



# WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION SERVICE

## EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

### Christmas Message

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#### ***External Edition***

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Hi and Season's Greetings to everyone.

2019 was quite some year with the service having being bestowed the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The award itself was presented to us at a ceremony in Arundel Castle on 5<sup>th</sup> November by the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper. In presenting the award, Mrs Pyper emphasised that this is an award that is not handed out lightly and all contenders go through a rigorous assessment process to earn what is described by the Lieutenancy itself as the MBE for volunteer groups.

So, what a fantastic achievement by our Charity, and a great recognition of the work carried out by our volunteer mediators and support staff.

In regards to more routine matters, 2019 was another year of consolidation and refinement of our office processes and practices. Referrals in 2019 have been largely in line with what we saw in 2018 and 2017 and there is welcome stability there. Funding is always a concern, but a combination of tight expense control and income from paid services has kept the books pretty much in balance over the year.

The office staffing situation settled down after the changes last year with Tina Skilton joining Karen and Diane in the office in a settled and efficient team working, of course, with Nick.

My thanks go to all the office team, to the mediators and volunteer staff and to my fellow trustees for making West Sussex Mediation Service the valued and recognised service that it is today.

Now the festive season is just about upon us, so I wish you all a happy and peaceful time and a prosperous New Year.

Will Adler  
Chair





# News



**Asda** – we recently received a ‘magical green jar’ in the post, which lights up with sparkly lights. It came with a card saying: “Congratulations! You’ve been shortlisted for the Green Token Giving Scheme at your local Asda (Crawley). As part of the Asda Foundation 30th birthday celebrations, for this Christmas you could win £1,000, as the prize has been doubled.

Please find enclosed a replica of the magical green jar from our Christmas TV Advert. Please feel free to use it as a prop when spreading the word and encouraging your supporters to vote for you!” Do save your token for us if you shop in Crawley Asda.



**Park House** – we currently have painters & decorators in refreshing all the communal areas. There will also be some upgrading to the toilet facilities and even a shower being installed. Work will continue for several weeks, with much of it being carried out after 5pm to minimise disruption. It’s still business as usual for all the tenants, although there have been no weddings booked in for the period.

**Fundraising** – Luckily the weather stayed fine, (but a bit chilly) for the Southwater Christmas Event on Saturday 30th November. We had a stall and achieved £120 in sales. We subsequently received a phone call from a member of the public, who had taken a photo of our banner, as he was in need of our services. It’s good to see that such events help raise our profile as well as adding a few pounds to our bank balance. Our thanks go to Tina, our Caseworker, who volunteered her time to assist Nick, throughout the day.



**QAVS** - as well as making available copies of the Queen’s Award certificate, signed by the Queen, we ordered some badges to distribute to all our valued volunteers (funded by the Friends of WSMS). Here is what they look like ----->

We also have a second version that replaces ‘valued volunteer’ with our web address.





## More News



**Jingle & Mingle** – we appreciate that Horsham isn't on everyone's doorstep, but we were very pleased to see a number of our fold (19 in total) at our pre-Christmas event on 5th December. We had to change the venue due to the decoration work in Park House. Instead it was held in the first floor rooms above the Conservatory Café, know as the Stables block. The building, which is owned by Horsham District Council, has Grade II listing and is currently unoccupied as office space. We held a raffle thanks to some generous donations, which raised £80.00. Nick got so distracted that he forgot to take any photos right until the end.



**Petworth Christmas Event** – we held a stall at this event on 7th December. It proved to be our most successful one to date. Nick arrived to set up, bright and early, to find a vehicle parked where our pitch was meant to be. It remained there for the rest of the day, despite parking restrictions being in place. However, we fell on our feet, as the organisers found us an alternative location, which proved to be far superior as it placed us on a direct route between the main public car park and the town square. As a result, after a long day, we achieved over £300 in taking.



Our thanks go to our Trustee, Monica Hill who assisted Nick on the stall for much of the day. There were quite a few enquiries from members of the public, during the day, which have been

followed up via emails. It was good to give our fully liveried and sponsored gazebo another outing. The weather was very kind to us throughout the day. If you like Christmas events we would highly recommend to the one at Petworth, for future reference.

The town has some lovely shops and there was a wide variety of stall and traders present, choirs, live music and much more. Something for your 2020 diaries!





## Yet More News



**New Community Leaflet** — we have now taken delivery of our new Community Mediation leaflets, as mentioned in our October newsletter. They now match well with the rest of our portfolio. The box arrived a bit battered, with damage to some of the leaflets, so our trusty supplier has offered us 20% off our next order. It was probably down to the courier (no names) who are likely to be throwing around 1,000's of parcels at this time of the year!



**All About Horsham** — again, something that was mentioned in our previous newsletter has come to fruition. We were pleased to see that we have been included in the December edition of this free glossy, colour, which is widely circulated around Horsham District.

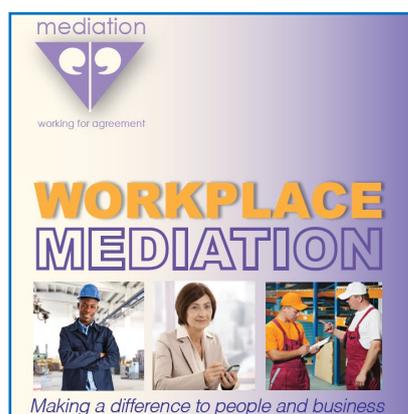
An online version is viewable here:

<https://www.aahorsham.co.uk/content/septaah>

We are not the cover story but have a good spread across the last three pages of the magazine. So as not to contravene copyright on the images, we won't publish them until we have paid for the privilege.



**Workplace Mediation Conversion Course** — we are currently arranging a four day training course for some of our existing volunteers. A number of our mediators have offered to undergo the training to bolster the number of Workplace mediators that we can call upon. Dates will be fixed very shortly, but we are currently looking at March dates. If you know of anyone who would like to take advantage of the training but do not wish to commit to volunteering with us, we can offer paid for places.



**Seasons Greetings**

## Office Closure



The graphic features a red background with white snowflakes and holly leaves with red berries. In the center is the 'mediation' logo, which consists of the word 'mediation' in blue lowercase letters above a blue triangle containing two white speech bubbles. Below the triangle is the tagline 'working for agreement' in blue lowercase letters. The main text 'CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS' is in large, bold, red uppercase letters. A white rounded rectangle contains the following text in red uppercase letters: 'LAST WORKING DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS = Mon 23rd Dec (9am - 5pm)', '1st DAY BACK TO WORK AFTER THE HOLIDAYS = Thurs 2nd Jan 2020 (9am to 5pm)'. The entire graphic is framed by a blue border.

mediation  
working for agreement

# CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

**LAST WORKING DAY  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS =  
Mon 23rd Dec (9am - 5pm)**

**1st DAY BACK TO WORK  
AFTER THE HOLIDAYS =  
Thurs 2nd Jan 2020  
(9am to 5pm)**

Remember **Giveasyoulive** for the remainder of your online Christmas Shopping  
(and all the sales thereafter!)

Sign up here to support us (at no cots to you):

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