



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Review of 2014

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New Year
2015



External Edition

*Published for the
Funder and
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West Sussex
Mediation Service.*

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More next time

Another year passes, in what seems like lighting time, and WSMS still finds itself on the map and servicing an ever increasing number of enquiries. Our Thanks, once again, to all those involved in funding, supporting and volunteering for the charity. Here is a quick look back at 2014. Let's hope that 2015 is an even more successful year.



HIGHS:

> A successful AGM event is held at the Look & Sea Centre in Littlehampton in September with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner being our Guest Speaker.

> We attract sponsorship for our Annual Report for the first time, thanks to Thomas Eggar LLP.

> Louise becomes a full time Caseworker for the charity and trains as a mediator, giving us additional skills and greater coverage in the office to service our increasing workload.

> Family Mediation, as a fee paying service, exceeds our previous year's income and looks like making a very good contribution to our bank balance by the year end. Our gratitude goes to Robert Savage for providing his services at no cost to the charity.

> We achieve funding support from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and continue to develop the 'Sussex Mediation Alliance' with three partner charities.



LOWS:

> We say a fond farewell to Yvonne as she hangs up her boots with a final retirement from work after being in employment for 59 years (not just with us!)

> We reach our financial year end (31/3) with a deficit of income over expenditure, which was a turn round from the previous year.

> We still didn't find that rich philanthropist who wanted to give us a £1 million, or any fundraisers. We will keep dreaming!

Up for a Challenge?

WSMS is a member of Gatwick Diamond Business (gdb) and, being a charity, we are eligible for a portion of all fundraising efforts that are undertaken by the Group each year. It has become a tradition to engage in an annual, cross Europe, car challenge. If anyone would be interest in forming a team to represent us this year, or to sponsor one, do get in touch with the office for more details. It would be great to get fully involved this year both to raise our profile and fundraise whilst having some fun. At the same time. There are entry fees involved.



gdb Creative Pod CHALLENGE Manor Royal to Munich! 25 – 27 September 2015 We are looking for teams to take cars for the 2015 Challenge. Our teams will go against Bennett Christmas Insurance Brokers Ltd on public transport. There will be an optimum time for the finish line (set up in the hotel) whoever is closest is the winner! This is a fantastic team building opportunity as well as raising money for our member charities. So what's involved?

Manor Royal to Munich 2015 Charity Challenge!

This will take place on 25th to 27th September 2015. The challenge is to drive in teams of 4 to Munich and Back. The destination in Munich is the Leonardo Royal Hotel Munich. The idea is to travel in fancy dress, collect items from the shopping list to reach the optimum time of 12 hours.

Shopping List

Team photo with Police (not British)	1hr 30min
*Belgian Waffle	30min
Bumper Sticker from Hockenheim Ring	1hr
Newspaper from Luxembourg	30min
*German Sausage	20min

**Compulsory item*

Some Rules

Drivers must be 25 and over

Minimum 3 drivers per car

All safety rules to be obeyed

Saturday 26th is free time HOWEVER drivers will take a breathalyser before the journey home and must be clear before travel.

All queries:

events@gatwickdiamondbusiness.com

Snippets



< Here is a picture of our Trustee, Caroline Buchan receiving the 'FabVorg' Award from Councillor Gordon Marples, Chair of Mid Sussex District Council. 'Fabvorg' means Favourite Voluntary Organisation. The Award is organised by the Mid Sussex (South) Council For Voluntary Service. WSMS was nominated by several of our volunteers and as a result we were joint winners and will hold the trophy for six months of the year.

The Cup was accompanied by a box of Celebration chocolates which Caroline passed onto the staff at Alphacom House.

Our thanks goes to those who nominated us. Our next bid is to be recognised with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The outcome for this won't be until May 2015.

> **Hate Incident Awareness Training**— Crawley Borough Council and Victim Support have arranged some training sessions in the mornings and afternoons of **25th February and 11th March**. The aim of the training session is to increase the reporting of hate incidents and participants should leave with a greater awareness of what hate crime is and greater confidence about how to report hate incidents. If you are interested in attending please contact Trish Emmans at Crawley Borough Council at this email address — trish.emmans@crawley.gov.uk with your name, organisation and which session (date/time) and a contact email address.

> We recently received this image of one of our Santa Sack being put to good use under the Christmas Tree, thanks to our Mediator, Tom.

We didn't sell them all, so those left will go into storage to sell next Christmas!



> Would anyone like to volunteer to help out with a Charity stall at the Littlehampton weekly market in the High Street on a Friday. This is on offer, free of charge, and runs from 9am -3pm.



We would use it to publicise our services and may be do some fundraising through book sales or bric-a-brac. There is currently a wide choice of dates through 2015 apart from May, June and September.

Contact the office for more details or to volunteer with some dates that you can manage.

A case for mediation

There are some very eloquent Judges around. I have to agree with Mr Justice Norris on this case: heard in the High Court in Liverpool in autumn last year.

Bradley & Anor v Heslin & Anor [2014] EWHC 3267 (Ch) (09 October 2014)

Here is the 1st paragraph of his judgement -

“Rather to my surprise I find myself trying a case about a pair of gates in Formby: surprise on at least two counts. First, that anyone should pursue a neighbour dispute to trial, where even the victor is not a winner (given the blight which a contested case casts over the future of neighbourly relations and upon the price achievable in any future sale of the property). Second, that the case should have been pursued in the High Court over 3 days. It is not that such cases are somehow beneath the consideration of the Court. They often raise points of novelty and difficulty and are undoubtedly important to the parties and ultimately legal rights (if insisted upon) must be determined. But at what financial and community cost?”

Here is the link for the full transcript:

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Ch/2014/3267.html>

The final ruling of the judge was that, although the Bradleys are entitled to close their gates, they must not do so at times which "substantially interfere" with the Heslins' enjoyment of their home.

Final legal bills were expected to run into six figures.

Quote for the New Year

“Hope smiles from the threshold
of the year to come,
Whispering 'it will be happier'...”

Alfred Tennyson