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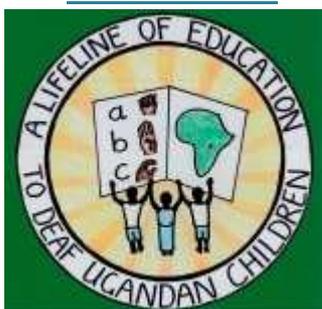
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Jinja D.E.A.F. Newsletter

March 2015

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Welcome to our first newsletter of 2015!

Some of you have been following our progress in Uganda for a long time and some of you may be new to the work of Jinja D.E.A.F. Our newsletters are designed to bring you up to date with our most recent activities both here and in Uganda. Below are just some of the highlights of what we have been up to as well as information on how you can support us in what we do. You can also visit our [website](#) which has a wealth of information on our work as well as a gallery of images from Uganda and the UK.

How to donate

We are grateful for all donations received. All donations really do go to those who need it most.

For one-off donations

We use Virgin Money as one way to manage donations. This not-for-profit organisation takes a modest 2% of donations to cover their costs. You can visit our Virgin Money page [here](#). Further options to donate including Standing Orders can be found on our [website](#).

How you can help

We are always looking for volunteers to help us administer the charity and/or run events and so we are compiling a register of volunteers we can call upon. If you are interested in being on our register, please contact us on contact@jinjadeaf.org.uk, and tell us what sort of things you can help with.

Looking for someone with time and talent.

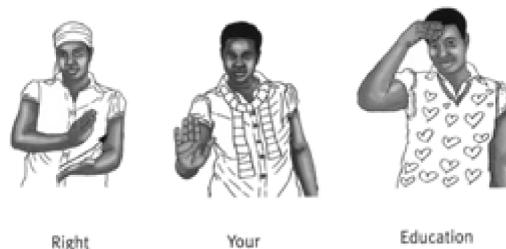
Diary Note: applications deadline is Friday 15th May 2015.

Jinja D.E.A.F. is looking for a new volunteer chairperson. Someone with a very strong interest in our work in developing the education of deaf children in Uganda. The current board of

Two Jinja District Deaf Pupils Graduate to Secondary School.

We are delighted to report that two pupils, one from each of the primary schools we support, in 2014 passed the exam needed to complete primary education, and are now both enrolled in the Wakiso School for the Deaf, which is a government-supported secondary school near Kampala, and is one of only three secondary schools for the deaf in Uganda.

A study of 2011 estimated that less than 2% of deaf Ugandan children were in school. Few hearing school children reach secondary level. So Joan and Beatrice are exceptional. We wish them all the best for their big step up into secondary school.



This shows the phrase 'your right to education' in Ugandan Sign Language (USL) signs, ordered according to USL grammar.

trustees will fully support the new chair with their skills in finance, digital communication and administration. However the new chair will need to steer our charity towards the balance of the steady achievement of firm commitments already in place with the need to support further projects in areas most needed. Some experience in project management or charity administration would be very useful, especially in connection with developing countries. We are also looking for an interest in issues of deaf education and the educational and linguistic rights of deaf children, particularly in a developing world context where audiology is unaffordable and advancing the use of the national sign language provides the most effective opportunities.

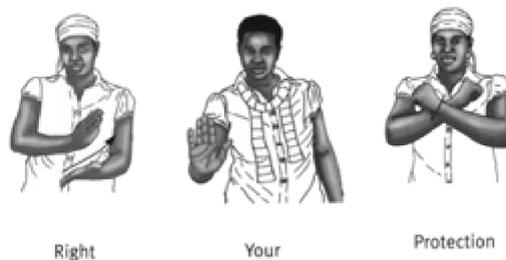
Meetings of the board of trustees are held 4-6 times a year in Islington (usually Sunday afternoons). A full description of the post is on the Jinja D.E.A.F. website [here](#). Interested candidates are requested to send letters of application to contact@jinja deaf.org.uk by Friday 15th May 2015. The successful candidate will have a three-month period of overlap with the outgoing chair Emma Heseltine, and hopefully we will be able to introduce the new chair in our next newsletter.



😊😊 Spring Party 😊😊

Diary Note: 18th April 2015, 5-8pm, 96 Hemingford Road, Islington, N1 1DD

Something to look forward to: an opportunity to meet other Jinja D.E.A.F. supporters, and a chance to share thoughts with trustees of the charity. You are welcome to join us on Saturday 18th of April between 5 and 8pm. (The venue is between Liverpool and Caledonian Road.) There will be drinks and snacks on offer, and a short presentation at about 6.30pm by the outgoing Secretary Joanna about what we have achieved in the first seven years of our existence. A contribution of £10 per person towards fundraising will be collected at the door. We hope for good weather, but can promise fun



The phrase 'your right to protection' in USL. Taken with permission from Deaf Child Worldwide publication: 'Communicating with your deaf child in Ugandan Sign Language 2'.

Learning USL

Ugandan Sign Language (USL) is a language using hand signs, body movements and facial expressions which is used by the Deaf community in Uganda, in educational institutions, projects and societies for deaf people. It has developed through the influences of British Sign Language, American Sign Language and other sign languages along with locally evolved signs and gestures, and its grammar and vocabulary have been disseminated by research at Kyambogo University. The charity Deaf Child Worldwide (DCW) have produced two books to support the teachers, carers and parents of deaf children who want to learn USL. We have managed to obtain some of these books for our teachers, and plan to include a selection of the diagrams in our newsletters for those of you who want to know more about USL.



OPDC Logo

Supporting Parents with Deaf Children.

Jinja D.E.A.F. has started communication with a small group of parents of deaf children in Jinja, who first got together in 2014 at a workshop run by Jinja D.E.A.F. in partnership with Softpower Education. These parents have formed a self-help organization (Organization of Parents with Deaf Children OPDC). They have become the contact point for parents. They are aware of

and good spirits on the day.



Patrick Otembe is now able to sign
Update on Channel 4's programme '15 and Learning to Speak'.

In November 2014, there was a programme by Channel 4, about several projects supporting the teaching of sign language in Uganda; several clips of the programme are viewable on You Tube (search YouTube for '15 and learning to speak' OR links are in the Our Work page in our website). There was a huge amount of interest in the programme, and the main trailer now has an astonishing 1.65 million views on You Tube!

The title of the programme refers to one of the main subjects of the film: 15 year-old Patrick Otema, who lives in an isolated area of Uganda, and had had few chances to interact with others. The introduction to Patrick showed a very anxious and reclusive teenager, who had great difficulties in making eye-contact and could not share his thoughts or feelings with others. His introduction to sign language showed his joy at doors-being-opened: his chance to better understand the world and especially his new ability to share his thoughts with others. He was no longer alone.

Such was the interest in Patrick in particular, that Channel 4 did a follow up about him after 10 weeks– the clip is also viewable on You Tube. Patrick, with smart new shirt and constant smile, explains in what appears fluent signing, that he is really happy, and now has many friends. His career plan is to be a signing teacher for the deaf: we wish Patrick every success.

many deaf children who are not able to attend school, and attempt to give advice and support where possible.

We intend to continue to contribute funding for sign language work shops and courses for parents and others, and hope that such events also develop into opportunities for parents and carers of deaf children to gather and share ideas and issues affecting them.

Ugandan School Terms - Some Differences

To avoid anything being lost-in-translation, trustees need to be clear about school terms in Ugandan schools. The UK seasonal tags do not apply to weather or to term descriptions in Jinja. Average annual temperatures vary by a tiny 2°C, between a hot-low of 27 and a hot-high of 29. For interest, the first day of term dates for the year 2015 are -

Term 1: Monday, 2nd Feb

Term 2: Monday, 18th May

Term 3: Monday, 7th September

There are short holidays after terms 1 and 2, and a long holiday after term 3 for most of December and all of January.



Start of the Waterford Marathon in 2014

Running Man

One of our supporters is fundraising for Jinja D.E.A.F. by running a marathon: 26 miles of pant and pain, but hopefully translated into £'s to support our activities in Uganda. The event is www.waterfordvikingmarathon.com on Saturday 27th of June 2015. Colin, we will be cheering you on (from the couch).

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