



# West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

## Farewell

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This message is sent in by Ann Rodwell:

“I would like to grab a little newsletter space to say 'Goodbye' to friends and colleagues at WSMS.



I have really enjoyed the whole volunteer mediator experience. I have met, and worked with, some great people. I have learnt new skills, some of which I have, hopefully, put into practice! Above all I have witnessed the value of mediation as a 'user friendly', effective means of helping people to move on with their lives.

I really believe in the value of using this most important conflict resolution 'tool' locally, nationally and internationally. So there's a challenge for WSMS !!!!

My best wishes to WSMS for a successful future !

Keep up the Good Work !!”

### Footnote:

Ann was WSMS’s longest serving mediator (13 years), having been one of the original mediators back in the day when we were just ‘Horsham & District Community Mediation Service’. Ann has also served as an Area Co-ordinator and Trustee.

Below are a couple of photos from the early days that feature Ann.

Ann – we all want to say a huge THANK YOU !



### External Edition

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

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## Volunteer News



Mike Payne and Richard Pittman both stood down as Trustees at our September AGM having served their full term in office. Both were presented with commemorative plates by Crawley MP, Henry Smith, acknowledging their service to WSMS. We thank them both for all their time and effort over the year. Mike actually continues as book-keeper and will attend the office once a week to pay all our bills and keep the payroll running. Our new Treasurer, Allan Gee, from Worthing, will maintain a strategic overview of the charity finances.

We wish our mediator, Jacqui, well. She has been struck with shingles. (Shingles affects 3 in 1,000 people in the UK every year). Shingles is an infection of a nerve area caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It causes pain and a rash along a band of skin supplied by the affected nerve.



## Activity



Nick represented us at the Life Show at the Meridian Hall, East Court, East Grinstead on 11th September. This event, focused on the over 50's, was well attended.

Nick attended the Foundation for Social Improvement Conference in London on 16th September. This is a free event focusing on assisting small charities and was full of first rate speakers giving tips and advice.

It is the AGM season at present and Nick has turned out for a few recently, including The Crawley Open House, Crawley CVS and East Grinstead CVS.

Other events on Nick's calendar included a Charity Workshop at Wiston House hosted by Carpenter Box of Worthing, a 'Gatwick Business Speed Networking' event at Tulley Farm and an Alliance meeting in Hailsham with our Chair Peter Magness.

We also had a visit by member of staff from Tesco's Clubcard at Crawley, who were making a film featuring local charities in conjunction with Crawley CVS. The finish product was shown at the C CVS AGM and a copy will be made available to us.

Nick has recently provided training to the Chichester Neighbourhood Policing team on how to use mediation as a tool in their toolbox when dealing with neighbourhood disputes. Two sessions were held to catch most of the staff, over consecutive weeks.



## Away Day

Our thanks go to all **29** individuals who gave up their free time to attend our Away Day at Micklepage on 12th October. Many more would have liked to attend, and notified us as such, but were not able to attend due to sickness, family commitments, holidays, etc. **All seven** of our trustees were able to make it.

Luckily we managed to find parking for all the cars and had just about enough space for us all to be seated together in the main barn.

The weather was fantastic, following several days of horrible rain and wind. The boy scouts amongst us rallied round to light the wood-burner, armed with matches but no firelighters, to take the chill out of the large main room with its very high ceiling. Many managed to eat their lunch outdoors, in the sunshine.

It can safely be said that it the day was a resounding success. Our thanks, once again, to Hazel and Stella who did us proud with the lunchtime spread. Several people commented on how amazing the Carrot & Coriander soup was, as well as the other delicacies. We also appreciated all the cakes and cookies that were baked by various people. I think we all went away 'stuffed and puffed' from all the catering.

We also thank Jassy for facilitating proceedings and helping the day run smoothly and to schedule.

Last, but not least, we acknowledge the generosity of Krysia in allowing us to use the venue free of charge and her husband Terry, who prepared the venue for our arrival. Krysia, who is one of our newer mediators, is also the Chair of Trustees for Micklepage. She was not able to be there on the day as she had gone down with flu.

A number of activities have come out from the day, for trustees and staff to action. We will be keeping everyone fully abreast of those - not just those who attended. Everyone will be invited to partake in an online survey using Survey Monkey – watch out for the forthcoming email providing details.

The Trustees had a timely Trustees Meeting on the Monday following the Away Day, so were able to discuss the outcomes with everything fresh in their minds. On behalf of our Chair, we have circulated a letter to all Mediators. We will keep everyone posted with further actions. We are considering another Away Day to include our stakeholders.

Here are a couple of quotes following the event:

*"I really enjoyed the Away Day, and am even more pleased I went, considering that it looks to be so productive in defining the future of the charity! Three cheers to everyone who worked so hard on this!"*

*"After Saturdays positive Away Day I am keen to stay involved with WSMS. I think exciting times lay ahead for the service and all those involved."*

## Referrals

September proved to be a busy month with a total of **30** referrals, making it the equal busiest September on record. October by 24th, has shown 21 referrals.

Worthing Borough proved to be our busiest District, followed by Mid Sussex and Horsham.

Topics included noise, children, antisocial behaviour, family, intergenerational, debt, access (property) and trees.

At the last count we had **23** mediators shown on the board assigned to current or pending cases.

We are currently running on par with the referral figures reached at half way, last year. – **137** referrals in the first 6 months of the financial year (exactly the figure we achieved at the same time last year).

## Away Day in pictures



## Poem of the Day

Dust if you must  
 But wouldn't it be better?  
 To paint a picture, or write a letter,  
 Bake a cake, or plant a seed?  
 Ponder the difference between want and need.



Dust if you must  
 But there is not much time  
 With rivers to swim and mountains to climb!  
 Music to hear, and books to read,  
 Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must,  
 But the world is out there  
 With the sun in your eyes,  
 The wind in your hair,  
 A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
 This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must,  
 But bear in mind,  
 Old age will come and it's not kind.  
 And when you go, and go you must,  
 You, yourself will make more dust.



(Perhaps we could adapt this to 'argue' if you must!



## Christmas is coming!



Come Halloween, there will be 54 Days until Christmas!

£17 billion is expected to be spent online this winter! If you intend doing any online shopping this Christmas, **please consider signing up** for either one of our fundraising initiatives which will help generate much need funds and cost you nothing.

**GIVEASYOULIVE** = [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms)

**EASYFUNDRAISING** = [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wsms/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wsms/)