

Olney—Newton Link

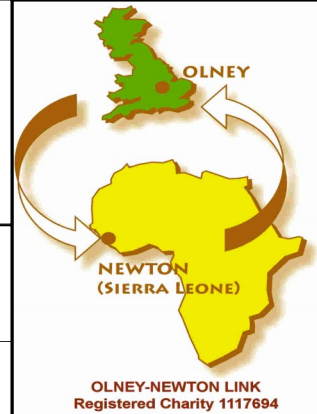
"To advance education and to relieve poverty

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

August 2020

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL



A big **thank you** to all of you who have continued to donate to the ONL through standing orders in these difficult times. You have made a real difference as we cannot have fundraising events at present.

If you usually attend our functions,
would you be able to give us a little something?

It can be done online - go to our website, olneynewtonlink.org.uk and select 'donate' from the menu - or by dropping an envelope through our treasurer's door - Tricia Selwood, 18 East Street.

You could also ask us for a collection box in which to put your small change - assuming you're still using real money, that is!

Thank you for thinking of the people of Newton in Sierra Leone.



RADIOS!
See page 3

The pandemic in Newton

Sierra Leone, which is among the world's poorest countries, recorded its first cases at the end of March.

Early on, our friends in Newton reported queues for water, as in these photos of Waterloo, the nearest big market to Newton. Social distancing is difficult.



By last week 1711 cases had been recorded with 66 deaths. 1261 people have recovered. Of the virus cases, 160 have been health workers.

The former British colony was hard hit by the 2014-16 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, during which nearly 4,000 people, including 250 medical workers died. In many ways this has helped them prepare for Covid, as they learnt so much then.

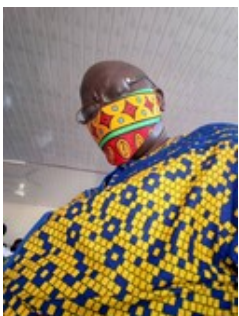
Sadly there was a doctors' strike in early July which left some Covid-19 patients in some of the main treatment centres without care. The doctors say they were promised hazard pay for their work during the outbreak, which has not been paid. The situation seems to have improved however and more good news this week was that Lungi airport is reopening for international flights with temperature checks, disinfectant routines and quarantine for positive cases etc.

We were also delighted to hear that James Kabia, Baptist minister in Newton, had been accepted for Health Worker training to fight Covid. He worked in this role previously, when Ebola was rife, for Save the Children.

Message received on 23rd June:

Good morning all, I am delighted to inform you that ,as per my performance during the Ebola pandemic I have been selected to join the Covid-19 fight. There is going to be a Community Treatment Centre at Waterloo at the Adventist hospital.

I have joined colleagues and we started training yesterday. We will start work first week July 2020, this time for the SL government.



Scrubs, they have both African and NHS style!

Outside the hospital

Are you listening?

Our most recent contribution to Newton has been £2100 for the purchase of solar radios. These were needed by school pupils - while the schools are closed lessons are being broadcast on the radio, as internet access and computers are few and far between.

From Mabinty (treasurer) on behalf of the Newton Committee...

Good Afternoon All. Thanks very much Anne for the concern raised for us here. We hope and pray everything will come back to normal in the UK.

The Pre School is completed. The toilets are 90% completed, no more money is needed for that.

Thank you for the money sent for solar radios which we have utilised. The radios purchased were of three different types. 50 radios were purchased and distributed to students of varying ages, to enable them to listen to broadcast lessons.



James Kabia, Baptist minister, also asked us for funds for 19 radios for pupils in his area of Newton. He sent photos of the presentation of the radios too... including a video thank you!

From James Kabia on 3rd June...

Good morning all, I write to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you all for the funds provided to buy the solar operated radios for pupils who are awaiting to sit to their exams. I have just done the donation of the radios this morning. The vote of thanks was by one of the pupils, Manjula Kamara.



Water, water...

We have also been able to send funds to James Kabia to enable him to build a well, with the water pumped into a tank to supply local inhabitants.

Often drinking water is bought in a polythene sachet. It's expensive, and many people risk the dubious alternatives - unpurified well water or river water.

James explained through WhatsApp messages...

Good evening all, hope you are all doing well. We doing well but the Covid -19 prevalence is still on the country with Western area continuing to be the epicentre. I write to inform you that the contractor has done the hand dug well that I informed you of when I started it.

I write to plea for assistance to complete the project which will provide a clean and pure source of drinking water for my people who are unable to buy the filtrated sachet water to drink and will save the life of children by preventing them from water born illnesses. It will be a very laudable venture if this request meets the kind approval of the trustees.

- 1) One submersive machine le 3,650,000 (this is a submersible electric pump)
 - 2) One Generator le 2,500,000.
 - 3) Two water Tanks 2000 litres each @ le 3,500,000 $\times 2 =$ le 7,000,000.
 - 4) Twenty four packet cement @ le 80,000 $\times 24 =$ le 1,920,000
 - 5) Six lengths Iron Rods @ 75,000 $\times 6 =$ le 450,000.
 - 6) Ten lengths quarter rods @ le 20,000 = le 200,000.
 - 7) Assorted PVC pips and taps le 2,500,000.
 - 8) Workmanship le 2,500,000.
- Total le 20,720,000 (about £1700)

Trustees discussed James's request and wanted some more information...

because we have to be sure that donated funds are being used wisely.

This was the conversation...

- We think the idea of producing an alternative source of pure, drinking water, is excellent, but need to know if this is intended to be a commercial venture, thus being self financing, or is the water intended to be free?

James told us that they were planning to make a small charge to households for the water, to cover running costs.

- As you are now on the government Covid-19 team, will you have time to supervise the project? If not, who would supervise?

James said Mariatu would help supervise the project when he was busy.

- Will a purification system be installed in the tanks? Any water storage system can become easily contaminated, which would be a health risk. Does an anti-contamination system come with the tanks or can it be bought separately? If so at what additional cost?

The well will be purified by extension, the tanks periodically. Anti purification is bought separately. The additional cost is le 750,000.



....and more than a drop to drink!

- How would you cover the costs of fuel for the generator, plus servicing/oil of the generator, future replacement of the well pump and any other running costs if you will not make a charge? Sachets of water are not free so some charging might be appropriate to make the operation self-funding once constructed.

People will be using their buckets and Jerry cans to fetch water from the taps. I will talk to the head man of which I am in his committee as his adviser and we shall have a committee that will be responsible to collect and keep ten thousand leones per house for the use of the facility. The proceeds will be used to buy fuel and do repairs. The headman is going to provide twenty litres of fuel, I will also, and other people willing to follow suit.

There are control measures in place. We open at 6am to 11:40am. Reopen 2pm to 7:45pm

Following these satisfactory explanations, the money was transferred for James's drinking water project.

James replied...

Thank you all for your response to my request for safe drinking water. I will inform you when the first drop water from the tanks comes out. Our young headman will commission the water project.

And then...

Good afternoon all, this is to inform you that I bought the 4000 litre tank, the Generator and the submissive. See attached for photos,. The submissive machine is in a carton, not photographed.



There is a slight change in the implementation as per my contractor's advice. The contractor advised me to buy the jack pump so that we can have dual carriage system in the water supply system. There are some price changes. I will send you the breakdown soon. I am making use of my lunch time. Thank you all.

James wanted an extra £250 as the price of the generator had risen (inflation is rife in Sierra Leone) and he had been advised to buy an additional jackpump, a hand operated pump, in case the fuel supply ran out. Trustees agreed to this and sent the extra amount. Estimates of costs in Newton are subject to change as prices go up frequently. James replied...

Thank you all for your prompt response to my plea.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2020

Watch this space!	We have a concert and a quiz planned—fingers crossed!
Contact for more info	Anne McCallum, Chair, 01234 711196

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