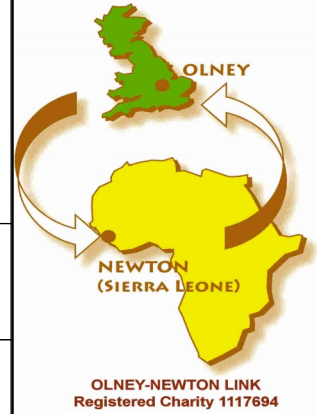


Olney—Newton Link



“To advance education and to relieve poverty

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

November 2020

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL

A Message to you all from Brima James Kabia in Newton

Good morning all,

I send you all greetings from us over here in Newton, as you are starting another mandatory infection, prevention and control journey.



Our s are with you all.

I hope all of you shall go through and celebrate life together.

Stay safe, with Love,

James

(sent by WhatsApp on 5th November)



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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 just now we cannot hold fundraising events.
How to donate? Details on page 4.

To get in touch with The Olney-Newton Link contact Anne McCallum, Chair
 Telephone 01234 711196

For the newsletter e mail:
olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com

Improvements at the Preschool



We have succeeded in raising enough money to add another wall at the preschool to ensure security and are hoping to replace the carpets soon.

Brian Lintern discovered that Unicef were able to offer some help with the administration at the preschool.

A message received from Mabinty Sesay, Treasurer and Preschool Manager

Hello All.

Hope you are all doing fine.

First of all let me express my Sincere Thanks and appreciation to Brian Lintern for connecting me with Unicef. I and my head teacher have met with Ms Melody and she was very accomodating.

(THINGS SHE TOLD US TO PUT IN PLACE)

- 1. Training of teachers. The teachers should have a certificate in Nursery Education*
- 2. Fencing of the Pre school*
- 3. Recreational Facility*
- 4. Spreading of carpet all over the classes*
- 5. Changing of desk and chairs.*

She also referred us to the Education branch at Waterloo to do an application letter so that we can fill the and take it to the head office in Freetown.

Hopefully we are now making headway.

Thank you all,

Mabinty

Trustees asked about the fence as we thought this had already been completed. Mabinty explained that *there is a common boundary with a private land and the walls of that fence collapsed so we have to redo the fence for security purposes.*

Mabinty sent detailed estimates and last month the ONL was able to send 21,521,000Le (£1779) for the fence materials and more recently the sum of 6,852,820 Le (£550) to pay the contractor, thanks to receiving a generous donation of £500. We have very little in our account so we can't send any more at present.

Mabinty also explained that the carpets are needed because the original ones have worn out. We need to raise more money to provide these carpets. Have you any ideas? Can you help by giving a little? Once all is in place the preschool will be able to be government registered which we hope will provide funding for the staffing costs.



Covid in Sierra Leone

The Newton Committee hasn't told us much about the outbreak in Sierra Leone recently which we are assuming is good news. They do keep asking how we are and sending their best wishes to all in Olney... they tell us to stay safe and keep well.

The authorities there are scaling down their response to the pandemic. The outbreak in SL has lasted 30 weeks so far. There is a general downward trend in cases so the workforce they recruited of 9000 people is being reduced by about 40%, with the proviso that they could be easily reinstated through an agreed procedure.

At the end of October there were 23 homes (175 people) in quarantine, in three districts, which included the Western Rural Area where Newton is situated.

Fund Raising

The ONL events committee hasn't met recently to organise anything and sadly there is not much prospect of being able to hold any fund raising events in the near future.

However I am pleased to report some excellent efforts on our behalf...

Sue Lynch has been making beautiful **face masks** for friends, who have donated £5 per mask in aid of the Link. So far she has raised an amazing total of £280!!!

Sue wants me to tell you that if anyone in Olney needs a mask making she is happy to keep sewing.

She doesn't want to post them or travel miles to deliver them but if you are local and would like one please phone Sue on 01234 712540.



Debbie Hall has joined in with the **Sober October** movement (very impressive) and has also been collecting for the Link. She says that it's going well but there have been some tempting social events and a big one tomorrow night that will be a challenge but she is determined not to waiver. She tries not to think about it but it's a bit like the elephant in the room. The plus side is that she feels so much better for it, at the weekends especially where she can get more things done.

Advertising has been very low key, amongst friends and family, but £150 has been pledged and she is sure Ron will top it up too as he has saved a fortune!

Donations can be made in the office; there is a sponsor sheet on the jobs desk - call in at The Phonebox Magazine in Stanley Court, Olney (01234 713298).

Thank you Sue and Debbie!

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 cannot hold fundraising events at present.

If you usually attend our functions, would you be able to give us a little something?

It can be done online - go to our website, olneynewtonlink.org.uk and select 'donate' from the menu - or by dropping an envelope through our treasurer's door - Tricia Selwood, 18 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!

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