

Summer 2014

THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR



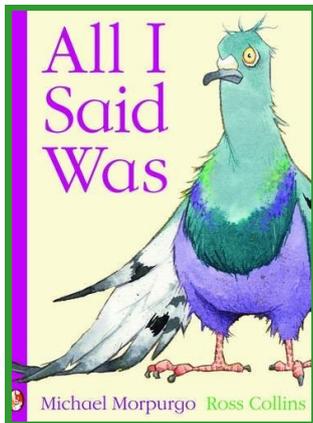
Waltham Forest
Dyslexia Association
Opening doors for dyslexics since 1989



Registered
Charity:
802993



Welcome to the WFDA Summer 2014 newsletter in our 25th year! Read about our recent award and funding successes. Find out about available downloads on our website. Also news on our partnership with local schools and the Job Centre Plus *Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA.*



Barrington Stoke publishes books for dyslexic children and they've started producing special picture books that dyslexic parents can enjoy with their children. Michael Morpurgo OBE has penned the 1st book in the series called '**All I Said Was**'.

As Morpurgo explained; 'Picture books can be difficult for adults with dyslexia to read because the language and typefaces are often very varied. The text can be cut into small chunks or is sometimes spun around a picture, which can make a book tricky if you don't have good reading skills. It's so important for children to see their mums and dads read, and for them to be read to themselves. This wonderful bond is like no other. If you can convince kids very early on that books are fun they are more likely to appreciate literature. Kids always need access to books and it doesn't matter a fig how, or what, they read.'

Famous dyslexic authors include: Lynda La Plante, Roald Dahl, Agatha Christie and our patron Benjamin Zephaniah.

Landmark Children and Families Act 2014

The new Children and Families Act 2014 will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, a new system to help children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities, better support for children whose parents are separating, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

The Act includes a number of new measures to protect the welfare of children, including a new legal duty on schools to better support children at school with medical and SEN conditions. The final SEN code of practice will be issued shortly ahead of reforms coming into force in September 2014.

To keep up-to-date on this new Act visit www.gov.uk/landmark-children-and-families-act-2014.

'As a parent, you want your child to do well. The funny thing, is I'd been the same when I was a kid. I'm pretty sure I was dyslexic, but they didn't call it that back then. You had what they called "learning difficulties".'

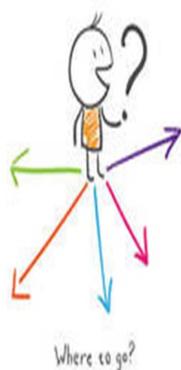
Get involved with the W.F.D.A.



Class Funding!

WFDA is pleased to announce that the **Hilton in the Community Fdt (HiCF)** has agreed to fund our classes with £10,000. The support of **BBC Children In Need** and **HiCF** makes all the difference in being able to provide valuable tuition. Thank you to all the families that spoke to the **HiCF** Trustees when they came to visit, your feedback helped us win this money!

Visit WFDA.org.uk



On our website we've a range of help sheets such as: **Choosing a private tutor; Assisitive technology, Exam tips & Homework support. Plus lots of other helpful info. and links to other useful websites.**
Why not complete our quick Adult Dyslexia Questionnaire?

Italian Wine Tasting Evening

We raised £666 at our informative & fun event. Thank you to **Adele Bird, Anne** and **Eric England** who were the main co-ordinators and thanks to everyone else who got involved—a real team effort!

Thank you to **St Peter's-in-the-Forest Church, Walthamstow** who have continued to support us by kindly donating £100 in 2013 and a further £100 in 2014.



Winners of London Borough of Waltham Forest Civic Award 2014

WFDA are joint winners of the Civic Award with the Walthamstow Cricket, Tennis and Squash Club. Robert Elms, the BBC London radio presenter gave out the award to Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA at a gala event in April.

Having this local recognition by the LBWF council is a great way to acknowledge all the hard work and successes that have been achieved in the last 25 years by a band of dedicated & committed supporters.

All in a day's work

At the end of June we'll be hosting a presentation at **Job Centre Plus (JCP), Walthamstow**. We'll be sharing good practices on how best the JCP staff can work with clients that have dyslexia. Also on our behalf JCP staff will be conducting a survey, which we hope will provide useful data for future funding bids. As it could highlight the local need for support for adults with dyslexia.



We're here to help...



More about us ...

Agnieszka Kaldonek-Crnjackovic works full time as a dyslexia teacher at the George Mitchell Secondary School and is one of our class tutors. Also, Aga is part of our Summer Transition Club team (28 July—1 August).

Why did you get involved with WFDA?

Since moving to the UK from Croatia, I have continued working with children with dyslexia. I was thrilled to find out that WFDA needed a literacy tutor.

Share a WFDA highlight: *It always makes me happy when I learn that my work has helped our students achieve better results at school. One of my Y10 students got C in his last essay, and he was the best in his class!*

How do you like to relax?:

My way of relaxing depends on the time of the day and season. In the evening it's cooking and reading. At the weekend it's meeting friends. In spring it's long walks. In summer it's lying on the beach reading books. The winter time is for knitting and skiing.

What's your rule of life?

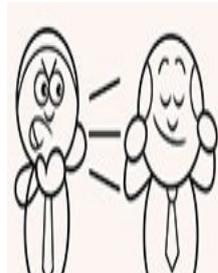
Having dyslexia myself I understand the issues our students can face. I've learnt to never give up and always accept the challenge.

Au revoir!

Alison Kennelly, one of our class tutors will be relocating to France in the Summer break. She'll be greatly missed by WFDA and the families she's worked with. However, we're pleased to welcome **Hilary Smith** who'll be joining us in September. Hilary has a strong background in working with dyslexic students and will continue the good work accomplished by Alison.

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.

'Next Step' feedback



'I didn't feel I had anyone in my life that actually understood about dyslexia.

When I talked about my needs they'd no idea what I was talking about and talked to me like I'm stupid.

Coming on this course has absolutely given me confidence/strength/support/knowledge that I couldn't have got anywhere else'.

Read more about our Next Step adult dyslexia support class (funded by **Comic Relief in partnership with London Community**) on our website wfda.org.uk.

Local School news

WFDA recently ran Inset training sessions at **Davis Lane, Mission Grove & Selwyn Primary Schools**. Feedback from Selwyn:

'Thank you for the training, it was warmly received by our Teaching Assistants and I've observed them already put some of the suggested strategies into place.'

Study/homework skills course

If you're in Year 6 or above why not join our 6 week course and gain strategies, tips and techniques to help improve your study and homework skills. Running from **Monday 2 June to 7 July** at 6.00pm—6.50pm. To book a place speak to **Sheena** at class—limited spaces so please hurry! **Info. on our website.**

Classes General Information

Parent Evening on Monday 23 June

The Parent Evening gives families the chance to talk with tutors about their child's progression at classes. Please make sure you're able to attend as your feedback is important for your child's progression.

It's vital that you let us know how we're doing. Also, it helps us in our funding reports as we can use information from the Evaluation forms. Support us by completing and returning the form to your child's tutor/or Sheena by the Parent's evening.

WFDA has a long list of pupils waiting to join our classes. To help us allocate places please discuss with your child's tutor at the Parent's evening if your child will be returning to class in September.

Dates for your Diary!

Summer Term 2014

Monday 2 June –Monday 7 July

Class Parent Evening 23 June

Class of 2014 Ceremony Friday 11 July

Summer Transition Club w/c 28 July

Autumn Term 2014

Monday 15 September—Monday 20 October

No class Monday 27 October (H/T)

Monday 3 November—Monday 8 December

Class of 2014 Award Ceremony

Friday 11th July 2014; 7.30pm—10.00pm
West Essex Sports Club, Hickman Ave. E4 9JG
Over 16's tickets £5/Under 16 free

Please bring your family and friends. Tickets to be bought in advance from Sheena or at the door on the night*.

Clr Chris Robbins, Leader of the Waltham Forest Council will be presenting certificates and £10 Amazon vouchers (**only to students attending**). *The guardian of the student must get their own and the student's ticket in advance from Sheena by our **7 July class** at the latest.

Please bring a plate of food for the buffet table and buy refreshments at the bar.

Disco, bucking bronco and sumo wrestling outfits are all part of the fun of the night so put this in your diary right away!



Jack Petchy Award

We're proud to announce that 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.

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. **Study/homework skill course running in June.

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.