

Winter 2011

THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR

Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association

Registered Charity: 802993

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Welcome to the W.F.D.A

Read about the latest news on dyslexia. We're grateful for the School support article written by Jaynn Taylor (Group Manager SEND/ESS) explaining how families could be effected by government cuts to the Educational Psychology (EP) services.

Learn more about the people who work for the W.F.D.A Charity. Find out about our latest fund-raising events - money raised ensures that we can continue to provide our unique support.



Did you know Winkler ad-libbed playing the Fonz?

Winkler has co-written books for children about Hank Zipzer, a boy with dyslexia based on experiences during the actor's own childhood struggles.

More information:
www.hankzipzer.com
Hank Zipzer series is published by Penguin

Heyy! The Fonz gets an OBE!

Happy Days star Henry Winkler has been made an honorary OBE for his work on dyslexia. Diagnosed as an adult, he has toured UK schools over the last 2 years to talk about dyslexia.

"My goal when I started working with children was never to bring accolades on myself, but instead to change how people think about those around them for whom learning is a struggle. I am flattered to have had my work recognised in this manner, and hope to continue showing kids that their learning difficulty isn't a disability."

School support

Are you aware that following the reduction and/or deletion of a number of government/ national grants over the past 18 months Waltham Forest (WF), in common with other local authorities (LA) has had to make significant savings across its public services?

The Educational Psychology (EP) service is one of many services that had its core/central funding reduced with effect from April 2011. However, although the LA is only funding EPs to carry out the statutory work of the service, schools were offered a buy back service from the LA.

Primary schools decided that they wanted to continue to have a full EP service serving their local community and agreed to meet the cost of this from combined budgets. Secondaries, special schools and academies decided to buy in EP services on an individual basis, and many have done this.

Parents may be concerned that where their child's school doesn't buy in the WF EP Service or other EP services, then their children won't have access to additional education support services or EP service.

However this should not be the case. If teachers, SENCos or parents have a concern about a child's academic, developmental, social or emotional progress, there is a duty on the school to investigate (SEN Code of Practice 2001).

Schools are expected to meet with parents to discuss the concerns and support the child's needs using school based provision at School Action. If all in-school strategies and support have been tried, the school must then refer to the appropriate professional or external agency.

The SEN Code of Practice is clear that schools should seek the support of an EP when they have such concerns. It's possible that some WF schools may use private EPs or look to another LA and buy in their EP service.

If your child isn't making progress following additional school support you can request a referral for specialist advice. There should be no difference whether your child is attending a LA maintained school or an academy.

Get Involved with the WFDA



Wine Tasting Evening

St Teresa's Hall, Station Rd E4

7.30pm—10.30pm Tickets £10

On 12 November we're holding a Wine tasting evening. It promises to be great fun and very informative. Did you know that the bottle shape says more about where the wine was produced and is nothing to do with quality? Let's hope it's a cork-popping night!

Contact **Eric/Anne** 020 852 91957

New Treasurer Needed

This voluntary role involves becoming a WFDA trustee with main responsibilities for the finances and financial well-being of our charity. An accounting qualification or experience is essential as work includes budgeting and financial forecasting and an ability to record and monitor grant spending and day to day processing. Flexibility/patience desirable.

Please contact **Elly Pearce** our current treasurer for further information on admin@wfda.org.uk.

Intrepid cycle ride in aid of WFDA

Katherine and Tom Marshall cycled nearly 4,000 miles of the North Sea Cycle Route covering the coast of Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Scotland and England to raise much needed funds for our charity— over £700! There is still time to make a donation by going to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/kandtmarshall>



Volunteering for Fun!

Volunteering offers you the chance to get involved in a project or with an organisation you really care about as well as an opportunity to meet new and like-minded people. It also gives you the chance to try out something different which may lead on to new career options or the confidence to get back to work. Even a small commitment can have a lasting effect on our organisation and the people it represents.

Volunteering opportunities come in many different guises, from long-term regular commitments to one-off individual or group projects. Above all, it's a chance to make a real difference. If you are interested please contact admin@wfda.org.uk.

We're here to help...



Lois Hood, how long have you been involved with WFDA?

For about 12 years. I joined as a

parent when I found out my daughter is dyslexic. I began working for W.F.D.A as a teacher on Monday evening classes in January '08.

What do you love about your job?

There are a lot of things but I suppose the most important thing is making a difference to someone. This difference could be building confidence or helping someone do something they haven't been able to do before.

What has been the best moment in your career?

Probably that was gaining my Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy so that I could become a specialist teacher.

How do you like to relax?

I'm not very good at relaxing but I suppose the nearest I get to it is when I'm gardening.

Do you have a hidden talent?

Perhaps my hidden talent is associated with that - I've just grown a beautiful pumpkin that I'm very proud of.

What's your worst habit?

Hmm - probably ignoring the dust on things rather than dusting them.

Describe yourself in one sentence.

A person who is a bit driven and is also a bit of a perfectionist but devoted to my children and my cats.

Exam Support

Do you or your child need special arrangements to help perform to your best ability in exams? Help includes:

- Extra time (as much as 25%) for reading, writing or processing information.
- A reader for difficult text.
- Use of a word processor/ transcript if the teacher is able to read your work.

Access arrangements have to be applied for so discuss with your school asap as there will be deadlines.

To help your confidence don't forget to practice under exam conditions.

More information: www.jcq.org.uk or email us at admin@wfda.org.uk or phone

Katherine Marshall on 020 8520 7370.

X- FACT!

Dyslexic readers prefer words in Comic Sans or Ariel typefaces.

Hello and goodbye...

We're all sad to see our administrator, **Debbie Marshall** leave after many years hard work and commitment to W.F.D.A. She'll be a tough act to follow for her replacement **Helen Bigham!**

Also a goodbye to our longest serving teacher **Shelia Westbury** and many thanks for her hard work—she made a big difference to many children. Shelia's replacement will be **Sharon Bowman**, an experienced primary school teacher who has worked for many years with children with special needs.

General Information

Membership/Class Fees from 1 January 2012

In these tough times we're finding it increasingly harder to raise money for our services through fundraising and grants alone. Therefore the Board of Trustees have reluctantly decided to raise class fees from **1 January 2012**.

Touch typing class will be £5, literacy and numeracy classes will be £12 each. Attending touch typing with one of the other classes will be £15.

Classes must be paid at the start of each half term without exception, collecting fees and updating records is time-consuming and not good use of our resources. We're sorry but students won't be able to attend classes until payment has been made.

Good news: No increase for Annual membership fee of £15, Screening charges of £15 (under 16's) and adult charge of £20

If you've not already subscribed for your membership for 2012 please pay **Stella Creed** our Monday night class receptionist or send in a cheque made payable to Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association to **Eric England**, 4 Eglington Rd, Chingford London E4 7AN.



Call Out for A.G.M!

24 November 7.00 – 9.30pm

The Soul Project (Tumble in the Jungle)

245 Wood Street, E17 3NT

7.00pm Refreshments

7.30pm Business of meeting including election of re-election of trustees

8.00pm John McKenzie, to present 'Dyslexia and the Law' followed by a short discussion

Please come - this is your chance to get involved and influence the decisions being made concerning the future of W.F.D.A. as well as for you to find out more about the charity. Why not join as a trustee or volunteer?

Don't forget—Your support is vital to the continued viability of WFDA.

Management Committee 2010 – 2011

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Chair: | Adele Bird |
| Vice-Chair: | Katherine Marshall |
| M/ship Secretary: | Eric England |
| Treasurer: | Eleanor Pearce |
| Secretary: | To be elected |



BRINGING A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER!! We're selling packs of 10 Xmas cards for £3.00, all proceeds for



Class Details

Literacy, numeracy and touch typing classes for students aged 5 – 16 years Monday (term time only) Walthamstow School for Girls, Church Hill, E17 9RZ.

Literacy and Numeracy: 50 minute classes from 4.00pm onwards

Touch typing: 50 minute class at 5.00pm or 6.00pm