and also make provision for those with university requirement who cannot afford to pay huge amount on transportation. we have suggested to hold a stakeholders meeting by the end of the month and a general meeting to intimate the Newton community on the holistic development of the link. The programme will be proudly launched; video clips and photos will be sent over to you. Of course Claire who is in Sierra Leone will be invited to be in attendance and to make a statement on behalf of your committee.*

*Abu Bakarr Forfana, on behalf of the Newton Committee. 17th September*



# ONL Barbecue August 2013

This was a delightful occasion, very well attended despite the uncertain nature of the weather. It provided the chance to catch up with all Claire Lintern's news from her year in Sierra Leone and time to chat to friends old and new whilst enjoying a delicious repast. Thank you, Anne and Rob for the superb catering and for hosting the event in your lovely garden.



To persuade you not to miss out next time, there were barbecued meats including delicious marinated lamb, tasty local sausages, some wholesome veggie treats, a plethora of healthy salads and desserts to die for!

Best of all, £530 was raised which has already been sent to Newton to continue the development of the skills centre.



*Items for the next Newsletter would be welcomed by the Editor, Janet Howe.*

*Email: [olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com)*

*The next deadline is:  
Friday 31st January 2014*



# The ONL Trustees

The trustees meet quarterly to discuss all matters relating to the Link.

In September items under consideration included

- The Dyson Bursary—a bequest that provides education for a person nominated by the Newton Committee
- Applications we have submitted requesting funding for schools projects in Newton
- How to encourage people to set up standing orders to donate to the Link
- Requests from Newton: community toilets are needed for the village to prevent the spread of dysentery and cholera. The estimated cost is £16,000.
- The provision of more, newer computers for the Skills Centre.
- The updating of our web site.



From time to time we have vacancies for members to join the trustees. Please do let Rachel Lintern know if you are interested in helping in this way.

## Black History Month

Black History Month is held every October in the UK. Its aims are:

To promote knowledge of Black history, culture and heritage

Disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British society

Heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage



Did you see our display in the Olney Centre? A fascinating timeline describing the history of the link over the past 10 years.



## The Competition of the Year! ONL QUIZ

Olney Centre, Friday 15th November, 7 15 for 7 30pm

Teams of up to 6 people, £8 per person, including a buffet supper

Tickets in advance from

Rachel (01234 711751), CT Wilson, Café Rosco or Orchard Press.

# Life in Sierra Leone — by Claire Lintern

Claire wrote this for *Phonebox*. It's worth reading.

After spending a year in Sierra Leone it seems very odd to be back amongst the land of power, water, and plenty. In these troubled financial times saying the latter may bring on a snort- and believe me I can understand the reaction. So why is it important to keep supporting the local charities such as Olney- Newton Link?

Sierra Leone has definitely come a long way since my first visit 10 years ago. Then the people were lethargic, traumatised and in desperate need of any help to basically survive. Their tenacity as well as other people's generosity has meant the nation has picked itself up and made dramatic improvements to quality of life. Schools run, exams are passed, degrees awarded, jobs created, families cared for, weddings, christenings funerals and so on. In other words LIFE- the same responsibilities, dreams and frustrations as everyone else in the world. The difference is that financially the whole country is on a precipice, and it needs foreign investment to help any further move forward.

This is where charities come in, and do a vital job. The little guy, the ones that don't make the news headlines are the people who MAKE a nation, live in it, work in it, rejoice in it. Yet often they are forgotten about by the big political machines- where investment in roads, infrastructure and banking become the by- words. NGOs on the other hand provide aid to assist in the development of opportunities for simple yet valuable changes. ONL for example not only has created training opportunities with the skills centre, but toilets for the schools so diseases can be controlled, health equipment for the local doctors and nurses, repairs to the water well, building houses when the people of Newton were returning home from being refugees. These small projects have made a massive difference to so many faceless people- the importance cannot be overemphasized.

I noticed how many NGOs were in evidence in Sierra Leone and that tells us something. The country needs us to continue in any small way (or big) that we can. A pound here, a donation there, an evening out for a concert, or a quiz, buying a raffle ticket all adds up to a new boost for somebody and surely that has to be a GOOD THING. We're not asking for the world, just occasional support so that the money (and with the local charities you are sure its 100%) goes to the community.

If there's one thing to consider in this time of financial constraints, treating others as we wish to be treated should be a mantra for us all. And that includes having the foundations for a good, healthy and happy life. And if we have the chance to assist others, why don't we take it? And that's what giving to charity in any method is all about.



# Receiving The Newsletter

In the past, the newsletter was sent to those who had become a 'friend' of the ONL and made a contribution of £10 per annum. With the advent of the electronic newsletter, the subscription was no longer needed to cover the production costs of paper, ink and copying. We would now like to encourage everyone to make a contribution to the work of the Link by setting up a standing order, to donate a small amount each year, on which we would be able to claim gift aid.

Currently we are trying to raise funds for:

Ahmadiyya Agricultural Primary School Staff Room — £5000

Two sets of Community Toilets— £16,000

Completion of the Skills Centre— £10,000



Can you help? Unlike large charities, more than 99% of the money we raise goes directly to Newton. All our helpers here and in Newton are volunteers, giving their time and skills free of charge—no salaries are paid to anyone— and we have no expensive office to maintain in either place.

Contact Tricia Selwood (01234 712919) or any trustee.

Every penny counts to those who struggle in Africa.

## Schools' News

We are currently applying for another grant to enable more teachers from the UK and Newton schools to visit their link school. To meet the criteria we have to work on a collaborative project. Our theme is schools and the pupils in the UK have been busy taking photos, drawing and explaining what happens on a day to day basis. They have included descriptions of where lunch is eaten, what happens in the playground and various lessons. This work has now been sent out to Newton with paper for the pupils there to write about their school day. It is hoped that this will be returned to us by Christmas. Through this all schools should have a better understanding of life in another country.

Marilyn Watkins



This photo was taken at our last teachers' meeting

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2013

Friday 15th November 7.30pm	<b>QUIZ</b> Olney Centre. Tickets £8 each person (to include a buffet supper) from Rachel, CT Wilson, Café Rosco and Orchard Press. Teams of up to 6 people. Book in advance
Sunday 8th December	<b>Dickens of a Christmas</b>
Friday 24th January	<b>Soup Lunch</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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