



# Dyslexia Association

of Bexley Bromley Greenwich & Lewisham  
(FOUNDED IN 1974 AS THE NORTH KENT DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION)  
NEWSLETTER - MAY 2017

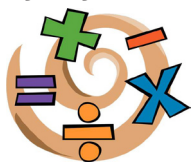
## FUTURE MEETINGS

All meeting held at St Nicholas Church Hall (Village Hall),  
Church Lane, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PE at 7.45pm

**Wednesday 24th May**

### The puzzling world of Maths

by Jayne Morkill



Jayne has trained with Unicorn Maths, the premiere organisation in this country to train teachers how to make maths understandable and achievable for all pupils. Jayne will use this structured, cumulative, multi-sensory maths development model to demystify the subject for us all, giving valuable tips on how to help our children.

This talk will be preceded by our famous super-speedy AGM. The papers for this will be on our website, with some copies available at the meeting.

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

**Wednesday 4th Oct**

### Let's torque about eu

by Ged Balmer

The popular and quirky speaker, Ged Balmer, returns to talk about Assessments. Are they necessary? What do they mean? How can I interpret and use an assessment? Ged will also be telling us about the latest WISC assessment tool, (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – one of the main IQ tests), so this is a valuable (as well as entertaining) meeting for parents and teachers alike.

**Wednesday 29th Nov**

### "What I think about learning"

What is it really like to be a dyslexic youngster at school? Do we ever really ask them, and listen to what they say? What can we learn from them?

The young people who attended our Holiday Club will be giving us some of their views and ideas, in a variety of formats. Parents and teachers alike will really be able to profit from this candid feedback, and other youngsters will be inspired and comforted by hearing much that resonates with them.

Free entry to open meetings for everyone, including non members, but donations are welcomed

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



## Our Adult Dyslexia Support Group

After very many years of running our exceedingly successful Adult Dyslexia Group, we decided that it would be advantageous to all to give it a bit of a restructure. Accordingly we took the decision to cancel the next few months' meetings, and relaunch with a major event in September.

We have a vibrant new group of people planning this, including our

next generation of members, who are working on an exciting refocused, forward-thinking approach for all future meetings and events.

After our relaunch event, the venue and times of the monthly meetings will remain the same, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to a group which will be offering opportunities to exchange

positive experiences, as well as the chance to seek practical advice from guest speakers and others within the group who share a collective understanding of what it's like to be a dyslexic person.

However, if you do need any Dyslexia Support meantime, please feel free to get in touch with our Adult Helpline:

☎ 07762 265827 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, 12 noon - 3pm

HELP LINE: 0300 999 1800 email: [info@dyslexiawise.co.uk](mailto:info@dyslexiawise.co.uk)

# Dyslex.io

Dyslex.io is a unique destination for everything you need to know about dyslexia. Whether you are dyslexic yourself, a parent or carer of someone who is dyslexic, a teacher or an employer of dyslexic people, dyslex.io provides information and resources that are designed to be dyslexia friendly and optimised for mobile devices. You can customise your reading experience for optimum legibility with adjustable text sizes and personalised colour schemes. All of the resources and links are quality assured by the British Dyslexia Association and other leading UK dyslexia charities, so you can be confident that the advice you are receiving is accurate and current.

Dyslex.io is the result of project funded by the Department for Education. It is led by the British Dyslexia Association in partnership with Dyspraxia Foundation, Helen Arkell, Manchester Metropolitan University, and Patoss.

Additional information for the website has been provided by Steve Chinn, Fintan O'Regan, I CAN, and Ambitions about Autism.

Dyslex.io aims to promote a dyslexia friendly society in which dyslexic people of all ages can reach their full potential. In the future the app will be developed to create a virtual world where the dyslexia community can collaborate, socialise and share tips.

 [www.dyslex.io](http://www.dyslex.io)

## GREENWICH PARENT voice

Different Together

This excellent organisation for all parents of Special Educational Needs children in Greenwich has a brand new website. They've added new features and information designed to inform, connect and empower parents.

New sections include a Surveys page, Parent Support contact list pages (Emotional, Practical, Disability Specific, Financial and Legal) and detailed information on all their free events, and diary dates for parents. You'll also find a link to their Pinterest page, parent blogs, a new 'GPV Visits' page and a direct link to the Greenwich Local Offer. All of these sections will grow and develop over time to

make the site your go-to resource for special needs in Greenwich.

There are many ways for you to have your say. These include a printable post-back form if you prefer to contact them by mail, or share with others who don't have web access but whose views must be heard. If you know a carer who does not speak English as a first language, they have translated their "About Us" information into eight of the most commonly spoken languages in the Borough to print and share.

Do take a look at this excellent resource, tell them what you think and share it widely with other parents and carers.

 [www.greenwichparentvoice.com](http://www.greenwichparentvoice.com)

## Inspirational Video

A teenage girl alerted us to a YouTube video which she had found totally inspirational. We did too. Always remember that different people have different talents and you can't judge a goldfish on its ability to climb a tree!

Do take a look – just search for:

**"I just sued the school system"**

## National Citizen Service

Currently National Citizen Service is available to 15-17 year old youths. This innovative scheme gives them a chance to live away from home, develop skills to boost CVs and meet amazing people whom they will never forget.

Feedback from past participants include comments such as:

"I now feel a lot more confident and positive about myself".

"It was life-changing"

"I've learnt how to work with a team, and how to lead a team"

"This was the best decision of my summer – it was amazing"

Now, alongside the Bill to put the National Citizen Service on statute, the Minister for Civil Society has published a draft Royal Charter indicating that National Citizen Service will be available to young people up to the age of 25. The document concludes: "The Charter and the Bill will together provide a robust new legal framework for the Trust. The Charter will underpin the long-term prestige of the National Citizen Service brand by striking a balance between the Trust's autonomy and the need for proper oversight of its governance and management of public money."

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

## Dyslexia Workshop at Networking Cupper Event

The Networking Cupper President Helen Freeman, who is dyslexic and a member of our committee, has informed us that they are running a Business Exhibition. The exhibition is about helping and supporting Businesses and the Community grow within Bromley and the surrounding areas.

Peter Stanton, also a member of our committee, will be giving a workshop on dyslexia from **10:15am - 11:45am**. Both Helen and Peter will also be available throughout the day at their respective stalls, along with the many other Businesses.

Location - Bromley United Reformed Church Hall, 20 Widmore Road, Bromley BR1 1RY

**Date - Tuesday 27th June**  
**Time - 10am - 4pm Free entry**

# A Very Different Video ABOUT DYSLEXIA

Do take a look at this video, produced by a dyslexic student for a university project. She wanted to try to communicate to individuals who do not have the neurological glitch known as dyslexia; to build a better understanding of the condition; to find a way to really communicate by showing people exactly what dyslexia is.

Her first thought was to create something print-based, as in a poster or leaflet or just anything. But she eventually discovered that

this would have been the most ineffective solution possible. She would have been giving people a piece of printed design, with jumbled letters, bad spelling and showing other dyslexia symptoms, and essentially be telling them "here... read this badly". A person without dyslexia would not understand, because they do understand the written language; telling them to read badly wouldn't work, so she hit upon the idea of performing it for them.

 <https://the-dots.com/projects/what-is-it-like-to-be-dyslexic-154046>

## Dyslexic Talent and Success

**D**arcey Bussell says that hiding in a cupboard was her way of avoiding the relentless struggle of lessons at primary school, and that for many years the teachers thought she was being lazy.

She found other ways to avoid tasks that felt impossible to deal with too. When asked to write a story about something and illustrate it with a picture, she would work on the illustration for an hour and a half and then write three lines for the story, making sure there was 'no time' to finish it.

But she was clear that life isn't all about academic grades and that she still had ways of doing well. However, dyslexia does still affect her life. She freezes in book signings, has a phobia of academic learning and finds reading TV scripts hard.

In spite of all this, she states

that dyslexia has had a positive impact: She is sure that dyslexia has been a little bit of a blessing in her life. It helped her find her strength and directed her towards what she really wanted to do.



## A Really HELPFUL Website

Dyslexia Assist have a website with loads of information and help on all different aspects of dyslexia for Parents and Children.

 <http://dyslexia-assist.org.uk>

## Bexley Information, Advice and Support Service

Good news for Bexley Parents! Bexley Information, Advice and Support Service (Bexley IASS) are offering Drop-In sessions so you can discuss any problems you may have with your child's Special Educational Needs in school. Please be aware however that you will first need to phone them to book an appointment slot.

The sessions will be held at:

**Bexley Central Library, 2 Townley Road, Bexleyheath DA6 7HL**

From: 10am – 12 noon

On: **Tuesdays –23rd May, 13th June, 4th July and 15th August.**

 0203 045 5976  [bexleyiass@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:bexleyiass@bexley.gov.uk)



# House of Commons Committee and SATS

The House of Commons Education Committee has issued a report, following their enquiry into SATS.

Amongst other conclusions, they say they feel that the emphasis on the technical aspects of writing in primary school assessments is not supported by evidence.

It was felt that this emphasis has led to a "diminished focus on composition and creativity at primary school". The Committee also said they were not convinced that this leads to directly improved writing, and

called for the Government to make changes. Furthermore, there was a strong recommendation to make spelling, punctuation and grammar tests non-statutory at key stage 2, but to keep them for the internal monitoring of pupils' progress.

You will also be pleased to hear that the Committee reported that the focus on spelling and handwriting can disproportionately affect pupils with dyslexia or dyspraxia.



## ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL LIBRARIES



Our libraries are getting very creative with the increasing number of activities they offer local residents. Libraries in all four of our boroughs offer computer courses for adults, and in addition **Bexley** run a Code Club for children.

**Bromley** have 'Get Appy' sessions, where help is given with downloading the library App plus ALL ebooks and emagazines.

**Greenwich** Library have 'R.E.A.D to a Dog' sessions for children ages 5-12. The dogs are great listeners and appreciate story-telling! They also run 'Lynda' – an online educational site that includes courses and videos in popular fields such as web design, IT, education, media production and business. If you need any help whilst actually using the PCs in their library, they now have student volunteers to assist you with any technology needs.

**Lewisham** run a Homework Club at the Sydenham Library, where children can get on with their homework in the company of others.

Do keep an eye on your libraries website, or drop in to find out the many various activities that are now on offer.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**17th May – 'Support for Writing' 8pm. The Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5DA. Sutton Dyslexia Association. [www.suttondyslexia.org.uk](http://www.suttondyslexia.org.uk) ☎ 07948 702491**

**20th June – Author Margaret Rooke discusses her book, 'Creative Successful Dyslexic Achievers'. 7.30pm. Cawthorn Lecture Theatre, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge TN9 1JP. £5 non-members. Kent West Dyslexia Association. [www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk](http://www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk) ☎ 0345 601 2553**

**21st June – 'How to Support Pupils with Memory Problems'. 8pm. The Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton Surrey. SM2 5DA. Sutton Dyslexia Association. [www.suttondyslexia.org.uk](http://www.suttondyslexia.org.uk) ☎ 07948 702491**

**22nd June – British Dyslexia Association Conference – Theory into Practice: Dyslexia and Dyscalculia.** Linking the latest research and theoretical ideas to good Quality First Teaching practice. Explores and presents strategies with regard to Dyslexia and Dyscalculia, with leading experts in the field presenting the latest ideas. Speakers include Professor Maggie Snowling - President St John's College, Oxford University, Dr Marketa Caravolas - Miles Centre, Bangor University, Professor Greg Brooks - University of Sheffield, Judy Hornigold - Edge Hill University Copthorne Tara Hotel, Kensington ✉ [conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk) [bdadyslexia.org.uk/events](http://bdadyslexia.org.uk/events) ☎ 0333 405 4565

**20th September - 'Study Skills'. 8pm. The Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton Surrey. SM2 5DA. Sutton Dyslexia Association. [www.suttondyslexia.org.uk](http://www.suttondyslexia.org.uk) ☎ 07948 702491**

**3rd October - 'How to cope with Exam Stress' 7.30 for 7.45pm. East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP. £5 non-members. Croydon Dyslexia Assn. <https://croydondyslexia.wordpress.com> ☎ 0333 111 00 66**

**7th November – 'Self-Fulfillment with Dyslexia: a Blueprint to Success' 7.30 for 7.45pm. East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP. £5 non-members. Croydon Dyslexia Assn. <https://croydondyslexia.wordpress.com> ☎ 0333 111 00 66**

## ELEARNING PROGRAMME FOR ADULTS WITH DYSLEXIA

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) has devised a great elearning programme for adults. It normally costs just £12.99, but is free to those who are unwaged (upon proof of unemployment etc)

<http://www.bdaelearning.org.uk/enrol/index.php?id=86>

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