



Dyslexia Association

of Bexley Bromley Greenwich & Lewisham
(FOUNDED IN 1974 AS THE NORTH KENT DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION)
NEWSLETTER - MAY 2011

FUTURE MEETINGS

HELD AT St Nicholas Church
Hall (Village Hall), Church Lane,
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PE

**Thursday 23rd June
at 7.45pm**

Links Between Speech, Language and Literacy Skills

Words are 'symbols' that all people, using a particular language, understand. When we learn a new word, we store it with information about the sounds that it's made up of, the shape of the written word, the meaning of the word and the way a word can be used in a sentence. It is thought that many children with speech, language and literacy difficulties have problems either recognising or storing part of this information.

Often children with literacy difficulties have a history of difficulty acquiring speech. Research has shown that many children who have a problem with reading share an inability to develop 'phonological awareness'.



**These meetings are free with
a suggested donation of
£3.00 by non-members**

Come along and hear more about this from a highly experienced specialist speech and language therapist.

This meeting will be preceded by our famous super-speedy AGM. The

ADULT GROUP

Our very active Adult Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month, excepting January and August. Each meeting has a speaker and/or an open forum. Do come along and discuss your experiences and concerns with other dyslexic adults of all ages and from all walks of life. First Wednesday of the month at Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

**Trevor Hobbs
020 8319 3662 or the helpline
07000 50 50 55**

AGM papers will be available at the meeting, and are also on our website. Please do let us know if you would like to receive a paper copy of these prior to the meeting."

Older children are welcome at our meetings, if their parents feel they would be interested in the talk

The following buses go to **Chislehurst War Memorial**, which is a few minutes walk from the Hall:

- 61** Bromley North to Farnborough & Orpington
- 102** Eltham to Bromley
- 160** Catford to Sidcup
- 161** from Woolwich
- 162** Beckenham Junction to Eltham
- 269** Bexleyheath to Bromley North



All you need to know about Assistive Technology for Dyslexic Adults and Children

**Thurs 29th Sept
at 7.45pm**

Iansyst have been specialising in advising dyslexic adults and children about the best equipment to help them with their work for 28 years. An experienced member of their team will be explaining all about Assistive Technology software and hardware solutions to problems.

Amongst other items, the talk will cover text to speech, mind mapping, spell checking solutions, portable devices and voice recognition as



well as general tips on how to make the computer more dyslexia friendly. Don't miss it!

HELP LINE: 07000 50 50 55 email: info@dyslexiawise.co.uk

How to help at Home

Do you want to know more about dyslexia and how to help at home? Why not come along to a set of 5 very practical workshops. Each workshop will consider a different topic such as literacy, writing, maths, handwriting etc. The cost is £20 for each 2 hour workshop. You will learn how to make resources to use at home and will be given some useful resources and handouts free.

✉ margaret.cooper-276@ntlworld.com
☎ or ring: 01322 409 522

Wonderful ICT Website

If you want to know anything about computers, technology and dyslexia, do look at the BDA



Technologies committee website. It is a font of information and knowledge about suitable software, hardware and electronic gadgets. You can also post a question and get a knowledgeable answer and, of course, look at other people's queries and the responses. To see the resources in the flesh,

Free Workshop for Statutory and Voluntary Agencies in Bexley

In conjunction with Bexley Voluntary Service Council, we are running an exciting FREE workshop on **30th September 2011** from 9.15am to 2.15pm:

“Duz ths mack senz too U?”

Understanding and Supporting Dyslexic Young People

If you work with children and young people in Bexley, then this course is for you. Parents, too, may wish to pass this information on to those who work with their children.

For further details, please

contact us as below. Places are, unfortunately, strictly limited, so early booking is advised.

Contact Amanda Sutton, Dyslexia Association of Bromley Bexley Greenwich & Lewisham

✉ info@dyslexiawise.co.uk ☎ 020-8315 2526
Dyslexia Association, Community House,
South Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1RH

though, and to have the opportunity to get individual advice, do come along to our September meeting as above!
www.bdatech.org

BEXLEY DYSLEXIA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS SCHEME

There have been 26 Dyslexia Friendly Schools awards given in Bexley so far. Mainly this is a whole school award, although some secondary schools have been granted it for an individual department. How about checking if your school has gone down this route yet, and encouraging them to do so if they have not yet applied?

Useful Guide to Choosing Dyslexia Friendly Books for Children

Waterstones and Dyslexia Action have jointly produced not only a list of books that dyslexic children may find appealing, but tips on how to get children to read them too. Pick up a booklet in-store, or download it from the Waterstones' site.

www.waterstones.com/wat/images/special/mag/waterstones_dyslexia_action_guide.pdf

Dyslexia Friendly Schools Pack

The BDA run a dyslexia friendly schools quality mark scheme. At the outset of this, they produced a Dyslexia Friendly Schools pack, giving a wealth of guidance as to what can be done in schools to help dyslexic pupils. This pack is useful for everyone to see, whether they are a teacher, teaching assistant or parent.

This pack is no longer on the official BDA website, but can be found (and downloaded) on the BDA Technologies Committee website:

www.bdatech.org/about-us-2/dyslexia-friendly-ict-in-schools/

COPYING FROM THE BOARD

We picked up the following tip: If a smartboard is simply fixed flat on the classroom wall, there is a risk that dyslexic children will experience glare, and be unable to see what is on the board. The simple solution is for the board to be fixed with the board angled a little way out from the wall at the bottom so that the light projected onto it will be reflected slightly up towards the ceiling instead of straight into the children's eyes.

Esther Freud - Author

We are always telling people that creative writing is not the same as being able to spell and to write correctly and neatly. Here is news of yet another successful dyslexic author. Esther Freud is about to publish her seventh novel, yet she battled with dyslexia as a child and didn't learn to read or write properly until she was 11.

She said that it had seemed to her as if there was something intrinsically mysterious that she didn't grasp about literacy at school. Her most famous novel is probably "Hideous Kinky".

MONTHLY GAMING CLUB

No, not gambling, but fantasy games for youngsters aged 11-14 years! Bromley Central Library run sessions on the 2nd Thursday of the month, similar to the WarHammer Club run by the Games Workshop.

They use their models and rule books to play the games. Different characters, vehicles etc have varying strengths and can move in various ways, similar to a game of chess.

Moving your army strategically, the aim is to gain points and outwit the enemy forces.

Many youngsters really enjoy this activity and, in addition, parents and teachers will be pleased to note that there are books written about the various armies which encourages reading and it is also very good for developing numeracy, as mental arithmetic is a vital part of the scoring system

☎ Gill Nutkins 020-8461 7185 ✉ gill.nutkins@bromley.gov.uk

Greenwich Parent Voice

Greenwich Parent Voice is a forum for parents in Greenwich who have a child with a disability or special educational need. It's remit is to work for better services, gather information from parents to pass to the local authority, and communicate with and inform parents.

Parents can attend meetings, join in forum discussions, attend on-line meetings, contact other forum members and download relevant documents.

The next meeting is on **9th June** from 7.30pm-9pm at Charlton School.

🌐 www.greenwichparentvoice.org

Qualifications for 'NEETS'

NEETS are those aged 16 -18 years who are Not in Employment, Education or Training. The Tree Jumpers Academy at the Hop Farm at Paddock Wood in Kent are running two free courses for this group, both leading to qualifications.

The first one is the Treejumpers Uniformed Service Course. This is a brand new course designed to prepare people for careers in the Military, Police, Fire or Ambulance Services.

The second course is the Treejumpers Outdoor Instructor

Leadership course, which prepares people for the working world and trains them to be an outdoor instructor and gain valuable group leading skills. It includes work placements, too.

If you are interested in this, then either speak to the appropriate Connexions PA or ☎ 01622 870 822

Help for Youth in Bexley

The Bexley Youth Advice (BYA) & Prospects Centre in Bexleyheath is a multi-agency facility designed to provide support, advice and guidance on a wide range of topics for young people ages 13 to 19 (up to 25 for special needs).

Services to young people are provided both on a drop-in and appointment basis. There are topical workshops available as well as relevant group work opportunities. There is free internet access available for young people to engage in research and provide them with the opportunity to work on job applications and to create or update CVs.

Bexley Youth Advice/Prospects, 233 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, DA6 7EJ ☎ 020 8301 3900

Books for Girls

Many books for reluctant readers seem to be aimed at the male market. The author, Lari Don was asked to write a book to capture the imaginations of girls who struggle with reading. She was moaning about the lack of decent heroines to a friend of hers who suggested she wrote about the adventurous mythical heroine, the Sumerian goddess Inanna. The result is a very exciting and appealing tale. *The Mountain's Blood* by Lari Don, published by Barrington Stokes.



ACCESS TO WORK

Anyone who feels that their dyslexia is creating a problem for them in their workplace, may be eligible for 'access to work' funding. Full details about this can be found on www.microlinkpc.com/access-work this site includes two excellent videos which explain the whole scheme. For our area, the office to contact is:

Jobcentre Plus, Access to Work Operational Support Unit, Nine Elms Lane, London SW95 9BH. ☎ 020 8426 3110 ✉ atwosu.london@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk



Many parents and children will know about the Percy Jackson books and film. Rick Riordan began to tell his distressed, dyslexic and ADHD, school-phobic seven year old son tales of the Greek myths to calm him down. When the tales ran out, he invented a new story about a modern boy who has dyslexia and ADHD, but who is a demigod, hunted by monsters and destined greatness.

Rick says: "I don't see dyslexia as a disability. I think that because they're outside the norm, they are more determined to find a solution that nobody else has. Dyslexics are by nature creative problem solvers, and when they find a subject that they are passionate about they become very valuable employees because they break the mould".

Our feelings and experience exactly!

BBC MY DISPLAY

The BBC have come up with a new tool called MyDisplay to allow users to change the way text is presented on the web pages of their popular www.bbc.co.uk website. You can alter the text size, spacing, font or style, or change the text and background colours to whatever combination you prefer. If that sounds like something you would benefit from, please go to www.bbc.co.uk/mydisplay, give it a try and let the BBC know what you think of the trial version of the tool.



HELPS DYSLEXIC STAFF

DHL Supply Chain, a market leader in logistics, has teamed up with Dyslexia Action to provide its Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) trainers with training on how to identify and cater for students with dyslexia.

Many people challenged by dyslexia have not been formally diagnosed. DHL's DCPC trainers are taught to identify their learning needs and how to help employees who are experiencing problems in the DCPC learning environment. This is a significant move in the field of logistics, where a higher proportion of the driving work force is expected to have literacy related difficulties.

Jo Malone

Jo Malone is one of the most successful businesswomen of her generation. She was recognised with an MBE for services to the beauty industry in 2008. Having sold her business, she has now gone on to become co-host of a TV series about backyard entrepreneurship, 'High Street Dreams'.

She said that she had always thought about creating TV shows, not because she wanted to be famous, but because she thought she could create something for TV in the same way she did with a bath oil for the bathroom. She said that writing a book was never high on her agenda as she's "horribly dyslexic", but with TV people can be helped to see things in a different way.

How would you like to receive this newsletter?
If you have received this newsletter by post, and would rather receive it by email (which will be in glorious technicolour!) then please do email us to let us know at info@dyslexiawise.co.uk.

iPhone Apps That Help Dyslexic People

One of our members excitedly told us about a great new app for the iPhone. Apparently it picks up words that although they are spelt incorrectly are spelt the way they sound. It works in Mail, Notes and other apps. We were told it was excellent!



We have also been told about the **I-Spy iPhone Phonics App**, which is designed by a speech therapist to assist children and young people learn to associate written letters with their phonic sound. This "iSpy Phonics" Application may be of enormous benefit to children growing up with reading difficulties. It costs UK£1.19 and can be downloaded from iTunes.

Extra Time in School Selection Test

We are often asked whether dyslexic pupils can get concessions in selective tests, especially the 11+ or equivalent.

We now hear that a mother from Ramsgate has obtained the right for her dyslexic daughter to have an extra 25% of time when sitting the Kent Test. The girl also had the test papers printed on pink paper to increase her ease of reading, as black text on white paper makes the print blurry for her.

A KCC spokesman said: "Kent will always try to make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate an individual child's special needs, as we are required to do under the Disability Discrimination Act. There

is no automatic entitlement and each case is decided on its merits. Where a school requests special consideration be provided for an individual pupil and that request is supported by detailed evidence, then we will try to be as supportive as we can."

FUTURE EVENTS

9th June "The Gift of Dyslexia", by Louis Barnett, young chocolate entrepreneur. Mountains Country House/Fosse Bank School, 7.30pm. entry strictly by ticket only (£5). Kent West Dyslexia Assn. ☎ 0845 601 2553 ✉ admin@kentwestdyslexia.org.uk 🌐 www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk

15th June For Families – children welcome. "My Favourite Books", to be held at Croydon Central Library, Croydon Clocktower 7.15 – 9.00 pm Croydon Dyslexia Assn. 🌐 www.croydononline.org/dyslexia ☎ 08442 49 69 49

14th June Challenger Troop – programmes for disengaged young people aged 9-16. Angel Centre, Tonbridge. Kent West Dyslexia Assn. ☎ 0845 601 2553 ✉ admin@kentwestdyslexia.org.uk 🌐 www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk

20th June The 6th Nata Goulandris Memorial Lecture - Professor Cathy Price "Dyslexia and the Brain". Room G10, Chandler House, 2 Wakefield Street, London WC1N 1PF. 5.00 pm No booking required – just turn up.

30th June "Dyslexia and Co-occurring Issues" A one-day conference focusing on Co-occurring issues and Dyslexia, including Visual Stress, Asperger's Syndrome, Dyspraxia / Developmental Co-ordination Difficulty, Dysgraphia and Hypermobility – Syndrome, Speech and Literacy Difficulties, Dyscalculia and ADHD. £150.00, Member Rate £125.00, Student rate £110.00. 🌐 www.bdadydyslexia.org.uk ✉ conference@bdadydyslexia.org.uk ☎ 0845 251 9003

21st September "How to help your dyslexic child/young person at home" 7.15 – 9pm, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP. Croydon Dyslexia Assn. 🌐 www.croydononline.org/dyslexia ☎ 08442 49 69 49

16th November "Maths and Dyslexia/Dyscalculia" 7.15 – 9pm, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP. Croydon Dyslexia Assn. 🌐 www.croydononline.org/dyslexia ☎ 08442 49 69 49

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...

OPEN MEETINGS

Thurs 23rd June

Thurs 29th Sept

ADULT GROUP

1st Wed of month

except Jan & Aug

7.45 for 8.00pm

Editor: Lindy Springett, Dyslexia Association, Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH. Tel: 020 8315 2526

Please do send in any good news, poems and short articles etc.