



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Love They Neighbour?

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External Edition

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Supporters of the
West Sussex
Mediation Service.*

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More next time



The Daily Mail ran an article on 9th February highlighting the fact that one in five adults admitted that they had not said a word to their neighbours in a month – and some had never spoken to them at all.

Some research had found that 17% of those surveyed had not even said 'hello' to their neighbours in more than a week and 43% had left it longer than a month. Perhaps this could be a seasonal thing as we may be less likely to see our neighbours during adverse winter weather and during period of short daylight hours.

Over 2,000 people were polled and almost 10% of those last spoke to their neighbours more than six months ago! 3% said they had **never spoken** to the people living next door.

'Keeping ourselves to ourselves' was the main reason given for not striking up a neighbourly conversation.

The study also said that the increasing use of smart phones (owned by 2/3 of adults) was also to blame for lack of face to face communication.

Sadly, 55% of those polled admitted to experiencing loneliness.

The survey was commissioned by the Co-Op. Their spokesperson, Richard Pennycook said, "The days of taking time to get to know our neighbours appears to belong to a bygone age. A quick 'Hello, how are you', or just a smile might make a difference to someone's day."

No wonder that our service is needed.

Let's start a 'Love they Neighbour' campaign—but be careful how you interpret that!

Take a 'selfie' of yourself with a neighbour at your front door and send it to info@wsms.org.uk and we will try to start a viral campaign.

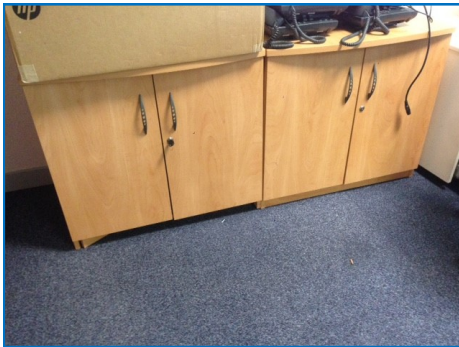


"It's so nice to meet the neighbours - where are you from?."

(Cartoon shared with kind permission of Grizelda)

Office Move

Here are pictures of a few of the items of furniture that were kindly donated to us by an Office Relocation Company who were clearing offices in Sunbury on Thames. We would also like to thank Horsham Matters (www.horsham-matters.org.uk) who agreed to collect the items on our behalf and deliver them to our proposed new offices in Park House, Horsham.



Horsham Matters have also committed to facilitating our office move from Alphacom House and a cost effective price.

We may well have an excess of furniture once we move, so do bear us in mind if you are connected with a non-profit organisation who might be in need of some items of kit.

We hope to sign the lease for the new offices in the coming days. We have to vacate Alphacom House by 31st March. We may well be moving out on that day with a view to starting business in Park House on 1st April but this is yet to be finalised. If you fancy helping out with the move, do get in touch with Nick on 01403 257800.



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Meet the Mediator

Introducing our new Family Mediator, Gill Muncey

(Gill will join our existing Mediator Robert Savage and Hazel, who is completing her Co-Mediating for accreditation).

Here is her brief bio:

'I have lived in Steyning, West Sussex for over 25 years, have two adult children and a large Goldendoodle dog called Charlie.

I trained as a Family Mediator in 2011 and have worked continuously since, both on a self-employed basis as GM Family Mediator and with Arena Mediation in Chichester.

Prior to re-training as a Mediator I was a GP Practice Manager for a decade, and prior to that worked in a variety of HR and training roles.

I am a member of Steyning Film Society and am also a Parish Councillor. I feel that Family Mediation is an excellent way for couples to sort out details of their post-separation lives in a constructive and practical way, helping them to tackle difficult issues such as child, financial and housing arrangements in a non-confrontational environment.

I am looking forward to being a part of the West Sussex Mediation Service team.'



Quotes





Elder mediation



Here are two photos taken at the two Training Days we held for our mediators at the Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre on the topic of Vulnerable Adult and Elder Mediation. Our mediators are always keen to add to their existing skills. We were able to fund the course by gaining some grant funding . We will be piloting the new service in Littlehampton and Horsham, from where we secured some of the project funding. If you would like to know more about Elder Mediation do get in touch with us.

Funding

We have about six weeks to go before the end of our current financial year (31/3/16). Our income so far this year is £76,266. Our budget target was £88,600 so we still have a little way to go. Thankfully we have underspent this year on such things as

staff costs (following the departure of Louise) and office supplies (thanks to some kind donations of stationery, via our mediator Tom and others).

We already know that 2016/17 is going to be a very tough year for WSMS. Our rental and other costs are going to jump as a result of our office move, plus other considerations.

We pass our love to all past and present funders and donators for their support. It is much appreciated.

We are still endeavouring to increase self generated income to help sustain the charity into the future.

