

# BRITISH STAMMERING ASSOCIATION

## PRESS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### PEOPLE WHO STAMMER URGED TO SPEAK OUT

International Stammering Awareness Day, 22nd October 2018

To mark **International Stammering Awareness Day** the British Stammering Association (BSA) is inviting those who stammer, or stutter, to talk about how it affects their lives and dispel some of the pervasive toxic myths about stammering.

CEO of the BSA, Jane Powell, explains why it's important to keep stammering high on the agenda and for the general public to hear what it's like to live with:

*"Stammering isn't caused by nerves, a weak mind or criminality. In adults, it is a condition which can be managed but not cured. Public attitudes to stammering are that those who stammer should learn to 'talk properly'. We take this approach to no other disability. Yes, we need to ensure that those who stammer can access support and speech and language therapy, but that's a far cry from expecting people to hide their stammer. Stammering isn't a joke. The impact of a lifelong stammer can be utterly corrosive, not because of the stammer itself, but because of people's negative responses to it".*

The BSA will take over former international footballer Neville Southall's twitter feed on 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:45am-9:45 pm. Other events to raise awareness of the condition will be taking place in London, Birmingham, Grimsby and internationally on the day and in the run-up to it (see notes).

To show their support people are also being asked to wear a wristband or change their social media profile pages in support of the cause.

#### **About Stammering**

Stammering is a neurological condition, with genetic and developmental influences, and is described as a tense struggle to get words out. It affects 1% of the adult population and is different from the non-fluency we all experience which includes hesitations and repetitions.

It affects more men than women; 80% of adults who stammer are male. More than 5% of children under the age of 5 will go through a phase of stammering. Without intervention during the pre-school years, up to a quarter of these children are at serious risk of developing persistent stammering into adulthood. Research studies also show that stammering occurs across all cultures and in all social groups.

## NOTES

For media enquiries contact: Jane Powell, [ceo@stammering.org](mailto:ceo@stammering.org) mob 07905 345287.

### EVENTS:

#### Twitter

The BSA will take over Neville Southall's Twitter feed, @NevilleSouthall, on 22nd October 7.45-9.45pm. BSA Trustee's @stammer\_teacher @GillianRudd and CEO @JanePowell\_solo will be tweeting throughout the day.

#### International Stammering Awareness Day (ISAD) Online Conference

The 2018 ISAD Online Conference is free to all and takes place from 1st to 22nd October. Run by the International Stuttering Association, the theme this year is 'Speak your mind'. It will include a wide range of papers - stories and experiences of stammering by people who stammer, research, therapy and support, and creative expression.

Details: <http://isad.isastutter.org/isad-2018/papers-presented-by/>

#### Grimsby

A family craft workshop event. There'll be activities including mask making, modelling, collages and face painting, as well as a workshop titled 'What is seen as perfection?'

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 from 10am to 1pm.

Details: <https://www.stammering.org/get-involved/events/family-craft-workshop-int...>

#### Airedale

*Unspoken* - A new play about stammering. A screening of one man's journey to live openly with his stammer followed by a Q&A the cast and information about speech therapy services and support.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, from 4pm to 6.30pm.

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-stammering-tickets-49737811132>

#### London, City Lit

*When I Stutter* – the UK Premiere of a film about stammering which has won multiple awards, including 'Best Documentary' at the 2017 Lisbon Film Festival, and an 'Audience Award' at the 2017 Awareness Film Fest.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018, screenings at 3pm and 7pm.

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/when-i-stutter-film-premiere-at-city-lit-...>

#### Central London

A series of short talks from 9 people who stammer, sharing their stories, journeys and experiences of living with stammering. Following the talks, there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October from 6pm to 8.30pm.

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-international-stammering-awareness-day-event-2018-tickets-51416207260>

#### Birmingham

A series of short talks showcasing the work and stories of people who stammer.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Details: <https://www.stammering.org/get-involved/events/international-stammering-...>