



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Lest We Forget

Issue No: 70
Poppy
Edition 2014

On this day one hundred years ago (4th August 1914), the First World War broke out. During the conflict, which ended on 11th November 1918, 16 million combatants died and 20 million were wounded (Wikipedia). 2/3 of the deaths were in battle. Over 100 countries were part of the war. Various figures have been quoted for the number of British dead, but it was between 700–800,000.



Many TV programmes commemorating WW1 will be featured this week. Here is our mark of respect for all the fallen.

Below is one of the better known poems about the war, penned by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian soldier/physician who served in the war (published in 1915).

External Edition

*Published for the
Funders and
Supporters of the
West Sussex
Mediation Service.*

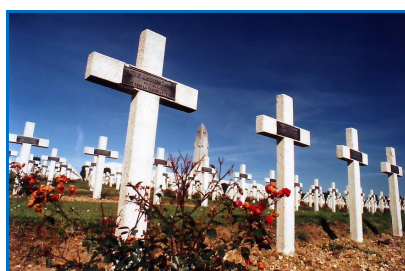
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

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Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Referrals

We ended July with 27 referrals, up from 24 last year. Topics during the month included verbal abuse, intergenerational, antisocial behaviour, trees/hedges, boundary, parking, noise, damage/ball games and family. 24 mediators are shown assigned to current or pending mediations. We remain on target to beat all previous years referral totals, by year end.



Our latest client feedback reads, “ Good service. Good communication, at what was a very painful time.”

Spreading the word

Social Media has become a huge tool for charities and businesses to promote their work and gain exposure to a wide audience. If you ,or any of your family members, engage in any of these popular platforms, please do what you can to help WSMS raise our profile.



You will find us on Twitter as @Mediation1. How about retweeting some of our important messages? Nick tries to tweet daily to provide information and promote fundraising initiatives. You may well hear news about the charity in fast time on this medium. We have over 1,600 followers currently but are happy to add more.



Like us on
Facebook

We have less of a presence on Facebook but are increasing our number of ‘Friends’, which currently stands at 320.

We appear as ‘West Sussex’ <https://www.facebook.com/west.sussex.5> with an organisation page at - <https://www.facebook.com/WestSussexMediationService>

RSVP

Remember to RSVP if you would like to attend our AGM this year on **Thursday 25th September at 6pm in the Look & Sea Centre, Littlehampton.**

Funding

Recent Funding support includes:

Mid Sussex Partnership – £2,500, one off grant, notified.

Littlehampton Town Council – £200.

Burgess Hill Town Council – £250 notified.

Parish Council Grants received so far this year include Cowfold, Rudgwick, Cuckfield, North Horsham, Upper Beeding, Lindfield, Southwater, Billingshurst & Felpham.

We have had a very disappointing run of grant bids to Charitable Trusts and Foundations with unsuccessful bids to The Peter Harrison Foundation, Yorkshire Building Society, Hilden Charitable Trust, Leathersellers' Company Charitable Foundation, People's Postcode Trust and Lloyd Bank Foundation.



Family Mediation

Our phones continue to be busy with calls from individuals enquiring about family mediation. Robert, our volunteer family mediator is currently struggling to keep up with the workload and this is likely to continue.

One idea being toyed with at present is to sponsor the training one or possibly two mediators in this specialism. This in itself is quite a commitment both for any potential candidate and financially for the service. We would hope to recoup the cost over a couple of year and offer a reasonably priced service to those in need of such mediation but do not qualify for legal aid.

Reminder

If you happen to be shopping in **Waitrose, Worthing** during the month of August, please could you place your green token in our tank?!

We are one of three good causes featured in the High Street store that month and the more tokens we accumulate – the bigger share we get of the £1,000 .

Our thanks go to the Waitrose staff there for picking our charity.

Asda is another chain where you can nominate WSMS as a local charity to support in your local branch.



News

Despite recent (very positive) feedback on our website from a fellow Mediation service in Kent, we have decided to review our 'Home Page' following a conversation with one of our mediators. Yes, we do listen to ideas and suggestions from our friends and supporters! Watch out for our updates in due course (www.wsms.org.uk)



Our Web Developer (Brain Creasey of BC Design & Development) will be revamping our landing page to make our range of services more obvious on a dropdown menu. We hope that this will make services such as Workplace Mediation more apparent to anyone browsing our website.

We remain indebted to Brian for all the work he does in maintaining our web presence at a low cost to the charity. We are happy to put people in touch with him, should they require his services (<http://www.bcdd.co.uk/>)



Our thanks goes to Tony Tappenden (Trustee) and Christine (Mediator) for turning out for 'Sparks in the Park' in Horsham on Sunday 13th July to help out on our charity stall with Nick.

<----- Picture of Tony, just after we set up stall.

Picture of Nick's 'ferocious' Golden Retriever pup, Manny , guarding the stall, but hopefully not keeping people away! ----->



Recycling

Nick is in the process of having a clear out of all the ink/toner cartridges that have been donated to the charity for recycling. He has had to swap the recycling provider. We are happy to continue to take **Original** ink/toner cartridges from a preferred list. Makes such a Epson and Kodak are not favoured as they are said to be 'ink tanks', unlike the other brands. Follow these link to see the accepted list:

<http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/InkjetCartridges> or

http://www.therecyclingfactory.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Web_Inkjet_pricelist.pdf