

# Manx Dyslexia Association

## Chairman's Report November 21st 2017

### **A summary of the MDA's work over the past year.**

This year has seen some well tried and tested events as well as a venture into a new area, targeting students and the young employed. The MDA has paid for Claro Apps for the Island secondary schools as well as for a number of sets of Barrington Stokes Books for school libraries. So far Barrington Stokes books have been purchased for Ramsey Grammar School, Victoria Park School, Manor Park School, Kewague School and Ballakermeen High School.

In March the MDA held a workshop at Ashley Hill Primary School. A reasonable number of people attended and Jo Cannell was a lynch pin for the event. We had the usual format of sessions on Mind Mapping and ICT run by Sue Rutter and Dr Helen Newbery. Anne Corkill and Chrissie Watson answered questions and demonstrated materials to support Maths and Literacy. Their time and support was much appreciated.. The sessions were held at set times and this flowed well. There was a good mix of parents, children and teachers. Jo Cannell reported that there had been good feedback from parents, after the event. Thanks go to the Cannells who produced very good posters for the event.

It was agreed that the Committee should try to broaden their reach by organising an event for older students and young adults in employment. As Drop-In sessions was run at the Bath and Bottle, but despite publicity no one turned up to the event. In retrospect it was felt that the targeted demographic may not have wanted to be seen at an event for Dyslexics at such a public venue. Once again, the Cannells must be thanked for their sterling work in producing the posters to advertise the event

The updated Website has now been up and running for over a year. It looks much better and is more user friendly than the original website. Having said that , the MDA Facebook Group seems to be the main source of information for the general public.

### **The Future**

The MDA seems to be at a turning point. There has been a poor level of interest in our work from the broader community and it is frustrating not to be able to do more from those struggling with the barriers caused by Dyslexia, when this charity has the funds to do more.

Chrissie Watson and Anne Corkill will be speaking to Sue Mowle at the Department of Education to see if there is a better way in which support can be offered. If that is not successful then the way forward looks a little uncertain. A few people have offered to become involved so those leads will be pursued for the New Year. Maybe our motto should be A New Year, A New Way!

### **In Conclusion**

We would like to thank the Committee for all of their hard work and support this year. In addition to her role as Treasurer, Chris Seaward is always offering sound advice and never hesitates to take on tasks as they arise. Sue Rutter may have stepped down as Chairman but remains a key source of information and support for both the Committee and parents who send in questions through the Website or Facebook Group. Jo Cannell continues to be an extremely helpful member for the Committee, not only does she deal with the production of posters to advertise events, she also has a very good understanding of social media which helps the Committee with the Facebook page. Dr Helen Newbery, despite her very busy job with the Department of Education is a great supporter and never fails to turn up for Workshops and other MDA events.

We shall see what the future brings, but of one thing we are very certain, the dedication and commitment of all the Committee to this very worthy cause.

Chrissie Watson and Anne Corkill  
Co-Chairs  
Manx Dyslexia Association