

Spring 2014

THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR



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



Reg Charity:
802993



Welcome to the WFDA Spring 2014 newsletter in our silver Anniversary year! We're still driven to come up with lots of fresh ideas and plans to help local dyslexics. Hope you like our new logo and please visit our revamped website at wfda@org.uk to read more about us.
Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA.



NEW PATRON

WFDA is pleased to announce that Prof. David McLoughlin has agreed to be one of our patrons. At our recent AGM, David gave an informative talk (see pic.) on Understanding and Managing dyslexia and subsequently agreed to support us.

David is a registered Educational and Occupational Psychologist who provides diagnostic assessments to dyslexic people of all ages, including children. He also provides career guidance for adolescents and adults.

He is a visiting professor at the University of Buckingham, and has acted as an advisor to the British Dyslexia Association. David is a regular contributor to national and international dyslexia conferences and publications, and is the principal author of 'Adult Dyslexia: Assessment, Counselling and Training' (Whurr, 1994) and co-author of 'The Adult Dyslexic: Interventions and Outcomes' (Whurr, 2002).

Famous academics with dyslexia include Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison.

EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED

If you're unemployed ask at the job centre to see a Disability Employment Advisor (DEA), check they're a dyslexia specialist. If you explain that you're dyslexic and you believe your difficulties are one of the main factors preventing you obtaining a job they should be able to offer help and guidance and possibly refer you for screening.

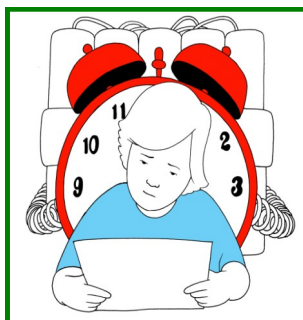
Once you're in employment you may qualify for help under the **Access to Work** scheme who may be able to help you with funding to provide such things as: special software, specialised equipment, a person to help you with organisational or time management problems, or even someone to take notes or write letters for you.

For an application form for **Access to Work** phone **029 20423 291** where you can fill in the application over the phone.

It was wonderful to speak with Katherine, she gave good advice, she listened and acknowledged all the points I raised regarding my son; she was 'a breath of fresh air'."

Help line caller

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



The Big Picture

In 2013 **Waltham Forest Council** partly match funded our classes held at **Walthamstow School For Girls (WSFG)**. Cllr **Clare Coghill** came to visit the classes

on the night we screened **'The Big Picture: Rethinking dyslexia'** directed by James Redford..Heartfelt thank you to **WSFG** for continuing to provide us with this valuable free venue, without their help we'd not be able to run our classes. From the £1 film admittance we raised £45. We intend to hold a public screening soon.

Did you know that 1/5 of small charities could go to the wall in 2014 while the biggest—which accounts for just 1% of voluntary organisations—receive a 1/3 of all donations.

Our Monday evening support classes have received useful dyslexia resources kindly donated by Colin Shindler.

Special thank you to Sai Yuen (a parent of one of our Monday night students) for his graphic design input on our new logo.

Italian Wine Tasting Evening

29 March at St Teresa's Hall, Station Rd E4 from 7.30pm—10.30pm Tickets £15. It'll be great night and very informative. Contact **Anne England** 020 852 91957 to reserve a place or table.



Our WFDA Classes Xmas raffle raised £85. Thank you to the **Saturnino** family for kickstarting the raffle with their lollipop tree—always a firm favourite!



Silver celebration!

To celebrate running for 25 years **WFDA** is holding a joint sponsored walk in Epping Forest with **Winchester Road Methodist Church**. It will be an afternoon event in early Summer date to be confirmed. Pay a registration fee of **£2.50** and raise as much as you can for taking part. Visit **wfda.org.uk** to find out how to register.

Summer Transition Club

Monday 28 July to Friday 1 August

Through a donation from the **Equitable Funding Trust** and a free venue provided by **Forest School, Snaresbrook** this year we'll again be hosting our **free** Summer Transition Club for pupils with dyslexia/dyspraxia in Year 6 moving into Year 7 Visit **wfda.org.uk** to find out more about it and see pics.

Places are limited so book early by contacting Helen Bigham at 07702 601897 or email Helen@wfda.org.uk .



We're here to help...



More about us ...

Norma Regnier received our WFDA Volunteer of the Year 2013 award. Norma supports us in a variety of administration duties and happily takes on anything we throw at her with a big smile!

Why did you get involved with WFDA?

My grandson joined the WFDA literacy classes and I came to the Class Award Night and heard about the desperate need for volunteers. I wanted to keep my brain ticking now that I am retired and getting involved seemed like a good idea. I would recommend it to anyone that has some time on their hands.

Share a volunteer highlight.. Helping at the Summer Transition Club opened my eyes to see how worried some children are about moving schools and I really appreciated seeing how they enjoyed themselves and how their confidence grew throughout the week at the club.

How do you like to relax? I find volunteering relaxing, I've made some great friends but I also like to spend time with my family and I enjoy going on mini breaks and foreign holidays as well as reading.

What's your rule of life? What you put into life is what you get out of life.

'Next Step' forward...

For our FREE 'Next Step' Adult Course funded by Comic Relief through the London Community Foundation we've had some great feedback from attendees:

"in the past I have felt put down about having dyslexia but meeting people in a similar situation with a similar story to mine has encouraged me to go back to studying!"

Hellos!



Warm welcome to our new Monday night classes secondary level tutors **Stella Smith** (top left) and **Agnieszka Kaldonek-Crnjakovic** (top right).

Following the AGM **Su Manning** and **Carol Newnham** have joined the Trustee Board. As an adult dyslexic **Su** is keen to champion the needs of adults and has agreed to work on our Help line. **Carol** is one of our class tutors and will provide an educational viewpoint for the Board.

To find out more about volunteering or joining WFDA as a Trustee please visit wfda.org.uk alternatively contact **Helen Bigham** (Charity Manager) on 07702 601897 or email Helen@wfda.org.uk.

Goodbye!

We're sorry to announce that **Henry Best** and **Eric England**, both long standing Trustees have stood down from the Board.

Henry made a great contribution over the years setting up and running the website.

Whilst Eric (along with his wife Anne) has been involved with the WFDA for nearly 25 years and supported us in so many ways including fundraising, promoting dyslexia awareness and membership admin.

WFDA will always be grateful and appreciative of their fantastic support over the years and they both will be missed.

Classes General Information



Jack Petchy Award

Warmest congratulations to our Autumn award winner, Tom Kent. The money was spent on students racing round a go-kart-track. We're pleased to announce our Spring term winner is Christopher Bond. If you'd like to nominate someone or have an idea on how the money should be spent please let us know.

Dates for your Diary!

Spring Term 2014

Monday 24 February—Monday 31 March
(Closed for Easter)

Summer Term 2014

Monday 28 April—Monday 19 May
(No class Monday 5 May)

Closed for Whitsun half term on 26 May

Monday 2 June –Monday 7 July

Don't forget!

Class Award Ceremony Friday 11 July

Class Criteria and Waiting List

The aim of the WFDA classes is to support local low income families by providing affordable classes which help students to develop self help skills to grow into independent life-long learners.

To achieve this and resolve our literacy and numeracy (NB not touch typing/handwriting) class waiting lists the WFDA Board of Trustees have set out an eligibility priority order for students with dyslexia (only). After much consultation, this has been decided as the fairest policy and WFDA hopes families will understand the reasoning behind it.

- 1 Walthamstow School for Girls pupils
- 2 At least 75% of the students to either attend a state school in LBWF or have a home address in LBWF and attend state school.
- 3 Students from out of borough state schools.
- 4 If the student has already attended for 2 years in either numeracy or literacy class.
- 5 Students from private schools

This policy has been introduced in January 2014 and will be staggered throughout 2014.

For any new literacy or numeracy students it will be with immediate effect.

The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia
To rent or buy this DVD at a reasonable price please go online and visit www.vimeo.com/ondemand/dyslexia.

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.

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

Remember to let us know ASAP if your child is unable to attend their class. Contact your child's tutor or Sheena, Class Co-ordinator on 07852 232509 or e-mail sheena@wfda.org.uk Office hours: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday (term time) 10.00-3.00pm.

Price Increase

