



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Away Day

Issue No: 126

January

2019

We are in the throes of organising an 'Away Day' for staff, trustees, volunteers and other invitees. We have chosen the date of **Saturday 23rd March** (9.45am to 3.30pm).

A similar event was held in October 2013, which was well attended and recognised as being a very worthwhile exercise (images below). The Trustees are refreshing their 3 - 5 year Business Plan and felt it would be a good idea to engage with everyone involved in the organisation in order to develop a shared vision for the future direction of WSMS and determining the means to do that, financially. If you think you could contribute to proceedings, let the office know. That applies to all our stakeholders. We will provide a lunch. Micklepage is in Maplehurst, near Horsham and is a beautiful historical farmhouse and barn set in its own grounds. It is run by a Charitable Trust. Check out its history here:

<https://www.micklepage.org.uk/history>



External Edition

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Aliza's experience as a volunteer

I worked as a Marketing Volunteer from July - December 2018. When looking for volunteer opportunities, I knew I wanted to support a small organisation, in order to help raise their profile. I also wanted to find a volunteer role that was easy to commute to and where I would be able to learn various marketing skills, without having previous experience, and WSMS provided an excellent opportunity. I especially appreciated the flexible working hours and learning on the job that was provided by WSMS. Before I started working here as a volunteer, I had little to no confidence, however, after working on various tasks and communicating with others, I feel my confidence has improved immensely.

My main tasks at WSMS included researching, sending out press releases, working on letter campaigns and targeting districts, in order to introduce services provided by the charity. This entailed both email marketing and marketing via post. As much as I enjoyed working on these tasks, I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the more creative tasks, such as the video profile I created for WSMS, in order to advertise their services. This involved communicating with mediators and scheduling times to record parts of the video. Having no video editing skills, I found this challenging to start with, however by researching, I was able to learn how to use the software to edit the video and gain a new skill.

I am mostly glad that my volunteer role varied from not only working on Marketing tasks, but on administrative and editorial related tasks as well. This included proof-reading the monthly newsletter to check for consistency of writing and grammatical errors. The admin tasks included input and updating data on different mediation cases and comparing statistics from previous years. I am glad that my role also involved working on these tasks, because I am keen to enter the publishing sector, particularly in editorial, hence, proof-reading the newsletters and letters in general, allowed me to practice this skill and gave me an insight into the type of work I would like to go into.

I very much enjoyed my experience at WSMS, mainly because everyone was extremely friendly and welcoming each week. I am especially thankful to the charity co-ordinator, Nick Handley, for being helpful and providing excellent guidance throughout!

Aliza Sadique

Year ahead

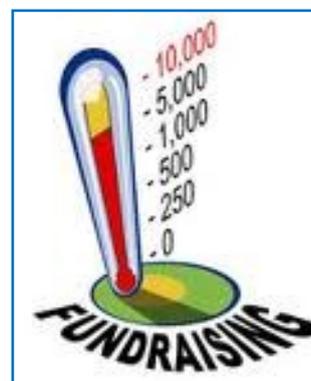
It is frightening that we are already half way through January and Christmas has definitely faded into the background, unlike all the extra pounds many of us have put on.

We always like to have a positive attitude at WSMS but 2019 could be a pivotal year for the charity. We are into the final quarter of our current financial year (ending 31st March 2019) and income generation has proved to be a struggle in the third quarter. Luckily we have kept a very tight control on spending which has helped in offsetting any impending deficit.

We are hoping for a number of our traditional funders, who have not yet dipped into their pockets for 2018/19, to come good with their grants. That also applies to a number Charitable Trusts and Foundations who we have submitted bid to over recent months.

Two important funding streams for us in the coming year will be
1) **Paid services** – family, workplace and civil/commercial mediations. If you are able to spread the word on these services, in any small way, we would be most grateful.

2) **Fundraising** – by organising events, throughout the calendar year (hence the article below).



Wanted!

Do you know anyone who would like to volunteer with our charity as a community fundraiser?

As highlighted in the article above, WSMS is anticipating trying times ahead, in terms of income generation. We need to raise every penny we can and by any means. Fundraising at public events and by organising stand alone activities can raise a good amount of money, if a bit of effort is made. It also raises our profile and people's awareness of our services.

Please put the word out, across your networks.

We have had the role advertised for some time on places like **Do-It.org** but any initial enquiries haven't resulted in individuals taking things forward.



Quiz

Taken from a recent SurveyMonkey email – you may have seen this.

1. What was the most followed news story of 2018?

- A) Thailand cave rescue of 12 young soccer players
- B) Peace talks between North and South Korea
- C) Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle
- D) The World Cup



2. What was the most exciting new technology of 2018?

- A) Cryptocurrency
- B) 3D metal printing
- C) Self-driving cars
- D) Virtual reality



3. What was the most widely-tried food trend of 2018?

- A) Plant-based protein meals
- B) Avocado toast
- C) Rolled ice cream
- D) Poké



4. What was the best superhero movie of 2018?

- A) Ant-Man and the Wasp
- B) Black Panther
- C) Incredibles 2
- D) Avengers: Infinity War

5. Which mobile app were people most likely to say they couldn't live without in 2018?

- A) You Tube
- B) Facebook
- C) Google Maps
- D) Amazon



Answers at bottom of Page 5. (They may have a US slant)

High hopes

mediation
working for agreement

Our 2019 fundraising target is...

£ 5,000

You can help us hit our fundraising target by shopping online via:

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/wsms

Simply visit the above link and raise FREE funds for us every time you shop online via Give as you Live!

Raise FREE funds through Give as you Live at over 4,200 top online stores

Give as you Live®

Shop at over 4,200+ stores

amazon next PANDORA Expedia ticketmaster ebay
 NEW LOOK Booking.com photoblox Currys PCWorld lastminute.com BookPeople
 Groupon Argos red letter OSOS Domino's Debenhams M&S Etsy

Quiz Answers: 1. A) 2. C), 3. B), 4. D), 5. A).