

# Olney—Newton Link

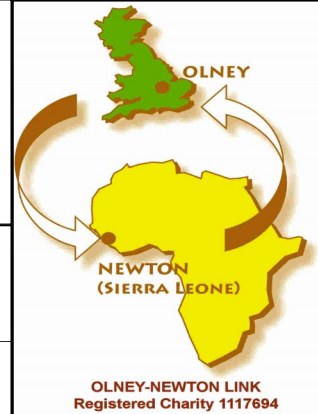
*“To advance education and to relieve poverty*

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

**November 2018**

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

**ONL**



## The Newton Preschool



The PreSchool is thriving! The toilets are under construction and the building is continuing to expand—further classrooms are being completed.

### In this edition...

The Preschool..... 2,3

3 wells!..... 3

Tailoring, Carpentry, Toys and Hoodies to Newton..... 4,5

World Health Organisation Report..... 6

Fund Raising..... 7

# The PreSchool

The PreSchool is thriving with nearly 200 children enrolled this Autumn. This report (including photographs) was received from Mabinty Sesay, the manager of the project.

*Hi all, thanks very much for the good work you have been doing in our community.*

*Update on the ongoing projects: i.e. Pre school and toilets*

*For the toilets we have completed wall height we are now preparing to do roofing, plastering, tiling and a lot more.*

*Pre school: we have finished paving the floor, and doing the ceilings of the classrooms. We are now waiting to do the plastering and painting and many more. The preschool is going on well. We have admitted over two hundred pupils which we need to add two more teachers and a caregiver.*

*As we promised the last time we going to charge the parents this academic year; they have agreed to pay Le 20,000 twenty thousand per term. This money will be spent for the smooth running of the school while awaiting government approval. Meanwhile this money can't be enough to pay teachers. Parents have shown so much interest to send their kids in the Pre school. We hope to enrol more pupils for the second term. Thank you all.*

The children currently being enrolled are not 'Ebola orphans' and so charging parents a small sum is a good way of making the preschool viable. 20,000 Leones is about £2. The Olney Newton Link cannot employ people in Sierra Leone so we are unable to help by directly paying salaries. Building the toilet block means that the preschool complies with government regulations and so will be able to be registered and get government funding.

Classroom  
floor



Pupils



Ceiling being  
constructed







View looking North, The preschool is on the left.  
On the right is the Institute (Skills Training Centre)



Preschool

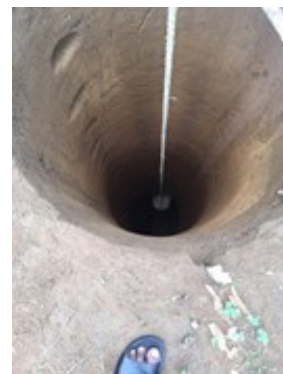
Site of toilets



Construction of toilets

## Well, well, and WELL!

The third well in Newton has been completed and we have received these photographs from Valicious King, Newton Chairman.



# Tailoring Apprentices on Brima's veranda

We are continuing to support Brima James Kabia's tailoring project. The photographs show his apprentices practising their skills on the veranda of his house. He hopes to erect a separate building for them, as in the rainy season they can't be outdoors.

We have recently sent out an overlocking machine for them to further develop their skills: thank you to the extremely generous private donor. The project is intended to be self supporting, the students will create garments and household linens and sell them to fund costs.



## Certificate of Service

Abu Bakarr Forfana, who served as Secretary and Administrator for many years has been elected Member of Parliament for Newton. The Olney Committee has sent a Certificate to Bakarr in recognition of his 15 years of wonderful service

Claire Tarawally presenting the certificate





# Carpentry Training

Recently we were approached by an elderly lady whose beloved husband had died and she was faced with clearing his shed. She wondered if the woodworking tools he had lovingly collected over the years would be appreciated by anyone in Sierra Leone. We contacted our friend Brima James Kabia who immediately came up with the names of two carpenters both of whom employ and train young people. They are Samuel Bangura and Mr Massaqui. A short video of the two men receiving and thanking the donor was also received and passed on to her.

A wonderful outcome from a sad situation.

Rachel Lintern



## Toys and Clothes to Preschool

We have received a collection of toys from Newton Blossomville School via Emma Wallace and the photograph is part of the collection which will go out to the Pre-school. We also received a collection of 'hoodies' for the preschool and a substantial donation. Thank you to all the children and their parents!



We also received a collection of toys from Olney Infant Academy (thanks to Debby Hollingsworth for organising it).

## Sierra Leone News: Lack of access to clean water, toilets puts children's education at risk

Millions of children are going to school without basic hygiene facilities, and the goal of universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene remains “a huge challenge,” the United Nations warned on Monday 27th August 2018.

In Sierra Leone, the report noted, only 19.0% of people wash their hands with soap after contact with faeces; 66.3% wash with water only and 14.7% did not wash their hands at all. Hand washing practices are poorer before contact with food with 10.2% washing their hands with water and soap, 48.3% with water only and 41.5% do not wash their hands at all.

In addition to the lack of wash facilities, inconsistent access to soap is another of the big barriers. The compliance to the national standards in schools is a big challenge, the report said. “Only 9.5% of schools have water supply facilities up to the standards in their school compound. And half of them are not functional.” The report concludes that 4.6% of primary schools meet the national standards in sanitation facilities adding that schoolchildren in 40.4% of surveyed schools practice open defecation in school and non-existence of latrines and lack of privacy such as no doors are three leading causes of open defecation.

The annual report is produced by the World Health Organization/UN Childrens Fund Joint Monitoring Programme. Kelly Ann Naylor, Global Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at UNICEF, said, “If education is the key to helping children escape poverty, access to water and sanitation is key to the well being and health of children to safely maximise their education.”

by Sylvia Villa

The full article can be read at

<https://awoko.org/2018/08/31/sierra-leone-news-lack-of-access-to-clean-water-toilets-puts-childrens-education-at-risk/>



A toilet block and water well which the ONL has funded.



Primitive handwashing facilities at the Ahmadiyya Primary School.

President Julius Maada Bio has announced a reform of the Sierra Leone State Education system, pledging funding to ensure free education for all up to mid senior school age and a legal requirement for parents to send children to school.





# Fund Raising

## AFTERNOON TEA

Luckily it was a fine afternoon, although not as hot as the rest of the summer. The cakes and scones were delicious (as always!) and the company good. What more is needed?

Well, (there's a pun there!) £356 was raised towards the well (now built) and preschool. Thank you to all who helped and baked and came, and to Anne and Rob for the venue...



## TINKERS LANE CONCERT

Sadly, I don't have any photos of this musical evening which was much enjoyed and a great success. Over £500 was raised which was wonderful!

Our thanks to **Ian Roberts** and his musical friends; **The Two Brewers** for the venue and the chilli; those who provided raffle prizes (including Amici, Desmond Smail, The Two Brewers and The Phonebox) and those who helped and came!

Aidan and Fatima Selwood are running in the **London Half Marathon** on 24th March 2019. Half of the funds they raise are going to WWF and half to the Olney Newton Link.

The donation page is now open

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=AidanSelwood1&pageUrl=1>

Training has begun. Help them please!



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2017

Friday 9th November	ONL Quiz - arrive at 7 15 for a prompt 7 30 start. £8.50 including supper.
Sunday 9th December	Dickens Day—Please support our stall!
2019	Watch this space!

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

	<b>David Coles Architects</b>
	<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>
	<b>Heron Opticians</b> 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 <a href="mailto:karen.mason@novalex.co.uk">karen.mason@novalex.co.uk</a> .
	<b>Stephen Oakley</b>
	<b>Souls Garages</b>

### SILVER

### BRONZE