



## Gloucestershire Dyslexia Association

January 2023, Newsletter

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### **Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023!**

We hope you all enjoyed your festive break and are fired up for the year ahead. As trustees of the GDA we are a small but passionate group who want to increase the awareness and support for those with dyslexia in Gloucestershire.

### **Workshops**

The new academic year has got off to a great start as two academics from Bath Spa University joined GDA trustee, Lucy Hamilton to go into Cheltenham Bournside School. They held the first of a series of workshops in schools across the county to help teachers understand what works when it comes to identifying and supporting



dyslexic students. The academics, Dr Georgia Niolaki and Dr Aris Terzopoulos, secured funding for the pilot project from Bath Spa University.

Lucy said: “Georgia and Aris did a great job with some fantastic content. The workshop provoked some good discussion amongst the

teachers and I'm confident that they were inspired to go forward to support and spot their dyslexic learners."

Following discussions with GDA Cheltenham Bournside School earlier last year, the school has also adopted resources from the Made by Dyslexia charity for the teacher's continuous professional development. If you know of a school who could benefit from these resources do get in touch with us.

### We're 50!



The British Dyslexia Association, our umbrella organisation, and the GDA both marked their fiftieth anniversaries last year. The BDA hosted a celebration of their anniversary at the House of Lords in November.

We secured funding from the BDA to hold a writing competition to mark our 50th anniversary. In April local poet and children's writer John Dougherty gave out prizes on our behalf to three wonderful young people who wrote about their experiences of dyslexia.

William Tull, aged 11, from Dursley described the difficulty that people with dyslexia sometimes have when reading aloud and being frustrated because of the reaction of others.





Jasmine Fishwick, aged 16, also from Dursley wrote:

“Many won’t understand what it’s like for a dyslexic brain.”

Another student Lowri, from Stroud wrote: “I feel as if white snakes are moving along the page when I read.”

We are very grateful to all those who participated and supported us, including Stroud Library who hosted the event, and to those companies including Forest Green Rovers, and individuals who provided the prizes.

### **Reaching out**

Over the past couple of years GDA has gone through a revamp. It has a new Chair and additional board members to compliment the long-established team of trustees.

During lockdown our [new website](#) was designed by computer science students at the University of Gloucestershire as part of their final degree project. The students put accessibility at the heart of their reworking, and we are very pleased with the results and grateful for all the hard work they put in.

We’ve also launched a new [Instagram](#) account, and updated the [Gloucestershire Dyslexia Association](#) Facebook pages, including one for [parents](#). Here, you will find news about our latest projects, competitions and of course, dyslexia positivity. If you don’t already follow us, please do join!



## **Out and about**

2022 was the first year where activities began to get back to normal and we went out and about shaking buckets, holding raffles, and telling the public about the services we offer, such as approved tutors, advocacy, and advice. We are really grateful to all our sponsors for the prizes they donated and to everyone who

engaged with us. A further event is scheduled for 11 February, 2023 in John Lewis, Cheltenham. Please do come and join us for a chat!

## **Bursaries**

This year we provided four bursaries to help pay for dyslexia assessments. These are given to families who would not have been able to pay for an assessment without a contribution. We also received the good news that Gloucestershire County Council will accept these assessments as part of the evidence gathered for children to get an Education Health Care Plan which gives pupils one-on-one tailored classroom support.

## **Additional Sources of Information**

### **Get Involved**

**If you would like to get involved, particularly if you have fundraising experience, then we would love to hear from you. Also if you have an idea for a fundraiser you would like to hold on our behalf, we're all ears.**

### **Email us at:**

**[info@gloucestershiredyslexia.org.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershiredyslexia.org.uk)**



As a member of GDA you should be receiving the BDA Contact Newsletter. If not, please contact us on our helpline number.



If you want to help your dyslexic child by learning practical ways to support them then consider the Parents' HELP course run by the Helen Arkell charity. - new dates Tuesdays from 21 March 2023.

Six weekly online sessions with recordings sent out after each live session. Financial help is available for lower-income families to access the course.

<https://helenarkell.org.uk/>



Catch up on the December newsletter.

<https://www.dyslexicadvantage.org/project/december-2022-newsletter-2>

Dyslexic Advantage also have a selection of articles available in their library which cover a variety of useful subjects to support you.

