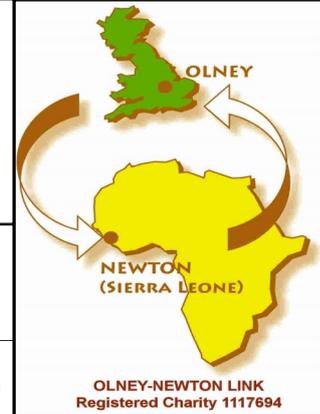


Olney—Newton Link



“To advance education and to relieve poverty

in the village of Newton, Sierra Leone, by the provision of charitable assistance”

February 2018

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL

OLNEY-NEWTON LINK
Registered Charity 1117694



All’s well that ends well!

Valicious King, Chairman of the Newton Committee messaged us on 11th November 2017 —
“First water well project completed. We appreciate you so much for providing clean drinking water for the people of Newton.”



Out to Play!

The pre-school set out on a visit, resplendent in their different coloured T shirts.
 More details inside...

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All's well that ends well!

The first well has been completed and the second is well under way (sorry about that pun!). Valicious King, Chairman, Newton Committee, reported on 14th January that the first phase of the second well was finished. We have now sent out the money for its completion, so hopefully there will be more photographs in the next newsletter.



Val checking out the construction



And his relieved report to us—
"That's water in the well!"

Obituary

The Olney- Newton Link were very sad to hear of the death of Mrs Linda Joyce on January 6th 2018. Linda was a founder member of the Link which was formed in September 2001; she acted as treasurer until 1 January 2005. During that time the committee, under the Chairmanship of Rena Partridge, undertook the building and repair of houses in Newton, most of which are still in use today. She and her husband Ian have remained generous donors to the Link.

Rachel Lintern



Pre School Visit to Katu Town

The pre-school children and some of their parents and carers went out for the day in December to the Agricultural Station in Katu Town. They all sported brand new T shirts, in different colours, to make it easier to keep an eye on the groups.

Mabinty sent a request to Rachel asking if some of the Olney Committee would mind their names being used for the children's 'houses'. Said committee members were consulted, agreed, and these are the photos of the respective groups.

Tricia's team



Brian's Team



Anne's team



Janet's Team



They sported very elaborate hair dos!

This is Mabinty Sesay, Newton Treasurer and Preschool Manager, helping a young boy who has unfortunately suffered an amputation.



It Makes You Think!

We all know in our heart of hearts that things we take for granted in this country are often at a premium in the Third World. Sierra Leone is no exception, and these are just a few of the things we learned from our daughter Claire and son-in-law Mahmoud who live in the heart of Sierra Leone, while they were visiting us recently.

Water in the capital Freetown is so scarce that all residents are only allowed it every other day.

Power comes and goes. This not only affects lighting but also banks and everything done by computer. ATMs are frequently 'out of use', renewing things like car licences, passports and visa applications often impossible. Fridges and freezers are unreliable.

There is only one fire station in Freetown and none in the other cities.

Public Sector pay is very poor e.g. teachers earn just over £50 per month but have to pay the equivalent of Social Security and income tax. This should lead to a pension but for public sector workers it is promised but often several years late being given.

Toll roads are being introduced but drivers pay to get on and then again to leave.

There are no vets. Sick animals are given simple human drugs or nothing.

All children attending school must wear uniform but as it is so hot this has to be washed every day. Most children only have 1 set of uniform and wash their own every day. Many children do not have shoes. Parents are often criticised for smacking or even beating but how do you discipline children when they have nothing to be deprived of?

On the other hand:

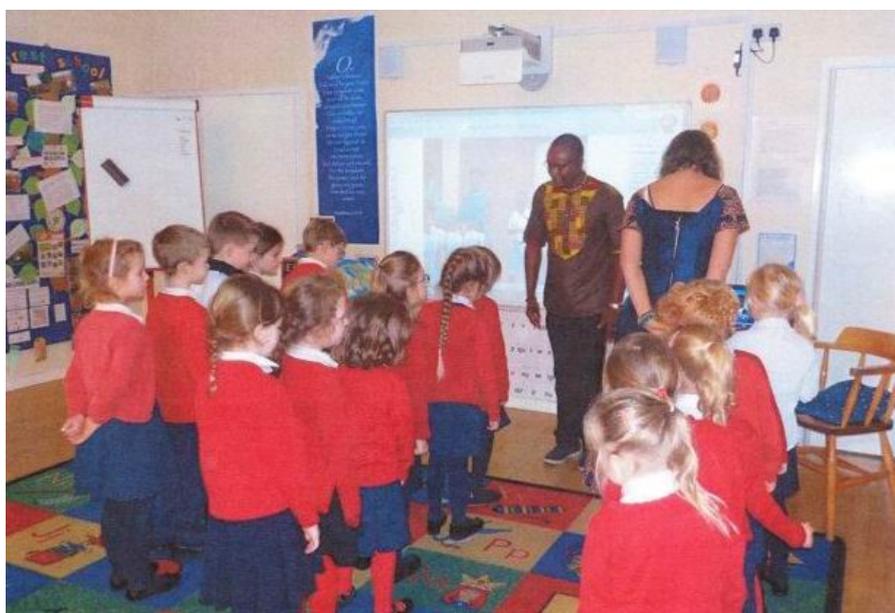
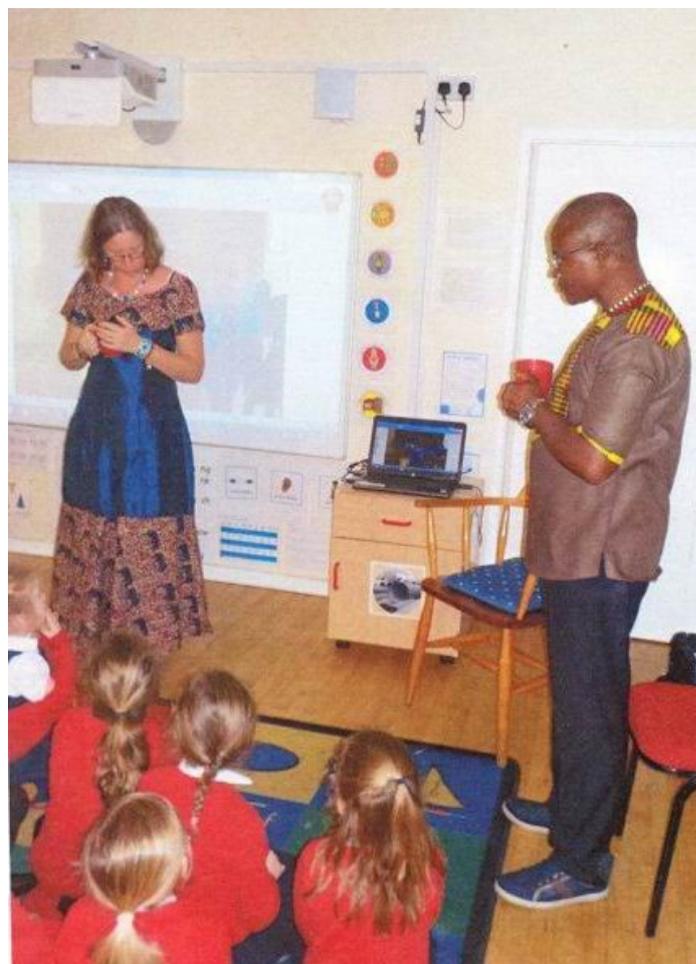
The weather is much better!

Although good quality drinking water is supplied in plastic bags, food is not wrapped in plastic and is fresh to buy.

There is a much stronger support system within the community and the broader family.

Rachel Lintern

Schools' News



Newton Blossomville School are building a link with the Huntington Primary School in Newton.

Claire and Mahmoud Tarawally visited the children recently to tell them more about life in Newton.

News from Newton

The Olney—Newton Link is non-political and non-religious but we are delighted to report that the secretary of the Newton Committee, Abu Bakarr Fofana, has been chosen as a parliamentary candidate for the forthcoming General Elections in Sierra Leone. We cannot offer him any support from the Link but as individuals wish him success. He sent these photographs of his adoption rally and I am including them because they are wonderful depictions of African life. A huge gathering of local chiefs assembled to be entertained and to listen to political speeches.

Those of you at the AGM a couple of years ago might remember seeing a video of a similar event, taken when the three teachers (Marilyn, Sheila and Janet) from Olney and Lavendon were in Newton. An amazing occasion with mind blowing entertainment (and very, very long speeches).



Sewing School

In the last newsletter, we reported that we had sent sewing machines to Brima James Kabia in Newton, so he could set up a dressmakers/tailoring business for young people who have missed out on education.

We are delighted that the project has started — Brima sent these photographs recently.

The tutor has suggested that they start the enterprise with 5 pupils, rather than the 10 James had hoped for. He also says that they will need at least 2 more electric sewing machines. We are so pleased the project is progressing. Anne

The tutor is testing the machines.



Mariatu, using the treadle



Fund Raising

ONL 'Northern' Branch

Thank you to Sarah Dewey for raising £50 for the Link recently from selling cards. Thank you too, Sarah, for acquiring 150 calculators and some maths books and exercise books which have all been sent out to Newton and distributed to the secondary schools.

And for holding a Bonfire Party in aid of the Link!



T H E Q U I Z

Our annual quiz—again very enjoyable thanks to Rob challenging us with the questions, Brian keeping track of the scores and Rachel, Tricia, Jenny, Rose, Sally, Noriko, Anne, Sue and Janet cooking and serving.

Nearly £600 was raised for the link and another £125 from the raffle which this year was sent to the Freetown Mudslide Relief Fund.

Thank you to all the helpers and thank you to all who attended, Sierra Leone is very grateful for your support.

Final scores...

- 129 The Crickets
- 127 Simons late again
- 122 Just Four
- 121 Barbers of Seville
- 120 Five go to a Quiz
- 120 Famous Five
- 113 Craft
- 112 The Fab Four
- 111 The Ever Hopeful
- 109 We're Struggling
- 105 One Stoppers
- 87 Five plus One

Simon's Late Again



The Crickets



The teams



Who was Italian prime minister from 2001 to 2011?

Which can go longer without a drink - a rat or a camel?
What's the name for a group of peacocks?

What was the second record played on Radio 1?

The Kitchen



Helpers



MK Car Raffle

Thank you Tricia, Sue, Sally, Jenny, John and Janet for helping sell tickets. About £80 was raised for the Link and the same amount for MK Community charities.



Lavendon School Christmas Fayre

Our stall was not particularly busy as it was a bit out of the way but the children enjoyed our game lots (finding coins hidden in 'snow') and we sold some lovely willow wreaths made by Sue. £34 was raised.



Dickens of a Christmas

Many bottles were sold even before my shift started at 1pm. We had to send for the emergency stocks! It was a warm day, almost too warm, very unusual for Dickens. I have never been too hot at Dickens before! I expect my normal thermals will be useful again next year though.

We had an excellent site opposite a fish and chip shop - but it was so tantalising! Anne weakened while we clearing up, and shared her chips, they were delicious! An indication of how busy it was were the huge traffic jams in Olney, not easy for those of us coming from MK and trying to park.

Thank you to all who donated bottles, gave soft toys, made wreaths, trees and stockings and the many people who helped man the stall. A grand total of over £1100 was raised.

Janet



Open House

Lynda Barber, the Chairperson of Folio (Friends of the Library in Olney) kindly held an Open House Day at her home, in aid of The Olney Newton Link on Thursday December 14th 2017.

Visitors were able to enjoy mulled wine, beverages and delicious homemade cakes whilst browsing amongst the many crafts, cards, cakes (made by Lynda), original watercolours and Christmas decorations on sale. A raffle, with many prizes to be won, was also held.

A total of £80 was raised for the Link.

The Olney Newton Link would like to thank Lynda very much for her support and for hosting this event.

Rose

Carol Singing

The Olney Newton Link would like to thank:

Rachel, Claire, Tom, Jenny, Sue D, Malcolm, Sally, Sian, Ria and Kian AND our organisers Sue, Andrew, Bethany and Jonathan for another successful carol singing evening

A total of £101.21 was raised. Tricia

24 Doors Carols

Simon Barker told us that thanks to with significant donations from the Olney Runners and the Olney Academy, they raised over £2300! Absolutely fantastic! The Olney Newton Link has received a cheque for £585!

Thank you very much to all the singers.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

Tuesday 13th February	Support our Pancake Day stall
Tuesday 13th March	Ousedale School Concert
Friday 23rd March	Soup Lunch
Saturday 28th April	Windmill Singers Concert
Wednesday 16th May	AGM

More details can be found on our website: www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

CORPORATE MEMBERS SCHEME

We are fortunate to receive support from local businesses, both financial and practical. Corporate members sponsor the Link's work through a series of packages:

Bronze Membership, £100 per annum – Benefits:- your website link and name on ONL's website.

Silver Membership, £150 per annum – Benefits:- your website and name and description on ONL's website and your company name and logo in our newsletter.

Gold Membership, £200 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, Novalex Solicitors, Souls Garages and Stephen Oakley.**

GOLD

	David Coles Architects
	J Garrard & Allen , 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— www.jgalaw.co.uk
	Heron Opticians a friendly, professional family business.
	Do you want high quality, commercial legal advice for your business as well as excellent value for your money? If so, call Novalex Solicitors on 01908 440020 or email karen.mason@novalex.co.uk .
	Stephen Oakley
	Souls Garages

SILVER

BRONZE

The next newsletter will be published shortly after the AGM in May.

Letters, comments and articles are welcome.

Send to the editor, Janet Howe.

Email: olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com

