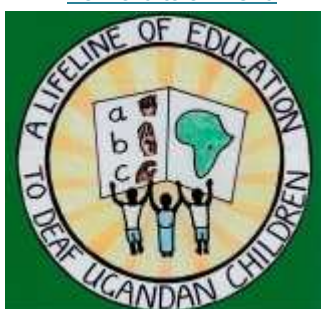


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Jinja D.E.A.F. Newsletter

December 2014

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Welcome to our third newsletter of 2014!

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@jinjaadeaf.org.uk, and tell us what sort of things you can help with.



Six years ago Jinja D.E.A.F brought the first deaf sign language instructor to a government primary school in Jinja District. Above you see Jinja D.E.A.F.'s Victoria Nanyonga teaching sign language in 2008 to a beginner's class that ranged in age from little ones to a young man of 20.

Our founder and Chair Emma wrote at this time in our first Newsletter "... two children came rushing in from play-time and signed to Miss Nanyonga with furious fluency a whole series of spontaneous phrases ... 'he took my ball', 'that's not true. I had it first', 'she's lying!' ... I reflected on how a few months back I had seen these children get into a fight and turn to the teacher,



Patrick's face lights up as he begins to sign.

On 21st November 2014, Channel 4's Unreported World series showed the program '15 and Learning to Speak'.

It has been available on Channel 4's 4oD archive website, but no longer. However you can still catch the whole program on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNCPqrm8Gu4>,

or several shorter clips are on Channel 4's website and on YouTube (search for 'Uganda 15 learning speak').

The program follows the work of deaf sign language instructors in central and northern Uganda doing the work that Jinja D.E.A.F. has been doing in Jinja District in Eastern Uganda: transforming the lives of deaf Ugandans who previously had been unable to communicate fluently. Jinja D.E.A.F. says **a very big thank you to Channel 4** for bringing the situation of the Deaf in Uganda to the attention of a wider audience. This attention has generated much-needed funds for us. Jinja D.E.A.F. says **a very big thank you to our new donors**, who come from all over the UK.

pointing at each other with only plaintive tears and a good few kicks and slaps to communicate their frustration ... these young children had moved from a world of frustrated pointing and whining to being able to actually express themselves with the richness of a language ... ”.



Three of Victoria's ex-pupils now at Wakiso Secondary School for the Deaf.

Victoria Nanyonga is still teaching sign language at the school, but life has moved on for her pupils from the early days. Jinja D.E.A.F. now funds an interpreter to help deaf children when they go to the upper school, where a handful of them are included in classes of 50 or 60 hearing children with teachers who do not sign. Amazingly, four deaf children have recently passed the same leaving exam as is taken by the hearing children and have progressed to secondary education, where two of them have bursaries from Jinja D.E.A.F.



From December 8th to 12th, the third Jinja D.E.A.F./SoftPower Education Workshop on Ugandan Sign Language took place in Jinja town.

It was attended by those parents of deaf children who had attended the previous workshop so that they could increase their knowledge of sign language. This workshop has taken place at the



Sam Lutalo-Kiingi, our deaf Ugandan patron, received his doctorate from the University of Central Lancashire. He is the first deaf Ugandan to receive a PhD.

The subject of his thesis is 'A Descriptive Grammar of Morphosyntactic Constructions in Ugandan Sign Language'. His achievement is an inspiration to his fellow deaf Ugandans, demonstrating that deafness need not be a barrier to success.



On November 30th Ursula Yates became our newest Trustee. Welcome to Ursula!

Here she is (on left) very busy being briefed by

beginning of the longest school holiday of the Ugandan academic year, so that there will be plenty of time for parents and children to practise signing together before the children return to school. We trust that improved communication will enrich family life and further reveal to parents the previously hidden potential of their deaf children.



Jinja D.E.A.F. funded deaf sign language instructor Juliet teaches at Kyomya Primary School.



A deaf child takes the leaving exam at Walukuba West Primary School.

From February, when the next Ugandan academic year begins, we shall give grants to Kyomya and Walukuba West Government Primary Schools so that they can directly employ the sign language support staff who up to now have been employees of Jinja D.E.A.F. This new arrangement **will mark a positive step in the recognition and inclusion of these staff and the deaf children they teach as a valued part of the whole school.** Sadly, the Head Teacher of the third government primary school in Jinja District that admits deaf pupils has a less positive attitude towards them. For example he stopped a signing, government SEN teacher from working with them and diverted that teacher to

Joanna because she will take over as Secretary on January 31st when Joanna retires as Secretary and trustee. Joanna will continue to fundraise and to help in any way she can.



Happy Christmas from Jinja D.E.A.F.

Our Secretary Joanna is sorry that she is unable to give her usual pre-Christmas Jinja D.E.A.F. party and fundraiser this year. **However we will be having a party in the Spring - watch this space!**

working with hearing children, and he refused to allow deaf children to use boarding facilities because they might 'disturb the normal children'. Many Ugandans, even the educated ones, do not see disability as normal, but see it as the work of evil spirits and shun the disabled as a result.

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