

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Tr](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Jinja D.E.A.F. Newsletter

November 2016

[Friend on Facebook](#)[Donate online](#)[Forward to a Friend](#)

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2016!

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.

AUTUMN 2016

Autumn in the UK means more cold and more dark and more rain. In Jinja there is also change,



TEACHING PARENTS TO SIGN

When our chairman David Johnstone went to Jinja in January 2016, he was able to meet up with our staff at Walukuba West and Kyomya primary schools to discuss future projects. He

although this is from hot to warm: the September average of 27°C falls to a December average of 22°C. Heating is not needed as Jinja offers year-round sun. December also means a long holiday for school children, who have nearly two months until the start of term one of the next school year at the end of January 2017.

We have had a “goodbye” and a “welcome” amongst the trustees over the summer. Our volunteer-treasurer Eric Fergusson has been an essential support for three years, and arranged our payments and banking affairs diligently. His activities were in addition to his full-time employment, so we were very grateful for the donation of both his financial skills and his precious leisure time.



In his place steps Robert Welsford, who was appointed volunteer-treasurer in May 2016. Robert’s background is as a corporate/commercial lawyer, having spent the first 28 years of his working life at a leading City firm of solicitors. In 1999 he took early retirement from the law because he wanted to have a second career in a different area and from 2000 until his retirement in 2012 he was the CEO of a medium-sized national charity. Since becoming a trustee Robert has reviewed and updated our banking and gift aid arrangements, in addition to taking an active part in trustee meetings and general decisions on how to best use generous funds to support deaf education in Jinja. We welcome Robert’s support.

reported back that the work at both schools was excellent. He observed that pupils were all eager learners who soon became skilled communicators of Ugandan Sign Language (USL), but reported that they were often still very isolated outside their school environments, as neither parents nor siblings were able to understand their newly acquired communication skills. The trustees decided it would be very useful to support the funding of another intense five-day USL residential course for parents. This was the third USL course that Jinja DEAF has funded for parents, but it was the first course that was open to the parents of children at all four of the schools in Jinja District that have provision for deaf children. The previous course had only been open to the parents of children at the two schools that have JD-funded staff. Thanks are due to OPDC (Organization of Parents with Disabled Children), who used their contacts to recruit parents from all four schools.

We had received a very generous donation from TCR (a company involved in ground support equipment leasing at airports). This donation provided approximately half of the costs of the course.

The course was held on 5th-9th September 2016 at the YMCA in Jinja. There were 34 parents of deaf children who attended. The course was taught by two signing instructors and two interpreters. In addition, we were able to arrange for one of the secondary school students we still support (Charles Waiswa) to join the course as a mentor: both to support the USL demonstrations, but also to model a confident and successful older student to the parents of younger deaf children.

After the course, all parents were given a certificate of participation. We had invaluable support for the local organisation of the course from Emily, who is in charge of the Special Educational Needs Programme at Soft Power Education (SPE). She reported that, “the parents seemed to enjoy the course and the staff were enthusiastic and ... everybody was having fun ... there was a nice atmosphere within the sessions. By the end of the week I couldn’t believe how much the parents had retained – it was lovely to see.”



IDAW GATHERING IN LIRA

Every year there is a gathering of the deaf community in Uganda during the International Deaf Awareness Week (IDAW). The venue is rotated around the country annually to allow widest access to the event. We supported children from the two schools where we fund staff, Walukuba West and Kyomya Primary Schools, to attend the event near Kampala last year, and they reported that it was an inspiration to be part of such a large gathering: they did not know that there were so many other deaf people in Uganda. This year the event was held from the 26th to 30th of September 2016 in Lira, Northern Uganda. Together with The Giving Circle of Saratoga Springs, New York, we funded transport to allow the one-day attendance for twenty deaf children and nine staff drawn from Busoga Junior as well as from the two schools where we fund staff. The children had a very early start and a very late return, but enjoyed the opportunity to meet other deaf children from around the country, and celebrate achievements and motivational activities. And another benefit was that every child was given a T-shirt to remember the special outing.

A NEW INTERPRETER FOR KYOMYA PRIMARY SCHOOL

In addition to two deaf members of staff to teach signing, we also benefit from the skills of one hearing member of staff who is fluent in Ugandan Sign Language (USL). Yaziidi (at Walukuba West primary school) is an interpreter, and translates lessons taught into USL: he additionally provides tutoring for pupils. During previous visits, our chairman David Johnstone discussed the employment of a second interpreter, so that both schools we support

The mentor student Charles was very excited to be able to share his skills as a fluent deaf signer. He described attending the course as, “the first big experience of his life”, and that the small payment given to him allowed him to make an offer to his family.

It has not been possible to formally assess the course, but we hope over time to gather feedback and commentary; perhaps from the school children about their parents' signing skills.



WHAT DO DEAF CHILDREN DO WHEN THEY LEAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

Education is highly valued by children in Uganda. They know how important it is for their future. Sadly, education is not a guarantee of a better future for the children. Opportunities are limited. Deaf children have the same ambition as hearing children, but for them the challenge is even greater.

Jinja DEAF is aware that this is a problem. To try to understand better what happens when deaf children leave primary school our Chairman, David Johnstone, visited three children who graduated from primary school at the end of 2015. The three have returned to their villages

would have one. We plan to recruit someone for Kyomya primary school to start in the Spring of 2017, to support our current instructor Juliet Wabukawo. We hope the additional member of staff will contribute much to support the education of the twenty deaf children attending Kyomya primary school.

where David went to meet them and their families.

They have returned to their communities, who are small-scale subsistence farmers. They help in the fields to grow food for the family. There is some opportunity for occasional paid work, which David, one of the older and stronger boys (red t-shirt), is sometimes able to get, but he has been underpaid compared to other hearing young people doing the same work. Frank is younger and smaller. He has been going to sit in the local school although none of the teachers or other children can communicate with him in sign language.

It is a challenge for these children when they leave school with some education and with skills in signing. There are no easy answers. We know this is a problem for deaf children across Uganda. Jinja DEAF is limited in what we can do, but the first step in finding answers is to understand the problem, which is what we try to do.

[Friend on Facebook](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

Copyright © 2016 Jinja D.E.A.F., All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rectangular box.