



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Message from the Chair

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Year in Review



External Edition

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The year has been very active in a number of areas. Demand for our services continues across West Sussex and family mediation continues to thrive. We are, as always, only as good as our last case and thus we must always be aware of the need to provide a quality service at all times. The success and reputation of the service is based upon successful outcomes.

At the 'Away Day' in the Autumn we covered a wide breadth of topics and these are being distilled into the business plan which we are planning to finalise and share with all our stakeholders early next year.

One of the themes that came from that day was that we are all ambassadors for WSMS in our local community and across West Sussex. We should all look at ways to promote WSMS and increase the awareness. We are in a very competitive market and with all the government cutbacks, more suppliers may be trying to enter into our marketplace. Thus we must be vigilant at all times to the opportunities we have in promoting the mediation service and our USP (unique selling point) which is the delivery of a **free** service.

The awareness of mediation is growing and to this end we have increased the number of mediators. You, the volunteer mediators, combined with the dedicated team in the office have continued to provide an excellent service. I would like to thank you for the time and dedication you have given in supporting the charity.

We are always on the look out for new volunteers so if you aware of any friend or colleague who is interested in helping to promote WSMS and its services please ask them to contact Nick Handley.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2014.

Peter Magness
Chair

More Monkey Business

We have recently emailed all our volunteers with a link to our latest Survey using Survey Monkey, which asks ten questions about various aspect of your volunteering and the charity as a whole.



We hope that they will all take 10 minutes to complete the survey, which will be collated and the findings discussed and acted upon by the trustees.

There is likely to be at least one other surveys to follow, which could include all our stakeholders/funders, so watch this space.

Extracts from the surveys will be published in a future newsletter for all to see.



Christmas Giveaway Winner!



WSMS has been the lucky winner of a 'Charity Christmas Giveaway' organised by a Horsham based business – Pashley Fisher Ltd. The Company is run by Clair Fisher and happens to be based very near to our Horsham office.

Clair has donated £250 to our charity to fund a project we submitted in the competition, which was advertised locally and on Twitter. Clair has also kindly donated her expertise for a day. She specialises in business training, consultancy and coaching . We will be talking further with Clair to decide how to make

best use of that free time.

Clare has made a conscious decision to support local good causes and sets aside 10% of her annual profits for charitable donations. She is setting a great example to other businesses.

Information about Pashley Fisher can be found on their website – www.pashleyfisher.co.uk

Meet the Volunteers

Name: Elspeth Bunker



Where did you train as mediator? Through WSMS with Sandy Horvath.

When did you train as a mediator? February 2012

What types of mediation are you trained to do? Community and Workplace.

Where do you live? Worthing

Do you undertake any additional volunteering?

I am co-ordinator of Emmanuel United Reformed Church and have just retired from Worthing Musical Comedy Society Youth Company Committee after 12 years of involvement.

What is/was your career path?

Having started with a degree in Developmental Psychology I then trained as a Primary Teacher. I run my own special needs consultancy and advisory service, testing children and adults for dyslexia and I am also a Special Needs Officer for West Sussex County Council covering schools across a wide area of W. Sussex.

Do you have any hobbies?

I sing in a choir in Chichester, perform in stage musicals with Worthing Musical Comedy Society, do Tap 'n' Street classes which is a type of tap dancing and I have two horses and a pony that I ride, drive and look after. As well as being church co-ordinator I also run the church website, edit the church magazine and cook a roast dinner for 50 people for alternate monthly Sunday lunches. I love cooking, especially baking, and am renowned for my 'Cricket Teas' which have been enjoyed on many an occasion by Mel Giedroyc from the Great British Bake Off (my only claim to fame!). These teas and I have also featured in a book called Fatty Batter by Michael Simkins.

If you are brave, tell us something unusual about yourself, why you came to mediation, experiences in mediation, ambitions, and/or hopes for the future.

My job often entails bringing people together to try to resolve difficulties. From talking to a friend who is a Mediator and Trainer I realised that it would be very useful to know more about mediation and to train as a mediator myself. I have now put these skills into practise.

Review of the Year



Some of the Highs:

- > **March** — We reached our financial year end, having managed to balance the books for the first time in three years. We actually achieved a surplus which helped replace some of our lost reserves.
- > **March**— We ended our recording year having achieved a record number of referrals.
- > **July** — We held an Initial Community Mediation Training course near Arundel with 11 individuals graduating. This bolstered our numbers, particularly around Chichester.
- > In addition to those on our course, we gain other new Mediators, including Krysia, Heather, Susan and Sarah.
- > **September** - we held our AGM in Crawley amongst great allies and supporters from the Borough. (It was a shame an important Council meeting clashed with our date). At the AGM we formally elected new trustees, John, Caroline and Allan.
- > **October** — Our successful ‘Away Day’ at Mickelpage in the sunshine with great food and some very productive group sessions. We hope to repeat this and maybe do one with our funders/stakeholders.



Some of the Lows:

- > We lose mediators Ann, Michele, Talitha and Tracey.
- > We approach the final quarter of our financial year showing a budget deficit for 2013/14, with quite a gap still to fill.
- > We don't see some of our mediator faces at training events and group/one to one supervision sessions!
- > We still haven't found that elusive millionaire who wants to give us some money!

Quote of the Day

“The New Year will bring many changes,They will depend on our working together to realise our dream.”

Nelson Mandela (R.I.P.)



Charity Curry Nights

WSMS has teamed up with a Horsham Restaurant to host a Charity Curry Night in the New Year.

Please put **Tuesday 28th January 2014** in your diary if you fancy an evening of great food and entertainment. We are very grateful to Darchini Restaurant in London Road, Horsham for supporting this event.



Watch out for further details on this event after Christmas.

Hopefully this will be one of many fundraising events that we will be able to hold in 2014. This needs to be the case if the charity is to be sustained.

If you have any ideas, do let the office know.



Would you like to advertise here?

If so get in touch with the office. Low cost, large reach and a good opportunity to advertise your business to the community of West Sussex, whilst showing your support for a good cause.

Last Chance!

At **midnight on Monday 16th December** online ticket sales for the Great Big Small Charity Draw will close. A £2,000 luxury holiday is the top prize!

If you want to purchase a ticket or two, here is a reminder of our link:

www.ow.ly/mKbjz