

Olney—Newton Link

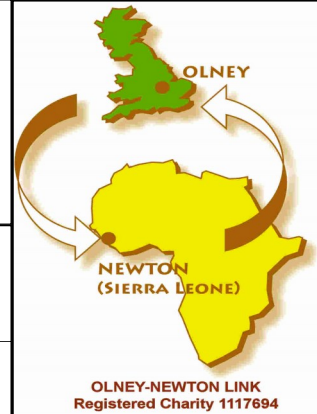
"To advance education and to relieve poverty

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

April 2023

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL



Well improved!

**Children
at Christ
Evangelical
School
using
the new
pump**



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To get in touch with The Olney-Newton
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Christ Evangelical School

Late last year Marilyn Watkins (schools liaison) received a heartfelt plea from Komba Nfalie, Headteacher of Christ Evangelical School (one of our linked schools, visited by the three teachers who went out to Sierra Leone). He told us that building construction for the new part of the school was going ahead but he was worried about the safety of the children using the water well. As you can see in the first photo, the children were having to draw water up from an open well using a rope and bucket. He asked if we could help finance a jack pump.

Komba sent a detailed list of requirements:

The cost for the materials to complete the water well is :

Jack pump is 8500 new Leones

Two trips of Sand @ 600 new Leones

20 packets cement @ 135 new Leones.

Workmanship 3000 new Leones.

Transportation le 1,000 new Leones.

The grand total for the work is 16400 new Leones

There was some money in the schools' fund and trustees agreed to top this up with general fund donations, to the £800 required, to enable the purchase. Komba was delighted and thanked everyone for their kind donations.

We were pleased to get photos of the new toilet block and what looks like a flushing toilet! Much better for hygiene.



Construction



The finished well with new pump



News from Komba about their new 2 storey building is not so good, however. There seems to have been a problem with the contractors and work has been paused. Currently it seems as though all the children are in one building which makes for a very noisy school. Hopefully it will get sorted soon.



News from Sierra Leone

The Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone has declared June 24 as the official date for the country's 2023 presidential elections.

The presidential elections will run simultaneously with the elections of ordinary members of parliament and local council representatives, Electoral Commissioner Mohamed Konneh told a press conference in Freetown, the capital.

Some of our contacts are busy preparing for these elections and it is making communication a bit difficult.

Shipment to Newton in February

We have managed to source 6 sewing machines which have been collected today by Rockel Shipping. They will be part of the cargo expected to sail on 4th March and arrive around 27th March in SL. We have also sent some more HBC T-shirts donated by the Churches of Olney, for distribution to anyone in Newton who might be able to make use of them. If you could send photos again that would be great. Also of the ladies if there is anything to see when you visit the sites.

Best wishes, Anne

Thank you , look forward to seeing those. James Kabia

We have paid for delivery to Newton from Freetown, so hopefully they will ring you once the 2 boxes are leaving the docks.

Anne

The Farming Basket

The ladies participating in this scheme. They are given money to buy seeds and chickens in order to feed their families and provide a small income.



Brima James Kabia, the Baptist Pastor who organises this scheme, has been unwell so we were very pleased to hear that he is feeling a little better and to receive the following photos.



Good afternoon all, here is the photo of the first beneficiaries of Farming Basket project, Ya Bom Fornah, who called me to show me her first harvest of the Crain Crain leaves, one of our palatable dishes that is eaten with rice or foo foo. Ya Bom Fornah is in the centre with his grandson and daughter-in-law.

James Kabia

Fund Raising

CAROL SINGING

More than 20 of us braved the cold and wet for a couple of hours to sing carols on the streets of the west side of town (as Olney Brass were playing on the east side that night!). We raised £157.46, thanks to the generosity of residents who warmly welcomed the singers and particularly the group of children who were brave enough to knock on doors and smiled so nicely!

Sadly our saxophone couldn't come due to illness but we all sang loudly to make ourselves heard! Luckily the Carol sheets were laminated so the wet weather didn't affect us too much. Thank you if you donated!

Sally Jones

Editors Note: This should been in the last newsletter, apologies and many thanks to all the participants.



CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY

We were pleased to put up a tree in St Peter and St Paul's Church to join in with the Dickens day celebrations. Our theme, of course, was Sierra Leone with authentic decorations from Africa and suitably coloured

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

In aid of the Olney Newton Link

Amazing Grace
arranged by John Rutter
Favourites from musicals
and *Popular Songs*



Bozeat Windmill Singers

Saturday 29th April, 7.30pm
The Cowper Memorial URC, High Street, Olney

Tickets £10 to include a drink and nibbles in the interval
Collect your tickets from
CT Wilson or Phonebox
or telephone Anne 07375 425325



Saturday 29th April
7 30pm

Windmill Singers Concert
at the URC
Tickets from Anne
07375425325 or
Phonebox or Wilsons

Olney Newton Link AGM
Speaker Tom Jones
AG250—Newton in Sierra Leone

Tuesday 23rd May
At Gravett Hall

Soup Lunch

Friday March 17th saw members of the Events Committee and friends of the ONL gathered together for the soup lunch. It was busy for the cooks and waitresses!

A special thank you to those who made soup and cakes, or contributed in other ways. A big thank you to Anne and Rob who as well as helping allowed us to use their house. On an initial count we made £450.00, including the raffle! This is a great result. I think everyone had a good time and enjoyed being able to socialise! Our 'customers' seemed to appreciate our efforts...

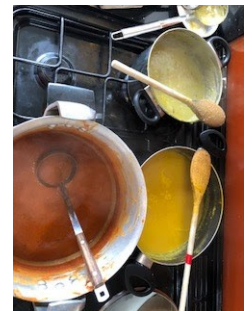
'A note to thank you for a delicious lunch shared together with old friends and new friends.'

'You all worked very hard and I hope the collection boxes were overflowing!'

'Congratulations and thanks for a very enjoyable lunchtime. The company at table and chat in the lounge was a joy.'

Why not join us next year?

A selection of photos from the day...



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2023

Saturday 29th April	Bozeat Windmill Singers Concert 7.30pm, URC
Tuesday 23rd May	AGM, Gravett Hall
Sunday 25th June	Cherry Fair
To be decided	Afternoon Tea

More details can be found on our website: www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have continued to donate to the ONL through standing orders in these difficult times.






If you'd like to contribute, check our website, olneynewtonlink.org.uk and select 'donate' from the menu

- or drop an envelope through our treasurer's door -

Tricia Selwood, 16 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!

A big thank you to our GOLD sponsors

	David Coles Architects
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	Heron Opticians a friendly, professional family business.
	Stephen Oakley
	Souls Garages

Contact Anne or Tricia for more details of bronze, silver and gold sponsorship