



# **WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION SERVICE**

## **EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER**

### **Mediation Conference**

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On Monday 11th October the Sussex Mediation Alliance held its first Conference in the BMEC Centre in Fleet Street, Brighton. The Alliance comprises of WSMS, Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service (BHIMS), Mediation + (Hailsham based), and Hastings & Rother Mediation Service. Keynote speakers were Katy Bourne (Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner), Peter James the well known Crime Author and Rachel Chasseaud, Head of Tenancy Services, Brighton and Hove City Council.

Workshops were held in the morning and afternoon, with one of our Mediators, Hazel, co-hosting one on 'Managing a Joint Meeting 'Spotting the signs – opening the door' -- >



< ----- Here is a picture of Katy Bourne with the four representatives of the Sussex Mediation Alliance , Nick from WSMS, Mark from BHIMS, Nicola from Hastings & Rother and Clive from Mediation +

Finally, a photo of Peter James who shared his experiences of disputes, many of which could have benefited from mediation. Some of these events he observed during ride-alongs with Sussex Police whilst researching for his books ----->





# News



**Mailbox** — If anyone needs to drop off letters or other correspondence at our offices, we now have a mailbox in the Cycle Shed which is situated down the steps to the left hand side of Park House, as you face the front of the building. Ours is the top right hand box and has a label with our name on it.

There is no main letterbox at the front door. Our postman has to use the intercom to make deliveries.



**Video** — The video created by Sussex Police, in consultation with the Sussex Mediation Alliance members, which promotes Community Mediation within its ranks, was shortlisted for the National Mediation Awards Video of the Year 2016, sponsored by The Professional Mediators Association.

At the PMA National Mediation Awards™ 2016

on 13th October the video didn't quite make the top award but was 'Highly Commended'.

You can view the public version of the video via this link: <http://ow.ly/Fm2t304sVQ0>



**Xmas Market**— We have once again signed up to attend the Rotary Club of Horsham's Charity Christmas Market which is to be held on Sunday 27th November in the Carfax in Horsham between 10am and 4pm. There will also be a variety of entertainments, hopefully including rides with Santa on Horsham's amazing Steam Bus. The Event will be marketed as part of Horsham's Christmas Cracker Weekend. Last year the event had to be cancelled due to high winds. Helpers welcome.





## More News



### > Referrals

September matched August for referral figures at 38. That means that the last 5 months have all been record months in terms of referrals. We have averaged 35 referrals a month since April 2016.



### > Funding

Mid Sussex District Council have recently given WSMS a grant for £2,000.

As a result of an investigation into a Parking Scam last October, they have been successful with a Confiscation Order under the Assets & Recovery scheme and the distribution of funds had been approved by the Home Office.

We are very grateful to the Council for considering us for this grant.

We have also received grants from Saxon Weald Housing Association and Adur District Council.

Recent Trusts & Foundation awards include £3,000 project funding from the People's Postcode Lottery and £2,575 project funding via the Sussex Community Foundation. See the article on **Page 4** detailing another successful grant bid.

### > New piece of kit

We recently purchased a portable PA system with built in amplifier and wireless microphones. It didn't arrive in time for our recent AGM but we were able to make great use of it at the Mediation Conference in Brighton (See Page 1).

The item is very portable with wheels and retractable trolley handle and can operate on its internal re-chargeable battery for up to 8 hours. It also has a built in MP 3 player. It even has a neat remote control that can adjust volume, etc. We should be able to use this at various events, including outdoor ones where there is no power source.



If you know of any good causes, who might like to **hire this equipment for a small fee**, do speak to Nick (01403 258900). He might even be willing to delivery and collect locally to Horsham.

## We've bagged it

Since 5th October 2015, large shops in England have charged five pence for all single use plastic carrier bags they provide. In 2013, the major supermarkets in England gave out over 7.4 billion plastic bags – that's 133 bags for every person! To protect the environment from litter and pollution the Government committed to bringing this number down.



The 5p charge on single use plastic carrier bags has reduced usage by as much as 80% in the big supermarkets. Small retailers don't have to charge but can do so on a voluntary basis. No charge is made if your bag only contains certain items, such as unwrapped food, raw meat and fish, prescription medicines, uncovered blades, seeds, bulbs and flowers, or live fish!!

Retailers have to keep track of how many plastic bags they've given out and where the proceeds have gone and report this to Government by 31st May every year.

Luckily, WSMS has recently been a beneficiary of this initiative. We applied to the One Stop Carriers for Causes scheme and have been granted £1,000 to purchase a fully branded, good sized, Gazebo for public events. We'll publish a photo when we take delivery.



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for Christmas**

Just by shopping online at  
**Giveasyoulive.com**



photobox

Currys

ASDA

next

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms>

## AGM Photo Gallery



New Trustee , elected on the night

Maria Henson- - - - >

< - - - - Sue Davies



Chairman, Will Adler in action

Our guest speaker, Lord Lytton in full swing. The picture shows the lovely surroundings of the Wicker Room in Park House, where the AGM was held.

Our Thanks go to Dave Powell of LPG Photographic for taking all the photos for us.

[www.lpgphotographic.co.uk](http://www.lpgphotographic.co.uk)



Watch out for some news on how to vote for WSMS in the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund, which will open out to the public on 7th November. There will be a number of grants of £300 up for grabs with a chance to influence the outcome through your votes.

We have already received two jars of Galaxy Hot Chocolate as a freebie, which we could use as a raffle prize or offer to visitors to the office.

Here is our link: to the scheme.

<http://www.galaxyhotchocolate.com/fund/profiles/west-sussex-mediation-service>