



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Face Masks

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Hello June

Internal Edition

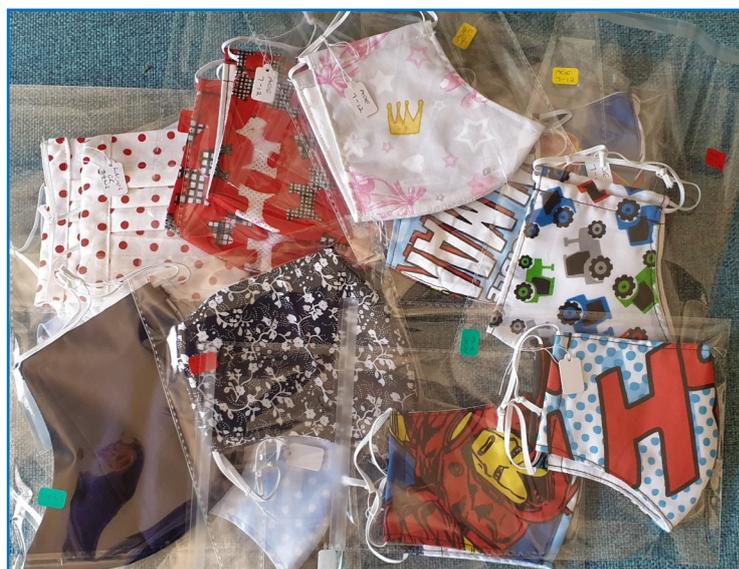
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All around the country there are local volunteer support groups helping the vulnerable and elderly during the pandemic lockdown. They help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and much more.

There is a very active one around Barns Green and Itchingfield, where our Service Co-ordinator lives. Their latest initiative is to produce face masks from donated and purchased materials. They are being sold on 'mask trees' around the villages. A new sales venue is the **Westons Farm Shop** (RH13 0BD), from 29th June, which is proving very popular during lockdown for food supplies. Masks will be available at the tills. The suggested donation is £3 per mask. They come in all sizes with designs for children and adults (male or female)). Proceeds from the sales, after overheads are taken out, are being distributed amongst local good causes. WSMS has been fortunate enough to receive a £70 donation, very recently. In the first week of sales several hundred pounds was achieved, thanks to some generous donations by happy customers. If you are not local but are interested in acquiring some masks you could always contact Nick (nick@wsms.org.uk) who may be able to post them out. Our congratulations and thanks go to all those who have been busy sewing and distributing the masks.

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News

Burglary — Park House was burgled over the week-end of 13th-14th June. One of the tenants on the ground floor were broken into and petty cash, etc stolen. Fortunately the offices of WSMS were unaffected but we had to wait with baited breath for 24 hours whilst the building was cordoned off for Scene Investigators to do their work. We have yet to be informed of how entry was made into the building. The recent refurbishment work may have been a factor. Hopefully the landlord will be reviewing the security of the building. We will be taking a look at our own vulnerabilities and taking any necessary actions.

Funding — we have again been blessed by the support of staff/partners at Waitrose. Their store in Burgess Hill has chosen us for inclusion in their Green Token Scheme for July. Whilst no tokens are changing hands during the pandemic, three good causes are still being chosen each month to equally shared £1,000. £333 could well have been more than we would have achieved in competition with other causes, if the normal voting by tokens had taken place. We will receive a cheque 4-6 weeks following month end. It is always worthwhile nominating WSMS at your local supermarkets for any token schemes on offer.



Your votes counted — former mediator and current fundraiser for WSMS - Michele Ransom, recently flagged up a funding opportunity with Nick, our Service Co-ordinator. The Insurance Company, Ecclesiastical were running a scheme called 'Movement for Good'. The Company are proud to be one of the largest corporate donors to charity in the UK, contributing to thousands of good causes in this country and abroad. They set aside £1 million to distribute to charities in two phases. We applied during Phase 1 for a chance to be one of the 500 good causes to receive £1,000. The more votes we were able to get, the more chance we had of success. We notified all our volunteers of the link to vote on and used all our social media channels to seek support. It worked! On 15th June £1,000 arrived in our bank account. Our thanks go to each and every one of those who took the trouble to follow the link that we provided and nominated us. The unrestricted funding is a big boost in the current circumstances and we intend to spend every penny wisely.



More Snippets

Training – we recently commissioned some online training for our volunteers on the use of online platforms for video conferencing.. One of the presenters was actress, television personality and novelist, Sherrie Hewson She is known for her roles on the ITV soap operas Coronation Street, Crossroads and Emmerdale. She was a panellist on lunchtime chat show Loose Women for a number of years and played Joyce Temple-Savage in the ITV sitcom Benidorm. The session, on Zoom, was recorded and is available for others to watch, if they were unable partake on the day. More training is in the pipeline. Grant funding was secured to support this.



Referrals – we continue to be busy, helping to resolve neighbour disputes, during the lockdown. Since 1st April we have recorded 24 referrals from the Police, mainly revolving around antisocial behaviour. Just before lockdown our Service Co-ordinator had carried out a number of briefings with the Prevention Teams in Horsham and Worthing. This has resulted in a huge uptake, particularly in Adur/Worthing. We are hoping that our mediators are willing and able to help us keep up with demand.



Trustees – our trustees are holding regular meetings (monthly) during the current pandemic rather than the normal quarterly meeting cycle. The July meeting, which takes place on 9th, should see the signing off of our 2019-20 accounts. If anyone has anything that they would like put to the trustees, do let Nick know.

On the subject of Trustees, we may soon be in a position to disclose the identity of someone who has stepped forward and shown interest in the position of Treasurer. It is someone who works in the City but lives in Horsham and is currently home working. That person will sit in on the July Trustee meeting to get a better flavour of where we are at as charity and our needs going forward.

Supporters can donate £5 using -
Mediate to 70085 on their mobiles



Even more News

Fundraisers — WSMS has always found it very difficult to attract volunteers who would be willing to fundraise for our charity. Hopefully that might be changing. We have had several people show willing recently. Alexandra lives locally and is currently studying to qualify as a clinical psychologist and counsellor. She has a number of ideas on ways to help fundraise for us.

Sophie lives in Bristol. She has previously set up a charity from scratch on her own and started her own mobile baking company.

Finally we have Katharine, a sales and partnership professional from Brighton who might be able to engage us with the corporate world.

If anyone else would like to join the 'team' they would be more than welcome.

How time flies — a whole year has passed since the formal announcement of our Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which coincided with the Anniversary of



of the Queen's Coronation (2nd June). In 2020 there have been 230 Awards, with three of those being in West Sussex — Henfield Haven (Community Centre), Turning Tides, Worthing (Homelessness) and Fernhurst Centre (another Community Centre). Our congratulations go to all the recipients. We continue to make full use of the logo and recognition in our communications, publications and funding bids.

Great Article — we recently picked up on an article from Farmers Weekly (online), of all places. It is written by a farmer who had experienced a neighbour dispute with a residential neighbour, over weeds growing on the boundary. The farmer had used weedkiller and a strimmer to be rid of them. The neighbour was upset by this and words were exchanged. The article has these two pertinent sentences -

'I decided that I was happy to lose this one and I just said that I was sorry. I meant it and offered to replace the plants. The mood changed. We went on to have a chat for another couple of hours.

He said that he was much happier to see the weeds growing because he liked the butterflies and birds. I saw the world through his eyes and we parted on good terms. We will do things differently as a result.' (Mediators are not always needed).

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/news/opinion-boundary-disputes-the-sign-of-a-real-farmer>