

# Olney—Newton Link

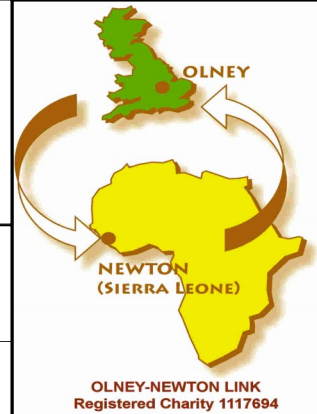
*“To advance education and to relieve poverty*

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

**May 2021**

[www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk](http://www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk)

**ONL**



## Graduation at Newton College

The Institute of Business Administration and Technology graduation ceremony, April 2021. The Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah, MP, former secretary of the Newton Committee, said that the hope of society is to educate its citizens.



**Virtual AGM: reports begin on Page 6**

# Digging for Victory!

## The Farming Basket

The ONL has begun a new project to support women in Newton. These ladies are the breadwinners for their families and due to the Covid 19 crisis have been unable to provide an income.

Correspondence with Brima James Kabia, pastor of the Newton Baptist Church, who appealed to us for help in February.

From James

*Good morning all,*

*I am glad to inform you that we have gone through the lockdown with no death from the covid 19. The Only problem is the economic situation in the country as a whole; the rural communities is the worst. With this in mind, I am presenting a project proposal on micro grant for the women who are the bread winners of their homes for your consideration.*

*Due to the Advent of the Covid 19 these women are unable to run their homes as before.*

*Here is the Project Proposal:*

*Project Tittle: "The Farming Basket"*

*This is going to be for 20 women beneficiaries with their dependents.*

*Each woman is to receive the sum of Le. 1,500,000.*

*This will enable them to buy two bags of groundnut, ten bundles of cassava cuttings, ten bags of sweet potato vines and two cockerels.*

*This will enable them to revive their standard of living .*

*The cultivation of those planting materials and the rearing of the chickens will help them to raise money to take care of their children and wards.*

*Thank you all for your attention. Looking forward to hearing from you.*

ONL reply

Very glad that you have survived the lockdown. Our economy has also been badly affected by Covid 19, as has our ability to raise funds.

Can you advise how the 20 ladies would be chosen, please?

Also would you purchase the plants/materials etc for them or would they do this themselves?

Thank you for your proposal, we will consider the request with the other Trustees and return to you.

Many thanks, Anne

*Hi Anne, thank you for these enquiry.*

*Yes I can, the ladies are predominantly famers who economic lively hood depends on group farming . It is a mix basket of single parents, widows , and less privileged women. All these are bread winners in their respective homes. The beneficiaries will buy their planting materials except for the chickens, they will be procured by me.*

*I was/am helping them in our own little way before and during this Pandemic period.*

*James*



Good afternoon, I hope you are well?

Just to let you know the Trustees have resoundingly agreed to send you money to enable the farming basket project. We'll arrange to transfer the money early next week to your account, that we've used previously in joint names. We are looking forward to hearing how the project progresses and wish every beneficiary a great harvest.

Take care, Anne

*Thanks so much. I will keep you posted. Stay safe and blessed. James*

Trustees sent 30.000.000 SLL (about £2000) for the Farming Basket project

Claire Lintern sent us some photos of vegetables growing so we know what they look like.

From Claire who lives in Bo, Sierra Leone ...

*I wondered if a couple of photos would help with the information about the project from James? It seems a great idea, easy to see the benefits and easy to keep a track of. We are now in the dry season so no real vegetables are growing but I can show you the heaps needed for planting potato. And yes it's the leaves we eat as well as the tubers. Cassava shoots are done in a couple of ways but also need heaped soil, they tend to be round though. Cassava shoots look like pale asparagus and are stuck into the ground! Again it's both leaf and tuber eaten, BBQ cassava is yummy!!! And I've included our cockerel. Stay well. All the best, Claire*

Potato heaps...the bare patches. This area needs 'brushing' or 'cleaning' which means weeding.



The tree is a cashew tree—where the nuts come from.



Potato and cassava heap. The cassava is the taller plant on the right, the potato is the creeping vine.



Our cockerel... the purple stripe is for identification in case he escapes. In the background you can see pineapple and plantain trees.

# News from Newton

## The Preschool

Trustees asked about progress and received this reply from Mabinty, Newton treasurer and preschool manager...

*The preschool is going on well. I have bought the carpet since we withdrawn the money. Though later we understand the carpet should be colorful. Presently I am repainting the school, and if possible pave the surrounding so that the carpet will not get dirty easily. We are doing some drawings on the school wall, these are in progress. I'll send you some photos. Thanks, Mabinty*



## Rural Education Committee School

In the last newsletter we reported that the Olney Infant Academy had sent money to enable the REC to construct some furniture. Mrs Doherty, headteacher, sent these photos. It looks good!



## Christ Evangelical School

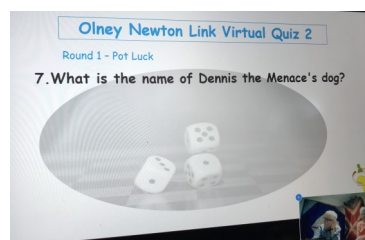
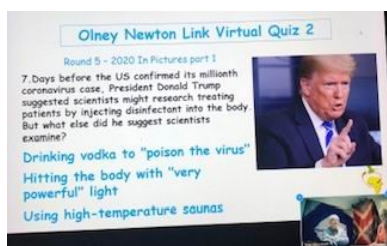
Newton Blossomville School raised money to send to their partner school, Christ Evangelical, to enable new furniture to be built for their new buildings - weatherproof and providing much needed extra space. Komba Nfalie, headteacher, sent these photos of the buildings.



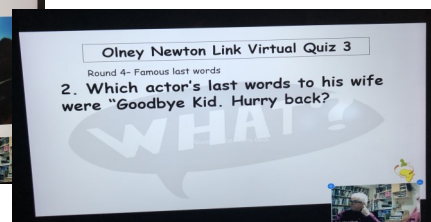
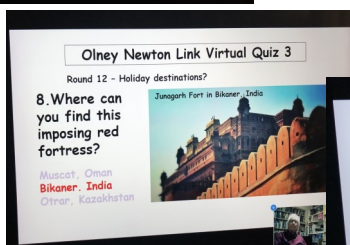
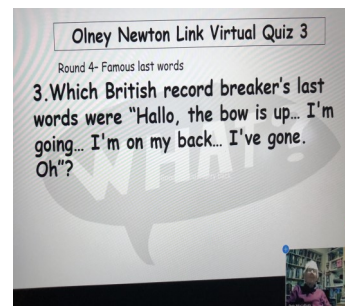


# Fund Raising

The **Quiz on 29th January** was attended by about 30 households and raised £460. It wasn't easy but it was enjoyed by everyone, those who like chocolate bars especially enjoyed one of the rounds! Players were impressed by the amount of work that had gone into devising the questions, so thank you very much Rob. Congratulations to Sally's and Marilyn's teams on their high scores.



The **Quiz on 26th March** was very well attended and much enjoyed to judge from the feedback and raised £330. People liked the great variety of questions and (mostly, anyway) the quick pace so there was no time to get bored. They liked the countdown to the answers too - missing the stress of being in the office no doubt. There was discussion about haircuts at half time; we weren't allowed to talk about the rugby as that was being recorded for later. People appreciated the chance to show their final scores (well done Sally's team - again! - and Moira's and Jackie's teams, all with high scores) and the fact that you didn't have to show a score or have it displayed so no one knew how bad you were! There was some keen family rivalry and I'm sad to say my daughter and her husband beat us again. Some said they needed a bottle of wine to get through the evening. One team even said they'd finished off the port- sophisticated lot in Olney. A huge thank you to Rob for setting all the questions and organising the IT.



Answers to the questions - not in order, just to make it more difficult -  
Bikaner, India; Donald Campbell; Gnasher;  
Humphrey Bogart, UV light

# The ONL AGM 2021

This time last year we cancelled the AGM due to the lockdown. None of us thought we would be in the same situation this year, albeit with a slightly more positive outlook.

You can read the reports from the officers in this newsletter. The trustees are all willing to stand again and would like to hear from anyone else wishing to stand. Please do consider whether you could help us— it isn't a very arduous role, meetings are currently by Zoom for 40 minutes about every 4 weeks—and normally would be one evening every two months or so, with e mail contact for anything needing discussion in between. We need people with expertise in administration and marketing and IT. Please contact one of us if you would like to talk about the role.

If you can help, please complete the nomination form and return it to the secretary at [olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com) by 20th May. Details of those wishing to be trustees will be sent out to supporters after the trustees' meeting on May 25th.

## The Olney Newton Link Nomination form for trustees



How important are trustees?

Trustees matter a great deal. It is very important for any charity to have trustees committed to their task and with the skills, knowledge and experience that the charity needs.

Trustees play an essential role in the governance of charities. They also have a lot to contribute to their success. For example they can:

- be a means of communication with communities that a charity exists to serve
- bring valuable professional or other experience to charities
- help to ensure that charities are well-managed

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

E mail address .....

Proposed by .....

Seconded by .....

Signed ..... Date .....

## Chair's Report—Anne McCallum



A sense of déjà vu has come over me as I write this year's report! However, things are improving and there is light at the end of the tunnel, as the vaccination programme rolls out and restrictions are gradually lifted. In Sierra Leone, covax has meant that various professionals, including teachers, over the age of 40, have received their first jab.

I hope that next year's AGM will be an "in person" meeting.

Before I review the Link's work this year, I want to take a moment to say thank you and farewell to two remarkable ladies, without whom the Link would not exist nor have achieved so much.

Those of you who have seen Janet's excellent tribute, in the last newsletter, will be aware of the achievements and the dedication of both Rena Partridge and Rachel Lintern to the Link.

It was Rena's vision of establishing a friendship link, between the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul's, Olney, with St Mary's Church, in the hamlet of Newton in Sierra Leone, through their connection with John Newton, in 1998, that started the Link.

Sierra Leone was then in the grip of a brutal and devastating Civil War (1992-2002) and, it was in late December of the year the friendship link began, that Newton was ransacked by rebels, with a reputation for abduction, amputation and rape. No wonder the population fled into the bush - some to Freetown, some abroad. The houses, schools and churches were ransacked, about a third of the houses were burnt down, livestock was stolen, books, personal belongings and furniture burnt and some people killed or abducted - total devastation for a rural community.

Through her contacts in the Church and with the CMS, Rena set up a "network" to send aid to Newton. Many former residents were unable to return home as their houses no longer existed. Working with people, who had returned to Newton and with those still in the displaced persons' camps in Freetown, a principle which has remained at the heart of the Link, she started to raise funds to send to help rebuild houses at their request

The Rebuild Newton Project was a great success, despite the need to overcome many difficulties, not least the heavy rains. The project work was carried out by the people of Newton, as it still is today, and by 2006, 60 houses had been completed. In addition, the committee here organised the collection and shipping of books, typewriters, sewing machines and other necessary items. Rena travelled to Newton in 2000 to ascertain the situation and meet the people.

Rachel became really involved, following her retirement from teaching, in 2003 when she accompanied Rena, her daughter Claire Lintern (now Tarawally) and Josie Pond on a life changing trip to Newton. Further aid was sent, including a shipment of bicycles, and several more visits took place to help establish a deeper understanding.

Rachel became Chair in 2006 and was responsible for the expansion of the Link's activities. The schools' link, which was very important to Rachel with her background in education, expanded, allowing interaction between children here and in Newton. Both Rena and Rachel knew the supreme importance of breaking down cultural division through contact and understanding.

As you know, under Rachel's stewardship, the Link has raised thousands of pounds to enable the building of the Skills Training Centre (now part of the University of Freetown) and, particularly dear to her heart, the Preschool, as well as water wells, to provide support for business enterprises, among many other projects, and care and provisions, during the Ebola crisis.

Both Rena and Rachel believed passionately in personal contact with the community in Newton and in working with them. Both had a love for Sierra Leone and its people that inspired others, as much as the example set by their work. I hope that we can continue to expand the Link and achieve even more, carrying on their legacy for many years to come.

This year, although our resources have been limited, we have been able to work with the Newton Committee, with Pastor Brima James Kabia and the schools, to provide financial assistance, for various projects.

We have sent money to buy solar powered radios, at the request of both the Newton Committee and James, to enable pupils, particularly those studying for exams, to listen to Education Department broadcasts.



The Preschool, under the guidance of Rachel and her husband, Brian, our Vice Chair, established contact with UNICEF, and through its help, obtained details of the Education Department's requirements for "adoption". Among these were the building of a perimeter wall and "carpeting" throughout the school. We sent funds to purchase materials for the wall and carpet. James Kabia, the local Baptist minister, asked for money to help with a clean drinking water project. This uses an existing well, from which water is pumped into a large tank. The system includes a purification system, generator to power the pump and a jack pump. It serves about 1300 people and a small charge is made locally, to cover repair and maintenance costs and fuel. It was lovely to see the happy faces of those collecting the water.

We have also been able to send funds for a Farming Basket project. This works by giving a set sum of money to, at present, a group of 20 women, widows and single parents particularly, who are the main or sole bread winner for their families and dependents. They are all crop farmers and the money allows them to buy cuttings and plants and some chickens. They can then, hopefully, feed themselves and sell any surplus.

The people of Newton continue to inspire us with their fortitude. Their concern for us during this pandemic is very humbling, when you consider how much we have, and take for granted, and how little they have.

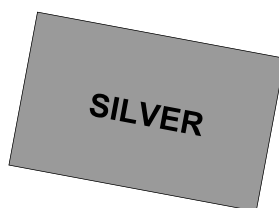
Thank you to all of you who have supported the Link over the last year, when life has been difficult for us all. Thank you to our regular donors, those who fill our collection boxes, for one off donations, for those who have started money making ventures, without you we wouldn't survive. Thank you also to our helpers who continued to show interest and support, despite our inability to hold events. Thank you to all who have joined our Zoom quizzes and donated that way. My husband, Rob, has kindly organised the quizzes, with questions on a multitude of topics – including chocolate and sweets! These have raised much needed funds and been an opportunity to meet, albeit remotely.

Finally, thank you, as always, to my fellow Trustees for their continued help and support.

I hope that when lockdown is over and we are able to get together again, I will be able to thank you all in person.

Please continue to encourage others to become involved and help us to keep this very worthwhile Charity going.

Anne McCallum



## 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—**David Coles, Heron Opticians, J Garrard & Allen, Souls Garages and Stephen Oakley.**



## Secretary's Report—Janet Howe



The trustees for 2020 - 2021 were:

Anne McCallum (Chair); Brian Lintern (Vice Chair); Tricia Selwood (Treasurer); Janet Howe (Secretary); Debbie Hall; Tom James; Brian Partridge; Marilyn Watkins

The trustees met virtually each month this year and used e mail for consultations between meetings. Communications from the minutes are sent to Newton. We receive messages from the Newton Committee who use WhatsApp to send accurate information to us, enabling well informed decisions to be made.

Discussions in the trustees' meetings have focused on ways to help the people of Newton financially (e.g. to provide funds for labour and purchase of materials to build a water tank) and by providing support (e.g. for developments such as the Preschool and the farming basket). The committee has also tried to provide information about Newton for the people of Olney in order to promote cultural understanding in the UK.

I am also editor of the newsletter (not the secretary's job but a separate role). We send hard copies to a few people, but most people opt to receive this by e mail. If you would like to help by becoming a trustee please return the nomination form to [olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com).

## Treasurer's Report—Tricia Selwood



A copy of 2020's Accounts forms a part of this report. As, no doubt, you will have seen copies of previous years' accounts, you will understand that we maintain two columns of costs and income for each year. One column is for funds raised for specific projects and the other column is for funds we can utilise for ad hoc costs and projects, when they materialise

During 2020 our income was just over half of that of 2019; but as we had a good balance of funds at the end of 2019, we were able to spend more than our 2020 income—page 10

For a quick way to work out what we spent this money on, refer to page 11, schedule 4, column 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to issue a plea for those of you who can, and who don't already do so, to set up a standing order to provide us with a regular income – otherwise why not use one of our collecting boxes for cash. More and more people are finding they are using cash less frequently. Please remember, too, that for every £1 you donate we are able to claim back £0.25 from the government, provided you are a tax payer and have completed (and returned to me) a Gift Aid Declaration.

Unfortunately, last year we missed out on holding our biggest fundraiser, a bottle stall at Dickens of a Christmas, and this year we will miss out again on one of our bigger fundraisers – Cherry Fair – because of lockdown.

Thank you for all that you have done to help us. Keep well, and hopefully see you later this year.

NOTE: If you have any questions regarding the accounts, once you have reviewed them, please do email me: [tricia@selwood-uk.co.uk](mailto:tricia@selwood-uk.co.uk) or phone 01234 712919.

# Statement of Financial Activities

## for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

### Summary Income and Expenditure Account

in accordance with The Charities Act 2011

|  | Schedule | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total Funds<br>2020<br>£ | Total Funds<br>2019<br>£ |
|--|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Incoming Resources</b>  |          |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| <i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>   |          |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Voluntary income - Gift Aid  | 2        | 778                        | 0                        | 778                      | 858                      |
| Sponsors/bursary   | 2        | 100                        | 0                        | 100                      | 0                        |
| Charities/tithing  | 2        | 1,020                      | 0                        | 1,020                    | 2,101                    |
| Individual Donations   | 2        | 2,191                      | 530                      | 2,721                    | 2,487                    |
| Days of Advent   | 2        | 510                        | 0                        | 510                      | 502                      |
| (Shipping) Pilgrimage  | 2        | 98                         | 0                        | 98                       | 1,010                    |
| (Gazebo/Mudslide) Tailoring  | 2        | 435                        | 0                        | 435                      | 385                      |
| Birthday (1/2 Marathon)  | 2        | 220                        | 0                        | 220                      | 240                      |
| Bo School/Funeral  | 2        | 0                          | 0                        | 0                        | 829                      |
| SkillsTCSeats/Waterwell  | 2        | 0                          | 0                        | 0                        | 635                      |
| Activities for generating funds  | 2        | 831                        | 0                        | 831                      | 4,811                    |
| <b>Total Incoming Resources</b>  |          | <b>6,183</b>               | <b>530</b>               | <b>6,713</b>             | <b>13,858</b>            |
| <b>Resources Expended</b>  |          |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Cost of generating funds   | 3        | 162                        | 0                        | 162                      | 1,225                    |
| Charitable activities  | 4        | 8,843                      | 1,065                    | 9,908                    | 11,977                   |
| Governance cost (No paid staff)  |          | 0                          | 0                        | 0                        | 0                        |
| <b>Total Resources Expended</b>  |          | <b>9,005</b>               | <b>1,065</b>             | <b>10,070</b>            | <b>13,202</b>            |
| <b>Net Movement in Funds</b>   |          | <b>-2,822</b>              | <b>-535</b>              | <b>-3,357</b>            | <b>656</b>               |
| Fund Balances Brought Forward from 2019  |          | 4,934                      | 1,477                    | 6,411                    | 5,825                    |
| Float  |          | 70                         | 0                        | 70                       | -70                      |
| <b>Fund Balances carried forward</b>   |          | <b>2,182</b>               | <b>942</b>               | <b>3,124</b>             | <b>6,411</b>             |
| <b>Cash at Bank</b>  |          | <b>2,182</b>               | <b>942</b>               | <b>3,124</b>             | <b>6,411</b>             |
| <i>The Olney-Newton Link has no tangible assets,<br/>Debtors or current liabilities.</i> |          |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Signed on behalf of the Trustees</b>  |          |                            |                          |                          |                          |

|  |                               | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2020         | 2019          |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>SCHEDULE 1</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              | <b>£</b>      |
| <b>Unrestricted funds balance</b>  |                               | 2112               | 0                | 2112         | 4934          |
| <b>Float</b>   |                               | 70                 | 0                | 70           | 70            |
| <b>Restricted funds balances</b>   |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| <i>Restricted funds are those that are allocated to a specific project</i> |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| <b>Olney Link</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| All Schools  |                               | 0                  | 330              | 330          | 329           |
| Ousedale School  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 27            |
| Olney Middle School  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 56            |
| Olney Infant Academy   |                               | 0                  | 156              | 156          | 156           |
| (Lavendon School)  | Bo School                     | 0                  | 294              | 294          | 294           |
| Newton Blossomville School   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 180           |
| Waterwell  |                               | 0                  | 50               | 50           | 50            |
| (Bursary)  | Kabia- Tailoring              | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 385           |
| (Skills T C Seats)   |                               | 0                  | 112              | 112          | 0             |
|  |                               | <b>2182</b>        | <b>942</b>       | <b>3124</b>  | <b>6481</b>   |
| <b>SCHEDULE 2</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| <b>Individual Donations</b>  | Coll.Boxes,S.O.s, CAF & Other | 2191               | 530              | 2,721        | 2487          |
| <b>Donations-</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| <b>Gift Aid</b>  |                               | 778                | 0                | 778          | 858           |
| <b>Corporate Sponsorship</b>   |                               | 100                | 0                | 100          | 0             |
| <b>Olney PCC Tithing (2 years)</b>   |                               | 1020               | 0                | 1,020        | 1731          |
| <b>Days of Advent</b>  |                               | 510                | 0                | 510          | 502           |
| <b>United Reformed Church</b>  |                               | 98                 | 0                | 98           | 371           |
| <b>Seats for Skills TC</b>   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 585           |
| <b>(Rob Birthday) Bo School</b>  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 564           |
| <b>Waterwell</b>   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 50            |
| <b>(Gazebo) Tailoring workshop</b>   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 385           |
| <b>(Shipping) Pilgrimage</b>   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 1010          |
| <b>Masks</b>   |                               | 435                | 0                | 435          | 241           |
| <b>(Mudslide) Funeral</b>  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 265           |
| <b>Activities for Generating Funds :-</b>                                  | (sub total)                   | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>     | <b>9049</b>   |
| Tea Party/ BBQ   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 474           |
| Soup Lunch   |                               | 468                | 0                | 468          | 335           |
| D Hall Sponsorship   |                               | 220                | 0                | 220          | 196           |
| Cherry Fair  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 255           |
| Dickens  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 1,026         |
| ONL Carol Singing  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 151           |
| Pancake Race   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 87            |
| Autumn Antics  |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 292           |
| Tinkers Lane Concert   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 454           |
| Windmill Singers   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 712           |
| Quiz (VMG)   |                               | 363                | 0                | 363          | 650           |
| School fayres and small events   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 177           |
| (own fundraising)  |                               | <b>6,183</b>       | <b>530</b>       | <b>6,713</b> | <b>13,858</b> |
| <b>SCHEDULE 3</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| Insurance  |                               | 93                 | 0                | 93           | 165           |
| Transport of Goods   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 750           |
| Gazebo/Mud slide/Funeral   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 264           |
| Web Host   |                               | 69                 | 0                | 69           | 0             |
| Various for small events   |                               | 0                  | 0                | 0            | 46            |
| (own fundraising)  |                               | <b>162</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>162</b>   | <b>1,225</b>  |
| <b>SCHEDULE 4</b>  |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| <b>Charitable Activities</b>   |                               |                    |                  |              |               |
| Komba School   |                               | 0                  | 180              | 180          | 0             |
| Solar Radios   |                               | 2,000              | 0                | 2,000        | 0             |
| S.Centre/Public Address System   |                               | 450                | 0                | 450          | 1,076         |
| Preschool  |                               | 2,883              | 500              | 3,383        | 2,750         |
| Waterwell/Drink water Stn.   |                               | 2,095              | 0                | 2,095        | 3,654         |



## Schools Report - Marilyn Watkins



We keep in regular contact through WhatsApp with our link schools in Newton and they are all working hard to manage the current situation. Here in Olney, the group hasn't met in person this year but hopefully this can happen soon.

The REC School which is linked with Olney Infants has appointed a new head, Mrs Princess Doherty. Olney Infants also has a new Head, Mrs Sarah Armitage and we were pleased that we were able to send out money collected by their parents to enable benches and chairs to be constructed. The REC school has seen an increase in their numbers and were struggling to accommodate all the children.



Newton Blossomville were also able to send out money to Christ Evangelical School for furniture to be made, as they are in the middle of building some new classrooms and were short of tables and benches.

Children taking their mock exams.

Olney Middle School and Ousedale contributed to the funds for carpets for the Pre-School. The schools in Newton were extremely grateful for the generosity of parents in our local area. Due to Covid, the Schools have been unable to fundraise this year, and this may be the case in the immediate future too.

## Events Committee Report - Sue Lynch



The Committee hasn't met since February last year as lockdown and restrictions have prevented us from meeting and from holding any events.

We have been supported by Debbie Hall taking part in SoberOctober. I have made facemasks in return for donations. We are delighted that Rob McCallum has run three quizzes and would like to thank him too. These efforts and the many donations we have received have helped with fundraising and enabled us to continue to support ongoing projects in Newton and a new farming one.

We aim to organise events that not only raise funds, but also inform people about the work of the charity in Sierra Leone. Bozeat Windmill Singers are keenly rehearsing ready for when they are allowed to sing for us again. Catherine Rose has promised a concert in the Autumn. We plan to hold a memorial tea party or something similar for Rachel when get togethers are permitted. And Rob is busy devising another quiz in the meantime!

**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](http://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!**

**A big thank you to our GOLD sponsors**

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