



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

AGM

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External Edition

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Inside this issue:

AGM	1
News	2
More News	3
Christmas	4
Lottery Advert	5

**Happy
Halloween**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 26th September at Park House and was attended by 21 guests, including the Chair of West Sussex County Council - Cllr Janet Duncton, the Chair of Horsham District Council – Cllr Kate Rowbottom and the Sussex Police Prevention and Partnership Officer for West Sussex— Mark Eyre.



Minutes of the meeting have been completed and are available on request.

As previously notified, our 2018/19 Annual Report can now be downloaded from our website or hard copies are available, if required.

Bob was presented with his Certificate of Service for 10 years of volunteering as a Mediator with WSMS by our Chair, Will Adler ----- >



Three new trustees were elected during proceedings. They are:

1. **David Sheldon** - Horsham resident and a former District & County Councillor. He worked in telecoms for 20 years and then project managed for Citizen’s Advice before spending time as the Chief Executive of the local charity, ‘Horsham Matters’.
2. **Samantha Bertie** — resident in Mannings Heath nr Horsham is experienced in marketing & communication and now runs her own business called Enough2Do. Samantha had shown interest in our charity for some time and we finally managed to bring things together.
3. **Nicola Wiltshire** — resident of Shipley nr Horsham where she is the Chair of Shipley Parish Council. She is also a Trustee at St Catherine’s Hospice. She used to work at Coutts Bank at Director level and is now a Business Coach.

Full profiles and photos will follow.

News

A to Z of WSMS – instead of his usual PowerPoint presentation to explain our Annual Report for 18/19, at our recent AGM, Nick our Service Co-ordinator used one entitled 'An A to Z of WSMS'. This covered all letters of the alphabet and concentrated on highlighting what a diverse and interesting bunch of people we have working and volunteering with us. This went down well with the audience.

The A to Z of WSMS



Nick has since publicised the presentation on our website, but would like to update it to include more bios from our mediators. Cllr Pauline Gregory (Cabinet Member for Residential Services at Arun District Council) was one person who read the publication. She said, "What a wonderful way to present your service and the people who work with you. With your permission I'd like to circulate to other councillors at Arun."

Here is the link to view the document:

<http://www.wsms.org.uk/mediation-news/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AGM-A-Z-2019-Master-1.pdf>

Half Year Performance – scarily, we are already passed the half way stage of our current financial year (1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020).

We have received 163 referrals, during that period, against a figure of 159 in the equivalent period last year. 76 of those were for community and 71 for family mediation. We had 10 intergenerational referrals and the rest were made up of workplace/civil cases. Unfortunately, our income did not keep up with expenditure, so we have a lot of work to do in the second half in order to reach budget. We see an increase in our rent from this month, which adds to our overheads.

One positive is that our paid mediation work exceeded target, achieving £11,790 against a budget of £10,000. Earned income is vital to the survival of the service. We continue to be very grateful to all our volunteers who help bring in the pennies for the charity.

Take a look at **Page 4** for our fundraising efforts in the lead up to the busy Christmas period. 'Every little helps', as they say.



More news

Putting things right— Nick, the Co-ordinator, has made a very early New Year's Resolution! He is determined to do better for our mediators in terms of training, support and supervision. A schedule of dates will follow shortly for 2020. If any mediators would like to help organise sessions or be willing to take on the role of Mediator Supervisor/Mentor, on a voluntary basis, a few hours a month, do let Nick know. Our one to one supervision sessions will be resurrected. Do pass on your suggestions for training topics. Nick is open to any feedback that will help improve the lot of our volunteers. He has already consulted with several of our mediators.

Certificates of Service — Nick recently uncovered a good number of signed Certificates of Service for volunteers completing 5 years service as mediators, which had been ratified by the Trustees in preparation for our **2018 AGM**. These will now be posted out to be reunited with their rightful owners. They would have been personally awarded by the Chair, to those who were able to attend that AGM in person. Our Chair, Will Adler, extends his congratulations and thanks to all those involved for their commitment and dedication to WSMS.



Christmas Gathering — we are organising a very informal Pre Xmas gathering on **Thursday 5th December**, from 5pm to 7pm, in the Wicker Room at Park House, Horsham. All our friends are welcome. You can come earlier to chat to us in the office. We will be laying on some food and drink (not all alcoholic). We do hope that you can join us. We appreciate it can be a bit of a trek for some of our supporters who live in the extremities of the county but would love to see you there. **Please RSVP.**



Queen's Award for Voluntary Service — we are now very close to our formal award ceremony at Arundel Castle on the morning of Tuesday **5th November**. We have 50 guests attending. The weather forecast is currently suggesting rain, so it might be a good idea for those attending to bring along a brolly. We are very much looking forward to it.

CHRISTMAS

Our Co-ordinator, Nick, is forever on the look out for bargains. He recently attended an auction where he was able to pick up several boxes of good quality Christmas Cards for the charity, at a knock down price. Many of these are for relatives from mum, dad, mum & dad, grandparents, son, daughter, sister, brother, niece, nephew, to godparent, godchild, step parent, daughter/son and girlfriend/partner – almost every possible variation and all by big names such as Hallmark and Ling Design.



All he needs to do now is shift them, so they are all available at bargain basement prices 50p each or 3 for £1!

You are all welcome to pop in to our offices to browse our cards and other Xmas goods and hopefully make a purchase.



We are thinking of creating our own Pop Up Christmas Shop.

We have Christmas Tree decorations, soft toys, children's books, santa sacks, etc.

If not able to attend Park House, you will find us selling our wares at the following events:

The **Southwater Christmas Fair** in Lintott Square, Southwater on Saturday 30th November from 12 to 4pm

The **Petworth Annual Christmas Event** on Saturday 7th December from 11am to 7.30pm in the High Street. (Great event).

Winter Wonderland at Mannings Heath Golf Club on Friday 13th December between 5pm to 9pm

Helpers are very welcome!



Lottery

You can now buy lottery tickets in support of our charity in the Horsham District Community Lottery. WSMS has had our first winner through the scheme - one of our trustees, Monica. We hope that many others will sign up for future draws and fingers crossed they will be lucky also. Remember, you don't have to live locally to enter the lottery. You could win £25,000! Check out our link for more details:

www.horshamdistrictcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/west-sussex-mediation-service





**Play today
and support our cause!**

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket and a further 10p goes to other good causes
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:
www.HorshamDistrictCommunityLottery.co.uk
 and search for: **Mediation Service**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

