

Summer
2016

THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR



W a l t h a m F o r e s t

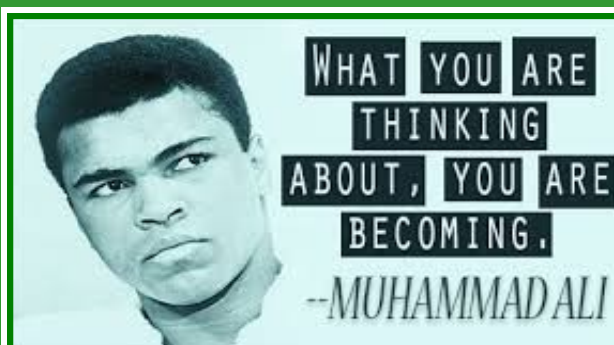
Dyslexia Association

Opening doors for dyslexics since 1989

Registered Charity: 802993



Welcome to the **WFDA Summer 2016 Newsletter**. Thank you to everyone that joined us at the recent sponsored walk. Winning funding bids gets harder and harder as more charities compete for smaller pots of money. Every penny we raise goes back into running our services, we've no office. If you'd like to get involved in fundraising please let us know. **Lois Hood, Chair of WFDA**



Sadly **Muhammad Ali** died in June after a long struggle with Parkinson disease.

Ali is best known for his exceptional boxing career. He's an Olympic Gold medalist, participant of the "Fight of the Century" in the 1970's, and inductee into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. He's an incredible athlete, but he was once heard to say, *"I never said I was the smartest, I said I was the greatest."*

Ali had self-doubt, as although he was one of the world's leading boxers, he barely graduated high school because of his struggle with reading. **Ali** was not diagnosed with dyslexia until he was an adult.

He understood the pain caused by being unable to perform well in school because of reading difficulties. He made it his life mission to help each person *'capture the magic inside each of us'*.

Ali wanted students to not have the same school experiences as himself. To motivate and inspire them to read, **Ali** set up **"Go the Distance"**, a series of award winning high interest multicultural fiction and non-fiction published by Scholastic. **WFDA** is proud to promote his legacy.



We think different: the garage

In February 2016 a London marketing firm **The garage** released a job ad that stipulated applicants must be dyslexic as it wanted to recruit employees who think differently. The garage is founded by **Chris Arnold** who described himself as a 'dyslexic entrepreneur'. He stated *'If you wanted to assemble the world's best choir you'd want great singers, not tone-deaf ones. We are simply looking for the best innovative thinkers and they are usually dyslexic! Dyslexia isn't a disability, it's an inability in a linear environment, but a great ability in a creative one. Dyslexics are great at creativity, imagination, strategic thinking and problem solving'*.

We're here to help...



Kilimanjaro Climb

Will Mista has climbed Kili-manjaro and raised **£1280** for WFDA. The importance WFDA places on helping students

improve their self-esteem was a deciding factor in choosing us for his charity. To reach the summit he had a vertical climb in pitch dark with only a head torch. **WOW!**

Reinstate allowances regarding spelling for pupils with dyslexia.

1,000's of dyslexic children will be marked as failures under the government's controversial new primary writing assessments. Pupils will be expected to spell almost 200 words on government wordlists if they're to reach the "expected standard" for writing at the end of Year 6. 100,000 signatures means this petition will be considered for debate in parliament. Sign today! <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/124352>

Thank you to BBC Children In Need

BBC Children In Need have agreed to continue their commitment to support WFDA and will be funding us **£10,000** towards the classes. To run the classes costs over **£50,000** a year so this help is much needed and appreciated!

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. **June 28, July 26**, no group in August and then on **27 September**.

Regular guest speakers and workshops.

Everybody is welcome to drop in and share their experiences - it's a friendly group!

Summer Transition Club Monday 26 July

WFDA is still waiting to hear if we've won a funding bid to run the club. However, the Board of Trustees is committed to providing this service and has agreed that the cost of **£200 per student** will be covered by our hard earned fundraising budget.



Charity Walk for Peace on 29 May

Massive thank you to the 43 WFDA walkers who came along to the **Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders Association** charity sponsored walk. Through donations and match funding we've raised the fantastic figure **£6625!**



The London Community Foundation



Affiliated to the:



Get involved with WFDA



More about

US... Michelle Rock

joined WFDA as a tutor in 2015 and is instrumental in improving our class monitoring. She's one of our volunteer help line support team and a lead

tutor with **Maxine Johnson** at our **Summer Transition Club**.

Why did you get involved with WFDA?:

I became involved as it's a local organisation which fulfils a vital function. Not every parent can afford one-to-one specialist tuition, and as WFDA meets the needs of local children it really deserves support. More importantly though, it is a community of highly skilled specialists which is a great boon to an independent professional like me.

Share a WFDA highlight: Meeting the students and parents in my groups for the first time and realising how much fun we were going to have.

How do you like to relax?: I'm a keen cyclist and gardener with a garden and two allotments. Most importantly, I've two beautiful grandchildren who live in Japan, so Skype story times are very special to me.

What's your rule of life?: Every bit of it's precious, no matter what its form.

Working in Education

WFDA has recently visited **Eden Secondary School**, **Davis Lane** and **Jenny Hammond primary schools** to run screenings for selected pupils.

WFDA is also providing free training (at local schools for a limited time) from our **Dyslexia Handbook** at the schools: **Connaught; Winns; Thomas Gamuel; Riverly; Willowbrook** and **Eden**.



Help Line volunteering

Sadly **Elly Pearce** will no longer be on our WFDA help line. However she'll continue as an Indication for Dyslexia Screener. We're sure the support she's shown the many callers over the years has been beneficial and pointed them in the right direction to get the help they need.

Trustee update

Marilyn Hawes has stepped down as one of our Trustees. Marilyn had previously been one of our tutors and her dyslexia knowledge has been invaluable. We all wish her well for the future.

Two of our trustees, **Marcia Brissett-Bailey** and **Alice Speller**, will now be running our Facebook page.

Team update

WFDA tutor **Agnieska Kaldonek-Crynjakovic** has been promoted to be the SENCO at George Mitchell (Through) School. With this added work load Aga has made the difficult decision to leave our Tuesday classes. However she'll continue to be a staunch WFDA local supporter.



Fortunately we've recruited **Vanessa Minihane** who we're sure will be a great addition to the class team. Vanessa is an experienced teacher and is keen to share strategies to help develop independent learning.

Classes General Information

What's it like to be dyslexic?

In May **Michelle Rock** ran a free family workshop on experiencing first hand the reality of having dyslexia. 1 parent stated *'It was shocking to realise how much of a struggle my son must have coping with his dyslexia every day, it opened my eyes!'*

Parent Evening Tuesday 21 June

Please don't forget to book a space with your child's tutor and complete the evaluation form. This is used to help shape our funding reports. Your feedback provides a rich picture for our funders on what we're achieving at classes. Please return the forms to your child's tutor or to **Angela** by end June latest.

Summer Term 2016

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

CLlr Chris Robbins will be presenting certificates and £10 Amazon vouchers to all student attendees.

Autumn Term 2016

Tuesday 13 September to 18 October

(25 October no class half term)

Tuesday 1 November to 6 December



Thank you to **Jack Petchey Foundation** for funding our free Paintballing day. All the students had a lot of fun and not too many bruises! **Mayhem-Painball.co.uk** donated **£225** paintball package and the winning auction bid of **£90** went to the **Newland family**. Our Summer Jack Petchey Bronze award will be presented to **Alisha Hussain**.

Class payment options

WFDA accepts **cash/cheque/postal orders** to be made payable to WFDA.

BACS (Sort Code 405240, A/N 00011569). **PayPal** to the Waltham Forest Dyslexia a/c. To pay by PayPal you don't need a PayPal account just your debit or credit card.

WFDA has charitable status on PayPal and we have to include an extra 1.4% + 20p on your fee.

Always quote your child's name as a reference and do not pay fees until you're in receipt of a WFDA invoice.

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 wfdaco-ordinator@outlook.com. Office hours: Tues./Wed./Thursday (term time) 10.00-3.00pm.