

Olney—Newton Link

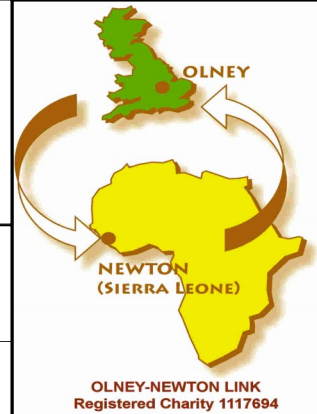
“To advance education and to relieve poverty

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

February 2019

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL



What's happening in Sierra Leone?

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To get in touch with The Olney-Newton Link contact Anne McCallum, Chair
Telephone 01234 711196

For the newsletter e mail:
olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com

Tailoring Apprentices

The ONL recently sent out an overlocking machine to James Kabia, to help in his efforts to train young people in tailoring. We received this message and these photos from him:

Good afternoon our good friends of Olney, I am very much pleased to let you know that I have with pleasure, I would have better say mind blowing gratitude and joy, that I have received the over locking machine. May I on my behalf and on the behalf of my people of KPOUBU-NEWTON thank you for your relentless efforts of putting smiles on the faces of my people. God bless you and keep you. Long live the Olney—NEWTON link. Stay blessed.

James Kabia



The trustees were also able to send funds to James to enable the building of a room in the grounds of James' house, so that the apprentices have shelter from the rain in the wet season.

Good morning, thank you for the information. I will check on Sierra Leone commercial (the bank) on the 22/01/2019. I will report to you the sooner I collect it. We will report on the purchase. I report on the activities. We have just noticed price change in the items e.g. the Zinc changed from le 1,100,000 to 1,300,000. The bricks from le 1500 to le 1800. Thank you all for actualising my dream and vision. At any time Ecobank finished with their process we will alert you all, that all other transactions will be done through it. Once more thank you all and stay blessed I will pay for the bricks and await it delivery buy the Zinc to avoid an unpredicted increase in the prices as it is now. I call and make advance payment to the mason team for the lay out as we await the bricks.

Good morning all, hope each and every one of us is good health. This is to let you know that the transferred funds are in my account now. As per my promise I am going to pay for the bricks and I will collect them as per the appointment of the producer. I will get the Zinc. I will keep you all posted as we progress.

James Kabia

Newton Preschool

Thank you to all of you who have supported our events and made generous donations so that we could continue to support the completion of the preschool building.

As you know, one classroom and the 'office' room have been in use for some time, and the children have benefited greatly from the provision made for their early years education. The numbers of children have increased so much that more space is needed and as the children are not all Ebola orphans any more, the preschool is making a small charge to fund teachers' salaries.

We were able to send more funds in the Autumn and work is well underway to complete the building. These photographs received in early December show the progress being made. We expect to see the finished building soon!

Decisions about what to do and how to do it are made by the Newton Committee. They know what is needed and how best to do it. The Olney Committee requests regular updates on progress and accounts to show how the funds are spent—we are accountable to you and we need to make sure that donations are used wisely. We do not pay any salaries to representatives in Sierra Leone—all the organisation is by unpaid volunteers, just like in Olney. You can be sure that almost 100% of the money donated here goes directly to help in Newton—our only costs are for incidental expenses (room hire for events, etc) and shipping charges.



Another classroom and the completed ceiling in the first room



The toilet block

OLNEY NEWTON LINK FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN FOR LE				
12,800,000 (TWELVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND LEONES) SENT FOR PRE SCHOOL COMPLETION				
NO	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	WING COST TOTAL COST
1.	PAINT	- EMULSION -	30 qts	120 = 3,600,000
2.	L	- OIL -	20 qts	125,000 = 2,500,000
3.	BOARDS	- FOR CEILING -	260 pbs	12,000 = 3,120,000
4.	WHITE WASH	- FOR PAINTING -	10 bags	100,000 = 1,000,000
5.	CARBOLEON	- WOOD PRESERVATIVE -	5 qts	100,000 = 500,000
6.	COVER STRIPES	- FOR CEILING -	13 bundles	45,000 = 585,000
7.	SAND	- FOR PLASTERING -	117 p	1,500,000 = 1,500,000
				<u>12,805,000</u>

We usually receive accounts as photographs through Whatsapp because the Newton Committee keeps paper records and can't send these by e mail.

This was received from Mabinty Sesay, Preschool manager and Newton Treasurer:

Pre school is going on well. We have completed plastering the Wall. We are now doing the white wash after sometime we do the painting as advised by the contractor. We still have constraints with the payment to staff. We also need sitting accommodation and more carpet for the pupils. We are constructing a temporal fence round the building as it is very important for a pre School to have fence. For the kids not to go outside the school compound. The toilet we have completed the cesspit and we are now trying to complete the building.

We are looking forward to more support so that the pre school can be a better place of learning for the kids of Newton and its environs. One more I thank you all. Attached to this are photos of pupils.

Mabinty Sesay



Toys for Preschool

And our thanks go to Olney Infant Academy too, who have collected even more games and toys for the Newton Preschool!



More from Mabinty:

Hi all. Hope all is well. Thanks very much for the lovely gifts we appreciate them in good faith and we will make sure we utilize them well. The children and parents are more happy for the coats they appreciate them most. Though not enough. We are appealing to you all to help them with whatever clothing type so that each and everyone will benefit. We thank you all.

Mabinty Sesay

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Mabinty has asked us to collect more hoodies/sweatshirts for the little children to wear in January when the cool Harmattan wind blows in Sierra Leone. Have you, or do you know, someone whose children have outgrown hoodies size 2-6 years which you could donate to them? **Give to any trustee or take to the Phonebox office.**

Toys...



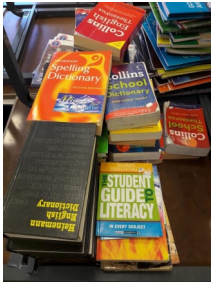
These lovely pictures have been received from Brima James Kabia who appealed for help with playthings for children.
Thank you to Newton Blossomville School and Olney Infant Academy for their generous donations.



Books for Schools—It all began in Barnsley...

The saga begins one bright day in early November. I mentioned the need for dictionaries and thesauri for schools in Newton and Sarah and David, who now live in Barnsley, posted a request for her friends on Facebook to check their shelves hoping to gather a few together.

However, we received a phone call later from Sarah saying the request for dictionaries had reached a local school that had closed, and they might have 'some' books. Would they be of any use to Newton schools and/or Claire's school in Bo. 'Yes, I'm sure they would' I replied. Little did we know what we had let ourselves in for!



Quite an amazing collection!



When they got to the school there some dictionaries and thesauri we had initially asked for but there were a lot more books than we had previously anticipated, all going spare and all would be highly appreciated in Sierra Leone.

David and Sarah with a volunteer from the school transported six car loads of books from the cellars and upper floors of the school (no gym sessions needed that week!). They found communicating via Facebook Messenger with Claire Tarawally was invaluable in helping them decide which were most useful in schools in Newton.

Over the following week, with Faith and Gemini (their granddaughters), David and Sarah sorted, checked and packed mainly French, English, Maths, Science text books. Among them we were thrilled to discover well over 30 brand new French books. They were also able to rescue other resources for primary children and for teachers. By the time they had finished there was enough fill 10 large (50L) boxes. Before they could be shipped out however Sarah needed to be advised on the process involved.

Shipping and buying packing boxes for all the books was over £400 and another Facebook message to their friends saw generous donations covering almost all of the costs with ONL making up the difference. Rockel Shipping Company are based in London but every few weeks they send a text to potential clients to say when their next foray round the country is to occur and if a collection is required. We also had 3 boxes of toys and clothes to send out so 13 boxes in all. This caused a bit of hesitation by Rockel but December 1st was arranged. This meant Sarah and her family storing the boxes in the house for a few weeks. Payment is in 2 parts, a collection charge of £40 plus £30/ box, payable by cheque to the van driver who...

...issues an invoice. This can become quite complicated if you are sending to more than one recipient, which we were. 4 invoices in total, 2 were with us in Olney and 2 with Sarah in Barnsley.

We all breathed a sigh of relief and settled down to enjoy Christmas.

On Jan 8th a text message from Rockel informed us that the boxes were available for collection from their Freetown depot. Newton is approx. 20 miles from Freetown. Cue text messages to all 3 Newton recipients to inform them of their carton's arrival. The problem was how to transport them, none of the recipients has a vehicle. 8 boxes of books were addressed Mr Komba Mbawa, headteacher of one of the schools involved so I alerted him to the fact that somehow transport needed to be arranged. Pause for thought. This was followed by a series of texts asking more questions about who is to receive the books and how he is to transport them to various schools in Newton when he has no transport. He was firmly told that we cannot help, he has to work that out himself. Another pause for thought. This was followed by a request for the invoice number. Cue several more texts as Sarah had mislaid the invoice so we had to work it out by another means. Komba then decided that the best way to get the boxes was to ask Rockel to deliver them but they were not answering their phones. (Often a problem in SL) Cue another set of phone calls by me to their London office to a) complain about the lack of cooperation in Freetown and b) arrange payment, £50. Pause for thought. Ah, where are they to deliver to? Newton is an area the size of MK. After several more text messages this is resolved, and the photograph shows the boxes being delivered and distributed. PHEW!!!

By Sarah Dewey and Rachel Lintern



Thank you Rachel and Sarah. We have received the books you sent. We appreciate your efforts And we look forward to continue to strengthen the Olney/ Newton link. We in Ahmadiyya Secondary School say 'habaza'.

From Strasser, Principal.

Matriculation at the Institute 2018

The graduation ceremony was held in December. Bakarr, former principal of the Institute, now MP for Newton sent us these photos and appealed for help with more seating for the students.

You may have seen our flyer before Christmas. We are still collecting if you would like to help.



Good morning, I write with urgency to request from you seating accommodation for our students at the skills Training centre This year we have introduced Electronics and electrical installation courses. Most of the children are crying for scholarships as economic circumstance is killing Sierra Leone every second of the minute. Please we need tools for our public health Lab. such as microscope and other medical equipment. In the interim we need 200 benches due to the roll of students. A seat is estimated at le 200000 a set. Looking forward to a swift response to our genuine cry.

Received from Abu Bakarr Forfana

WE HAVE STUDENTS BUT NO SEATS
An £18 donation will buy a student a chair

The Institute of Business Administration and Technology, Newton, Sierra Leone supported by The Olney Newton Link needs more seats for its students.

Can you help?

A donation of £18 will buy one.

Visit www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

for details

**Contact Anne 01234 711196
or Rachel 01234 711751
or send a cheque to
P Selwood,
16 East Street, OLNEY
MK46 4AP**

We have collected enough for 41 chairs.

41

**1
5
9**

159 are still needed!



Thank you

Fundraising Events

Autumn Antics

Have you been to Autumn Antics? It's an afternoon of fun for children, and a bit of peace for their parents! This year the children tried their hand at leaf printing, firework art, biscuit decoration, conker models, doughnut bobbing, and much more. Followed by hot dogs and a few stories, it was much enjoyed. It also raised about £250 for the ONL which went towards finishing the Newton Preschool building.

We received these messages of thanks:

Could you pass on to everyone involved our thanks for a great 'Autumn Antics'! Beatrix was in her element doing all that crafting and it was such good value for money to keep her entertained for 2 hours and come away with some art work and a full tummy.



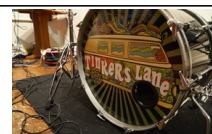
The kids had such a lovely time and both slept so well last night. Looking forward to next time. Please pass on my thanks to your mum and the team.



The organisers also had a great time and would like to thank all the children for being so lovely!



Tinkers Lane Concert



Missing from the last edition, here are a few photos...



Olney Newton Link Quiz Night

Once again our annual Quiz Night held in the Olney Centre in November was a great success. Rob, the quiz master, had prepared a wide variety of subjects to test our knowledge (or lack of it!). Hopefully, most teams chose the right subject for their Joker round and gained valuable extra points. Catriona once again acted as Rob's assistant and scorer. They make a good team.

The food at the half way stage was excellent as always, many thanks to the ladies who had obviously spent a long time preparing the meal. Further thanks must be given to those who donated raffle prizes and all those who bought tickets.

As well as being a thoroughly enjoyable social event, the annual Quiz Night is a welcome source of income for Olney Newton Link, just over £600 being raised. It is good to see familiar faces returning each year and we will all be looking forward to the 2019 Quiz.

Tom James

Raffle Prizes were donated by Art Mart, Bernadette Foster, Wild Leaf, Woosters and private donors.
Thank you.



Timewarp were the winning team with *Where's Debbie?* A close second.



Dickens of a Christmas



A very busy day, as usual! The weather was kind and lots of people won lovely prizes. Very many thanks to all those of you who donated bottles for the stall and toys for the children's tombola. We raised just over £1200 for the ONL, which has been sent to Newton.



Some of the lucky prizewinners!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2019

Tuesday 5th March	Pancake Race - we have a stall—Easter Eggs and more
March	Soup Lunch—date to follow
April	Easter Eggstravaganza at the Baptist Church
Saturday 27th April	Bozeat Windmill Singers Concert at the URC

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, 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.
	Stephen Oakley
	Souls Garages

SILVER

BRONZE