

Spring
2016

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 2016 Newsletter**. This is an exciting time for WFDA as we welcome 5 new trustees on to the Board along with myself as the new chair and Margaret Heath as our Vice Chair. We've lots of plans for the future and if you'd like to get involved please don't hesitate to contact us, we welcome your ideas!
Lois Hood, Chair of WFDA

'No dyslexics' sperm bank policy

'The Guardian' on 30.12.2015 featured an article debating the decision made by the largest UK sperm bank—The London Sperm Bank to ban donors who have dyslexia. **Anne Perkins** discussed the issue of how exactly do we decide where the line should be drawn between the extremes of life-shortening disease and having perceived genetic perfection.

In response to this article, **Margaret Malpas** British Dyslexia Association (BDA) Joint Chair and **Dominic Addington** Lib. Dem., House of Lords and BDA President wrote the following:

'Why would you want to screen out potential entrepreneurs, engineers and artists? Dyslexia confers strengths and the difficulties with acquiring literacy can be mitigated by the right teaching.'

'Anyway, their aims are impossible: 10% of the population are dyslexic—turning away the very small number who've had it confirmed would still leave a large number in the available gene pool.'
What are your thoughts on this issue?



L to R Liam Brockway, Salaiman Khan, Helen Bigham, Jacob Payne and Umar Rehman

First Give Programme

Congratulations to Year 9 students **Liam Brockway, Salaiman Khan, Jacob Payne and Umar Rehman** who chose **WFDA** to be their charity for 'The First Give Programme' competition at Highams Park School. The boys were runners-up and received **£250**. Visit wfda.org.uk to view the You tube clip of part of their presentation and below a poem written and performed by them.

Words on a page written by Salaiman Kahn

*Words on a page begin to fall.
I look up and the words fly around.
Trouble they bring as they mock and sing.*

*I feel a fool and then I wonder...
Why is this so cruel?
But I'm not dumb. And this is dire.
Because I'm brighter than a fire.*

*I'm different, not special.
Yet I'm smart not dumb.
But dyslexia is hard to overcome.
Yes I need help, but where or where ...
Will help come from?*

We're here to help...



Annual General Meeting

Thank you to every one who attended our 2015 AGM where we wished **Adele Bird** good luck to the future and welcomed our new Chair **Lois Hood**. Guest speakers **Margaret Rooke and Neil Alexander Passe** discussed the conflict in celebrating successful famous dyslexics to the detriment of adults with dyslexia feeling that they've underachieved. What do you think?



One of our main class funders is **BBC Children in Need** and everyone at WFDA is very sad to hear the news of their broadcaster, Terry Wogan's demise.

In the Winter term parents at the support Classes ran a raffle and cake stall and raised **£62**. WFDA is always grateful for raffle prizes - an unwanted gift is someone else's treasure!

Community Ward Funding

Great news! WFDA has received **£5965** from Waltham Forest Community Wards: Larkwood **£2505**, Valley **£1110**, Chingford Green **£1000**, Leytonstone **£500**, Hoe Street **£400**, Wood Street **£300** and **£150** from Hatch Lane.

Adults with Dyslexia Meet-up



Our **free** monthly meeting at The Quaker House, 1a Jewel Road, Walthamstow, E17 4QU is run on the last Tuesday of the month from 6.30 - 8.30pm.

Regular guest speakers and workshops.

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



Heartfelt thank you to the **Thomas Wall Trust** who have kindly donated **£1000** to the continued running of our Tuesday after school support classes.



Volunteer **Sadia Murza** fought her fear of heights and climbed towering platforms at Go Ape as well as running 12K at the Olympic Park. She raised **£200** for WFDA - maybe she has inspired you to tackle a challenge for our charity?

Big thank you to **Norman Kirby** a successful 92 year old retired scientist who donated **£1000** to WFDA.

Norman has 2 grandchildren with dyslexia and to address his own poor spelling made his handwriting illegible.

Not a recommended WFDA dyslexia coping strategy!

The London
Community
Foundation

JackPetchey
Foundation
Inspire • Motivate • Achieve

BBC
Children
in Need

Old Friends
Foundation
for
YOUNG
PEOPLE

Affiliated to the

British Dyslexia
Association

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

Get involved with WFDA



More about us...

Martin Kandasamy goes to our monthly Adult Meet-up and attended our Autumn Next Step course. Following the 2015 AGM **Martin** has joined our Board of Trustees

Why did you get involved with WFDA?

I'm friendly person and having dyslexia myself I'd like to help other dyslexics. I have a deep understanding of the challenges they face particularly in the workplace.

Share a volunteer highlight. Coming to my first adult meeting was like coming home to me. I felt so comfortable there, it was a Eureka moment for me.

How do you like to relax? Enjoy listening to Radio 4 Audio books.

What's your rule of life? There is a Tamil proverb that I try and follow:
"Theethum nanrum pirar thara vaara"

It roughly means no one can be the reason for the good or bad things that happen in your life, it's only you that can take responsibility.

Working in Education

Recently WFDA visited **Jenny Hammond** and **Winns Primary Schools** to screen selected pupils.

Well done to **Willowfield Secondary School** for introducing using a word processor for a student with dyslexia in her up coming exams.

On our website are help sheets on **Exam Access Arrangements and Exam Study Skills**. WFDA highly recommends that you have a read, as support needs to be put in place as early as possible.



Welcome to our new Trustees ...



Marcia Brissett-Bailey has dyslexia and her background includes volunteering as a parent governor and in children's charity groups. She has experience in the inner London youth/ community services and education sector.



Ranjan Sen was diagnosed with dyslexia in his early 20's and now attends our monthly Adult Meet up. On a professional level he has a background in project management and is keen to get involved in fundraising for WFDA.



Patrice Gueroult has recently been diagnosed with dyslexia and attends our monthly Adult Meet up. Patrice is bilingual speaking French and English and has a creative background in graphic design.



Alicia Browne has dyslexia, lives locally and attends the monthly Adult Meet up. Alicia is keen to support and help fellow dyslexics. She feels that *'my life experiences would be a great guide for people struggling with being dyslexic.'*

Ambassadors - would you be interested to visit schools and business to share your experiences of having dyslexia? Let **Helen Bigham**, Charity Manager know if you're interested to get involved.

Classes General Information

Free workshops in the library at George Mitchell School

At our **Dyslexia Resources** workshop in early February guest Speaker **Nicky Williams** from the **Cambridge House Resources Centre** demonstrated fun and instructive ways to support children's learning in the home. Browse on their website via our shop page on wfda.org.uk and anything you order WFDA will receive 10% of the charge.

Come along and find out about **Exam Support** at our workshop on 8 March for parents and students in Year 9 upwards

Visit **WFDA@org.uk** to find out more about our workshops and Help Sheets.

Spring Term 2016

Tuesday 23 February - 15 March

(No classes **22 March to 5 April**)

Saturday 23 April Paintballing

Summer Term 2016

Tuesday 12 April - Tuesday 24 May

(No class Tuesday 31 May

Closed for Whitsun Half term)

Tuesday 7 June to Tuesday 12 July

Class Parent evening Tuesday 21 June

Class Award Ceremony Friday 24 June

Summer Transition Club 25 - 29 July



Free Paintballing Day!

Saturday 23 April 9.00-12.30am

Mayhem Paintballing, Patch Park Farm, Abridge, Romford

(nearest underground Theydon Bois, Central Line, **free pick up available**).

The **Jack Petchey Foundation** presented **Helen Bigham**, WFDA Charity Manager their Leader Award. The prize money has been used to host a fun filled paintballing day for WFDA students.

Attendees must be 11 and over. Places will be on a first come basis and registration forms must be completed before the place is offered.

Congratulations to the Spring **Jack Petchey Bronze Award Winner Josiah Watson**.

Thank you to **George Mitchell School** for being so accommodating and welcoming to our support classes and for everyone involved being so supportive in making the move. Special acknowledgement to teacher **Agnieska Kaldonek-Crnjakovic**.

Class details: Small, individualised literacy, numeracy, handwriting and touch- typing classes 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 Angela Brockway, Class Co-ordinator know ASAP by text or email if your child is unable to attend their class. 07852 232509/e-mail wfda-co-ordinator@outlook.com. Office hours: Tues./Wed./Thursday (term time) 10.00-3.00pm.