



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

AGM

Issue No: 84

**Bank Holiday
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External Edition

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

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More next time



THE TRUSTEES

of

WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION SERVICE

have pleasure in inviting you to the

14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held

at 6.00pm on Tuesday 29th September 2015

at the offices of

Thomas Eggar LLP

Belmont House, Station Way, Crawley, RH10 1JA

Guest Speaker

**Anne Godley
Victim Support**

Light refreshments

RSVP to:

Nick Handley
West Sussex Mediation Service
Alphacom House
8A Oakhill Road
Horsham
RH13 5SB

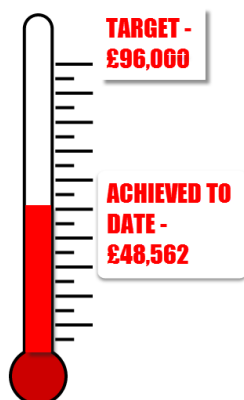
Tel No: 01403 258900 or 257800

Email: info@wsms.org.uk

We are pleased to be returning to Crawley for this year's AGM. We were last there in 2013. Our thanks go to Thomas Eggar LLP for kindly playing host to us and sponsoring the printing of our Annual Report for the second year running. This will be a great cost saving for our charity. The Company offers a range of legal services to both business and private clients with offices in Crawley, Chichester, Worthing and elsewhere.

Community Awards

Each year, Horsham based newspaper, West Sussex County Times organises an Awards ceremony, held at the Capitol Theatre, as a celebration of what makes the Horsham District such a great place to live and work. Award categories range from Best Neighbour, to Volunteer of the Year and Charity of the Year. Last year's charity winner was Horsham and District Sands, which is a group run by volunteers who offer support to anyone affected by the death of a baby. Nominations must be in by **1st October** and the Awards ceremony will take place on Monday 16th November. Follow this link to find the nomination form !!! <http://ow.ly/R5S7U>



BUDGET UPDATE:

We are in month 5 of our current financial year (1st April 2015–31st March 2016)

Our budget for this year is £96,000.

To date we have achieved just over half that.

There is still a long way to go and some important fundraising still to be carried out. **Our thanks go to all our funders.**

Diary Dates

Tues 29th September — AGM at Crawley—Thomas Eggar LLP offices. 6pm start.

Sat 12th September—WSMS stall at Littlehampton Town Show, Rosemead Park, 12 noon to 4.30pm (helpers welcome).

12th, 13th, 19th, 20th October — Peer Mediation Training for NEETS (helpers sorted).

Sat. 21st November— WSMS stall at East Preston Christmas Celebration—12 noon to 6pm (helpers welcome).

Thur 10th December - Pre Christmas social at Arundel Museum ,7.30pm start. All are welcome. (Raffle prizes sought)

Sat. 12th December—Elder Mediation Training Day 10-5pm

Snippets



< - - - Nick recently attended a round table meeting in Leatherhead hosted by East Surrey Mediation Service. This was attended by representatives from a number of Surrey Mediation Service plus Merton & Sutton and even one from Essex! The special guest was Siobhan McGrath, the Senior President of the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS). 150 types of dispute can be heard by this

Tribunal, such as rent increases, service charges, condition of properties, leasehold disputes and disputes in Park Homes. Most individuals who attend these tribunals are not represented. The tribunal is independent of government and will listen to both sides of the argument before making a decision. You can apply to the First-Tier Tribunal if you're a landlord, tenant, freeholder, leaseholder, park home occupier or site owner. Siobhan, who is a trained Barrister, came to the meeting to explore how mediation could be further utilised within the Tribunal process. The Tribunal system came about following a Law Commission report on Housing (2008).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/243400/7377.pdf

New Database — our Caseworkers, Pam and Louise, ask that you are patient with them during a transition period with our new database. They are trying to avoid any duplication of action and quite naturally are finding their feet with the workings of this new tool. We are confident that in the long run it will be a significant asset to the charity.

Sussex Mediation Conference - together with our Sussex Mediation Alliance partners, we are toying with the idea of organising of a Mediation Conference in 2016, somewhere in Sussex. If you would like to be involved in the setting up of such an event or have previous Conference organising experience, we would love to hear from you. Also, if any corporate would like to help sponsor such an event, we would love to hear from them also.



www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms

Mediator Profile

Name: Heather

Where and when did you train as a mediator? Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in 2005 and National Family Mediation (NFM) in 2014.

What types of mediation are you trained to do?

Commercial, Workplace and Employment and Community. Through WSMS I am now undertaking training for accreditation in Family Mediation.



Where do you live? Originally in Bloomsbury and now Worthing .

Do you undertake any additional volunteering?

Yes, with the Refugee Council as Honorary Treasurer and Vice Chair of the Worthing Community Chest.

What is/was your career path? I qualified as Chartered Certified Accountant in 1982, whilst working in an international electronics group, following which I became Finance Director of £400 million trading fund. During that time, I studied for a law degree in the evenings at Birkbeck College, University of London graduating in 1997, continuing onto BPP Law School where I studied for the Legal Practice Course. I am now a lay member of the Council for Licensed Conveyancers.

Do you have any hobbies?

Walking with our dogs, narrow boating and going to the theatre

Tell us why you came to mediation.

I worked as a volunteer with the Mary Ward Legal Centre in London after completing my law degree. It soon became really clear there were a number of people who could not afford legal representation but did not qualify for legal aid, so was there another way? Yes, mediation!

Did you Know ?

August is the month with the highest birth rate in the USA.

Quote

“My doctor gave me two weeks to live. I hope they're in August.”

Ronnie Shakes

Another Invitation — planning ahead!

	<p><i>West Sussex Mediation Service Special Bulletin</i></p>												
	<h2>Christmas Social</h2>												
<p>Please RSVP</p> 	<p>You are cordially invited to join trustees, staff, volunteers and friends of WSMS for a Pre-Christmas Evening Soiree at the Arundel Museum on Thursday 10th December 2015 from 7pm to 9.30pm Drinks, Nibbles & Raffle (We will also have some lovely Christmas Tree Decorations on sale)</p>												
													
<p>Inside this issue:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Invitation</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Contributions of Raffle Prizes welcomed)</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> </table>	Invitation	1							(Contributions of Raffle Prizes welcomed)				
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We had a great event here last year and with more advanced warning of the date this year, we hope that more of you can come along to enjoy the pre Christmas festivities. Further details upon request. **Please RSVP.**