

Spring 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 Spring 2015 newsletter. Sadly, I'll be stepping down as Chair at the end of the year. This has been a difficult decision for me especially when I'm reminded on what we're achieving when I read our newsletter. It's been a bumpy ride and I've enjoyed every moment. *Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA*



It's been reported that 'I'm a celebrity... get me out of here,' King of the Jungle 2014 winner **Carl 'Foggy' Fogarty**, the most successful World Super bike racer of all time has dyslexia. If so, he's not the only speed freak with dyslexia.

At school, **Sir Jackie Stewart**, Formula 1 world championship driver, experienced learning difficulties owing to undiagnosed dyslexia. This led to him leaving at 16 and starting work at his father's garage. He's commented: "*When you've got dyslexia and you find something you're good at, you put more into it than anyone else; you can't think the way of the 'clever' folk, so you're always thinking out of the box.*"

Eddie Jordan, Formula 1 mogul also has dyslexia. '*Dyslexics adapt and find that they are better at things other than reading and writing. I was always fantastically good at maths. That's probably one of the reasons why wheeling and dealing came easily.*'



Ready for your Driving Test?

For the Theory Test dyslexic candidates are able to listen to the test being read in English through a headset. Dyslexic candidates can also apply to have up to double the standard 57 minutes. You need to request any special arrangements on the online form when you apply for the test. However if you forget to request the voice-over and headset, you could ask for this when you check in at the test centre.

You may be asked for evidence of dyslexia: a letter or report from a professional should explain your reading ability. You will have to phone again for a test date after the report has been processed.

Some people with dyslexia may struggle with comprehension and need someone to explain the question in a different way, known as an Oral Language Modifier. It may be possible to book this accommodation also online. Contact Customer Care:
Tel: 0300 200 1122
Email: customercare@pearson.com
Visit BDA website for more information.

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



Guest speaker
David Crabtree

AGM 2014

Thank you to our guest speaker, **David Crabtree** who gave us all plenty to think about during his interesting talk on the experiences of having dyslexia.

Regretfully, our Chair, **Adele Bird** announced that she'll be resigning at the next AGM in November 2015. Adele has achieved so much for WFDA but has many other commitments and is too stretched. If you're interested in taking on this role or as a trustee or volunteer please contact **Helen Bigham** at Helen@wfda.org.uk to discuss it further.

Fun fundraising



Sharon Bowman &
Paolo Saturnino

Recently, at our Monday classes volunteer **Samina Saddiq** co-ordinated a coffee evening which raised **£150**, split equally between WFDA and **Mac-Millian Cancer Research**.

Also, at the classes Xmas raffle a further **£84** was collected. (Photo of prize winners). **Thank you to everyone that was involved**



Adrian Cummins
running the
workshop

Free AT Workshop

In February, **Walthamstow School for Girls** kindly provided WFDA their theatre for free, for us to run 2 workshops about the latest Assistive Technology (AT) available for people with dyslexia.

Adrian Cummins from the **London Dyslexia Association** hosted the event. Visit wfda.org.uk web site for more AT information.

Please fill in our questionnaire available at wfda.org.uk or at classes to let us know your ideas for future workshops.

Adults with Dyslexia Meet-up

On the last Tuesday of the month (31 March, 28 April, 26 May) from 6.30 - 8.30pm at The Mill, 7 - 11 Coppermill Lane, Walthamstow, E17 7HA (by St James Street station). **Guest speaker every month.** You're welcome to drop into our free group, share your experiences and learn different ways to cope with having dyslexia. **Go to wfda.org.uk to find out more.**

Free Summer Transition Club

Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July

Forest School, Snaresbrook has kindly agreed to host our **free** Summer Transition Club for the 8th year. The club is for Year 6 students with dyslexia or dyspraxia moving on up to secondary school in September. Places are limited so book early contact **Helen Bigham** at 07702 01897 or email Helen@wfda.org.uk



Deutsche Bank



We're here to help...



Debra with one of her children.

More about us...

Debra Lewis is a local primary school teacher. She's studying for an OCR Diploma in Dyslexia and Specific Learning Difficulties and volunteers at the Summer Transition Club and our Monday support classes.

Why did you get involved with WFDA?

Once I was accepted onto the OCR course, I knew that it was imperative for me to get experience working with dyslexics. A friend told me about WFDA so I contacted Helen, who suggested that I volunteer at the Summer Transition Club. After having a great time there I now volunteer at the classes.

Share a volunteer highlight.

Everyone working for WFDA has been so helpful and friendly and I know that the work I do in my own school with my dyslexic children has benefited substantially through what I've observed while volunteering.

How do you like to relax?

With four children and working it's difficult to have any time to myself but when I do, a good book and a cup of tea does me fine!!

What's your rule of life?

It's good to talk and a problem shared is a problem halved.

UK top companies are offering summer internships for university students and recent graduates with long term conditions such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. Read more about the scheme. <http://www.leonardcheshire.org/what-we-do/change100#.VLzzWhhFDcc>



Goodbye!

WFDA is sad to announce that Trustee, **Jonathan O'Dea** has stood down from the committee. **Jonathan** is a well known local artist and knowledgeable lobbyist. Having dyslexia himself he was able to make a great input at the monthly meetings.



Welcome!

However, WFDA is pleased to welcome **Janice Serrant**, a parent of one of our Monday class students to the team of Trustees. With her experiences and enthusiasm we're sure she'll make a great contribution!



Well done!

Congratulations to **David Pearce**, WFDA Treasurer who was awarded **Volunteer of the Year 2014** at our AGM. David is the bedrock of our charity, without his support, guidance and experience our solid financial position would not have been achieved.

Websites worth a visit!

Dyslexia-assist.org.uk provides great information for both parents as well as children and is really easy to use. Let us know what you think.

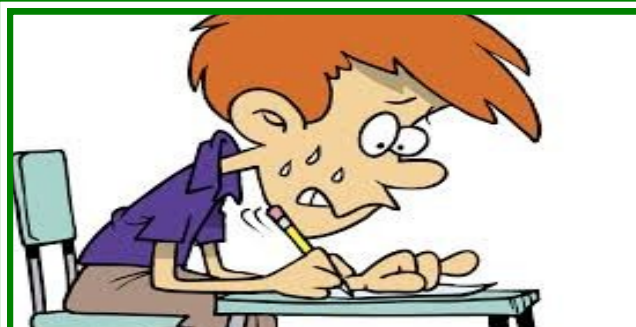
Classes General Information

Jack Petchey Award



Our Autumn 2014 winner was **Ryan Nicholls** (photo) and he received his Award at the WFDA AGM. Ryan chose for the money to be spent on WFDA students having a lively morning at a local go-kart track.

We're pleased to announce our Spring Term Winner is **Elfie Dunn**. The money will be used to buy a mini iPad. If you'd like to nominate someone or have an idea on how the money should be spent please let us know



Exam help available!

Due to stress, dyslexia related difficulties such as remembering, comprehension and writing can be made worse in an exam. This can make it particularly difficult for students to demonstrate their ability, knowledge and understanding through one off, timed exams.

Candidates are allowed adjustments to their exams, in accordance with the **Equality Act 2010**. Reasonable adjustments can include extra time, a reader or scribe or coloured exam papers. **Speak early to your child's school about how your child can get this additional help. Exam Support Workshop running on 30 March for families and students in Year 9 and upwards. Book a place with Sheena ASAP.**

Dates for your Diary!

Spring Term 2015

Monday 23 February - Monday 30 March

Othello theatre visit 14 March

Exam support workshop 30 March

(Closed for Easter)

Summer Term 2015

Monday 27 April - Monday 18 May

(No class Monday 4 May)

(Closed for Whitsun half term 25 May)

Monday 1 June - Monday 6 July

Class Parent evening 22 June

Class Award Ceremony Friday 3 July

Othello Theatre Visit

One of our funders, **The Deutsche Bank**, has generously donated 69 free tickets for students from our classes to watch a matinee performance of Shakespeare's 'Othello' at The Globe Theatre, South Bank on Saturday 14 March.

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: Office hours: Monday/Tues./Thurs. (term time) 10.00– 3.00pm, 07852 232509 or e-mail Sheena.wfda@gmail.com.