

Manx Dyslexia Association Chairmans's Report November 2023

Looking back over the many years I have been involved with the MDA there has been a considerable shift in what we do and how we do it.

Originally it was all about arranging events, particularly workshops for children and parents and organising conferences with high profile people. There were also social events with a film or people sharing their own experiences of dyslexia.

To a certain extent this still goes on but mostly it is with the use of technology that we connect with people. This is via social media and our website, Facebook and messenger. We have been able to pass on many links from the British Dyslexia Association such as free webinars and up to date research. We need to thank Georgia Seaward once again for her expertise and help in promoting our work as well as posting relevant information on books etc.

Alongside this we continue to deal with specific questions from parents and giving them advice to ensure their children receive support. Chrissie has put together some statistics of contacts made via our website and these are attached to this report.

We are lucky now to be able to refer parents and adults requesting an assessment to Karen Bartlett. These are done via Zoom and have been very successful. We are also able to refer people to Emma Butler on the Island who can do assessments and who also tutors. We continue to recommend the Kip McGrath centres who offer various options of sessions to support children.

We continue to support schools by providing them with Barrington Stoke books which are specifically aimed at children who struggle with reading. Three additional schools now have sets of these books ,Peel Cloth Workers, St. Thomas' and Bradden School. For the first time the latter two both asked for multiple copies of certain books so they could use them for guided reading. Bradden organised a lovely assembly to thanks us.

We have been delighted to have had requests from 4 businesses to provide sessions on Dyslexia in the Workplace. We have already visited Capital International, IQEQ, Chase Wealth and recently Moores Management have

requested that we do a session for them in November. Chris and I have felt these were well received and that they certainly increased awareness..

The most exciting part of our work this year was our involvement and support for a group of young students working under the Junior Achievement Programme and calling themselves Mindcore. Chris and Chrissie made the initial contact and I am attaching the report Chris has kindly written. I would like to thank her particularly for working with the lads .

Whilst we are continuing to promote awareness and understanding about dyslexia we do need to increase our committee. I would like to thank Chrissie our co-chair and Chris for their continued work for the MDA. Chris has done a great job not only with the accounts but also in updating our constitution for the Charities Registry. Jo and Alison continue to be involved as much as possible and I do appreciate it.

The challenge for the coming year is to try and involve at least two more people to join the committee. Most importantly we need to continue to promote awareness and understanding about dyslexia.