

Spring 2012

# THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR

## Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association

Registered Charity: 802993

### Help line phone numbers

020 8520 1684/020 8520 7370

Email: [admin@wfda.org.uk](mailto:admin@wfda.org.uk)

### Welcome to the W.F.D.A.

Find out about the latest news on dyslexia. We've changed from red to blue, (red/pink can be hard to read for dyslexics), does it help? Thank you to [www.edufantastic.co.uk](http://www.edufantastic.co.uk) who helped us raise funds through selling our Xmas cards in their E17 toy shop. If you've enjoyed reading this pass it onto friends and families so more people get to hear about us and what we're trying to achieve! **Adele Bird**



### Don't call me Stupid!

Kara Tointon — *Eastenders* and *Strictly Come Dancing* star recently presented a TV show about how she copes with dyslexia (*Don't call Me Stupid*).

In the programme she finds out that her reading age is of a young child, "It was horrible, I felt physically sick." One way to help her was using green-tinted reading specs. "They calm me down. I recommend them, they changed my life."

(Excerpt from The Observer 29.01.12)

### Sign our Petition!

Recent research by the World Literacy Foundation (January 2012) states that across the world, people who cannot read earn lower salaries and can become more dependent on governments.

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) suggests using dyslexia friendly teaching as the most effective way of teaching not just for those with dyslexia but **all children**. There are very few children who cannot be taught to read, yet currently 26% of children are leaving primary school without achieving expected levels of literacy, this is unnecessary and leads to many awful social costs.

The BDA has launched a petition to the government requesting that dyslexia training be provided as part of Initial Teacher Training.

**100,000** signatures are needed to trigger a debate in Parliament, so if you agree with this petition please sign it, and even more importantly pass it on to anyone you know.

Link to petition: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/20674>

### Guess Who?

- Sacked by a newspaper for lacking imagination and having no original ideas.
- Told by his music teacher that he was a hopeless composer.
- His dad told him that he'd amount to nothing and would be a family disgrace.
- Dropped out of school and turned down 3 times at Film School.

**Think you know who these 'failures' are? Find out on page 3.**

## Get involved with the W.F.D.A.

### 'Next Step' and beyond!



The W.F.D.A Chair, **Adele Bird** and tutor, **Katherine Hewlett** made a successful bid to the Evening Standard's Dispossessed Fund. The grant enables us to run a free weekly adult dyslexic evening class ending 4 April. If you want to register on a future session tell [Helenbigam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Helenbigam@hotmail.co.uk).

**Here's some of the fantastic comments from students who have attended:**

'It was very uplifting. I know that the other students in the class had dyslexia just like me.'

'The course has helped me to understand my way of learning. My confidence is so much greater than before.'

### London Canal Museum

Walthamstow and Chingford Almshouse Charities continue to support our work, with funds currently used for regular free fun get-togethers for our families.

Recently we went to the London Canal Museum at King's Cross. The day was packed with canal barge trips; tow path walks; ice cream making and lots of climbing over the exhibits! Children and adults got to know each other better and new friends were made.

Feedback included: *'The boat was lovely but it was all really great!'*

To be the next Lewis Hamilton, book a place for go-karting on Sunday April 22.



**S u m m e r      A u c t i o n      S u p p e r**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July at Peterhouse, 122 Forest Rise, E17 3PW.**

Please bring items from 1pm. Viewings from 6.30pm. Auction starts at 7.15pm. (No clothes/wardrobes/beds). Homemade supper/light refreshments inc. in ticket (adults £8/children £5). Bring your own drinks. 2 free tickets for qualified electrician able to check electrical items. Phone **020 8520 7370** for more information or to buy tickets. **Our Wine Tasting night in the Autumn raised over £450. Let's try and beat that. We can only do this with your support!**

## We're here to help...

### Did you guess?

Walt Disney; Beethoven; Charles Darwin and Steven Spielberg. Were you right?

Being told you're a failure is no prediction of your future. What these people all had in common was a belief in themselves.

They motivated themselves to go on, in spite of what people said about them.

**How about you? Let us know your story to put in the newsletter.**

### Working with local schools.

Recently, **Lois Hood** and **Katherine Marshall**, two of our dyslexia specialists ran a dyslexia awareness course at Jenny Hammond School in E11.

"Really interesting and informative, lots of good ideas for all children. Recognised some of our children's difficulties"

Do you know a school that's interested in us running a dyslexia training course?

### More about us ...



**Katherine Hewlett** runs our 'Next Step' adult dyslexic course. She has experience of lecturing and teaching for over 30 years. Currently she tutors to dyslexic students for the Open University.

What do you enjoy about working with WFDA? *A common passion.*

What has been a highlight in your career? *Setting up AchieveAbility and opening up possibilities for people who would not have previously accessed education.*

How do you like to relax? *Watching films and walking - I adore the countryside.*

Do you have a hidden talent? *I'm good at setting things up and seeing the potential in people.*

Describe yourself in one sentence. *Private, passionate and creative.*

**Congratulations! Recently three of our Trustees (Adele Bird, Katherine Marshall and Elly Pearce) have gained the BDA Outstanding Lifetime Contribution in the field of dyslexia Volunteer Awards.**

### X- FACT!

**There is a new font called Dyslexie designed by Christian Boer which costs 69 euros. It's an improvement on the Ariel font. Find out more on the web.**



### Hello and goodbye...

We're sad to see **Stella Creed**, a mainstay at our classes, leave in February. However,

we're pleased to announce that we've found a new receptionist. **Sheena Penfold** has worked in the local education sector for many years and helps run the West Essex Colts football club. Reckon we've scored a goal!



# General Information

## Support our teachers!

All our teaching staff work hard to produce well thought out lesson plans specific to their individual students. Pupils' non attendance means time spent by the teachers is wasted and students are not able to maintain the appropriate progress that is needed to achieve their full potential.

With this in mind, please make sure your child attends regularly and always let the teacher know **ASAP** when your child won't be coming.

**If attendance at the classes falls below 75% over the term your child may lose his/her place in the group.**



## News about our Summer Club...

We've put in a grant bid to the Henry Smith Trust to fund our 5th Transition into Secondary School Summer Club. This week long course helps local children with dyslexia or dyspraxia to develop more confidence in leaving their primary school whilst having fun.

*'Going to big school didn't seem so scary once I learnt some tips on how to cope and what to expect.'*

**If** we successfully get the funding the course runs from **Monday 20th August to Friday 25th August**. Fingers crossed!

If you hear of any potential grants suitable for us please let us know—every bit helps.

## Class Timetable

### Spring Term 2012

**Monday 20 Feb. - Monday 26 March**  
(6 weeks)

### Summer Term 2012

**Monday 16 April to Monday 28 May**  
(6 weeks)

*No class Monday 7 May (Bank Holiday)*

**Monday 11 June to Monday 16 July**

**Problem Parking?** From **Sheena**, our receptionist, buy 2 hour parking tickets costing £1.00 for the controlled parking zone around the school (don't park in the grounds). It's worth getting them in advance – local traffic wardens are very keen!

### **Annual Membership (Jan. '12- Dec. '12)**

If you have not yet done this, please support us by sending £15 cheque payable to WFDA Post to WFDA, 4 Eglinton Road, E4 7AN.

**Class details:** Small, individualised literacy, numeracy and touch typing classes held on Monday evenings (term time only) at Walthamstow School for Girls, Church Hill, E17 9RZ. Contact us to be put on the class waiting list.

**Literacy or Numeracy:** 50 minute classes from 4.00pm onwards (£12.00 per class)

**Touch typing:** 50 minute class at 5.00pm or 6.00pm (£5.00 per class)

If practising your typing at home, why not use free internet tutors. A recommended one, that's aimed at children aged 7—11 years, is BBC Dance Mat typing at [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/). Let us know how you get on.

