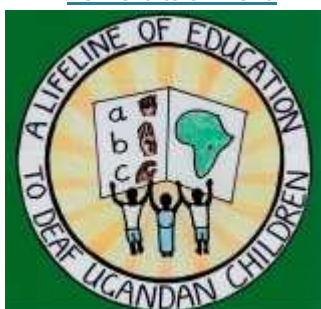


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# Jinja D.E.A.F. Newsletter

## Oct 2015

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### Welcome to our second 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](mailto:contact@jinjadeaf.org.uk), and tell us what sort of things you can help with.



### Deaf children at Walukuba West IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Jinja DEAF currently funds three full-time staff as class room support and interpreters, in two primary schools in Jinja. At Walukuba West there are more than 50 deaf children, and at Kyomya there are nearly 20 deaf children. In both schools, the majority of children are boarders rather than day pupils. There are few schools that offer any provision for deaf education in Uganda, so those that do, draw in pupils from a very wide geographic area, and transport systems are expensive and infrequent. In practice, it is the limits of boarding facilities rather than of class rooms or potential teaching staff, that restricts access to education by deaf children, and results in many deaf children obtaining no education at all.



David Johnstone (in Uganda with one of our Sign Language Instructors, Juliet Wabukawo)

### **INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIRMAN**

Our last newsletter announced that we were looking for someone with time and talent, to take on the responsibility of becoming the volunteer chairperson of Jinja DEAF. Emma Heseltine, our founder, has dedicated such time and energy to establishing our charity, but now wants to spend more time with her young family and her career development. We are delighted to introduce David Johnstone, who has kindly offered lots of his time, and also his immense talent and experience, in guiding and developing our future activities for the benefit of deaf children in Jinja. Emma Heseltine is very impressed with the deep interest and knowledge that David offers in supporting the aims of our charity. She will remain actively involved in all of the work of Jinja DEAF as a trustee.

David Johnstone is freshly retired from his previous employment in Social Services and Health Management, and latterly as a management consultant for both private and public organisations. He spent some time developing health management systems in South Sudan on a programme funded by the Department of International Affairs and Developments (DFID), and was then also involved in the support of some small schools in Uganda; in Koboko and also for orphans living near the border to the Congo. He privately funds three refugees from South Sudan who currently live in Jinja, and his personal interest in the welfare of deaf children, and educational projects in Uganda means that he self-funds very regular visits to the country. Which means he will also be able to visit our projects in Jinja, and deliver the insights that will help to ensure the most efficient and effective monitoring and development of our projects.

David was elected chairman of Jinja DEAF in September, but had visited Jinja in July, and during this time he met our staff, and many others involved in educational projects for deaf



Deaf children at Wakiso Senior School

### **SCHOOL REPORTS – UGANDAN STYLE**

As part of the monitoring of various deaf pupils that we sponsor, we get to see school reports. Marks and grades for each subject are presented, with a short comment for each. Then total marks and average marks are presented, leading to the very precise calculation of position in the class: we are delighted that our funded secondary school students scored position 4 and 13 out of the 48 children in class. But praise is not issued lightly. Comments for highest subject scores include, “aim higher”, “can do better” and “don’t relax”. We add cheers to the excellent results obtained by our students. The classic teacher comments probably apply to nearly every student in every class in the world, and we shall also accept them as guidance, in our own mission to support the deaf children in Jinja.



Learning USL is fun

### **USL COURSE FOR ADULTS**

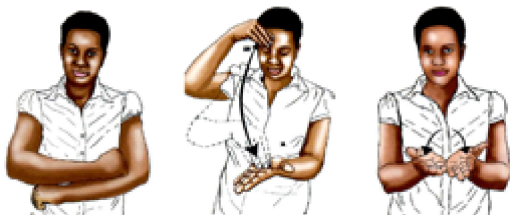
Classes to learn Ugandan Sign Language (USL) have been held every Saturday from the beginning of June, and are planned until the end of this term (beginning of December). Adult participants, most of whom are teaching staff, are being taught by Victoria Nanyonga with the support of an interpreter. The group was observed by David Johnstone during his visit to Jinja in July, who described the lessons as, “lively, engaged and with a lot of interaction”. The topic on the day of his visit was professions,

children in Jinja.



**THANK YOU TO JOANNA HESELTINE**

At our Spring Party on 18 April 2015, Joanna Heselntine (retiring as secretary for seven years, but remaining as a volunteer) gave a summary of the development of JinjaDEAF and its achievements, and was thanked by daughter Emma. Thanks also to all who attended, and to the wonderful hosts trustee Mark and wife Mary.



**School**

**Learn**

**Book**

**LEARNING USL: YOUR TURN**

Ugandan Sign Language (USL) has developed through influences of British Sign Language, American Sign Language and other sign languages, along with locally evolved signs and gestures. The charity Deaf Child Worldwide (DCW) have produced two books to support the teachers, parents and carers of deaf children who want to learn USL. A few more phrases from the DCW book are shown above.

**RECENT NEWS -**

Congratulations to Juliet Wabukawo (above) - I have been blessed with two baby boys. Thanks so much for your prayers and support.

which included learning the signs for tailor, policeman, shopkeeper and witch doctor. Although there is no exam or qualification linked to the course, all participants will get a certificate confirming their weekly attendance over the two terms.



**UNAD PROJECT IN JINJA**

A three year programme to assess and improve comprehensive access to quality education by deaf children has been funded in Jinja. The project has been supported by the charity Deaf Child Worldwide (DCW), and is currently being implemented by the Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD). The objectives of the programme are to increase the numbers of deaf children enrolled and retained in primary education, and to improve the levels of educational attainment achieved by deaf children. In addition to direct educational measures, the UNAD programme intends to develop classroom learning aids and instructional materials, and support specific information on general life skills and sexual health. The latter is particularly important, as deaf children often miss out on reproductive education and HIV awareness information, and research carried out by Makerere University unfortunately found a higher incidence of HIV in the deaf community living in Kampala, than in the hearing population. The additional support given to the improvement of education for deaf children in Jinja is very welcome, and we will maintain close and friendly contacts with the UNAD-run programme in Jinja.

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