



Last Christmas

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External Edition

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2015 will be our last Christmas as a tenant in Alphacom House. You can read all about the latest updates regarding our search for alternative office space on **Page 3**.

If you are passing by, before we close for Christmas (see Page 3), or in the New Year, do feel free to drop in to say hello.

We won't be sending out Christmas cards again this year but we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We would also like to thank all our volunteers and supporters for everything they have done for us in 2015.

We will look back on all that has happened for WSMS, in 2015, in our New Year Newsletter and also keep you up to date with all our plans for 2016.

At the 3/4 stage of our Financial Year we appear to be on course to break even, by the end of March, taking into account that we are managing to underspend on our budget

We expect 2016 to be a tough year as our office overheads will increase and we will have a move to pay for. We are looking for assistance in acquiring office furniture and equipment for our new home, wherever we end up.





Xmas Message



Hi and Season's Greetings to everyone.

It's usual at this time of year to do a bit of looking back at what's happened during the year and a bit of looking forward to what we hope to do next year. So I will.....

It has been a challenging year for WSMS in terms of funding. We lost a key funder in West Sussex County Council but thanks to Nick's efforts we secured a new replacement funder and together with continued funding from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner our financial position for this financial year and hopefully 2015/15 looks secure. We can't rely on funders indefinitely and we do need to develop other sources of revenue to reduce our dependency on them.

The Trustees are therefore exploring what other services we can offer to extend our range of Community services for which we do not charge and also to extend the range of services for which we do make a charge. We look forward to working with the mediators to develop and implement our ideas in these areas.

We have also faced challenges on resources, particularly following Louise's departure in October. I am grateful to Nick and Pam for their efforts in getting through this difficult period especially as we have brought a number of new mediators on board at the same time. Welcome to you all. Thank you also to my fellow Trustees who have given generously of their time, knowledge and expertise to WSMS and to Mike for keeping the books and payroll up to date.

Next year we will be moving house. Our lease at Alphacom House is coming to an end in March and we need to find alternative accommodation, so the start of the year will be very busy.

Before then, it's the festive season, so I wish you all a happy and peaceful time and a prosperous New Year.

Will Adler
Chair





Snippets



> **Christmas closure** — Our office will be closed from 3.30pm on Tuesday 22nd December and will reopen 9.00am on Monday 4th January 2015. (Nick is on leave from 17th December until 4th January). Pam will be using up Time Off in Lieu built up recently.



> **Office Accommodation** —

Our search for new office accommodation recently took us to Park House in Horsham. Offices in the 'wing' above the old Reprographics Unit may be available for Community use at favourable rates. We were joined on the visit by Gary - Service Manager - West Sussex Advocacy (MIND), who also have staff in Alphacom House who are in need of new offices.

Park House is the former part home of Horsham District Council. The Registry Office remains there on the ground floor. It was built in 1720 by John Wicker, later Lord of Nutham, who had made his fortune as a brewer. Between the years 1771 and 1777 it was leased by diarist and cricket fan John Baker who used the grounds to grow meadow hay.

Robert Hurst, lawyer and MP for Steyning and later Horsham, bought the house in 1799 and it remained in the family until 1929. It was sold with the grounds to Horsham Urban Council who used it for offices. In the early 1980s it was fully restored after a fire. The family plot for the Hurst family is still evident at the Denne Road Graveyard.

In 1965 Ian Nairn said of Park House, 'This has a blunt take-it-or-leave-it East front, Wren style, locally done. Nine bays, central pediment, central door-case just as Wren used at Winslow, Bucks, banded rustication, not quoins, and segment-headed windows, dour concessions to the English Baroque'.

Here is a rear view of Park House with the potential offices, which overlook the Park, arrowed ----->





More News



> Arundel Event— we are sorry that a number of people were not able to join us on the night, for a variety of reasons, but those who did attend enjoyed a pleasant evening at the Arundel Museum on 10th December.

Here is a picture of one of our mediators, Stella, who was the lucky winner of the Christmas food hamper in the Raffle we held. She is sitting on Santa's seat in the Christmas Grotto. Our thanks go to Carolyn, the Museum Manager, for being a great venue host.

Next year we may consider holding the event a little earlier, before everyone's Christmas dairies become too full. However the Christmas decorations might not be up at that time.



> Family Mediator—

We are pleased to report that we have been approached by a fully trained Family Mediator, Gill, who wishes to volunteer her time for WSMS as she joins her husband in 'retirement' from her Family Mediation business. Gill trained in 2011 and is fully accredited. She is qualified to offer direct consultation with children and is a member of the Family Mediators Association. She will be a great addition to our team and we are very grateful to her for volunteering with WSMS.



Quotes



**'He who has not Christmas in his heart
will never find it under a tree'**

Roy L. Smith

'Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind.

To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy,

is to have the real spirit of Christmas.'

Calvin Coolidge

Even More News

> **Elder Mediation** We have just taken delivery of our new leaflets produced to publicise our new service which should launch in January following completion of our training. We have managed to attract funding from the WSCC Prevention & Wellbeing grant programme, Seedbed, Horsham Matters and other more localised small pots of money. Our first Training day was held on Saturday 12th December and 11 keen mediators gave up a Christmas shopping day to attend. We used the great facilities of Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre and our thanks go to Elspeth who laid on a lovely buffet lunch for everyone. Here are a couple of pictures of those who attended plus our trainer, Craig, in action.



> **Conflict Coaching** – we are interested in adopting a service that is currently being provided by our Sussex Mediation Alliance partners (Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service and Hastings & Rother Mediation Service). Their mediators have undergone specialist training in this area and BHIMS are happy to pass that knowledge on to us.

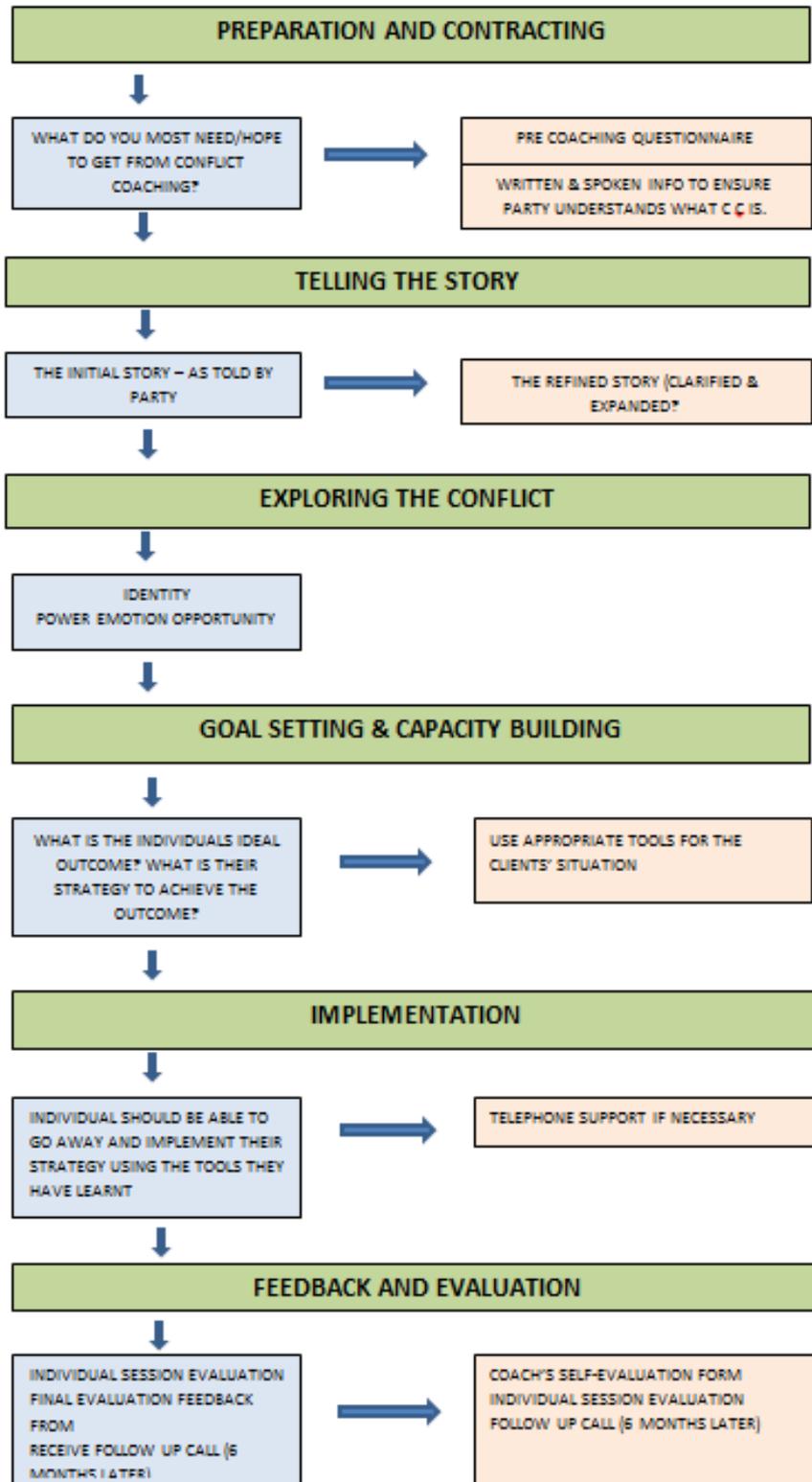
We often experience cases where only one party is willing to partake in mediation—usually those who self refer to us and together we haven't been able to persuade the second party to try mediation. This can be for a variety of reasons.

We will be consulting with our mediators in the New Year about this initiative and seek funding to cover the costs of training our mediators. Brighton have offered to provide this training for us. Thereafter we would offer this service to provide 'added value' for our grant funders and hopefully help prevent disputes from escalating where we have not been able to apply our mediation skills.

This sits well with our mission statement which reads: "To prevent and resolve disputes between neighbours, within families and communities by providing advice, guidance and mediation services to people and organisations in West Sussex." -->

Conflict Coaching Model

CONFLICT COACHING MODEL



Giveacar



Donate your old car today and make a real difference to our charity. You can choose to donate all the proceeds, or give half to charity and keep half for yourself.

1. Contact Giveacar — Fill in a form or call their office - it takes a couple of minutes to go through details. Once they have your approval, they will arrange for one of their collection agents to call you to fix a convenient pick-up time.

2. Your car is picked up — A tow truck usually arrives within 3 days to pick up your car, though in a few rare cases it may take up to 10 days. If there are problems they will try to let you know by phone, but it also helps if you can give an email address.

3. Your donation is made — Your car is sent to scrap or auction. They then donate the proceeds, after admin. costs (25% + VAT), to a charity of your choice. They send you a receipt w/i in 6 weeks for your donation, and so will the charity. If you have chosen to donate 1/2 the value of your car, your receipt letter will also contain a cheque for 1/2 the donation amount. Please note that if the car is sold at auction then the auctioneer must also retrieve their costs for transportation, marketing and administration of the sale of the vehicle (up to £90 + VAT). Our contractors charge them nothing for scrap car collection/disposal.

How much can I raise? - Every car is different, but they all will create a much needed donation. Scrap car donations are based solely on the weight of the metal (so CD players/alloy wheels don't add to the donation). If your car is roadworthy, they may be able to raise much more by selling it at auction. They deal with hundreds of cars every month and know how to get the best value.

But is it really worth it? Yes. They have already raised more than £1.8m for charity and every vehicle is worth something, not just cars – they can take ride-on lawn mowers, farm machinery, vans, motorbikes & lorries as well. It's an easy way to get rid of a problem and raise money for a good cause, and at no cost to you.

www.giveacar.co.uk or 0207 736 4242