

Olney—Newton Link

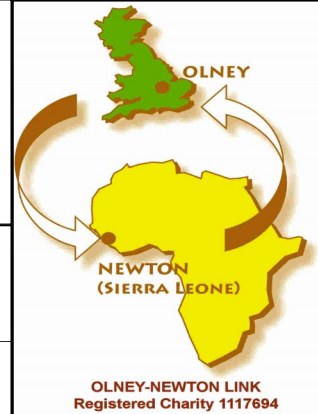
"To advance education and to relieve poverty

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

November 2016

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL



A visit to Olney

If you had always lived in Africa what would your impression of Olney be?

Claire (nee Lintern) and Mahmoud Tarawally visited the UK this summer, luckily in August when the weather was being a bit kinder than in July. Obviously Mahmoud found it COLD— and so did Claire! - but what else surprised him?

Read our exclusive interview on pages 2 and 3



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Olney or Newton?

Mahmoud answers Claire Tarawally's questions in August 2016

Mahmoud and I have been visiting Olney since the end of July. For me it was a delight to return to my home again and see friends and family, for Mahmoud it was the first chance to see where I was brought up. He has spent the last 3 years showing me his culture, now it was my turn!

Towards the end of our stay we asked him some questions....

What have you found most enjoyable?

The sightseeing as history, the different vegetation and time to walk around as we don't get that in Sierra Leone. The even distribution of shops and markets has really impressed me. The fact you can sit in your own home and purchase things to be delivered. Having 24 hour power and water supply and that is also evenly distributed. Flowers are all over which is never done at home, and I wish our people would think about it more. The transport system in London especially the underground and how fast you can get from one place to another. Variety and abundance of food—pizza is one of my favourites.



What have you found most confusing?

The road network and driving on the right. The shopping system - not using cash you hardly see money passing from one person to another so it is difficult to keep track of the cost of things

First impressions?- The setup of the airport, the immigration system being well organised. The cleanliness and upkeep of the country.



What has left a lasting impression?

The constantly changing weather, and the length of the day as at home night begins soon after 7pm and day begins 7am throughout the year.



What do you think is done better in Sierra Leone?

Social interaction. There we greet everyone which is not done here. Friends have made me feel very welcome but.....

When we went to a social event here I was really surprised at how friendly everybody was, it was fantastic! That changed my perspective on the interaction as I now appreciate how it happens with the way you live your lives.



What will you miss?

Food, power, water and the fact we don't have to carry water from the well to the house is what will be missed!! I will certainly miss cake! Oh, and the ease of transport and how quickly you can move from place to place.



Mahmoud and I would not have had the fantastic time we did without the generosity and love of my parents Rachel and Brian. And to see so many friends old and new will stay with us forever. All both of us can say is THANK YOU and how much we will miss you.

Claire and Mahmoud

(Thank you Claire and Mahmoud. We miss you too! JH)

The building of the Pre-School



From The Newton Committee in September:

“The status of the building is that the roofing is now completed. The next step is to plaster the walls, ceiling and the fix up the doors. Another development of the pre school is that we have identified up to fifty vulnerable children to start with in the coming November 2016. When the selection process is completed, the list will be sent to you, supported with photos of children especially those who have lost their parents.”

The Olney Committee has sent another £1500 thanks to fund raising and donations and hopefully this will enable the purchase of fixtures and fittings to be ready for the children to start soon.

ONL Trustees

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Fund Raising

Afternoon Tea

Thank you, Anne and Rob, for once again hosting this popular event. The weather was reasonable (unless you were visiting from Sierra Leone!) but chilly and damp enough at times for some people to need to sit inside.

Delicious cakes and scones and refreshing tea—what more could be needed!

And a good sum raised for the Link: nearly £430.



Thank you to those who donated lovely raffle prizes



We had a few visitors from Sierra Leone.



Thank you to all who baked...delicious!

Football Shirts



Thank you to the Olney Colts who donated their kit which is no longer being used. They gave us some last year, and it wasn't just the Newton children who were delighted but also the adults who are trying to encourage fitness in their communities. Anne and Rachel were delighted to be invited to the opening of the new recreation ground facilities and lucky enough to meet Stuart Pearce too!

The Concert



"A brilliant evening!" "Fantastic music!" - just two comments from those who attended.

A great variety of music was played: light classical, Simon and Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, The Girl from Ipanema and a tremendous ending with a version of Danny Boy. Catherine Rose introduced the music, telling us about the arrangements, the composers and the musicians.

Karen Mason organised the concert to celebrate her 50th birthday, raising £415 for each of her two favourite charities. Thank you very much!



Our Sponsors—Thank you!



A special thank you to our corporate sponsors, who give us a generous donation each year.

Would your company like to help our work in Africa? Details on the last page.



HELP please! We need old reading glasses to send to Newton - children's and adults'. There is a real shortage in Newton and often people are told they can't read because of dust in their eyes when a simple lens would help. Give to Anne, Rachel or Tricia please.



More about Lifepath...

Wilden VA Lower School
High St
Wilden
Beds
MK44 2PB
27th May 2016


Dear Lifepath

Thank you for a lovely day. It was amaZing learning about John Newton's life.

I really enjoyed Sierra Leone. When we went to the School you were so strict. It was quite funny!

I wish we can come again. I will recommend it to other people.

Yours Sincerely Eleanor Briscoe Age 8



Dear lifepath

Thank you for an amazing day it was so fun! I really enjoyed it. I learnt lots of new things. I liked it when we let the balloons go. It was so pretty and it made me think of what it was like for the children and to make it been this very nice for them.

I learnt about what it was like for children in Sierra Leone. I hope you raised lots of money.

yours sincerely lola

Wilden VA Lower School
High St
Wilden
Beds
MK44 2PB
27th May 2016


Dear Lifepath

Thank you for a unforgettable day. Now I know lots more about local history. Thank you.

I really enjoyed letting go of the balloons it was a beautiful site. I learnt that John Newton was first bad but then good and a pray can do a lot.

I hope the money helps the people in Sierra Leone. And then they can have a good life.

Yours sincerely
Jasmine Age 9



A big THANK YOU to the children of Wilden Lower School who sent us lovely letters after their experience at Lifepath—three examples above.

For the Newton Schools

Three boxes have just been sent to Newton, containing worksheets and workbooks (which were kindly donated by a retiring tutor), information posters from the Olney Primary Schools and some medical supplies.



Could you help by becoming a TRUSTEE?

The Link is looking for trustees who would be willing to attend meetings 4 or 5 times a year and support our work in Newton. We are a friendly group and welcome all offers of help. Are you a good volunteer, do you have organisational skills, a background in publicity? Or are you just interested in the Link? Contact Anne and arrange to attend a meeting to find out what usually happens and then hopefully join us! (Anne's telephone is 01234 711196)

Items for the next Newsletter, letters and comments please to the Editor, Janet Howe, by Friday 13th January 2017.
Email: olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2016/17

Friday 11th November	Quiz Night at The Olney Centre: book your tickets now!
Sunday 4th December	Dickens Day—Support our tombola
MK Car Raffle	Support ONL by buying tickets from us
Saturday 21st January	Race Night at The Carlton Club

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

CORPORATE MEMBERS SCHEME

We are fortunate to receive support from local businesses, both financial and practical. Corporate members sponsor the Link's work through a series of packages:

Bronze Membership, £100 per annum – Benefits:- your website link and name on ONL's website.




Silver Membership, £150 per annum – Benefits:- your website and name and description on ONL's website and your company name and logo in our newsletter.

Gold Membership, £200 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—**Ashwood Chimneys, David Coles, Heron Opticians, J Garrard & Allen, Souls Garages and Stephen Oakley.**

GOLD

	Ashwood Chimneys is a professional, highly accredited, family run company based in Olney which undertakes and specialises in all aspects of chimney works within the Beds, Bucks and Northants area.
	David Coles Architects
	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.
	Stephen Oakley

SILVER

	Souls Garages
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BRONZE