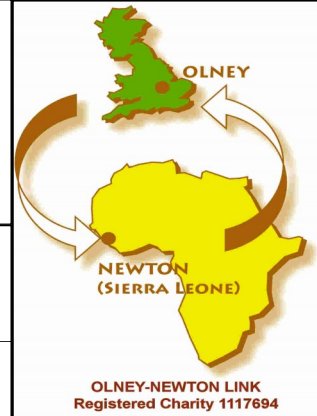


# Olney—Newton Link



*“To advance education and to relieve poverty*

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

**April 2021**

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

**ONL**

OLNEY-NEWTON LINK  
Registered Charity 1117694

**The trustees of the Olney Newton Link are very sorry to tell you that in March two former chairs of the ONL passed away.**



**One occasion they were both together was at the AGM in 2013, cutting the 10th anniversary cake.**

Trustees are very pleased that their families are continuing the association with the ONL, Brian Lintern as Vice Chair and Brian Partridge as a trustee.



## Rena Partridge

started off the Link with visits to Newton in the 1990s and again shortly after the civil war in 2003, with 3 other ladies from Olney. She and her husband had worked for the Church Missionary Society in Africa before she retired to Olney in the early 90s, where she became a lay minister of the Church. She went to visit Sierra Leone and discovered that there was a village there called Newton which was named after the Rev John Newton. He was the slave trader who turned abolitionist and was the curate at Olney Church in the mid-18th Century, writing the hymn Amazing Grace. A friendship link was begun between Olney and Newton but was interrupted by the civil war during the 1990s, restarting in 2003. Rena established the charity to provide housing for Newton residents whose homes were destroyed in the civil war. Bungalows were built, painted pale yellow and inscribed with a number to show how many had been constructed. She continued to support the ONL after it expanded its activities.



About 40 bungalows were built to provide houses for those left homeless by the civil war.



The visit to Newton in 2003



## Rachel Lintern

became chair in 2006 and continued in that role until 2015, resigning due to ill health but continuing as a trustee and working tirelessly for the ONL. Rachel was one of the group of 4 ladies who visited Newton in 2003 and she visited again many times, most recently to see her daughter who married a Salonean. She formed many friendships with the people of Newton and was the driving force behind the ONL's many projects.... the Skills Training Centre (now a University of Freetown Institute), numerous water wells, community toilets, equipment for the Health Centre, emergency aid to provide clothing, equipment, training and food during the Ebola outbreak, farming projects including pineapples, support for Market Ladies, the development of strong links with the schools of Newton, and last but certainly not least the establishment of a preschool to care for Ebola orphans originally but now a thriving community facility and appropriately named The Rachel International Preschool. Rachel was passionate about helping the people of Newton and spent a good deal of her time keeping in touch with them.



Claire and Mahmoud's wedding 2014



Inspecting the building of toilets 2015