

Dyslexia information group in Tamworth

Our year 2016 to 2017

About Dig-iT

Community volunteer support group:

- We offer regular support drop-ins for dyslexic people of all ages and their families, for mutual support, information, advice and activities.
- We aim to raise awareness of dyslexia, its characteristics, cooccurrences and its wide ranging impact on society.
- We promote a positive view of dyslexia as part of neurodiversity.
- · We provide creative activity opportunities for children.
- We collaborate with other voluntary and statutory bodies.
- Promote practical solutions for people that are affected by dyslexia.
- Volunteers and committee members include dyslexic adults.
- · We aim to develop from the 'bottom up' to meet local need.

How we began

- Three parents with children at school got together.
- · One-off 'drop-in' held in Philip Dix Centre in Sept 2011.
- 25 families attended a group was needed.
- Monthly drop-ins started at Carnegie Centre in Jan 2012
- Dig-iT became a constituted group in April 2012.
- Additional drop-ins with Community Cafe at Kerria Centre from Autumn 2012.
- Dig-iT:Adults began in September 2014

Families supported / contacts

- Over 300 people on contact list since January 2012
 (239 on regular general mail list inc. 96 on the family list, 48 on the adults list & others include community groups, statutory bodies etc.)
- 22 new families contacted us April 2015-March 2016 (27 last year. Down 18.5%)
- Community Hub: 1 (5%) (4 at Carnegie Ctr last year initial enquiries. Down 75%)
- Dig-iT:Adults group: 1 (5%) (3 last year. Down 66%)
- Outreach (events/website/email): 19 (86%) (20 last year. Down by 5%)
- People referred from other agencies: 1 (5%) (13 last year. down by 92%)



Support groups

- · Average no. of families at Carnegie drop-in (March-May) = 4 (4 last year)
- Average no. of family at Community Hub (Sept.2016-March 2017) = 4
- Average no at Dig-iT:Adults = 7 (5 last year, increase of 40%)
- Trend shows initial family contacts reducing due to:
 - Reduced presence in the community resulting from venue closures & poor weather at community events
 - Drastically reduced referrals from other agencies (knock-on effect from community venue closures and public service cut-backs?)
 - Increase in contacts via 'outreach' & phone / email methods

BUT increase in adult contacts & attendances due to:

Increased contact with South Staffs College



Reasons for contact

- Adult = 6 contacts (27%)
- Child = 16 contacts (73%)
- Education = 18 contacts (82%)
 - □ Primary school = 10 (56%)
 - ☐ Secondary school = 4 (22%)
 - \Box College = 3 (17%)
 - \Box University = 1 (5%)
- Employment = 1 contacts (4.5%)
- General info = 3 contacts (14%)



Common enquiries



- Getting a screening assessment = 11 (50%)
- Getting a diagnostic assessment = 9 (41%)
- Dyslexia traits = 8 (36%)
- Literacy help & tips = 2 (9%)
- Help at school = 6(27%)
- Help at work = 1 (5%)
- Getting a statement = 1 (5%)
- Other (legal etc) = 5 (23)%

(Note: Data based upon multiple reasons per contact)



Dyslexia screenings

- Number of child dyslexia screenings: = 4 (12 last year, down 67%)
 Outcomes:
 - High risk = 0
 - Moderate risk = 3 (75%)
 - Low risk = 1 (25%)
- Number of adult dyslexia screenings: = 4 (8 last year 50% reduction)
 Outcomes:
 - Low risk = 100% (referred for support for other neurodiverse traits)



Finances (Reviewed by accountant)



1. Income

Sources of Income	Amount
Screening Donations	£32.00
Grants	£Nil
Fundraising & general donations	£374.00
Named donations	£1092.00
Interest	£Nil
TOTAL	£1498.00

3.	2015/16 surplus b/f
	£1988.94

5. 2016 /17 surplus b/f £2109.44

5. Bank balance 31.03.17

£2110.44

(£1 discrepancy - possibly interest on missing bank statement)

2. Expenditure

Category	Amount
Venue / Pitch Hire	£177.00
Computer / Phone	£139.99
Insurance	£207.20
Craft / resources / refresh	£118.96
Adult screening	£120.00
Printing / promotion	£214.35
Miscellaneous (Puppet fees	£400.00
TOTAL	£1377.50

4. 2016/17 deficit

£120.50

Projected expenses 2017/18

Category	Amount
Venues / Pitch Hire	£500.00
Computer / Phone	£160.00
Insurance	£250.00
Craft / resources / refresh	£150.00
Printing / promotion	£220.00
Adult screening software	£500.00
Miscellaneous	£100.00
TOTAL	£1880.00



Networking & collaboration

- Community Together CIC
- Dosthill Women's Institute (Awareness session)
- Dosthill Primary School PTA (community fair)
- Fired Up Theatre (planning collaborative arts event)
- SPAN (Staffordshire Parent Action Network ceased 2017)
- Staffordshire Umbrella Network (SUN)
- South Staffs College (awareness training)
- Stonydelph Primary School (Christmas fair)
- Tamworth Library (planning collaborative arts event)
- Tamworth Learning Support Network (Schools LSAs)
- Tamworth Borough Council (Community development/fetes)
- Ultra-Vibrancy Puppets (Positively Puppets course)
- Usborne Books (planning collaborative arts event)
- · Wilnecote High School (awareness assemblies)



















Policy input

dig-it

Dig-iT:

- Adults group contributed feedback to Warwickshire County Council to develop a dyslexia-friendly HR Policy (now adopted).
- Adults group contributed ideas and feedback on accessibility for Warwick's Market Hall Museum refurbishment (adopted)
- Finally received feedback from Christopher Pincher MP in response to his Parliamentary question on support in schools for children with dyslexia and dyspraxia.
 - £750 000 given to dyslexia charities to 'train the trainer' on dyslexia in schools (project ended March 2017).
 - 'Improved support' as outlined by SEN Code of Practice
 - Disappointed with this response as clearly nothing has changed with regard to improved initial teacher training or resources to screen children early at school.

Challenges

- Loss of Kerria Centre
- Loss of Carnegie Centre
- Loss of Staffordshire Parent Action Network (Span)
- Developing a youth group still no progress
- Continued Reduction in community engagement events due to budget cuts (and bad rain during events in 2016!)
 - More community venue losses
 - Reduced Numbers of Community Development Workers (loss of direct contact with Borough Council officers which used to help with networking)
 - PCSOs (no longer have area social media accounts)
 - Local Family Support workers (reduced no referrals received as new staff may not know about Dig-iT - also lack of community networking opportunities)





Future opportunities & actions

- Collaborative arts event 'SPLAT' 2017 with local arts groups
- More collaborative work with local schools (new links with Lakeside Primary School & Tamworth Enterprise College - via UpBeat Dance school).
- Consider joining SCVYS supporting networking and collaborative initiatives
- Drop-in relocation (Need to find a more appropriate family drop-in venue)
- Recruit more volunteers to further support activities and events
- Support 'Moorgate Action Group' to fight for Moorgate Victorian school buildings to be saved for community use
- Renew promotional efforts with various family support services & schools / colleges



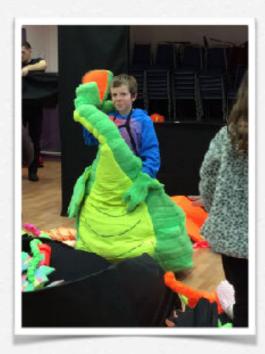
Memorable Events



Positively Puppets Show May 2016

www.facebook.com/pg/digitamworth/videos/?ref=page_internal









Amington Fete June 2016





Helped organise Dyslexia Awareness Course for parents June 2017



The Dyslexia Association of Staffordshire are putting on a FREE course in Tamworth

"Dyslexia and Multisensory Learning"

Starting on Friday 10th June, 2016

1.15 pm to 4.15 pm

For 7 weeks, final session to be confirmed.

Venue:

Lakeside Community Primary School, Leyland Road, Glascote, Tamworth B77 2SA

This course will be of particular interest to anyone who supports a child with dyslexia, either in the home or in the classroom.

To find out more or to book a place please:

email das@dyslexiastaffordshire.co.uk (heading your email 'Tamworth Course')

or telephone Lorraine or Louise on 01782 - 848784

Dyslexia Awareness assemblies Wilnecote High School July2016

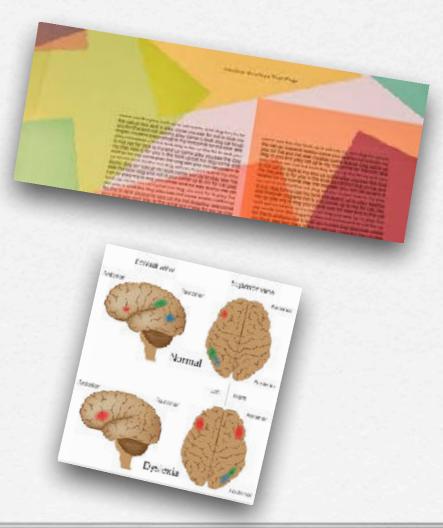












Dosthill school fete July 2016









'We Love Tamworth' Sept 2016 - A bit of a washout!





Summer picnic & kite making - August 2016











Moving to Community Hub Sept 2016















'Dyslexia Awareness Week' October 2016(Displays at Tamworth & Glascote Libraries)





Dyslexia Awareness Sessions Glascote & Leyfields Children's Centres Dec 2016





Joint winners of 'SOUP' February 2017

SOUP



Sat 18th March 2017 11:00am – 1:00pm



Community Together Hub Castle Grounds Tamworth



A SOUP LUNCH -FUNDING MICRO GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN TAMWORTH.



£5 for soup, bread and a vote!

Fund your Tamworth community project with support from the people of the town – anything from toys for a playgroup, to help funding a day trip, to equipment for a litter plck, to starting a community project.

Attendees pay £5 for soup, bread and vote on which project they think benefits the community the most. The winner goes home with all of the money raised at the door to carry out their project.

At the event, there will be an opportunity for Tamworth residents and supporters connect, share ideas and community resources.



DIG IT and Tarrworth Ladies Choir both received micro-grants at the first Tarrworth SOUP in Jan 2012

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENT

DOORS at 10:30am - 11:00am
PROPOSALS PRESENTED at 11:45am
SOUP around 12:00
WINNER ANNOUNCED by 2pm
SUBMIT PROPOSALS

by Fri 10th March: drop-off: Community Together Hub email: tamworthsoup@yahoo.com





Dyslexia Awareness Session, South Staffs College Learning Support staff, Feb 2017





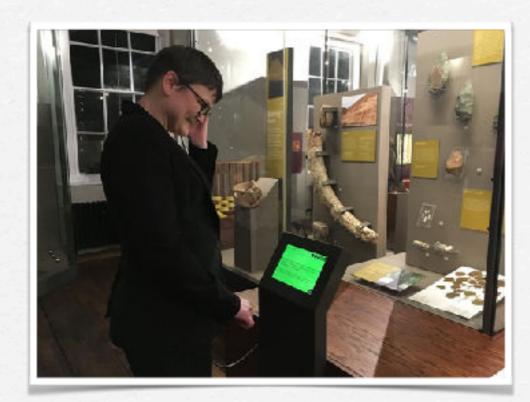
South Staffordshire College

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Official re-opening Market Hall Museum, Warwick March 2017

(Dig-iT:Adults were part of the 'accessibility panel' consultation)













Thrilled and grateful to receive £1000 donation from Dosthill Women's Institute March 2017



Thanks to all the following for their support to Dig-iT throughout 2016-2017

Lee Bates & Steve Hodgetts & Debbie Bates, Community Together CIC Coffee Revolution,

Mal Dewhurst & Simon Quinn (Fired up Theatre)

Dosthill Women's Institute

John Faulkner, Chartered Accountant

Mayor, Councillor Maureen Gant, Tamworth Borough Council

Christine Howlett, Specialist Dyslexia Teacher

Laura Patrick & Hannah McKenzie, Tamworth Borough Council Arts & Events

Stephanie Ivey, Tamworth Borough Council

Debra Lewis, and the team at Tamworth Information Centre

Lizzie Morgan, Graphic Designer

Becki Morris, Dyslexia Support

Garry Jones, Support Staffordshire

Andy Watson, Ultra Vibrancy puppets

South Staffordshire College, Tamworth Campus

Tamworth Lions

Lakeside Primary School

Staffordshire Dyslexia Association

Hannah Smart, Liam Matthews & all at TCRfm

Wilnecote High School

... & ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



Thank you!



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