

THE UK DYSLEXIA ARCHIVE

HELLO! A PROJECT UPDATE...

It's been a busy few months. We've collected several more interviews for the project. This time we've tried to broaden them out – talking to policymakers and researchers, but also young people who have grown-up with dyslexia to better understand how provision has changed in recent years.

Rebekah Shawsun, Steve Williams and Jo Crawford, who struggled with dyslexia when they were younger, shared stories about how they have overcome their difficulties, and some of the everyday challenges that remain. It was fascinating to hear about their journeys, which show that despite great progress in recognising dyslexia, experiences of support can still be mixed – even today.

In September, we talked to Joe Elliott, one of the leading academic voices challenging the term 'dyslexia'. A key part of the dyslexia story has been the argument seeking to challenge, nuance, even replace the term. It's important to have this perspective in our record.



In October, we interviewed David Blunkett at the House of Lords, whose experience with dyslexia has been both personal – two of his sons have dyslexia – and of course professional, as Secretary of Education from 1997-2001. David's reflections on the history of dyslexia, and how the Labour government of that period sought to address special educational needs, will be key to interpreting dyslexia's more recent history.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed.



NEW RESEARCHER JOINS THE TEAM

We're delighted to welcome [Dr Kieran Fitzpatrick](#) to the team. Kieran's previous research looks at the history of medicine, and particularly the role of Irish doctors in the British Empire during the second half of the 19th century.

Kieran's experience will help us to better understand the first diagnosis of dyslexia as 'word blindness' during the Victorian era. Kieran is also taking charge of the archive, which is filling up more and more space all the time...

MAGGIE PRESENTS AT ACAMH CONFERENCE ON DYSLEXIA

Maggie presented a great paper, 'Dyslexia and Developmental Language Disorder: Same or Different', at a conference organised by the Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health in September. You can read a summary of Maggie's talk [here](#) and see an interview with Maggie recorded on the day [here](#).

Images: Wikimedia Commons; Kieran Fitzpatrick.