



Issue No: 71 AGM Edition 2014



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

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West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

AGM

We are all set for our 13th Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 25th September 2014 at the Look & Sea Centre, Surrey Street, Littlehampton, BN17 5AW.

This is our first foray into Arun District for an AGM and we are very pleased to be heading West to meet up with some of our friends and supporters from that area.

For those attending, please arrive from 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start of the formal proceedings. We will have tea/coffee on arrival to keep you refreshed.

The Chairman will be reporting on another busy year with Nick the Service Co-ordinator following up with an overview of the caseload and outcomes in 2013/14.

Our Treasurer will be talking us through our independently examined accounts for the year 01/04/13 to 31/03/14.

Our guest speaker is Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.

Our latest Annual report will be available for viewing and taking away. For those not attending it will be downloadable from our website in the ‘Links’ page. Hard copies are available on request.

This year we are very grateful to **Thomas Eggar** for supporting us by sponsoring the printing of our Annual Report. This is a first for us.

**Thomas
Eggar**

Thomas Eggar LLP is a firm that seeks out creative business and legal solutions for commercial organisations and private individuals. They take a refreshing approach to client relationships and have industry-specific expertise in Financial Services, Retail, Sports & Leisure and Technology, Media and Telecoms, as well as a nationally renowned, award winning Private Client practice. By thinking differently and truly understanding their clients' needs and their industry they are able to deliver inspiring results.

DBS Checks

We finally have a quick and efficient method of obtaining DBS checks for our volunteers. A number have already been processed and will be sent out to the individuals directly whilst the office will have an email/online notification of the outcome. We will be filling any gaps of those not in possession of a current DBS check.

The Disclosure and Barring Service has introduced ‘portable’ CRB/DBS checks, which removes the need for multiple or repeated checks each time an individual moves jobs. Once an individual has been DBS checked a certificate will be sent only to the individual.

An online update service was also introduced that makes it easier for employers to assess candidates. Employers will be able to check online whether the candidates CRB/DBS certificate is up to date (with the individuals’ consent and where the employer is entitled to obtain a DBS check of the level and type that they need). This service is free to employers, but they do not receive a duplicate copy of the individuals’ check. However, they are able to print out relevant details.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE UPDATE SERVICE -

You can register online as soon as you have your application form reference number. You can ask for the number when you apply for your DBS check.

Or you can wait and register with your certificate number when you receive your DBS certificate. If so, **you must do so within 19 days of the certificate being issued.**

Registration lasts for 1 year and costs £13 per year (payable by debit or credit card only). **There is no charge for volunteers.**

You’ll get an ID number with your registration that you need to log on to the service.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Before you begin on the journey of revenge, dig two graves”

Confucius

News

- > We are on the look-out for new trustees. We lose two existing trustees at our AGM – John Galtrey and Matthew Maxwell. Tony Tappenden has also recently stood down due to other commitments. Our thanks goes to all three of them for all their efforts in support of the charity. If you, or anyone else you know, might be interested to hear more about the role of a trustee we can put you in touch with one of the existing trustees for a chat. Anyone is more than welcome to sit in on one of our Trustee meetings. The next one falls on Monday 13th October in Horsham.
- > We are pleased to announce that Heather is to train as a Family Mediator, (sponsored by WSMS) with a view to volunteering in that role with WSMS. Nick together with Kim, one of our trustees, interviewed five excellent candidates from our existing ranks (Tom, Christine, Suzanne, Amanda and Heather), who had put their names forward for the training. It was a difficult decision to make choosing just the one, but we will review the possibility of adding another in the future. This will help Robert cope with the ever increasing number of family mediation referrals we receive in the office. At present we have to turn people away.
- > Sussex Police have presented us with an opportunity to record a video with them, to help promote our services to regular officers and PCSOs with the Force. Again a number of kind volunteers have stepped forward to star in front of camera and we will be finalising arrangements shortly. This video will be viewable by any Sussex Police staff, on demand, via their internal communications system.

Referrals

August has been steady for referrals. We had 22 over the month, which is lower than the previous three Augusts. Subjects ranged from noise to parking, pets, antisocial behaviour, trees, harassment, boundary, shared space and children.

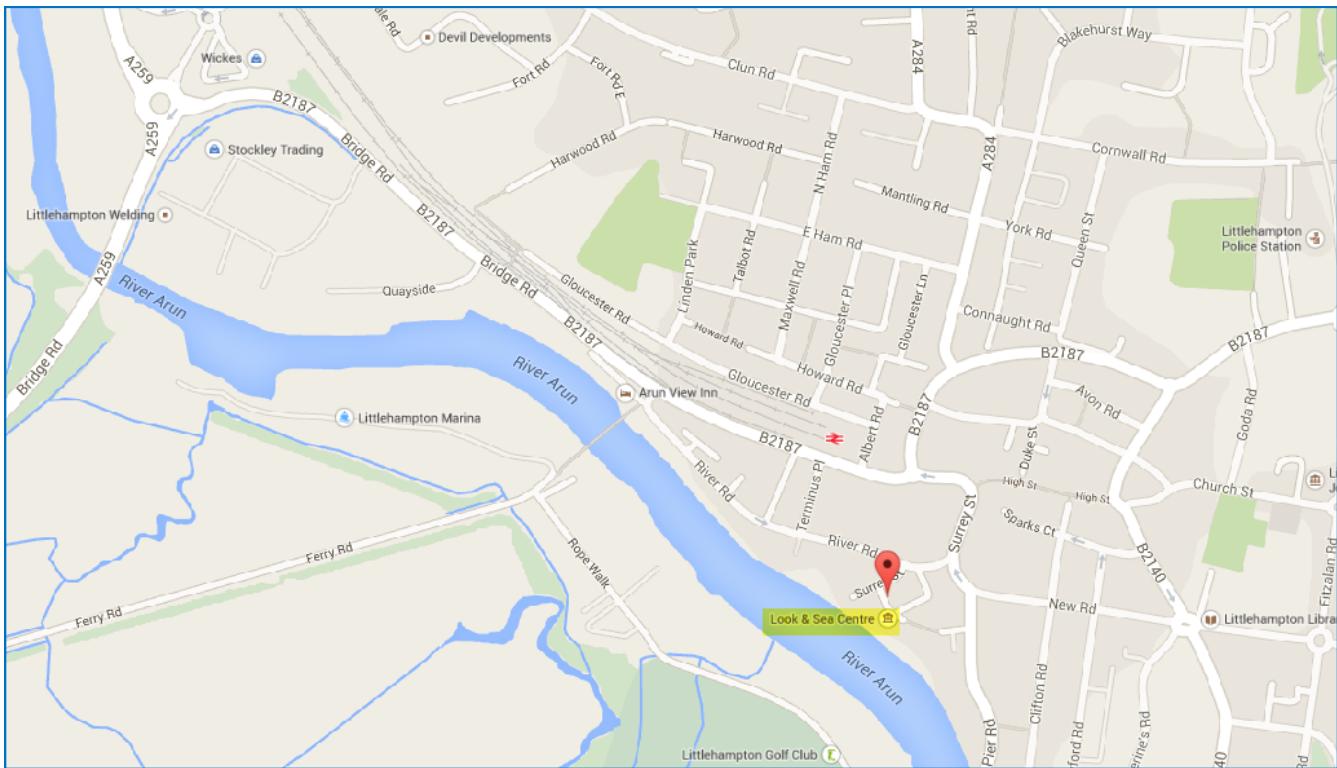
It was good to see Sussex Police featuring top of the referral agencies for the month.

17 Mediators are currently shown assigned to current or pending cases on the board in the office.

There have been a couple of disappointments recently where clients have failed to show up for a visits. Unfortunately that is one of those things we have to contend with in our line of work.



Finding the Venue



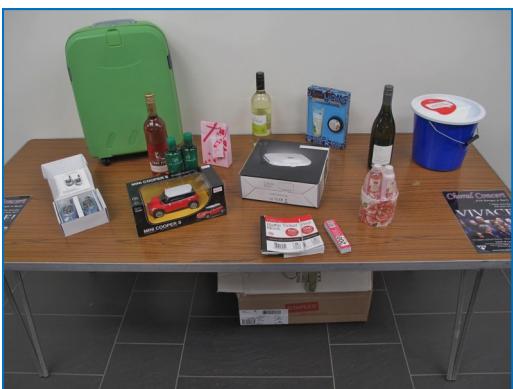
The Look & Sea Centre is in Surrey Street, Littlehampton.

The postcode for a SatNav is BN17 5AW.

It can be reached via River Road and Surrey Street. There is some nearby parking.

Littlehampton Railway Station is within easy walking distance (4 minute walk or less).

If you are in need of a lift, do let the office know and they may be able to put you in touch with someone who is driving from your locality.



We hope to hold a Raffle on the night. If you are able to contribute a small (or big even!) prize for the draw, that would be very much appreciated. All proceeds will help subsidise any AGM costs, such as the venue hire and catering.

We look forward to seeing some of you on the night.