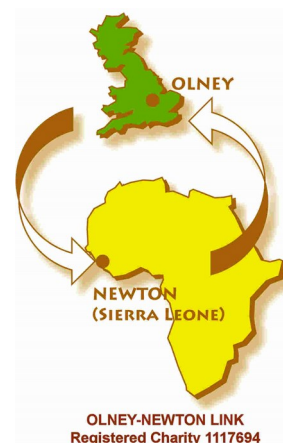


Olney—Newton Link

August 2013

Registered Charity 1117694

ONL



“To advance education and to relieve poverty in the village of Newton, Sierra Leone, by the provision of charitable assistance”

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

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Contact:

Rachel Lintern—Chair
21 Austen Avenue
Olney, Bucks
MK46 5DL

Tel: 01234 711751

BARBECUE

August 17th 1 30pm
Anne's 34 Carey Way

It's not too late to order
your tickets

Phone Rachel
NOW
01234 711751

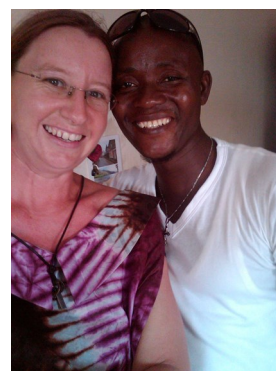


Welcome home, Claire— and congratulations!

Claire Lintern arrived back in the UK safely on Saturday 27th July after her year as a voluntary teacher in Sierra Leone.

She will be going back again soon as she is going to marry a lovely gentleman from Sierra Leone. Our congratulations, Claire and Mahmoud, and we hope you have a long and happy future together.

Claire's full report in on page 3...



The Solar Suitcase has arrived! Page 2



Help needed, please!

The Olney-Newton Link will be running a bottle tombola soon— and we need your help.

Please can you donate a bottle or two to the Link. It can be anything in a bottle—shampoo, washing up liquid, car cleaner, wine, beer, even champagne!

Perhaps you could take advantage of those 'Buy 2 get one free offers' and give the link (any trustee) the one that cost nothing?

The arrival of the Solar Suitcase

It all began on July 15th 2012. Our dear friend Sarah Dewey bravely embarked on a triathlon in Sutton Park near Birmingham and as a result raised the magnificent sum of £1600. This led to the purchase of a Solar Suitcase for the Newton Clinic from We Care Solar, an American supplier of solar powered medical equipment for 3rd World Countries.

We were delighted to hear that it had been despatched from the USA in September, addressed to a certain Michael Dennis at the British Council who would collect it and deliver it to the Newton Clinic. That is when the story began.

An import duty of £600 was asked for. NO WAY came the response from all concerned. After a few weeks delay the Sierra Leonean authorities agreed and said the case could be released. “\$1200 FOR STORAGE PLEASE” said the airport authorities. YOU MUST BE JOKING came the reply from all concerned. Cue the involvement of an anticorruption group of Sierra Leoneans based in the USA, MP’s from SL and UK, Uncle Tom Cobley and all - but no sign of the Solar Suitcase. It was lost. By June we had given up hope.

Forward to July 18th and an out of the blue phone call from a lady named Lori Spragg who was interested in the work we are doing with the Sierra Leonean schools. I happened to mention our beloved Suitcase. She had heard about it a few months ago! She suggested we send her the documentation! “I will find it and retrieve it for you”, she said!

A few days later Sarah Dewey dropped in to see Brian and me, as she was in the area. Ping went the computer, ‘I have found the Suitcase and will arrange for it to be collected and delivered to Newton’ said the email from Lori.

Last night just as we were starting a meeting at Anne’s house I received a phone call from James Kabia to say that the Suitcase had arrived at the Newton Clinic.

Rachel Lintern

STOP PRESS

We have just received the following photograph of the Suitcase being opened at the Clinic. Yes, it has cost us a further £250 but as Lori has put it “*Seeing the smiling faces of the midwives (photo on page 1) is amazing. It has been a real team effort and I think it was worth it just to see how happy they are*”.



Kuche from Claire

Goods returned but may be slightly jarred in transit....

How di bodi? Kuche. And before you ask me any more no I don't speak Krio!! Shameful really after a year in residence, in my (albeit precarious) defence: everyone there speaks English and often enjoys the excuse to learn from me. It's really hard to put into words what the past year has been like- so much has happened and I've seen/ heard/ thought/ eaten/ experienced a wealth of culture and personnel that I don't know where to start. The bad bits? Frustration when the power disappeared for days on end, the mobile phone system decided to decline any UK texts, waiting for transport to get out of Freetown to get home. Nothing major really! The good bits? Meeting so many wonderful people, seeing the country on our trip at Easter, trying different foods including potato leaf, krain - krain and cassava, teaching kids who actually WANT to be in school....where do I stop? I was lucky enough to be around to see the election pass peacefully, and to experience Christmas there as well. What else? Been to beaches, weddings, parties, naming ceremonies, carnivals, sports days, meeting galore, markets, supermarkets, football matches, cinemas and the list goes on. Oh yes - the Chimp sanctuary too! Brought back some wonderful African jewellery for the Link and some good dresses for myself. It's been a real shame I haven't been able to visit Newton as much as I thought; what I hadn't anticipated was the difficulty in getting there. If you can imagine trying to get to the middle of Wales by public transport where the buses decide half-way through the journey which route they will take, you can begin to perceive the issue! However, it's all part and parcel of Salone life and you grin, shrug shoulders and deal with it.

There is so much we can learn from the country as well. The religious tolerance continues to impress me - I went to a wedding where both an Imam and a Pastor presided as the groom was a Muslim, the bride a born-again Christian. It was Ramadan when I left and people made allowances for prayer time and the food issue without a second thought. Churches are full with services throughout the week not just Sundays, and people with loudspeakers advertise special events by walking through the streets - and nobody hassles or backchats them. There is a total mix of tribes, religions, backgrounds, financial status - regardless of which you are an equal. For a country with so much poverty and hardship this tolerance should be acknowledged and celebrated far more than it is.

Put it this way - I love the place so much I am returning in September for the foreseeable future.

Claire Lintern

Claire's new house



*Do you have some news about Newton? Or about something you have done in Olney?
Items for the next Newsletter will be welcomed by the Editor, Janet Howe.*

Email: olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com

The next deadline is: 1st October 2013



YOUNG MEN & PHILOSOPHERS: An evening of classical music with the Newton Ensemble.



The disappointments of last January were finally put behind us on Saturday 8th June when the long postponed concert by the Newton Ensemble, led by Lorna Morton and conducted by Catherine Rose, was performed in St Peter & St Paul's Church, Olney.

The wait was worth it, for those present were treated to a most varied programme of music featuring works by Boyce, Mozart and Haydn. I particularly enjoyed the inclusion of Boyce's Symphony No 6 in F as William Boyce was one of the greatest English born composers of the 18th Century and the concert venue was made famous in that era through the preaching of John Newton. One of the two Mozart works on the programme was his Piano Concerto No 9, superbly performed by William Thallon, but which left more than a purely supporting role for the Ensemble.

Through this concert, the Newton Ensemble have added to the musical richness of Olney and as residents of the Town and surrounding area we are fortunate in having entertainment of such high quality literally on our doorstep !

Paul Collins



Editor's note:

*Our thanks go to
Catherine Rose
the Newton ensemble
and all those who attended,
for raising £490
for the Olney-Newton Link.*

The Newton Scouts



Mr Komba Nfalie (Headteacher, Christ Evangelical School) sent this photograph of the first batch of scouts of the Christ Evangelical School, in their new uniforms. The picture shows, from left blue flag to right white flag - Kadiaru Bangura, Alie Sesay, Sheriff Koroma, Willie John, Hassan Kamara, Paul Luseny, Nancy Bangura, Bockarie Sesay, Izick Kamara, Mohamed Sesay, Ibrahim Gbla, Peter Bureh, Mohamed J. Kamara (Scout Teacher), Sorie Kargbo and Lamin Sesay, all of Christ Evangelical Primary School

The Strawberry Fayre and other events



Due to the rain it wasn't very busy at times!

The afternoon began well; windy enough to sell lots of windmills, with some sunshine, but we were soon glad that we had managed to erect the gazebo because it wasn't long before the rain arrived. This meant that we were not as busy as we had hoped but we still succeeded in raising a good sum for the Link. We also entertained the stallholders next door with our efforts to dismantle the gazebo at the end!

The Link also took part in the Cherry Fair and the Raft Race, adding to funds available for Newton.

Money has been sent out and used for screeding and tiling the Skills Centre floor and to purchase an area of land adjacent to the centre which is needed for expansion.

School News

Dear All,

It is good to hear from you after a while. For us here sometimes we find it difficult to even open our email boxes. But all of us here in Newton especially pupils and teachers of the various school links are praying that this link will continue between the schools in Sierra Leone and the UK. To be frank in Sierra Leone, the kids and the teachers are really enjoying the partnership. The pupils for free are doing extremely well academically. We are now preparing for promotional exams come mid June and closing down in July. I am happy for the new person from Ousedale School, Alison Williams, who has spoken to Mr. Sesay of the Ahmadiyya Agricultural Secondary School.

We are hoping that the grant applying for schools in UK/SL will be granted. The teachers named are really happy to come and share with you in UK. I believe all of us will work amicably to see that our work will be benefited by both partner schools in UK/SL.

Thanks for now till I hear from you.

Komba Nfalie, Headteacher, Christ Evangelical School, Newton

The children from Claire's school in Goderich
being taken to Freetown to sit their exams.
A typically overcrowded vehicle.



Teach yourself Krio

Kuche– *Hello/Hi*

Dun dun- *finished*

Oshia– *My sympathy/Sorry*

Not feeling bright- *don't feel well*

Life in Sierra Leone: Cooling Off



As I write this the temperature outside in the UK is over 30 degrees and I am thinking longingly of our dip in the ocean at Kent Beach two years ago. Unspoilt, clean, and absolutely beautiful. Let's hope that it stays that way, or at least is developed with regard for the environment.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2013

Saturday 17th August 1.30—5.00 pm	BARBECUE at Anne's, 34 Carey Way, Olney Book tickets in advance (01234 711196 or 01234 711751)
October	Black History Month display in the Olney Centre
15th November	QUIZ at Olney Centre

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

CORPORATE MEMBERS SCHEME

We are already fortunate to receive support from local businesses, both financial and practical. We have decided to formalise this arrangement and to offer the opportunity to join the scheme to a wider range of business within the area who may not be fully cognisant with the charity. The scheme will provide existing supporters with greater and more tangible recognition as well. Corporate members will be requested to sponsor the Link's work through a series of packages, briefly:

Bronze Membership, £50 per annum – Benefits:- your website link and name on ONL's website.




Silver Membership, £100 per annum – Benefits:- your website and name and description on ONL's website and your company name and logo in our newsletter.

Gold Membership, £150 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

	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.
	David Coles Architects

SILVER

	Stephen Oakley
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BRONZE

Souls Garages
