



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Moving On

Issue No: 85

AGM

2015



External Edition

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

Inside this issue:

Moving on	1
AGM reminder	2
Snippets	3
Quote	3
Farewell Message	4
Elephant Trail	5

More next time

We are sad to report that **Louise Duthie**, our Caseworker, is moving on to take up a new role in Brighton, where she lives. Louise joined WSMS as a Work Experience placement for six weeks. That was on a voluntary basis. Thereafter Louise was employed on a part time basis as an Admin Clerk. From there she progressed to a full time Caseworker, having undergone training as a community mediator with us. As part of her role as Caseworker, Louise took on the task of organising all our Family Mediation referrals and the appointments for our Family Mediator, Robert. She will be a sad loss for the charity.

Other Farewells

At our AGM on 29th September we will be saying good-bye to our Chairman, **Peter Magness**. Peter joined WSMS in 2012 and has served a full three year term as Chairman. Whilst eligible to make that a six year 'stretch' Peter has decided to move more meaningfully into 'retirement', as his wife also ends her working life. We wish both Peter and Angela the very best for the future. You might well find Peter on the golf courses around Sussex! Read Peter's farewell message on Page 4.

Another departure at our AGM will be **Kim Pompilii** who did endure a six year 'stretch' with WSMS as a Trustee and Secretary. Kim also attended our office on Tuesday mornings to help Nick with various strategic activities. Kim is required to step down under the rules of our constitution. She could come back after a one year break, if she could be persuaded to. Meanwhile Kim has taken up other interests with the Horsham Lions and Neighbourhood Watch. Again we are very grateful for everything Kim has done in supporting the charity and all the hours of volunteering she has undertaken.

Finally, **James Craddock** will be standing down as a Trustee after one year. James is also a Mediator for WSMS and will remain on our books as such. James has a new work commitment that will see him commuting to London to take on a lecturing role. James helped us set up the Friends of WSMS. If you know of anyone who might like to become a trustee for our charity do get in touch. Call Nick on 01403 257800 for a chat.

AGM

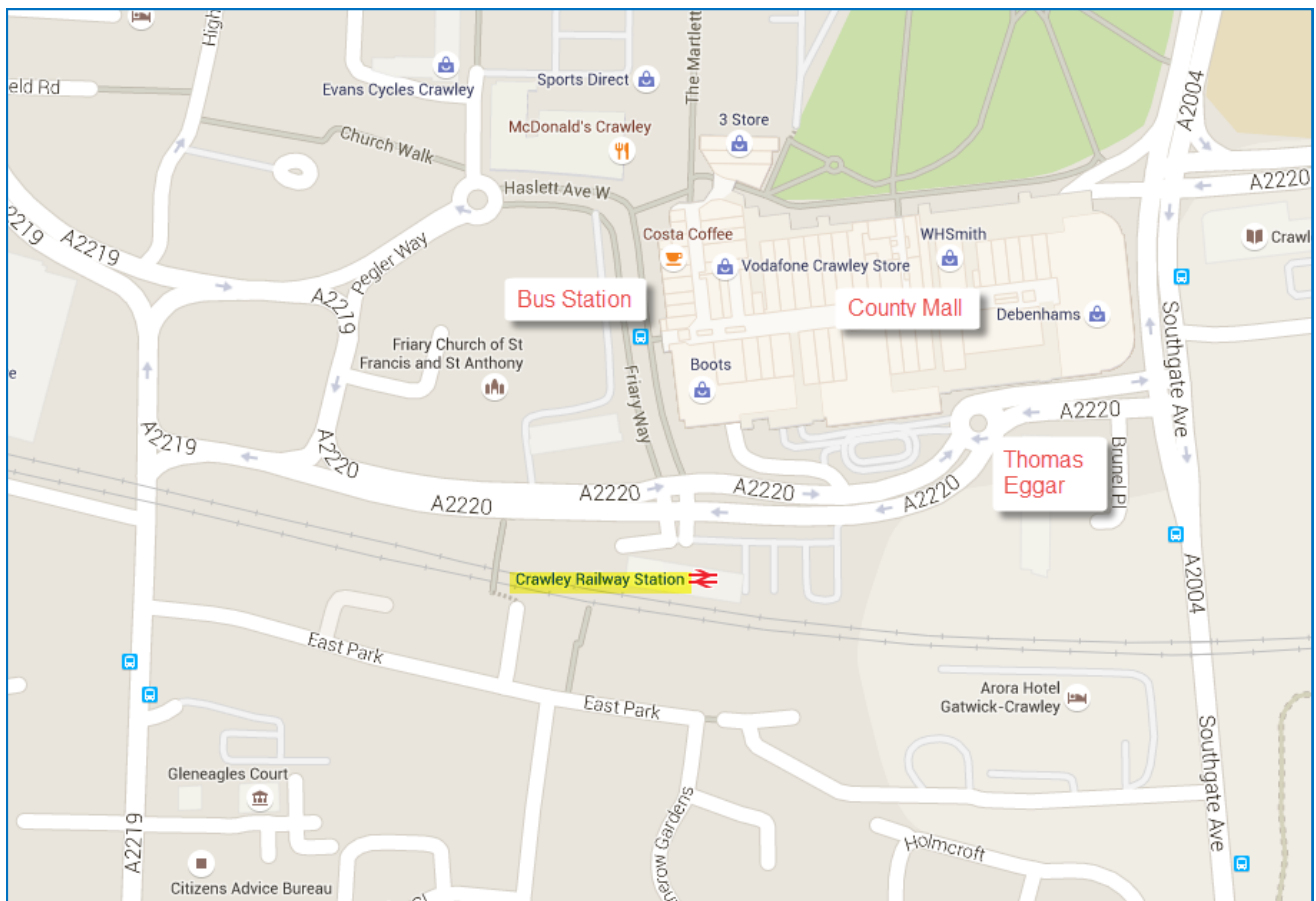
The AGM will be fast approaching by the time this newsletter is published. **We are happy to receive further RSVP's from anyone able to attend who has not already notified us.** We would love you to join us.

Just as a reminder, it is being held at the offices of Thomas Eggar LLP in Station Way, Crawley. **This postcode is RH10 1JA.** We hope to have access to the Car Park at the front of their building, which has barrier access. Crawley Railway Station is a very short walk away.

If you have any difficulties on the night, call Nick on 07768 872676.

We hope to hold a raffle on the night so we are happy to receive any prizes you can offer, otherwise bring some coins in your pocket to buy some tickets!

Arrival time should be 6.00pm with proceeding starting soon after. See you there. If you are a signed up member of WSMS you will have a voting right at the AGM.



Snippets

> **Staffing** – with Louise departing on 9th October Nick is actively looking for a capable replacement in the office. The post will initially be advertised internally and then more widely if a suitable candidate is not forthcoming. Further details about the job role is available upon request.

> Nick turned out for the Littlehampton Town Show on Sat 12th Sept. to do a little fundraising whilst promoting our services. This very well organised event has a huge Charity Marquee which meant that, regardless of the weather, local charities could showcase their activities. Thankfully the weather held and there was a good turnout. Nick was testing the market for his range of Christmas Decorations, intended for forthcoming Christmas Charity Markets.



> Nick is in the process of organising a series of roadshows to help promote WSMS across Horsham District. This has been made possible due to some funding from North Horsham & Chanctonbury County Local Committees. So far, we have been at Beeson House, the home of Southwater Parish Council and currently you will find our banner stand in the reception area of the Steyning Centre in Fletchers Croft. We are hoping to move on to Storrington, Pulborough, Rudgwick and elsewhere. The grant funding has helped to pay for new Exhibit materials and leaflet printing. Hopefully all this will translate to better awareness of our free services and increased referrals. We are grateful, to those venues who have agreed to host us for a week or two.

> We remain on the hunt for new office accommodation for the charity. A working group of trustees met recently to discuss this and other issues. If you know of any cost effective premises that might suit our small charity, please do get in touch.

Quote

“If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be 'meetings.'

Dave Barry

Farewell Message

Our outgoing Chairman, Peter Magness, reflects on his time at the helm with WSMS. We will hear from Peter's replacement – Will Adler, in our next edition.

“After this year's AGM I will be standing down as your chair. The three years that I have been involved with WSMS have been very interesting and I hope that during this period, the charity has been put onto a more sound foundation.



We have tried to broaden awareness of WSMS across the county. We successfully developed the Pan Sussex Alliance which is aimed at giving a total joined up county-wide focus to mediation services. and as a consequence we have established a strong relationships with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's office. We also launched the 'Friends of WSMS' in an attempt to widen our audience. Despite these initiatives, we have not been able to engage fully with a wider supporter base.

We have been busy handling an increasing number of cases during this period. The family mediation service continues to grow and we have re-launched the workplace mediation. In the meantime, we have still seen increasing demand for the main service - neighbour and intergenerational dispute resolution. Being able to provide the financial support to deliver these services has been my biggest challenge. It was with great sadness that I have failed to convince West Sussex County Council of the benefits of the very valuable service we provide to their community at a relatively low cost. They withdrew a very important funding stream for 2015/16. Funding from our traditional sources has become more difficult and I feel that I have not been overly successful in building new streams of revenues.

I believe that I am leaving the charity with a strong team of trustees who will be able to provide a wide business focus and support to Nick and the team. I thank all the volunteers and supporters who I have meet over the last three years for their time and encouragement. It has been a very enjoyable time and I wish you all well in the future”.

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms

A banner advertisement for Giveasyoulive.com. The top part features a collage of various retail logos including Expedia, John Lewis, TESCO, Next, ASOS, eBay, Debenhams, Waitrose, Viking, Amazon.co.uk, iTunes, Microsoft, ASDA, Sports Direct, Reebok, Firebox, and others. On the right side, there is a blue circular icon with a smartphone and a laptop, containing the text "Shop now on mobile & desktop". To the right of the logos, the text "RAISE MORE FOR US" is written in large, bold, white letters, and below it, "JUST BY SHOPPING ONLINE" is written in smaller white letters on a blue background.

Elephant Trail

Would you like to own an Elephant?! If so, start bidding on one of the 150 fine beasts that took part in the Rotary Club of Horsham's Elephantastic trails. If you go to www.elephantastic.org.uk you will see images of all the Elephants from the Red and Blue Trails and any bids placed at that time. If you bid and someone subsequently outbids you, you would be notified by email, in case you wanted to place a higher bid. Below are our two Elephants. We would love to see them achieve a much higher price. The highest bid on one of the other elephants, as we went to print was £150. I'm sure further bidding wars will take place. There may be a next phase of auctioning which is yet to be publicised. The Rotary Club are also hoping to bring together all the Elephants together in one place for public viewing with a view to encouraging bids.

We would be happy to have an Elephant purchased for us, to use in further fundraising – maybe by converting it to an elephant (piggy) bank.

ELEPHANT COLLAGE IN BLACK AND WHITE



Owner

JULIETTE GODDARD

Location

ELEPHANT SQ, SWAN WALK

Charity

**WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION
SERVICE**

Artist

JULIETTE GODDARD MA(RCA)

CURRENT BID: £10

BLISS



Owner

SAXON WEALD

Location

**SAXON WEALD, 38 WORTHING
ROAD**

Charity

**WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION
SERVICE**

Artist

HAZEL IMBERT

CURRENT BID: £30