

## You're havin' a Giraffe!

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### *External Edition*

*This edition is published for Funders, Supporters and Friends of WSMS.*

### Inside this issue:

Havin' a Giraffe!	1
Volunteer News	2
Activity	2
Volunteer slot	3
Referrals	4
Adverts	4
2014 Calendar	5
Farewell	5
Opening Times	6
News	6

Horsham has been home to 51 giraffes in various guises over recent weeks! They were all part of a charity fundraising initiative organised by Horsham Rotary Club. Each giraffe was sponsored by a local business or organisation and individuals, local artists and schools decorated a bare giraffe to match the identity of the sponsor or the charity in question. A giraffe trail ensued, allowing people to hunt down the various hide-outs of the giraffes, record all their names, and enter a competition with a 42" TV as the top prize.

WSMS missed out on this very popular initiative but hope to salvage something from it by bidding for one of the giraffes, all of which are being auctioned off on eBay. We have our eye on 'Stirling', sponsored by the Nat West Bank in Horsham. He is covered in old Bank of England notes and would make a great fundraising asset. We are hoping to build a bidding fund to help us buy Stirling. The starting bid is likely to be £100. Horsham Estate Agent, Brock Taylor, have said that they will help. Who else would like to swell the coffers?

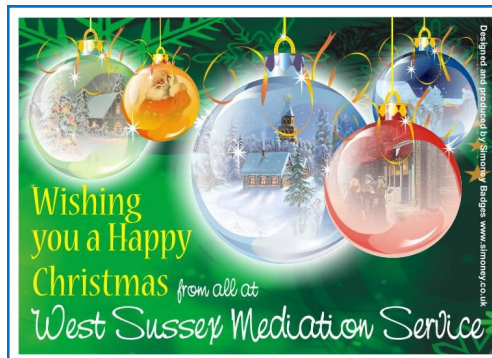
You can text WSMS08 followed by £1, £2, £5 or £10 to donate with justtextgiving by Vodafone.

Nat West chose to support Age UK in the initial fundraising scheme, so the money raised on eBay will go to them. We hope that Stirling will then become a money spinner for West Sussex Mediation Service in the years ahead, as long as we look after him. If you enter 'Horsham Giraffe' in the eBay search engine you will find all the available giraffes on sale. They are featured in three separate batches over December.

## Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

As has become a tradition, we will be opening up the office as an 'Open House' on **Wednesday 18th December** between 10.00am and 4.00pm for all our friends to enjoy a minced pie and glass of mulled wine with us.

Please feel free to pop in at any point within those times. We would love to see you. If you have never been to our humble abode before, we can point you in the right direction if you call or email us. There will be some other nibbles on offer if mince pies cause you cold sweats, plus non alcoholic drinks!



## Activity



12th November – Nick attended a Crowd funding Conference at the Dome Enterprise Centre at the Bognor Campus of Chichester University. On the same Day Heather represented WSMS at the Worthing CVS AGM and Funding Fair at Worthing Town Hall.

14th November – Nick & Louise attended the 'Transforming our Communities Together' event at Windlesham House which was a joint churches and Sussex Police venture with a variety of guest speakers. The aim of this event was to link churches and community groups with Sussex Police in a growing partnership of co-operation to tackle social issues and reduce crime in our area.

19th November - Nick exhibited at the Community Showcase event at the Y Centre in Horsham organised by the Horsham CVS (now called Horsham Voluntary Action).

20th November – Nick attended the AGM of Relate in Crawley. Meanwhile our Chair, Peter & Trustee, John were attending the Lord Lieutenant event at Fontwell Race-course which brought together charities and local businesses. This was organised by Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester and followed similar successful events in Worthing and Crawley.

26th November—Nick and Peter Magness met with two individuals at Alphacom House interested in the role of trustee (and possibly mediator) with WSMS.



## Meet the Volunteers



In this edition we meet James, who joined WSMS in July 2013, as detailed below.

**Where did you train as mediator?** ADRg Group & WSMS Service.

**When did you train as a mediator?** May 2013 (ADRg) & July 2013 (WSMS)



**What types of mediation are you trained to do?** Commercial Disputes (ADRg) & Community Mediation (WSMS)

**Where do you live?** Hayling Island. I previously lived in Chichester for 20 years.

**Do you undertake any additional volunteering?** Occasionally assist with local C of E pastoral work.

**What is/was your career path?** Solicitor (Generalist Litigator)

**Do you have any hobbies?** Writing Fiction, giving talks on History and visiting historic houses. I try to be an active Grandparent.

**Tell us something unusual about yourself, why you came to mediation, experiences in mediation, ambitions, and/or hopes for the future.**

Both my parents were half Spanish on the maternal side. As a lawyer with over 30+ years experience coming from a family background in building & development, I believe that the future lies in mediation commercially. WSMS offers valuable help to lay people to resolve their disputes without resorting to law, e.g. boundary disputes. I hope to be a contributing member to WSMS as a mediator. My ambition is to write a best selling historical novel.

Conflict cannot survive without your participation.

Wayne Dyer via [www.arkrowmatters.com](http://www.arkrowmatters.com)



When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.

# Referrals

October ended with 25 referrals, which was less than the same month last year. That was, however, a totally record busting month with 39 referrals!

This year, November figures were similar to last with 22 referrals. Many of these were family related. We are keen to maintain our levels of community mediation referrals and would encourage all our statutory partners and Housing Associations, etc to keep us in the forefront of their minds when conflict situations are presented to them. We are meant to be an early intervention tool, where possible, so don't be afraid to bring us in when things are just 'bubbling'.

We are currently concerned about the low level of referrals in areas such as Crawley and Chichester. Please spread the word about our services. We are keen to maintain our levels of community mediation referrals – after all, they are what we came into being for in the first place. All our mediators are keen to keep their skills in practice.

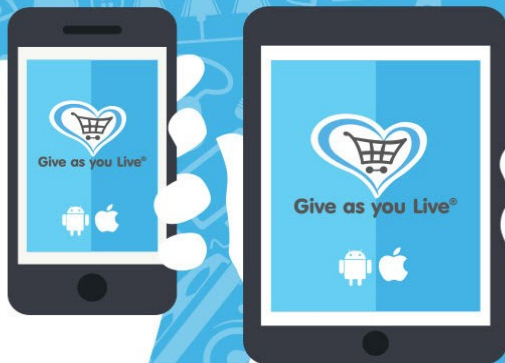
Referrals can be made by email or phone. December will be slow as it always is traditionally. Let's make January a busy month for us!

## Give as you Live® On the Go

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**HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR US  
JUST BY SHOPPING ONLINE**

**THIS CHRISTMAS**



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Hamleys

John Lewis

next

## 2014 Calendar

Date for the Management Committee Meetings – all are Mondays

**13th January, 28th April, 7th July and 13th October 2014.** Anyone is welcome to attend to observe proceedings, which will be held in Horsham.

**Saturday 29th March**—Mental Health First Aid workshop with Anne Stanton. This is the event we previously postponed for various reasons. Can you make this new date?!

Other 2014 training days will commence after 1st April with our new budget in place.

## Farewell

Here are a few pictures taken at Ann Rodwell's leaving do, held on 29th November at the Lintot Pub, Southwater. It was a very pleasant evening, despite the fact we were competing with a 21st Birthday party, complete with masquerade masks!



**(Ann had been a Mediator for WSMS for 13 Years and also served as a Trustee and Area Representative for volunteers. She will be missed).**

Ann says:

Thank you so much for the gifts and personal tributes made on the occasion of my leaving WSMS and a big thank you to those who came on Friday. It was really great to meet up and I so appreciate your giving up a Friday evening so near Christmas. I will not be losing touch with WSMS as I am now an Honorary Life Member and I shall look forward to meeting some of you again at AGMs,

My best wishes for the continuing success of the service and , more immediately,

A Very Happy Christmas!!!

## Christmas opening hours

WSMS Co-ordinator, Nick Handley, will be taking leave from 23rd December until 2nd January 2014.

The office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, with messages being picked up on the morning of 27th December. On New Years eve office cover will be in place until midday, with closure on New Year's Day.

We look forward to resuming our full service on 2nd January 2014.

## News

> John is recovering after surgery on his back to remove a cyst. He has a period of non driving whilst he mends and physiotherapy to get him back to normal. After that we have lined him up for a nice juicy case!



> Nick has just won a chocolate hamper and a £50 donation to WSMS (on Twitter), thanks to Giveasyoulive! He is deciding how best to utilise the hamper and save his waistline!

Seeing as the 'Give As You Live' platform is all about raising funds for good causes he thinks it would be appropriate to give the hamper to the person who spend most money online before the New Year, in support of WSMS, by signing up (if not

already a supporter) at: [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms)

**Hotel Chocolate**, the prize sponsor, are just one of hundreds of retailers and service providers who are party to the scheme. Other big names include Amazon, Asos, M&S, John Lewis, Debenhams, Expedia, Argus and Next.

Nick has just renewed his House Insurance with MoreThan, saved on his previous years' premium, by some £80, and earned £10 for WSMS.

On Page 4 there is an advert promoting an 'App' for both Apple and Android devices to make online shopping even more mobile and easy.

The Giveasyoulive website even has pages of gift ideas, including ones for your pets, stocking fillers and even ethical gifts.

