

News from Newton

It's the rainy season now in Newton. To put this in perspective, in Olney there is just under 60cm of rain each year. In Newton it is 300cm—five times as much and almost all of this in a few months of the year from June to September. On Tuesday this week there was a severe weather warning...

Freetown Weather Alert in Sierra Leone has issued an urgent warning to residents, especially those in the capital, that the country is experiencing over 50mm of precipitation per hour in Freetown.

This, the Alert warns, is a severe weather that poses significant risks.

The Alert warns: "For your safety, please avoid pre-drainages, waterway passageways, hillside areas and coastal regions. Refrain from travelling to unfamiliar locations throughout this week".

The first 2 days of July have already witnessed heavy and continuous downpour, resulting to severe flood and loss of properties in some parts of the city.

I am sure you will understand that schools are closed over the summer months, businesses quiet and people avoid travelling—and so our communications with Newton are less frequent. These are some of the photos we've received recently...



Work on the Community Centre is continuing when it can. Brima James Kabia keeps us up to date with progress. It is very fortunate that we were able to send money (thanks to the Baptist Church donation) for a new church as the roof on the old church collapsed completely in the rain.

The Scout Troop is active and flourishing



In mid May, much earlier than expected, we had reports of heavy rain and winds which caused damage to houses and other buildings. This rather a blurry photo but



understandable as they were working on the collapsed roof at the time! Damage to the roof opposite is visible too.

The economic situation has continued to worsen, causing major hardship. Increased costs are reflected in the cost of materials, fuel for transport, as these have to be imported. Inflation has now reached 46%! The Government have been unable to meet the charges for electricity, supplied by a Turkish Company ship, moored off shore (see Anne's report). Hydro electric schemes are suffering from a lack of maintenance. As most of Newton is not on mains electricity, the effects are not felt directly, but it has caused issues for hospitals and shops, especially those with fridges and freezers. Petrol prices continue to rise and the government introduced a new pricing regime at the end of June.

News from the Schools

This is the nursery class at Christ Evangelical School.

Komba Nfalie, Headteacher, also sent the delightful news that he is getting married later this year!



From Mabinty—one of the Rachel Pre School children receiving a certificate at Sports Day



And lots of photos from the new Goshen High School...



The Headteacher, Mr. Abdul Kabia, and pupils sitting second term exams

On Sports Day an 'African Queen' was selected for each house and they came dressed in house colours. I thought you'd like to see these amazing costumes! It was certainly a very special occasion.



Lifepath 2024

Every two years the Bridgebuilder Trust organises an event based at Olney Church to inform children about the work of John Newton and to encourage them to consider their future 'lifepath'.

The Olney Newton Link is asked to provide workshops for groups of children on life in Sierra Leone. We tell them about the climate, the town of Newton, the sort of house they would live in, the duties they would have in the home (role play involved here—getting water, sweeping, washing, cooking) and then give them a school lesson Sierra Leone style.

This year the workshops were organised by Marilyn, Sue, Rose, Anne and Janet and we really enjoyed sharing information with the children who responded very well. We were pleased that we could help them learn a little about Newton life. The children certainly learnt about the climate in Sierra Leone as on the second day it rained torrentially! Sadly the temperature wasn't comparable... Luckily the gazebo proved to be waterproof and we were able to adapt the outdoor activities on a more limited scale.

Our thanks go to the Bridgebuilder Trust who have made a generous donation towards the next water well.



At home, before school



Collecting water



Preparing to cook



Laundry



Sweeping