



# West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

## New Recruits

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### *External Edition*

*This edition is published for the Funders and Supporters of the West Sussex*

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More next time!	

We are very grateful to those volunteers who have sacrificed two consecutive week-ends during the lovely July weather in order to attend our training course near Arundel. That also applies to our trainer, Sandy Horvath and Louise , our new Admin Clerk.

After some juggling, we ended up using the Hilton Avisford Park Hotel just west of Arundel for the training venue. This sounds all very posh, but thanks to Tracy from the Conference staff there, we were able to strike a great deal.



The 'new kids on the block' are: Uschi, Nikki, Ruth, James, Susanne, Jan, Nicola, Amanda, Lynn, Antony and David. Sadly , Richard had to pull out of the course after the first week-end due to a sudden family illness.

The geographical mix of new mediators are -

One from Burgess Hill, one from Shipley, one from Bognor Regis, one from Midhurst, one from Fittleworth and the remainder from in or around Chichester.

The main motivation for the course was to boost numbers to the west of the County. We just need to find the work now for our keen recruits. If any referral agencies, reading this newsletter, are active in the Chichester District, do feel free to tell us about any individuals or groups who are in need of our conflict resolution skills. The new volunteers have attended a fully accredited community mediation skills course through an approved training provider. They will initially be crewed with more experienced mediators.



## Activity

Our trustees met on Monday 22nd July for their quarterly meeting at the Capitol Theatre Meeting Room in Horsham. Two new faces were introduced to the fold. Firstly there was John Galtrey from Chichester who was keen to observe our proceedings with a view to joining WSMS as a Trustee. John has lots of experience in HR and Business Management. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Alongside John was Allan Gee, from Worthing, who answered our Ad placed on Gumtree for a new Trustee. Our existing Treasurer, Mike, is having to stand down at the forthcoming AGM, having served his full term of office. Allan has a wealth of experience as Treasurer with organisations such as the Sea Cadets in Worthing. He is a retired Chartered Certified accountant. He was previously a partner in a 'Big 3' firm.

It was a pleasant surprise to see how well a small fee ad on Gumtree worked. We had several enquiries over a couple of weeks. Gumtree is like a glorified online Friday-Ad on which to sell, buy, advertise jobs, cars and much more. It was started in 2000 by two guys wanting to help Londoners find places to stay. It is now huge and sees 34,000 ads placed per day and attracts 13.7 million visitors a month!



As Gumtree is primarily free we will be utilising their website again to promote volunteer opportunities, etc.

## It's Back

THE GREAT **BIG** SMALL CHARITY  
**DRAW**

We are again pleased to be part of the FSI Great Big Small Charity Draw. There is no car as a prize this year but a host of other goodies including a Luxury Holiday, also a week-end at Lake Windermere, iPad minis, Segway Rally Thrill, London Eye Family Experience, £100 Trailfinder Voucher, Keg of Beer and a Bungee Jump!

Tickets costing £1 each can be purchased via our office or online at:

<http://ow.ly/mKbjz>

**We would love to hear from anyone willing to sell paper versions of the tickets and can forward books to you wherever you are. (WSMS will get 92% of ticket value back)**

## Volunteer News

We are sorry to be losing Talitha as an active mediator with WSMS. Talitha now has increased work commitments which makes volunteering with WSMS more difficult but she has been gracious enough to offer to help out in emergencies. Our thanks go to her for all her past efforts since she joined us having trained elsewhere.



Lawrence, Christine and Tom recently attended two workshops in Brighton, organised by Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service and run in conjunction with Dr Liz Stoke from Loughborough University. Our thanks go to Alice from BHIMS for organising these and for extending an invitation to our volunteers. (BHIMS held another workshop on 7th July entitled Language in Conflict and was presented by a colleague of Liz Stoke – Jim O’Driscoll).

Another name that was on the list of attendees was Brian. Brian was all set to hit the road to Brighton when he was putting some items into the back of his car. He closed the door and left his thumb in the wrong place. Hence, he was stuck to the car by his thumb until his wife found him, released him and drove him to A & E!

Fortunately he only ended up with a sore thumb that was stitched and given a split and a nail that threatens to remove itself from his thumb (he assumed that the nail was claiming unreasonable treatment and therefore had given up on him).

Fortunately Brian didn’t break anything and we hope he mends soon.



Talking of mediators in the wars – Harry recently cracked a rib or two. Sound quite painful. We are not privy to details of how Harry incurred this injury!

It sounds like we need to organise a First Aid course for our volunteers. Even if they don’t use it on others, they will be able to patch each other up, at least!

**Remember the AGM date is fast approaching!**

**6.00pm on Thurs. 26th September 2013 –**

**at the Civic Hall, The Boulevard, Crawley.**

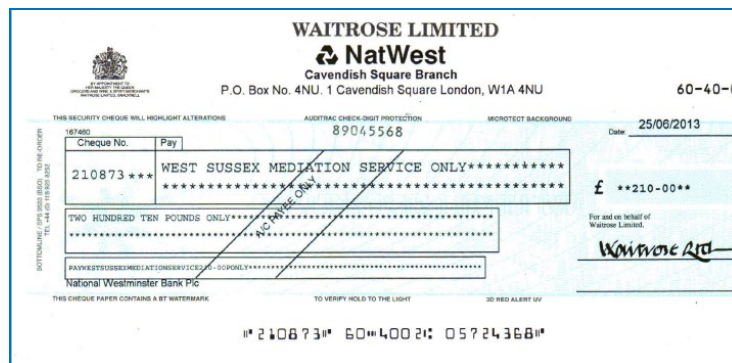
**Add it to your diary now!**

## Referrals

July has shown an increase in referrals following a slow June. Chichester District remains very quiet and we are seeking to carry out some promotion work there to increase public awareness of our charity. We have had a mixed bag of referral topics including — noise, fence, antisocial behaviour, hedge, planning, rubbish, parking, family, communal access, boundary and verbal abuse. Self referrals, via our website, remain prominent.

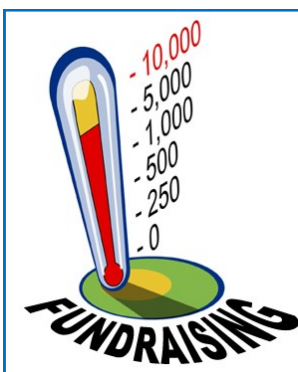


## Funding



Above is an image we love to see! This cheque for £210 came from Waitrose in Burgess Hill. Waitrose run a Community Matters scheme where each month 3 charities are featured in their stores and customers are given green tokens to nominate how the three should share £1,000.

Our thanks go to the staff of Waitrose and their customers for their support. We have previously featured in the Waitrose branches in Chichester and Horsham. We hope to be in Worthing at some stage. To help in this venture, if you are local to Worthing, please drop in a nomination form, with our details on it, at that branch (High Street, Worthing).



We have currently achieved £45,000 of our 2013/14 budget of £84,000 so we still have a long way to go to reach target.

Our thanks go to all our existing funders who have provided grants to us already.

We are starting to generate some income from our Family Mediation work thanks to our volunteer Robert.

We are soon to talk with members of the new Fundraising Hub at Worthing CVS who have agreed to help us out.