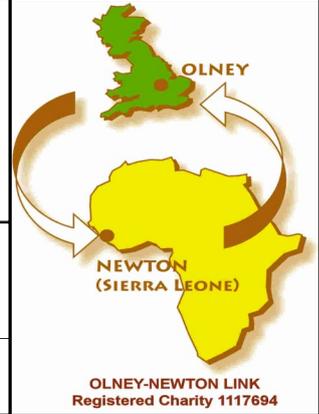


Olney—Newton Link



“To advance education and to relieve poverty

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

March 2026

www.olneynewtonlink.org.uk

ONL

Raising the Roof!

Materials
to finish the
roof of the
community centre.



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

For the newsletter e mail:
olneynewtonlinknewsletter@gmail.com

News from Newton — the Community Centre

We sent the money for the roof materials in November. Trustees have asked about installing solar panels, which Mr Banghura has said they will consider and get quotes for, but after the roof has been finished. They need somewhere to put the panels!

We also shared some information sent to us by Claire Tarawally (nee Lintern), about erecting an electricity distribution pole, which could be a connection point for the whole community.

We are hoping to receive photos of the finished roof very soon. The weather hasn't been good in Sierra Leone, with rain that is unexpected at this time of year, which has caused delays.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONFIRMATION	
Payment ID	10789061
Transaction date	11/19/2025
Client Buys	SLE 104,293.00
Client Sells	GBP 3,500.00
Fees	GBP 0.00
Total amount to be paid	GBP 3,500.00
Rate	29.7980
Value date	11/21/2025
Purpose of payment	community centre
BENEFICIARY INFORMATION	
Beneficiary	Abdul Kabia, Sulaiman Sillah Koroma, Ali
Swift BIC Code	SLCBSLFRXXX
Beneficiary Bank Address	SIERRA LEONE COMMERCIAL BANK LTD BUILDING FREETOWN SL
BeneficiaryAccountNumber	003016166441110136
Template Name	burial cost



Schools' News

Goshen High School

We have the following letter from Abdul Kabia, which I thought you would like to read in full...

Dear Olney Newton Link Trustees and Ousedale School,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Goshen High School and the Newton Community. It is with the deepest gratitude and warmest sentiments that I write to you today, both as the Principal of Goshen High School and as your local representative for the Olney Newton Link here in Newton.

First and foremost, we wish to express our profound and sincere thanks for your unwavering support, partnership, and generosity. The impact of your help transcends material assistance; it has fostered hope, ignited ambition, and strengthened the very foundation of our educational mission. The bond we share through the Olney Newton Link is a cherished one, reminding us daily that we are part of a global family dedicated to empowering young minds. Your belief in our students and our vision has been a true beacon of encouragement.

We have been fortunate to secure the support of a prominent politician, Honourable Mohamed Omudu Kamara (Jagaban). He has graciously committed to funding and overseeing the construction of a new, concrete one-flat building for our school. This is a tremendous step forward for our infrastructure.

Honourable Jagaban has specifically stated that his project will cover the construction of the building shell. However, he has tasked the school with finding partners to complete the interior and essential fittings. This includes the installation of doors, a security gate, and crucially, the equipping of the spaces to function as a Liberty Science Lab and a Computer Lab.

Immediately upon receiving this news, my thoughts turned to you—our most valued and impactful partners. I believed it was not only right but essential to bring this development to you first. We see this not as a separate project, but as a golden opportunity to build upon the foundation you have already helped us lay. The politician's contribution offers the structure, and your potential partnership could breathe life into it, creating the transformative learning environments we dream of for our students.

We cannot think of a more fitting way to honour our collective mission than to complete this project together. We would be honoured if you would consider partnering with us to "finish the job" by providing the doors, gate, and laboratory equipment. In recognition of such a pivotal contribution, we would proudly name the completed facility in honour of the Olney Newton Link ensuring your legacy is permanently etched into the heart of our school and the Newton Community as a whole.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. Most of all, thank you for your unwavering belief in us. We are eager to discuss this further at your convenience and explore how we might achieve this next phase together.

Your friendship and support mean more than words can convey. We look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership and will keep you closely informed as these new plans progress.

With utmost respect and gratitude,

*Abdul Kabia
Principal, Goshen High School
& Representative, Olney Newton Link, Newton*

A recent update from Abdul (February 26th) has informed us that

...construction is advancing well. The concrete flooring has been successfully completed for the following areas:

- *Nine (9) Classrooms*
- *The School Store*
- *The Staff Room*
- *The Administrative Office*

One classroom remains to be concreted. This task was deferred as the essential iron rod work for that specific room was only finalized on January 31, 2026. This last segment will be addressed imminently.

We have received an estimate for all of the work that needs doing (installing doors, windows, gates, and fixtures and fittings for the science laboratory and computer room) of 94620 Leones, about £3000.

We are still in the process of finishing the Community Centre and our first commitment is to them. Ousedale School are working hard to raise funds for Goshen and we hope to be able to supplement what they have raised as soon as we know what is needed for the completion of the Community Centre.

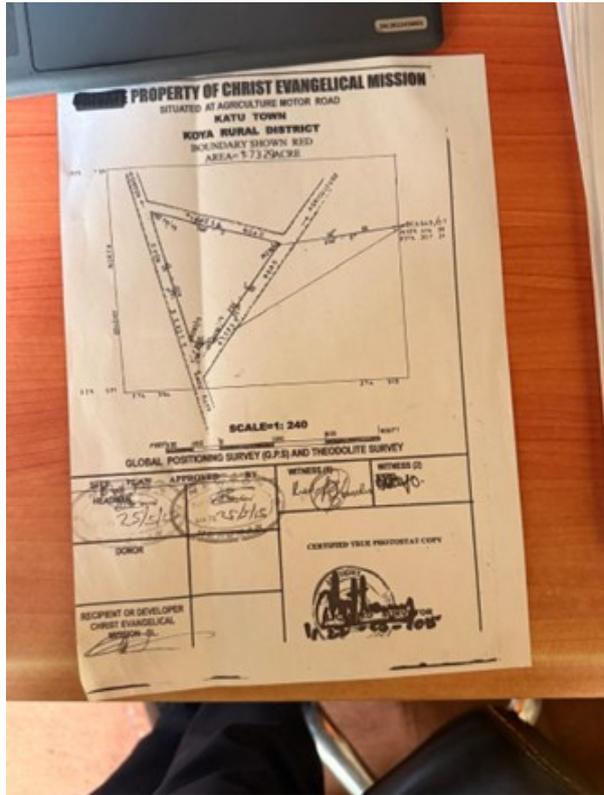
Some of the fixtures....



Christ Evangelical School

We were delighted to receive details of a plan for a new school building to house the Christ Evangelical school.

We're not sure what is needed to make this happen but we are in contact with Francis Lavalie, headteacher, to ask what is needed and he sent us these lovely photos of the schoolchildren in their classroom learning about farming. The Village Schools Federation is fundraising to help.



Fund Raising

The Quiz

The annual quiz in November was very well attended and all enjoyed the home cooked supper provided. The questions were a good mixture of challenging and easy. Some of the teams found them easier than others! Congratulations to Storm Claudia, the winners! Results were very close and hot on their heels were Les Franglais and Mad Hatters, so well done to you too. The Wooden Spoons were delighted to get 6 wooden spoons! (my apologies because I don't seem to have everybody's photo).

Our thanks to Rob and Thomas for the questions and to Anne, Rose, Rosa, Marilyn, Tricia, Sue, Lynn, Sally and Janet for the 'behind the scenes' - cooking, serving, selling tickets and washing up.

We raised over £1000 pounds which has been sent to Newton for roofing.



Carol Singing

Many, many thanks to Sally who organised a carol singing expedition around Olney on 23rd December and also many, many thanks to the brave band of singers and musicians who accompanied her.

She reported....

We raised £224.94 carol singing on the 23rd, which I think is a lot more than last year. We had around 20 singers plus Matthew on the cornet so we made a decent noise! The weather was fine although cold and by the end, some of our number had melted away (which is always the case as we're happy to accommodate all ages and states of health!).

Thank you to you all!



Christmas Tree

Not fundraising but an opportunity to provide information about our efforts in Newton and a chance to support the Parish Church's annual Christmas Tree display.

It looked lovely thanks to Anne and Rose's efforts!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2026

Soup Lunch	Friday 20th March, tickets must be bought in advance from Anne (07375 425325) or Sally (07719 222820)
AGM Wednesday 13th May	Provisional date, speaker and details to follow
Cherry Fair	28th June—come and support our stall

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

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have continued to donate to the ONL through standing orders in these difficult times.

If you'd like to contribute, check our website, olneynewtonlink.org.uk and select 'donate' from the menu - or drop an envelope through our treasurer's door -
Tricia Selwood, 16 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

	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
	Souls Garages

Contact Anne or Tricia for more details of bronze, silver and gold sponsorship