

Autumn/
Winter 2015

THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR

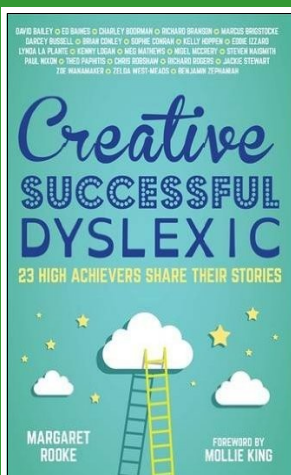


W a l t h a m F o r e s t
Dyslexia Association
Opening doors for dyslexics since 1989

Registered Charity: 802993



Welcome to the **WFDA Autumn/Winter '15/16 Newsletter**. With great sadness this will be my last foreword as I'm stepping down as WFDA Chair at our AGM on 24 November. I've enjoyed the experience and I'm proud of what has been achieved. I look forward to read the future news as I'm sure the charity will continue to grow from strength to strength. *Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA*



Creative, Successful, Dyslexic

(Margaret Rooke, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, £16.99)

23 high achievers from the arts, sport, and business worlds talk about how dyslexia affected their childhood, how they were able to overcome the challenges and use the special strengths of dyslexia to achieve great success in

adulthood. People interviewed include our patron **Benjamin Zephaniah** as well as **Darcey Bussell CBE**, **Eddie Izzard**, **Sir Richard Branson**, **Zoe Wanamaker CBE**, **Richard Rogers**, **Lynda La Plante CBE** and **Sir Jackie Stewart OBE**.

All reveal the enormous difficulties they faced, the strength required to overcome them, the importance of support, and how 'the different way the brain is wired' in dyslexia has enabled them to see something different in the world and to use their creativity in an exceptional way.

To hear more about their highs and lows of having dyslexia come to our free AGM** on **24 November** to listen to author, **Margaret Rooke** share her experiences of hearing their stories.



Richard Branson Shares His Advice For A Nine-Year-Old Girl With Dyslexia In Handwritten Letter

Recently Honor Smith, nine, had written to Branson to thank him for featuring a video on his Virgin blog created by a 12 year old girl called Isley that showed dyslexia in a positive light.

Smith wrote in her letter that the video made her feel more "confident" at school and: *"When my parents told me I had dyslexia, I thought my life was ruined but I watched your videos on it! So thanks, I really appreciated it!"*

In his reply, Branson wrote: *"I am really glad you enjoyed the videos on dyslexia. 'Don't ever let people put you down for being dyslexic. Being dyslexic is actually an advantage and has helped me greatly in life. I look forward to hearing what great things you have achieved in the years to come. Best wishes to you and good luck for the future, love Richard & all the family.'"*

Visit wfda.org.uk to view the video.

We're here to help...



(l-r) Adele Bird, Cllr Chris Robbins, Noella Bonsu, Helen Bigham

Class 2015 Award Ceremony

£653 was raised at the ceremony helped by a generous **£250** contribution from **Cllr Chris Robbins (Leader of LBWF Council)** on top of his donation of **£10** Amazon voucher to each of our 75 students. **Cllr Robbins** gave a supportive and perceptive speech about WFDA and presented the certificates to the students. The party was great fun and everyone made full use of the bouncy castle, sumo outfits and Bucking Bronco.

Adults with Dyslexia Meet-up



Our **free** monthly meeting has moved and is now held at The Quaker House, 1a Jewel Road, Walthamstow, E17 4QU. The group is run on the last Tuesday of the month from 6.30 - 8.30pm. **Regular guest speakers.**

Feel welcome to drop in and share your experiences and learn different ways to cope with having dyslexia.

WFDA is pleased to announce that **The London Community Foundation** has funded us **£4015** to continue to run the club.



Famous 5 Small Charities

During Small Charity Week, **Waltham Forest Voluntary Action** awarded WFDA with one of their Famous 5 Small Charities Awards.

Charles S French Charitable Trust

Recently WFDA received **£1000** from the above trust to be used for our classes and screenings. This donation is very much appreciated. If you know of any potential funding opportunities please let **Helen Bigham**, Charity Manager know. WFDA is always looking for new ways to raise much needed money.



2015 WFDA AGM

Tuesday 24 November
7.00 - 9.30pm
The Quaker House, 1a
Jewel Road, E17 4QU

The Guest Speaker is Margaret Rooke**
talking about her
book 'Creative,
Successful, Dyslexic'.

Our free AGM is your opportunity to get involved and influence the decisions being made concerning the future of WFDA as well as for you to find out more about us. Maybe you might be considering becoming a trustee or volunteer. Here's your chance to meet people that can tell you more and answer any dyslexia question you may have!

Everyone welcome, refreshments available.

The London
Community
Foundation

JackPetchey
Foundation
Inspire • Motivate • Achieve

BBC
Children
in Need

DM: TRAINING
FOUNDATION
for
YOUNG
PEOPLE

Affiliated to the

British Dyslexia a
Association

Waltham Forest
Winner of London Borough
of Waltham Forest
Civic Award 2014

Get involved with WFDA



More about us...

Joint winners of the WFDA Volunteer of the Year 2015 mother and son, **Janice and Ben Boukerna** received their award at our AGM.

Janice, why did you get involved with WFDA? 4 years ago, my son Ben attended the WFDA Summer Transition club and I volunteered to help. Since then we've come back and got involved every year; Ben as a Peer Mentor and myself as teaching support. It's always so much fun and the kids are great.

Share a volunteer highlight. When you see a child on the first morning looking really nervous and then by the end of the week they're laughing, confident and excited about starting secondary school.

How do you like to relax? Creative things like crochet and art, reading, going to the gym and I do like TV.

What's your rule of life? A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it. Family is everything to me.

Working in Education

In the Summer break WFDA met up with **Cllr Mark Rusling** (London Borough of Waltham Forest Portfolio Lead Member: Children and Young People) to discuss ways of working together to support local families. We'll keep you informed of any developments.

In the Autumn term WFDA visited **South Grove, Newport and Davis Lane Primary Schools** and screened selected pupils. At **Edinburgh Primary School** an Inset Training Day was run.



Good bye but not farewell ...



Sheena Penfold, our class co-ordinator has left to train as a dyslexia assessor but will be volunteering at our Monday classes. **Angela Brockway** has replaced her and we're sure she'll do a fantastic job carrying on the great work Sheena has established.

Welcome... Alice Speller, an attendee at our monthly Adult Support Group has joined the WFDA Board of Trustees. **Alice** has a background in law and holds a PG Dip Teaching Adult Dyslexic Learners In FE/HE. Her own personal experiences of having dyslexia and dyspraxia as well as her professional knowledge will be invaluable to the future plans for **WFDA**.

Big thank you to the Monday classes volunteer parents/carers who raised £53 from a Cake Stall during the summer term.

Keep the fundraising ideas coming!

Next Step

If you're an adult with dyslexia thinking about going back into education or employment come along and learn different ways to cope with your dyslexia. Next Step programme is running in January 2016, book a **free** space by contacting **Helen Bigham** on 07702 601897 or email Helen@wfda.org.uk. Visit wfda.org.uk to find out more about the classes.

Classes General Information

2015 Class Report

Thank you to all the families who filled in our annual evaluation questionnaire. We received many positive comments and some valid suggestions. The report is full of quotes and stories from families about their experiences.

One student stated: *'I understand more here than in school but the things I learn here will help me in school'*.

A copy of the Report is available at the classes or visit our website wfda.org.uk.

January 2016 Move to George Mitchell Secondary School

Due to educational cutbacks **Walthamstow School for Girls (WSfG)** will have to charge for the use of their facilities. To raise money for the classes is a struggle as **WFDA** is fighting against ever-growing and increasingly stiff competition for funding bids. To address this the Board of Trustees have decided that the classes will move in January 2016 to **George Mitchell (Through) School (GMTS)** who'll be providing a free venue.

Dates for your Diary!*

Autumn Term 2015 (WSfG)

Monday 2 Nov.-Monday 7 December

Children & Family Act 2014 Workshop

Monday 16 November

AGM (Quaker House) Tuesday 24 Nov.

Spring Term 2016 (GMTS)

Tuesday 12 January - 9 February

Dyslexia Resource Workshop

Tuesday 2 February

No class Tuesday 16 February (H/T)

Tuesday 23 February - 22 March

Children & Family Act 2014 Workshop

will be held on Monday 16 November. Guest speaker is **Carol May**, let **Angela** or **Helen** know before the night any questions you'd like covered.

Dyslexia Resources Workshop will be held on Tuesday 2 February 2016. Guest Speaker is **Nicky Williams** (Cambridge House Resources centre).

Visit WFDA@org.uk to find out more about the workshops and free help sheets.

Jack Petchey Foundation

WFDA is proud to announce the Jack Petchey Foundation Summer Award Winner is **Sam Turnidge**. The next award will be presented at the AGM and the decision on how the award money will be spent will be announced shortly.

Class details: Small, individualised literacy, numeracy, handwriting and touch- typing classes held on Monday evenings (term time only) at Walthamstow School for Girls, Church Hill, E17 9RZ. **From January 2016** classes are held on Tuesday evenings (term time only) at George Mitchell Secondary School, Farmer Road, Leyton, E10 5DN.

Literacy/Numeracy/Handwriting: 50 minute class from 4.00pm onwards (£14.00 per class) Touch typing: 50 minute class at 4.00pm, 5.00pm or 6.00pm (£6.00 per class).

Let us know ASAP if your child is unable to attend their class. Contact your child's tutor or Angela Brockway, Class Co-ordinator: Office hours to end December 2015:

Monday/Tues./Thurs.(term time)10.00– 3.00pm, **Office hours from January 2016:**

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday (term time) 10.00-3.00pm 07852 232509/e-mail

wfdaco-ordinator@outlook.com. * **Term dates up to July 2016 on wfda.org.uk**