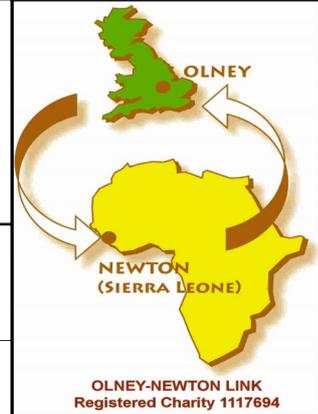


# Olney—Newton Link



*“To advance education and to relieve poverty*

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

**February 2022**

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

**ONL**

OLNEY-NEWTON LINK  
Registered Charity 1117694

## Well, well, well : they need repairs

This is one of the wells that needs repairing...



This is the well at the REC school, repaired a few years ago...



# Newton needs our help

Received from Valicious King (Chair, Newton Committee) and James Conteh (Secretary, Newton Committee) in November

*Good morning to all members of Olney .*

*Meeting held on Sunday evening involved all members who looked at and discussed issues concerning the smooth running of the link.*

*Two issues were discussed as follows.*

*Firstly: People of Newton really thank and appreciate the Olney people for their support towards the huge development within the Newton community.*

*Secondly: The people of Newton are still requesting safe drinking water, because the water wells which we constructed three to four years ago are not in good working conditions. We have to redrill and replace each submersive and put one more mould in each well to reach water to avoid such damages in future.*

*As you know we are very close to the dry season if we all put hands together it will saves worst damages and the Newton people lives will be safe.*

*The people of Newton highly appreciate you for all you have been doing for them as everyday they are seeing and benefiting from those facilities within the community. We also thank you for continuing us the link between the people of Newton and you in Olney.*

Our chair replied

Thank you for the minutes - we will discuss the request for money for new wells with the other Trustees. Please let us have a breakdown of the materials and costs involved.

As you are aware funds for large projects have been very limited, as we haven't been able to hold any public fundraising events, but hope to hold our first since Covid at the end of next week.

Can we also have some photos of the existing state of the wells requiring repair, please? Or is it intended to build new wells? We await hearing from you further.

Kind regards on behalf of the ONL Trustees.

Anne

The ONL trustees are aware of their responsibility to you, our donors, to ensure that funds are spent wisely. So Brian Lintern (qualified in such matters) asked some pertinent questions of the Newton Committee...

I have been reviewing the quotation we received (for 48,165,000.00 Leones, about £3500) and have questions on the details. The quotation is for the repair of three wells, due to the water table falling below the base of the wells. When we visited in 2014 we saw a well with that problem and sent funds for its repair.

To deepen a well, a metal mould would need to be hired, which could be used in the 3 wells. The 'submersive' you refer to is a 'submersible' pump, but there should already be a hand pump which would just require extension of the pipe and pump rod. Can we have a PROPER detailed proposal of costs which would relate to the repair and deepening of wells.

It would also help us to understand where these wells are located.

Brian

*Good morning all*

*It's the hand pump which have a valve and a sucker which we call submissive. You know our soil here is sandy soil and every rainy season we need to clean the underneath for the sucker to be free from sand and add one more Calvert to the depth to avoid sand not to block the water eyes.*

*The mould for now very difficult to get as the hand dug water wells are no more common in our community. Most water wells for now are the drill ones.*

*The water well you repaired in 2014 is in good working condition.*

The ONL have not been involved with wells with towers and tanks or boreholes. We were told that wells were better since you could maintain them, with hand pumps, and the wells store water. Boreholes silt up and have to be re-drilled using expensive machinery. so can you please as a committee draw up details of what you are proposing, where this is to be and who would benefit. Brian

*The people of Newton want to repair two submissive water wells and also three hand pump wells. They also made a proposal to us to add two new water wells for them as the community is becoming more larger.*

*The two new one with hand pumps are to be built in two locations, one is at the back of Ahmadiyya secondary school whilst the other back of the cemetery. This two areas has been highly populated, at least fifty homes can benefit from each one. It can also help the school going children to do their domestic work quickly before and after school.*

Are you able to provide locations for the existing wells so we can see where they are located? This helps to encourage supporters to donate. Which NGO built the 2 wells with submersible pumps? Is that organisation unable to help with the repairs? It will take some time to raise the amount of money you have requested. Anne



Prince Alfred Road



Station Road



Limba Corner



Five Miles

The detailed proposal with costs was received and on 11th January 2022 trustees agreed 'to use our very limited funds to send you sufficient money to repair the 3 hand pump wells. Money transfer of funds has been made for the repair of 3 water wells previously sponsored by ONL: £1263.67 (18,759,000.00 Leones)'

*Thanks very much Anne for your relentless efforts and to the ONL committee we say bravo. We will make photos available to you.*

*Thanks Mabinty (treasurer, Newton)*

*Thank u so much for your endurance and strength for answering to the people felt need and god richly bless u all. From chairman Olney Newton, Valecious King*

# Packages to Newton

The ONL has been given various items to send to Newton, and we asked James Kabia to oversee the distribution of these.



Received from Brima ...



*Good afternoon all, this is to inform you all that the Rokel forwarding and Clearing Agency have just delivered the seven cartons this afternoon. I will keep you posted.*

Thank you - The majority are the maths A level textbooks, which need to go to senior school, but we have no contact there. Please can you send photos of the books being handed over so we can send them in to the school here that donated them, please?

The crayons, pencils and other books may be suitable for Komba, headteacher of the Christ Evangelical School. The hoodies are to go to Mabinty for the Preschool, please. Hopefully you can find uses for the spectacles and the first aid equipment. Thank you very much for your help, Anne

*Welcome. The maths A level books will go to the Ahamadiyya Agricultural Secondary School, Komba will get the pencils and other books. With your permission the hoodies will be given to Mabinty and the puzzles to the Newton Preparatory school Kpoubu-Newton - the proprietress is retired Headteacher Mrs Osman.*

Anne asked whether Mrs Usman was the wife of Dominic and former Head of REC school. (She was one of the three headteachers who visited Olney in 2010)

*Yes. She is the proprietress of the Newton Preparatory school Kpoubu-Newton in which I am the school management committee chairman.*

*I am busy this week but by mid next week I do the distribution. As usual, the spectacles will go to those whose eye lenses suit them.*



*I have given the hoodies to Mabinty*



## Maths books

The books were loaded into the car for delivery to the Ahmadiyya Agricultural Secondary School.



The Principal of the school, Mr Kanneh.

Unloading the books



Some of the pupils posed for photos to show their appreciation of the donation from the Link. Mr Kanneh appreciated the gift very much and also said that the footballs sent previously were much used.

## Puzzles

In one of the cartons there were puzzles which Brima took to the Newton Preparatory School



# Dickens of a Christmas

Not the warmest of days and drizzly for most of the time, so the helpers were feeling the chill, but plenty of people came to Dickens, glad of a chance to get out. We were kept steadily busy for which we were thankful as it helped us to be able to greet everyone without getting too close. We raised the magnificent sum of £825.50 which will go towards the repairs of the water wells.

Thank you to all who helped - those who donated bottles as prizes, set up the stall, sold tickets and dismantled afterwards.

And apologies... I didn't manage to get photos of all the helpers this year.



**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 were unable to hold fundraising events.**

**The Events Committee met last week and have made plans! Fingers crossed...**



**Friday 11th March : Soup Lunch**



**Wednesday 11th May : AGM**



**Mid May : Concert**

**24th—26th May : Lifepath**



**Mid June : social event with music**

**Dates and venues will be confirmed as soon as possible, by e mail**

**A big thank you to our GOLD sponsors**



**David Coles Architects**



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