

'Stutter pub': independently and accessible, bringing people together to talk about stuttering

The stutter pub ('Stottercafé') is originally founded in Rotterdam in 2005. To date there are six stutter pubs across the Netherlands and Belgium. Although the different stutter pubs have their own approach, they underline a common concept; they are an accessible meeting point to talk about stuttering without any taboos. The gatherings are open to anyone who stutters, irrespective of the fact where (if any) he / she follows therapy. But also others interested in stuttering are more than welcome to participate, eg. family, friends, teachers, SLP's. Besides creating the opportunity to share experiences, the stutter pubs also increase awareness of stuttering in the general public. Each stutter pub is organized every 3 à 4 months and often revolves around a specific theme.

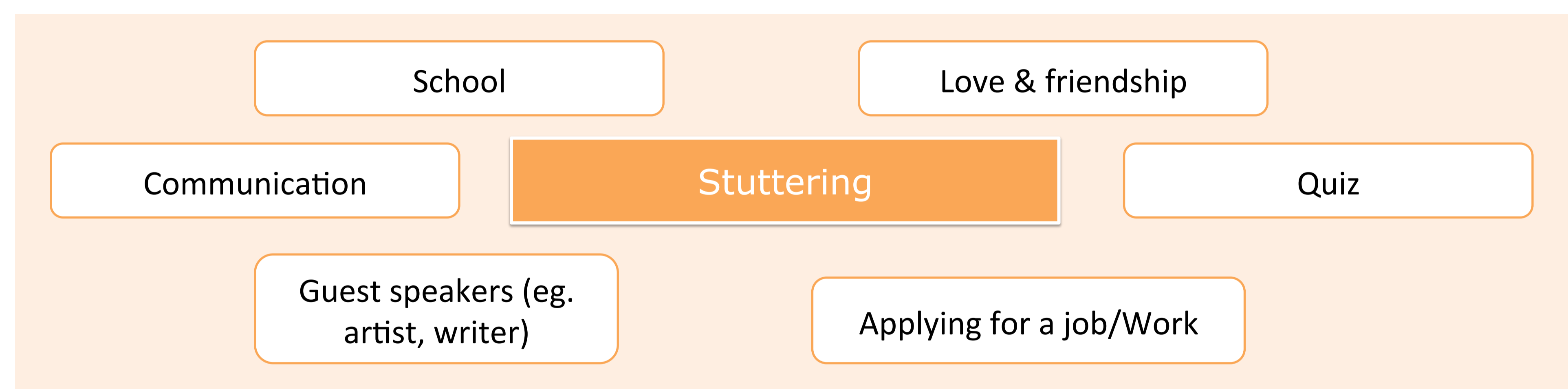
1. History

- 2005: Stutter pub is founded in the Netherlands, Rotterdam.
- 2012: Stutter pub is founded in Belgium, Ghent. A logo is made.
- 2013: The first edition of the stutter pub in Ghent, leads to a stutter pub in Antwerp. Followed by the start of a stutter pub in Groningen, Hasselt and Bruges.

2. Concept

- Goal: to talk about stuttering without any taboos, sharing experiences from different perspectives, having fun and respecting each other!
 - Subject of stuttering as a starting point
 - Peer support, independent of therapy
 - Everybody interested in stuttering is welcome
 - Organised by PWS and SLP's (independent of their own practice)
 - 4 or 5 evenings a year
 - In cooperation with the Dutch and Flemish (Belgian) Stuttering Foundation

3. Themes



4. Participants

- PWS
 - Different experiences in therapy
 - Different ages (>15)
 - Youngsters and 60+ are more difficult to reach
- SLP
 - Different therapy background
 - In support of a client
 - Possibility to ask questions at colleagues and PWS
 - Not for client recruitment
- Parents of children who stutter
- Friends, family and teachers

5. Challenges

- Reaching people
 - Social media
 - Mailing list eg. SLP's
 - Support of National Stuttering Foundation (eg. newsletter, on website)
 - Media/press release
- Costs/donation

6. Future

- Website: www.stottercafe.com (www.stutterpub.com)
 - Overview of the different stutter pubs
 - Enhancing cooperation between the different stutter pubs
 - Protecting the initial concept
 - Support in founding new stutter pubs

7. Experiences Stutter pub Antwerp

- Theme: the impact of stuttering over a life span
 - Timeline with facts of stuttering related to different stages of life
 - Which facts/life events are most talked about?
- Valentine's edition
 - Principle of 'speed dating' to offer the possibility to talk face to face with every participant
- Feedback:
 - "I liked it that everything happened spontaneously. Everybody felt comfortable and that reassured me."
 - "If you just wanted to listen, that was all right."
 - "The smaller groups made it easier to talk."

8. Experiences Stutter pub Groningen

- First edition: Pub quiz
 - 5 rounds of 10 questions related to stuttering
 - Themes: sports, music, history
 - 60 participants + press
- Feedback:
 - "It's fun"
 - "I like the positive approach"
 - "Good to meet (new) people who stutter as well"
 - "Less pressure"

Antwerp	Contact:	 Stottercafe.Antwerpen  @StottercafeAntw stottercafeantwerpen@gmail.com
	Next edition:	23/04 Theme: Applying for a job / Work
Groningen	Contact:	 StottercafeGroningen  @StottercafeGr stottercafegroningen@gmail.com
	Next edition:	10/04 Theme: Applying for a job / Work

More information on the stutter pubs Rotterdam, Ghent, Hasselt and Bruges on facebook, on www.stotteren.nl, www.Demosthenes.nl and www.belgische-stottervereniging.be/stottercafé

Stutter pub Antwerp: Stefanie Adriaensens, Sven De Nys and Hanne Vermeire
Stutter pub Groningen: Joeri Van Ormondt and Marlies Tonnis

stottercafé

