

## NEWSLETTER – SUMMER TERM 2011

It has been a busy term for Dyslexia Network Plus ...

### Membership Benefits

Firstly, there were progressive changes to membership which we hope will increase the benefits to all our members. We have always been affiliated to the well respected national organisation, the British Dyslexia Association (the BDA) [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk). From April 1<sup>st</sup> membership of Dyslexia Network Plus will now automatically include individual membership of the BDA at no extra cost to members. As well as local information from ourselves through Newsletters and email, members will now benefit from national information from the BDA and may opt in to receive the BDA's magazine, Contact, direct to their door. Your first Contacts should be arriving in the next month. Let us know what you think.

On national issues, we made all our members aware of the Green Paper, issued in March, which suggests quite radical changes to the way Special Educational Needs are addressed and funded. We continue to urge our parents to read this carefully, as it will affect all of us who have children with dyslexia, whether your child is at School Action or has a Statement. For example, it is suggested that there will be no School Action or School Action Plus, but one category. Parents, professionals and organisations have until 30<sup>th</sup> June to respond. On the reverse of this newsletter you will notice that two of the Summer events address this issue. Information on line may be got by pasting the following links:

### Full document

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/Green-Paper-SEN.pdf>

Summary <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/g/green%20paper%20presentation.pdf>

### Workshop Summary

More locally, this term we have trialled a number of workshops in Thirsk and Richmond. These have proved very popular and the feed back was positive. As such, expect more of these in the Autumn Term. HERD has

also been running successfully up in Richmond. In Bedale HERD has been quieter. We are grateful to the members of the committee and volunteers who make all this possible. Please do contact us if you would like to help in the future. The more hands, the more we can do.

### Screenings

At the workshops we also offered Lexion dyslexia screening and coloured filter screening. The Lexion screening is a computer screener which takes the child through a series of activities to identify strengths and weaknesses. A report is generated which can be taken to school. Lexion will also tailor make a programme of activities to help the child address difficulties - a feature many have very much appreciated. The screening takes one to two hours and costs just £15 to members. Contact Judith Stansfield [judidyslex@btinternet.com](mailto:judidyslex@btinternet.com) for more information. The coloured filter screening is to identify if a child or adult has one sort of visual stress, often called Meares-Irlen syndrome and sometimes called visual dyslexia. It is remarkable the difference coloured filters can make to some. Ten to 100% instantaneous increases in reading speed have been observed. The right filter can also lead to less reading mistakes, greater ability to track print, and an overall less tiring experience for the reader. The cost to members is £10 and a screening takes about 30 minutes. Contact us on our Information Line if you are interested.

There are quite a lot of visual difficulties that can affect reading (other than the obvious), e.g. binocular instability. If you want to find out more you could start by looking at the following sites:

[www.dyslexia-adults.com/49z.html](http://www.dyslexia-adults.com/49z.html) - has a link to a list of practitioners

[www.essex.ac.uk/psychology/overlays/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/psychology/overlays/)

[www.snapassessment.com/INFvpd.htm#top](http://www.snapassessment.com/INFvpd.htm#top)

[www.visual-stress.com/what.htm](http://www.visual-stress.com/what.htm)

[www.colour2c.co.uk](http://www.colour2c.co.uk) - local

[www.keithholland.co.uk](http://www.keithholland.co.uk)



**Dyslexia Network Plus** is a local Not-for-Profit organisation, run by parents to support families with dyslexic type difficulties

**Information Line: 0845 22 60 240**

**British Dyslexia**  
Association

## Speaker Event — Edward Vickerman Teacher of the Year Award Winner



Our big event this term was the Edward Vickerman talk. For those who were not able to attend, here are some edited extracts from Caroline Nicholl's Darlington and Stockton Times article:

"In March, Edward Vickerman, Outstanding New Teacher of the Year 2009 spoke at an evening organised by Dyslexia Network Plus, in Thirsk.

At 9 years of age Edward was taken to the Dyslexia Institute (now called Dyslexia Action). He struggled to do basic tasks such as order the letters of the alphabet and it dawned on him and his family just how bad his Dyslexia was. His Father had always supported him and said it was not a problem, just that he thought about things differently.

Edward talked of experiencing good, and not-so-good, teachers at school, and how the attitude of some teachers turned him off education, whilst the good ones turned his attention back to his lessons. Some teachers allowed him to learn in a different way, and he responded well to using objects to learn, rather than having to do a lot of writing.

Edward showed humour in his stories about his difficult school days, and pondered why he had to study French when he had not even mastered English! He joked how he had sat one of the entry tests so many times that he was bound to pass it eventually. Eventually, he was offered a study place on a BTEC course, which involved continuous assessment. This style suited him best and he gained a BTEC qualification.

The remarkable teacher told of the people who had influenced and supported him in his quest to carve out a career for himself as a teacher, such as his parents, and his boss at the hotel where he worked. It was these and his sense of humour and determination that got Edward through.

Edward believes that "it is better to have a dream and aim for it, and miss, than never to have a dream at all". Edward now teaches at the Freeston Business Enterprise College, where he is Director of Business and Enterprise.

## New Equipment Info The Kindle

The Kindle is the latest electronic book from Amazon and is a cost effective way of getting reading support for up to 3,500 books from the biggest selection of any ebook store in the UK; you can shop for more than 440,000 books, including bestsellers and new releases. UK and international newspapers, magazines, and blogs, plus more than 1 million free books, are also available.

Books you purchase from the Kindle Store are automatically backed up online in your own Kindle library on Amazon.co.uk. Re-download books wirelessly for free, anytime.

A big advantage for dyslexic readers is the Text-to-Speech facility, which means Kindle can read English-language content of many books out loud to you. This is in addition to commercial audio books you purchase with real speech. New, High-Contrast E Ink Screen with 50% better contrast which give the clearest text and sharpest images. It has a very efficient battery with a single charge lasting up to one month with wireless off, or up to three weeks with wireless always on, without recharging.

Although the iPad has more options, the smaller size and weight has given Kindle a 76% share of all digital books sold.

**Kindle (Wi-Fi)** is a great choice if you already have a high-speed internet connection and wireless router setup at home, and do not want the added convenience of a 3G connection which enables you to download e-books anytime, anywhere on the go. If you do not have Wi-Fi setup in your home, Kindle 3G would be a better option.

**Kindle 3G (Free 3G + Wi-Fi)** is the easiest option because there is no wireless setup—you are ready to shop, purchase, and read right out of the box. Built-in Free 3G connectivity uses the same wireless signals that cell phones use, but there are no monthly fees or commitments—Amazon pays for Kindle's 3G wireless connectivity. The added convenience of 3G enables you to download e-books anytime, anywhere on the go—without having to find a Wi-Fi hotspot connection. With wireless coverage in over 100 countries and territories, Kindle 3G is a great option for travellers.

So, all in all a very busy and successful term. We wish you well for the Summer Term. Don't forget the Information Line is there for all should you wish to talk to someone about any dyslexia issues. We are also happy to do a Dyslexia Awareness talk if your school approaches us.

The Dyslexia Network Plus Committee

# EVENTS



Join the HERD

## DROP-IN SESSION

for families with children of all ages



Join the HERD

Members may:

- \* borrow games and resources
- \* find support and information
- \* just drop-in for a coffee and a chat

**HERD—Helpful Education Resources for Dyslexia**

**all meetings on Fridays, 3.30—5pm**

**Bedale: C of E Primary School**

dates: 13/5 - 10/6

**Richmond: John Ross Suite, Gilling West**

dates: 6/5 20/5 17/6 1/7

## Summer Events In The Region

### SEN Process from School Action to Tribunal

organised by SOS!SEN [www.sossen.org.uk](http://www.sossen.org.uk)

**Saturday 7th MAY, 9.30-5pm, Wetherby, £35 to members—lunch provided**

apply to [martind@sossen.org.uk](mailto:martind@sossen.org.uk)

### 8TH BDA International Conference

2nd –4th JUNE Harrogate

DNPlus are still looking for helpers for our stand during breaks—contact [judidyslex@btinternet.com](mailto:judidyslex@btinternet.com)  
or to be a full delegate go to [www.bdainternationalconference.org](http://www.bdainternationalconference.org)

### FREE—SEN Green Paper Consultation Event

**Wednesday 8th June, 10am-3pm, Thirsk Race Course—lunch provided**

email [nypact@hotmail.com](mailto:nypact@hotmail.com) or call Sara Dalton on 07738456776

info [www.nypact.co.uk/page3.html](http://www.nypact.co.uk/page3.html)—note date has changed to 8/6

### BDA Helpliner Training

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June, 10am-5pm, Leicester, Free—lunch provided**

For those who would like some training to help others through DNPlus

Topics: Skills & Attributes, Managing Feelings, Effective Listening and Helpline Organisation.

Contact Dnplus for information no later than 20th May

### NEIL McKAY PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOP

**18TH JUNE morning or afternoon, Newcastle, £25**

enquiries to Dyslexia North East

Tel: 0786 826 3696 [www.dyslexianortheast.org](http://www.dyslexianortheast.org)

Advanced notice: Dyslexia Awareness Week is 31<sup>st</sup> October- 6<sup>th</sup> November

For more information Email: [dnplus@aol.com](mailto:dnplus@aol.com) Tel: 0845 22 60 240

Website: [www.dyslexianetworkplus.org.uk](http://www.dyslexianetworkplus.org.uk)