



Dyslexia Network Plus

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Patron — Mr Gervase Phinn

Annual Report 2015

Chairperson - Mrs Helen Irving

Vice-Chairperson - Mrs Jill Swinhoe

ICT Officer - Mrs Judith Stansfield

Treasurer - Mrs Jennifer Williamson

Secretary - Mrs Judith McKenzie

Publicity Officer - Mrs Juliet Irwin

Chair's Report and Events - Helen Irving

I have been Chair of Dyslexia Network Plus for a year now. I would like to thank the small but hardworking committee who have kept DNPlus going this year and have organised a variety of events. A particular vote of thanks is due to Judith McKenzie, for all the hours she spends on minutes, newsletters, emails and other paperwork as secretary; to Jennifer Williamson, who is treasurer and membership secretary and deals with bookings for events and to Judith Stansfield, for keeping us up to date with IT developments and managing the website, for organising speakers and liaising with Richmond School and for doing Lexion screenings and giving advice to parents from the wealth of knowledge she has built up through years of working with dyslexic children.

The year began at the last AGM with the showing of the film 'The Big Picture' at Northallerton Forum. In April we held a Dynamo Maths event with Karima Esmail at Richmond School, organised jointly with Kath Lawson who heads the Enhanced Mainstream Provision for specific learning difficulties. This included an evening session for parents and a day of workshops for primary headteachers and SENCOs. Dynamo Maths is a computer based programme, designed by Karima, to assess and identify children with dyscalculia or with gaps in their mathematical understanding. It produces an individual intervention plan and scheme of work so each child can build a solid understanding of the basics on which to continue their maths learning.

In May Jill Swinhoe led a well-attended session on 'Dyslexia Awareness' at Northallerton Forum. These sessions are always popular, not only in raising awareness about dyslexia, but also as an opportunity for parents to meet each other and share experiences and to seek advice. A big thank you also goes to Jill for running our helpline.

In October, to promote Dyslexia Awareness Week, The British Dyslexia Association asked local groups to organise storytelling sessions. We decided to celebrate the oral tradition of storytelling, to show children that being able to tell a story is just as important as being able to read or write one. On October 5th we invited storyteller Matt Stradling ('The Cloud Collector') to Northallerton Library to tell stories to children from two local primary schools and on October 8th Taffy Thomas, the first Laureate for Storytelling, brought his 'Tale' Coat to Richmond School to tell stories to children from seven local primary schools. Both children and teachers enjoyed the sessions and we hope it inspired some storytelling back at school. Each of the schools and both EMS for SpLD at Richmond and Easingwold were presented with BDA books on various aspects of dyslexia. We hope these will be used to increase understanding among school staff of the learning differences experienced by dyslexic children and of best practice in achieving a dyslexia friendly school.

As we come to the end of the year and to the AGM we find ourselves with a small membership and with a committee feeling the strain of keeping things going. Some of the committee have also reached a point where they wish to stand down from their roles because of other commitments and responsibilities. Without new members it is hard to see how we can grow and develop. We recognise that parents are still facing difficulties in getting the right help for their dyslexic children and there is still a need for advice and support. Our AGM is an opportunity to look at the way ahead and to decide what role DNPlus should have in the future. We hope you can join us.

Helen Irving

Treasurer's Report — Jenny Williamson

Summary of accounts for Year : 1 Sept 2014 — 31 Aug 2015:

Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
£5,745.16	£830.25	£578.32	£5,997.09

Detailed accounts will be available on a separate sheet at the AGM and to anyone who requests one.

Fundraising Report — Jenny Williamson

Our fundraising continues to be low-key as we have not yet been able to identify projects which could attract larger sums of money, usually for one-off capital expenditure projects. Most donors are reluctant to fund on-going costs.

Nevertheless we ended the year with a balance in the bank on 1st September 2015 of £5,997 compared with a balance on 1st September 2014 of £5,745, a modest increase of £252.

During the year we received £93 in donations and fundraising, mostly due to the money we receive from recycling printer cartridges and phones. Keep it going please. More information on how to get labels to return recycling on our website or from googling The Recycling Factory where you will find a page to print labels to allow Dyslexia Network Plus to be credited with the recycling income.

We are still in a position to underwrite planned events. Suggestions and help in running them would be gladly considered.

Thank you to all who help with our fundraising in any way and especially to those who display collecting boxes for us.

Membership report — Jenny Williamson

When the subscription was due to be paid to the BDA on 1st April 2015 there were 15 members who had joined or renewed their subscriptions from the previous year.

10 members did not renew their membership despite several renewal requests. This drop in numbers continues the trend we have seen in the past year or so. Membership numbers are dependent on the number of requests for Lexion testing which in turn seems to depend on the frequency with which we can run Dyslexia Awareness sessions.

Since April 2015, when the dues were paid to the BDA, we have had 3 new members join, 2 as the result of the Dyslexia Awareness session in The Forum in May and one as a result of a request for Lexion testing.

IT Report — Judith Stansfield

This year there has not been a great demand for Lexion screenings, with only 3 boys aged 16,14 and 7 coming forward.

Feedback

The Committee always welcome feedback and suggestions from our Members and others. If you have any comments regarding Dyslexia Network Plus and its services please:

- Email us at dnplus@aol.com
- Phone us on 0845 22 60 240
- Leave a comment on our website—www.dyslexianetworkplus.org.uk