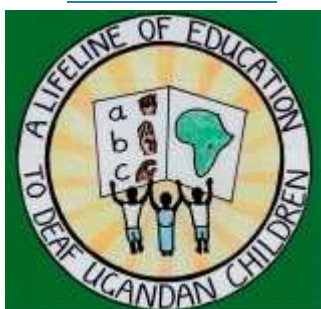


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Jinja D.E.A.F. Newsletter

March 2016

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Welcome to our first 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@jinja deaf.org.uk, and tell us what sort of things you can help with.



VISITS TO JINJA

Our new chairman, David Johnstone, has now self-funded two visits to Jinja, and has developed a detailed and up-to-date understanding of our projects. It is likely that increasingly, we will be working more closely with other Jinja-based organisations, to deliver support to deaf children most effectively.



FIRST TERM 2016

The first term for Ugandan schools started later than normal this year, because of the national elections held on the 18th of February. So the first day of school for all children, hopefully with clean shirts and shiny shoes, was Monday 22nd of February. We send our good wishes to our staff for a successful year, in further supporting the educational development of deaf children in Kyomya and Walukuba West Primary Schools.

LAST YEAR 2015

It has been a productive year for the two sign language instructors that we fund, in more ways than one. Juliet Wabukawo, the deaf sign language instructor at Kyomya Primary School, gave birth to twins in October. We are very happy to report that Juliet and the twins are both very well. Victoria Nanyonga, who has the same role in Walukuba West Primary School, gave birth to her third child, a boy, in February. Nawedde Yazidi is the interpreter at Walukuba West, and has been kept very busy with his interpreting duties in school. While Juliet was on maternity leave, her post was covered by Lameck Wabwire: a graduate in art and design. He made a big impact at Kyomya, not only with the deaf children but with the hearing children too, and was much appreciated and respected by all the teaching staff. Lameck is deaf himself and so was an excellent role model for the deaf children. We are happy to report that through his JinjaDEAF sponsored employment he has now found employment at another school, which has recently opened its doors to take in deaf children.



UGANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

We were excited to find out that Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) were being funded by Deaf Child Worldwide (DCW), a UK based charity, to undertake a three-year programme in Jinja to promote and improve education of deaf children. The project is focused on three primary schools in Jinja District, including Kyomya and Walukuba West, which employ JinjaDEAF, sponsored staff. This is an excellent opportunity for us to work alongside UNAD in active partnership, to open up access to improved education for deaf children.

During 2015 we have had active and supportive partnerships with a number of other Jinja based groups.



SMALL STEPS FOUNDATION

We sponsored a course in Uganda Sign Language (USL), which was run in partnership with Small Steps Foundation. The course was attended mainly by enthusiastic, committed nursery level teachers. The course finished in December 2015, and we look forward to seeing how the teachers use their skills and make it possible for young deaf children to start to learn, just as hearing children do.



INTERNATIONAL DEAF AWARENESS DAY

A really big event for both schools was to actively participate in Uganda's International Deaf Awareness Day, which took place near Kampala in September 2015. Children and some parents attended the gathering, and joined other deaf people from all of Uganda. The children proudly wore T-shirts displaying their school name and marched under the banner for their school. JinjaDEAF was very pleased to sponsor the transport costs, T-shirts and banners for the children.

Attending the International Deaf Awareness Day was a special experience for the children and a tremendous one for the parents who attended too. There were more deaf children and parents gathered together in one place than they had ever seen before. Many of the parents said they didn't know there were so many deaf children. They had always thought they were only a few, and it made them feel better and more positive about their deaf children, knowing that they were not so different. Some of the deaf children from Kyomya acted in a small drama and presented a poem in sign language at the Deaf Awareness Day. Lameck Wabwire, JinjaDEAF's sponsored signing instructor, directed the children in their presentation.



ORGANISATION FOR PARENTS OF DEAF CHILDREN

We have worked closely with Organisation for Parents of Deaf Children (OPDC), which was formed in 2014 by parents who attended a course in USL, which we organised and funded. OPDC is a very active group, and in partnership with KALE, a Jinja based group that teaches local people basic business skills, we facilitated a course for parents of deaf children. 18 parents, who all graduated with a greater appreciation of business methods, attended the course. The aim was to support parents to start up small business ventures so that they could pay for their deaf child's education.



SIGN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP FOR 2016

We are pleased that the UNAD Jinja programme has agreed to work with us to provide a Ugandan Sign Language workshop for parents in 2016. We hope this will be a broader collaboration with OPDC and other local organisations.



DEAF EDUCATION

It is not easy for deaf children to get a fair chance of education in Uganda. There are very few sign language instructors and few teachers have signing skills. Classes are very big and the deaf children are usually mixed in with the hearing children. It makes a big difference for deaf children if there is someone in their school who is skilled in sign language and if there is also an interpreter. Our sponsorship makes it possible for Kyomya and Walukuba West to employ these special staff. This makes it possible for the deaf children in these two schools to have a chance to learn and to show that a deaf child is as capable as any other child but unfortunately few deaf children in Uganda have this opportunity.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We look forward to gathering and celebrating, at our next supporters party, planned for Sunday evening on 22nd of May 2016. The venue will be 10 Alwyne Square in Canonbury, the home of Joanna Heseltine. This will be an opportunity to catch-up with news and updates, and meet with our new chairman, David Johnstone, who will have just returned, 'fresh' from Jinja. There will be further updates on the website, but please keep the date free to join us.

NEW TRUSTEE AS TREASURER

Currently looking for a new treasurer. If you have some basic experience in financial control systems, and would love to make a BIG difference to a SMALL charity, please see the [Volunteer Recruitment](#) page in our website. Please reply now before Friday 15 April 2016 to contact@jinjadeaf.org.uk. (If you know somebody else who may be interested, please pass it on.)

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