



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Staff Vacancy

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External Edition

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Funders and
Supporters of the
West Sussex
Mediation Service.*

Our long standing Caseworker, Pam Chatterton, has notified her desire to wind down towards her retirement. Ever considerate of the needs of the charity, Pam has agreed to allow us plenty of time to recruit a suitable replacement. Pam is currently contracted to work 25 hours a week, over four consecutive days. Our other Community Caseworker, Christine Willmington, has offered to do one extra day a week which will bring her up to 3 days.

Pam will therefore work Tues, Wed and Thurs until we have recruited her replacement.

The position is offered 'in-house' but will also be advertised externally as well.

The exact terms and conditions are yet to be set out but if anyone wishes to make an expression of interest now, we would be happy to hear from them. We need to look at budgets and overall office coverage.

**Vacancy for
Caseworker**

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Old £1 Coins

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We have said good-bye to the old style one pound coins that ceased to be legal tender at midnight on 15th October. The Royal Mint is striking 1.5 billion new 12-sided £1 coins, which were introduced to help crack down on counterfeiting.

We would be very happy to take possession of old coins you may have lying around in jars, coin trays, old purses or down the side of settees.

They can be surrendered at banks but we are happy to save you any hassle!

Feel free to email nick@wsms.org.uk with details of your offerings.



News

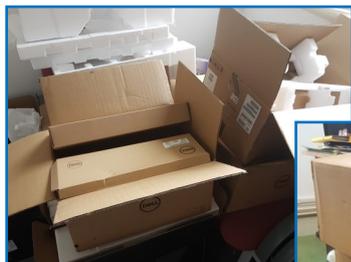
Drop Outs — Following our office move to Park House, we shifted away from standard phone lines to a VOIP phone system (Voice Over Internet Protocol). We are therefore reliant on having a seamless broadband connection.

Unfortunately, of late, we have suffered repeated (short period) drop outs of our broadband connection. These last only a couple of minutes and don't follow any pattern. We have brought this to the attention of our provider, but no solution has been found as yet. Previously some work was done at the BT Exchange, which happens to be only a short distance across the road from Park House, but the problem persists.

Fortunately, if our phones go dead an answering service will kick in but we are left without the internet and access to our cloud based Case Management system. We are determined to get to the bottom of it and get back to full service.

We hope that this issue is not causing any inconvenience to our clients, referral agencies and volunteers. Our phone provider has been running lots of line tests in an effort to trace any faults, without any success (as yet). We may resort to changing our router to see if that will fix the problem. Apparently it is not unusual for such events to occasionally take place.

New IT— Our new computers and monitors were installed successfully on 29th September. All went smoothly, apart from a fire alarm activation which caused an evacuation and a twenty minute interruption to proceedings! Someone blamed the toaster in the upstairs offices! We are now benefitting from much more joined up working with shared calendars and many other benefits afforded by Office 365.



Sweet Boxes

We have been offered an opportunity to raise funds via branded sweet boxes - (see image).

This scheme is being run by charitablebookings.com at a very low start up cost (postage costs only for initial supply of the logo'd boxes and first stock).

Before we sign up to this we need to gauge what support we might get in terms of locations where we could place the boxes. They would have to be in places where there is some 'supervision' to avoid theft.

It would be a good way to promote awareness of our charity and earn a few pounds.

Please could you get in touch with Nick if you think you could help or have some suggested outlets to try. We would be supplied with 25 boxes. The sweet packs will retail at only 50p e.g. 3 lollipops or Love Hearts. Thanks in advance.



Mediation Awareness Week

This week (14th–20th October) is Mediation Awareness Week which is organised by the Mediation Awareness Group and supported by all the leading UK professional mediation bodies. The aim of the week is to:

- > Explain how mediation is used to resolve disputes and conflict of all kinds.
- > Demonstrate how mediation provides a quicker, cheaper and more effective alternative to litigation.
- > Show how use of mediation benefits businesses, communities and individuals.

MEDIATION
AWARENESS WEEK

We are trying to do our part in promoting awareness. We have managed to get some media take up with an article in at least one county newspaper (West Sussex County Times). We will also be trying to get some air time on local radio.



Tick off your Christmas list simply by shopping online via @GiveasyouLive + raising FREE funds for us:

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

AGM

Our AGM went ahead on 28th September in the Wicker Room at Park House, as scheduled. There were 23 attendees including trustees, staff, volunteers. Three new trustees were elected - Paul Minter (new Secretary), Monica Hill and Steve Poulton (our new treasurer).

We said good-bye to Allan Gee (outgoing Treasurer) and John Green (outgoing Secretary) and are very grateful for all their efforts in support of the charity. We will provide further introductions to the new trustees in a future newsletter but meanwhile here are their photos.



Monica



Paul



Steve

Our thanks go to those who provided the refreshments on the night and Dave Powell of LPG photographic (lpgphotographic.co.uk) for capturing some image of the event. A Special Recognition Award was made to our volunteer mediator, Hazel, for all her efforts, over and above her mediating, in support of WSMS.

< - - Here she is receiving the award from our Chair, Will Adler.



Don't Send Me A Card

You can use this website - (<https://www.dontsendmeacard.com>) to send e-cards for special occasions, and donate the cost equivalent of sending printed greeting cards to WSMS, who are one of the listed charities.

Choose an occasion that you want to acknowledge and celebrate, such as a birthday of a friend, or Christmas with loved ones, then:

1. Select WMSMS
2. Compose your e-card and message.
3. Donate how much you would have spent on greeting cards and stamps.
4. Send your e-card and message by email on your dedicated send e-card page.

Who can use it?

Everyone! No matter where you are in the world, you can send our e-cards to loved ones and send donations to charity.

How do I give?

Donations are made by credit card or with your PayPal account. All payments are processed through PayPal, but you have the option to pay by credit card if you do not have a PayPal account.

Do I need to sign up for an account? No.

How much can I give?

There is a minimum donation of £1 and a maximum of £300.

For a single occasion, such as a birthday, you can send just one e-card and pay the equivalent of what you would have spent on a card and postage, e.g., £3.

For common occasions where you would send multiple cards, such as Christmas, you can send an e-card to everyone and donate the total cost of all of those cards and stamps. You can also add an additional cash gift.

Can I include a personal message?

Yes.

See some other FAQs on the website.

