



# West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

## Small Charity Week

Issue No: 94

Small Charity  
Week 2016



### External Edition

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

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Small Charity Week runs this week—13th to 18th June 2016  
(<http://smallcharityweek.com/>)

The schedule for the week is shown below. It is organised by The FSI (Foundation for Social Improvement) and sponsored by Ansvar and Blackbaud. Please give us a mention on Social Media using #SmallCharityWeek.

One in two people who don't give to local charities say the main reason is that they are unaware of them, research suggests. Small local charities admit that having a greater profile in their communities would be the single biggest help to them, other than increased funding.

The evidence that boosting awareness of local charities could be key to them flourishing emerges in surveys commissioned by the TSB bank to coincide with Small Charity Week.

<http://www.tsb.co.uk/tsb-local-charities-matter.pdf>

<p><b>1 I ♥ SMALL CHARITIES DAY</b></p> <p>Small Charity Week kicks off with a day devoted to raising the profile of small charities everywhere – click to find out how to participate in our national competition which offers cash prizes!</p> <p><b>13TH JUNE</b></p>	<p><b>2 BIG ADVICE DAY</b></p> <p>A day of free 1:1 support across the country; check out the events available .</p> <p><b>14TH JUNE</b></p>	<p><b>3 POLICY DAY</b></p> <p>Policy Day is a chance for small charities to engage with policy makers and influencers via a reception in London and local events across the UK.</p> <p><b>15TH JUNE</b></p>
<p><b>4 FUNDRAISING DAY</b></p> <p>A range of fundraising opportunities to take advantage of. Choose the ones that suit you best from those available and raise some money for your cause.</p> <p><b>16TH JUNE</b></p>	<p><b>5 VOLUNTEERING DAY</b></p> <p>A day to bring small charities and volunteers together: – Advertise or find volunteer roles – 4 FREE events to support you</p> <p><b>17TH JUNE</b></p>	<p><b>6 CELEBRATION DAY</b></p> <p>Small Charity Week closes with a day to celebrate small charities everywhere.</p> <p><b>18TH JUNE</b></p>

## Please publicise & support this event



### *National Cream Tea Day* *Friday 24th June 2016*

What we're doing:

**Cream Tea Fundraising Event**

Where to find us:

**The Wicker Room, Park House, North Street,  
Horsham, RH12 1RN**

In aid of

**West Sussex Mediation Service**

**Tel: 01403 800182      Email: [info@wsms.org.uk](mailto:info@wsms.org.uk)**

*the ultimate treat.. with a conscience!*

Join us for delicious scones topped with juicy jam and Cornish clotted cream, while raising money for those in need. What could be better?

Supported by

**Rodda's**  
ESTABLISHED 1888

THE  
*cream tea*  
SOCIETY

*Tiptree*

**Cello Player - Raffle    1.00pm to 4.00pm      (Book in Advance)**

## News

➤ Watch out for the following TV programme which encompasses family mediation -

On **Tuesday 21st June between 9.00pm and 10.00pm**, BBC2 will feature the first of three programmes entitled 'Mr v Mrs— Call the Mediator'. Filmed over the course of a year, the series goes behind closed doors into the world of family mediation, using mediators from National Family Mediation (NFM).

In this first episode, Sue and Peter are divorcing but can't agree on how their money should be split, after Sue left the family home for another relationship. In

another case, Martin wants see the two sons he has with ex-partner Nicky, but she doesn't want to see him and negotiations are proving difficult.

We also meet Jason and Vicky, separated parents, who are struggling to share the parenting of their daughter. They haven't spoken a word to each other for the last six months and after a complete breakdown in communication, their only point of contact is Vicky's new husband. As skilled mediator Irene offers shuttle mediation between two separate rooms, will the two parties manage to reach an agreement?

### Mr v Mrs: Call The Mediator



➤ Talking of **Family Mediation**, the last two months have proved very busy. In April and May 2016 we took 21 enquiries from divorcing/separating couples wishing to resolve issues over children and/or finances. This compares with only two cases in the same period last year. Unfortunately we are losing the services of Gill Muncey, who had been volunteering as a qualified Family Mediator for us for a period. Gill has various commitments elsewhere, so something had to give. Gill will be completing all her open cases before stepping down. We are most grateful to her for all her efforts. She has helped us review our processes and methodology during the time she has been working with us and has kindly sent clients in our direction from her personal practise. We are always on the look-out for qualified Family Mediators able to do some pro bono work for us. As we have a steady flow of enquiries via our website, we can offer regular work to allow mediators to 'keep their hand in' or just give something back to a charity. We cover all reasonable expenses and CPD requirements. Our charges to clients are very reasonable and try to help those in need, who fall outside free Legal Aid, as best we can. If you know of any such mediators they can call Nick to discuss further on 01403 258900.

## Referrals

Last month proved to be our busiest May on record with **28** referrals. Our previous May record was in 2011 with 27 referrals. We could also be looking at a record June as we had taken 18 referrals by 13th of the month. Topics that came up in May included Noise, Antisocial Behaviour, Children, Boundary/Fence, Parking, Intergenerational, Family and one involving an organisation and residents.

The allocation board, for our mediators assigned to cases, is looking busy.

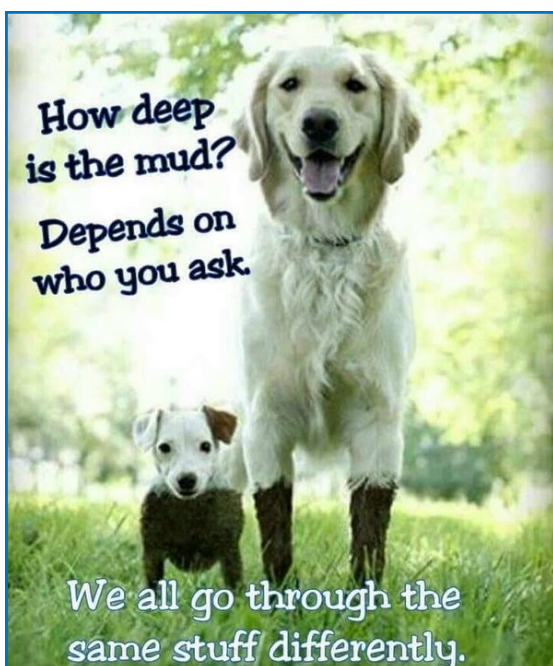
The summer months normally see an increase in our workload. Our first two months of the new financial year have seen a significant increase in family mediation referrals compared with the same period last year (**21** compared with **2** in 15/16).



## Funding

Our Treasurer has completed the 1st draft of our accounts for 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. Once these have been scrutinised by the Trustees they will be put before the next Trustee meeting for formal approval. This meeting is to take place at Park House, Horsham on Monday 25th July at 10am and observers are welcome to attend. These will then be built into the 2015/16 Annual Report which will follow.

In the current financial year we have been successful with grant bids to the Gatwick Airport Community Trust and the Boltini Trust for project work.



Our thanks go to Horsham District Council, Arun District Council, Hastoe Housing Association, Bognor Regis & Haywards Heath Town Councils, plus Broadbridge Heath, Felpham and East Preston Parish Councils for their generous grants.

We have so far achieved £3,586 through fee paying mediation and £307 from Gift Aid and donations.

We still await notification, together with our Sussex Mediation Alliance partners, of any grant funding for this year from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.

## Near Desk

We have just joined Near Desk - 'The flexible working passport that lets people work near home'.



It is an online resource to publicise available meeting rooms and workspaces around the country. We want to see our Meeting Room put to greater use and to earn the charity some income. Luckily we are currently the only meeting room posted for the Horsham area.

Because we have the lead in room to our main office, with a desk and chairs plus good broadband connectivity, we may add the option of 'Hot Desking' to our listing. This is becoming popular with remote/lone workers.

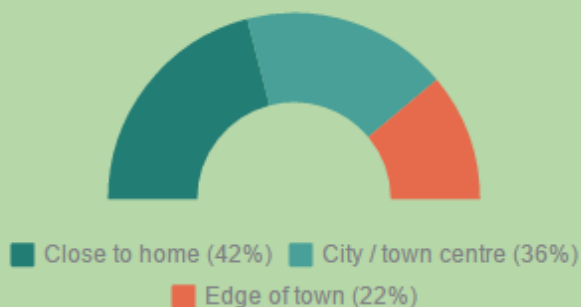
With NearDesk **Commuters** can commute less, **Freelancers** can get out of the house, **Mobile workers** can stay productive and **Businesses** can offer flexible working to keep their best workers and save costs.

The service is free to us as a venue. NearDesk make their living through the booking system and their card memberships.

Our profile, which is now live, but awaiting a few tweaks, is via this link:  
<https://www.neardesk.com/locations/details/1493>

We asked over 7,000 NearDesk members what was important to them when selecting where to work. And this is what they told us

People Like Working Close to Home



Flexible workers say that finding a location close to home is really important. Even more so than being in the town or city centre. The reduced commute and proximity to home are key to a good work / life balance