



JEFFREY TOWN BULLETIN

Email us at jeffreytownfarmers@gmail.com

Jeffrey Town Farmers Association Limited

January 2013 Issue
\$30.00

Happy New Year 2013 It has been our Tradition to Look Back

in January each year but this time we take a closer look as we were unable to publish our journal for the final quarter of the year 2012.

The year started off with a flurry of activity, the disaster preparedness team, a group of twenty plus community people were busy completing their training with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).

This included shelter management training, damage assessment, search and rescue skills and first aid certification. With the thoughtful and diligent guidance of Alison Gordon from ODPEM Jeffrey Town did well and was selected to represent the beneficiaries of the building disaster resilient communities project at the official closing ceremony at the Knutsford Court Hotel. W. Gordon seen here making the address.



These skills were called into practice during the passage of Hurricane Sandy which affected our part of the island quite badly. We were without mains electricity for three weeks and even though the JTFA Building lost solar panels, it was the only source of electricity for the whole community. Homes were damaged, many of our trees were severely damaged, but worst of all we lost our source of income and survival, our food. The breadfruit crop was shaken to the ground, the bananas and plantain lost; even the yams in the ground were affected. Our disaster team reported to the national agencies, cleared our roads and assessed damaged to ensure probity in relief resources.



Annual General Meeting 4pm Sunday 24 February 2013

Awards in 2012

Another great year for Jeffrey Town Farmers Association starting

in June with the JET (Jamaica Environment Trust) Action Awards national recognition for being Best Environmental Community 2012. Roame Ormsby pictured receiving the award. Clover Whyte seen pictured with Jacqueline DaCosta as we collected one of seven sectional prizes and Best in St. Mary at the national awards ceremony in August for BEST Communities Competition judging the work completed during 2011.



Ivy Gordon seen below collecting the Best In Caribbean prize for the radio series Climate Change at the CARDI/CTA Caribbean Media Awards in October from the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Dame Lake-Tack.



Right the citation from the St. Mary Chamber of Commerce for the contribution JTFA has made to the development of St Mary during its twenty-one years of service.



Jet Fm as an integral part of the farmers association has been written about in two publications: 'Learning with Community Media', from the Commonwealth of Learning; Rosamond Brown and Patrick Prendergast both reflecting here and Prendergast again in the Caribbean Quarterly, a UWI Journal where he offers a radical perspective on the value of community radio as a means of empowerment illustrated by positive actions he has helped initiate here in Jeffrey Town.

The Activities:

Trees in 2012

With support from the Jamaica Protected Area Trust and our friends at Trees That Feed Foundation our community has planted twenty acres of trees in a calendar year. 1000 of those trees are Pride of Barbados and have been established on the roadside throughout the community for beautification and stabilization. The remainder are fruit trees, breadfruit, lychee and ackee.



Identity	Location	Amount	Variety
Road side	community	5 acres	1000 Pride of Barbados
Gordon Wordsworth	Spring Garden	2.0 acre	Coconut Lychee
Baldwin Paddyfoot	Top Road		10 lychee
Rudolph Cox	Barker	1 acre	10 ackee 42 breadfruit
Forsythe Ainsworth	Top Road	2.0 acres	Breadfruit/ Ma'faala
Marsh Novlette	Barker	1 3/4 acre	60 Breadfruit/ 35 ackee
George Burrell	Top Road	3/4 acre	Breadfruit ackee
McIntosh Sophia	Hazard	1 acres	Breadfruit/ yellow heart
Yvonne Hoilette	Top road		10 trees mixed
Murphy Andre 9943102	Seafield	1.0	Lychee
Guy's Hill 4H	Students individual	1 acre	lychee
Mckoy	Carron Hall	1/2 acre	breadfruit
Townsend	Spring garden	2 acres	Breadfruit 40 Lychee 10 Ackee 50
Johns	Barclay Town		Lychee 10
Dorrit Gordon	Decoy		15 trees as- sorted
Larry Gordon	Top Road	1 acre	Breadfruit 30 10 lychee
Rosanne Derrett	Top Road	1/2 acre	25 assorted-
Total		20 acres	

The GEF Small Grants Programme allowed us to upgrade the amount of solar panels at the JTFA building, clear the gully from three self forming ponds on the hillside and drain these same ponds. We are currently fencing the same site and will install at least three solar powered street lights in the community.



The greening of our community continues with a group of five undergoing a substantive bee keeping course who have now established a group site apiary; this activity was supported by LIFE Ltd.

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

supported our major project for the year, the building of a seventy-five strong gabion basket wall in Wallingford. This area is in the valley where the soil erosion is at it worse, hence the real need to secure this point to protect all that lies above.

Our member of Parliament helped with offsetting some of the cost of the back hoe, but the major contribution came from the community itself, working for minimum wages in order to get the greater benefit of the wall.



This intervention is a location where we have previously established mitigation measure for land erosion but much more still need to be done so the group has applied to the JEEP programme to see if this work can be completed.

Terracing has continued with 1000 pineapples being added to the organic farm, a new compost platform and a mushroom house. The group has motorized its breadfruit flour mill and is all set for large scale production in the years to come, you'll note that we have been planting breadfruit trees in abundance.

The Canadian Disaster Risk Reduction project has just been approved and when implemented will deal with water harvesting and control of water run off into the same Wallingford Valley.



Jet Fm has had some challenges, the antenna was again weakened during the storm and much of our rudimentary equipment needs upgrading. Challenges aside, the group of volunteers has broadcast daily from 6am to 10pm offering music and an interesting selection of programmes we have made ourselves.

Our media operatives have undergone online instruction in script writing and presentation and attended workshops for issues related to sustainability of community media.

Hara Phady visited from the Kingston Office and is seen right standing next to our radio –in– a box, a concept he had worked on previously. He is currently assisting us with a project proposal to assist with equipment upgrades.



The calendar year saw us produce a six part climate change series and a thirteen part drama series “Jet Town Buzz” which begins airing January 15, 2013 using characters from our past dramas and commentating in a light hearted way at rural life.

First Flight, our morning gospel show now features a different community pastor daily at 8 am for forty minutes.

Adane Campbell-Lewis has returned from University and is now hosting the Sunday afternoon “Hanger”, and our weekly news reader Cabrina Lennox is now the St. Mary Correspondent for a national daily paper. Kamian Weekley and Michael Barnaby have both finished their Bachelors' in Media and Communication and three others of our volunteers have moved on to bigger media houses.

The Multimedia centre still offers free access to the internet outside the building, an internet café from 10am till 6pm at minimum prices and printing. Eden Willock assists the school student with their home work assignments and runs a tuck shop to assist with income generation.

Wordsworth Gordon has represented the association at numerous events during the year, three climate change forums including the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) 50 50 held at the Pegasus in May. The conference has a web site detailing all that took place- <http://www.salises-srad.com/> and the Jeffrey Town presentation: A Pathway to Resilience is available at- [Wordsworth Gordon - Jeffrey Town Farmers Association](#). The panel is shown below.



The association continues to be represented on the parish board of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, it is an active member of Jamaica Organic Agricultural Movement and members of our board sit on the boards of LIFE Ltd and ICT4D Jamaica, both development companies.

Also during May Ivy Gordon was invited to Johannesburg to attend the Agriculture rural development and youth in the information society; ARDYIS workshop and International Association of Agricultural Specialists IAALD Africa Chapter Conference, the delegates supported by Technical Centre for Agriculture - CTA seen below.



Acknowledgment

As editor and a director of JTFA I take this opportunity to thank each of you whose contribution has helped make the achievements of the group possible. I make special mention of the funding agencies, our friends, advisers and facilitators and on behalf of the membership say thanks to Wordsworth our president whose leadership and dedication have been inspirational.

Membership fees were due Dec 1

The Mission Statement.

The mission of Jeffrey Town Farmers Association is to harness all available assistance for community development using agriculture as the platform; to sustainably develop its human and physical resources, for the creation of opportunities to include all the residents of Jeffrey Town, especially the youth and women to achieve social and economic stability.



Don't leave Jeffrey Town without your jar of Strawberry Conserve made with organically grown strawberries from our own greenhouse.



Our president Wordsworth Gordon Sworn in as Justice of the Peace

Events of 2012

Our goods and services were on display at the St. Mary Agri Expo in April on a day spoilt by excessive rain; Jeffrey Town is a member of the JAS and were invited to participate. (top right)

Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement asked us to join them at Denbigh to showcase our organic activities and other community development projects on going in the community. We also offered a glimpse our activities at the BEST communities awards day, (Second right)

(Third right) We supported our friends from the Trees That Feed Foundation at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show during March and they returned the complement with interest when their family and friends supported the Breadfruit Festival held close to our community in July. (below)

Four masters programme students from the Minnesota University spent two months based in the community carrying out an in depth study on the breadfruit industry culminating at the festival.

We were commissioned to prepare the message for 'World Food Day' for the World Association of Community radios (AMARC) in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the script and audio are available online at: <http://www2.amarc.org/?q=wfdfao2012>

The award winning radio programmes supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme are also available on line: http://www.4shared.com/mp3/u-vKec67/Climate_Change_prog_6_SOLAR_J.html and http://www.4shared.com/mp3/2G-zFVNI/I_Climate_Change_prog_4_GABION.html

The Scotiabank Foundation was in the community during the summer and made a five minute video feature on the activities of the association which was aired on nation television twice during September and November as 'The Teller' you can view this programme at <http://www.sendspace.com/file/s7lj5z> or view our own reflections of JTFA on the online innovator festival website through the imagine Jamaica 50 facebook page.

Our president, Wordsworth Gordon has again been nominated for the Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence for public and civic contributions and the Association for the Sophie Prize for the Environment.

