



West Sussex Mediation Service Internal Newsletter

Taking to the skies

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Internal Edition

*Published for the
Trustees, Staff and
Volunteers of West
Sussex Mediation
Service.*

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More of our time is now taken up operating in the virtual world, due to Covid-19. With traditional methods of fundraising being thwarted by social distancing, charities are having to look at alternative methods of bringing in the pennies. There is also a drive towards more eco friendly activities and fundraisers. As a consequence WSMS is about to launch a 'Virtual Balloon Race'.

The launch date will be Saturday 24th October, with the race ending on Halloween— Saturday 31st October.

Balloons will cost £3 each and will be able to buy as many as you want, or even gift them. That's not much more than the cost of your usual coffee shop drink.

The race lasts for seven days and you will be able to track the progress of your balloon(s) - or lack of it. The winner is the balloon that has travelled the greatest distance. There will also prizes for those who come second and third.

Please support this event and have a bit of fun. You will be able to choose the colour, shape and wording on your balloon.

The success of the fundraiser will depend on how far and wide we can spread the word. Please do share with friends, family and colleagues at work and also share, as much as possible, on social media.



We will be publishing details of how to purchase balloons and a weblink, shortly Watch out for news on our website, on social media and in next month's Newsletter.

We are seeking a sponsor and prizes for the winner and two runner ups. Do let us know if you can help.

News

Aviva Community Fund (Crowdfunding) -

We were recently successful in applying to the above fund and were able to publish our project on the 'Go Live' date of 26th August.



Please can you share the link, far and wide, on social media, etc and support in any way you can. We have never delved into Crowdfunding before and will be pitching against many other great causes and those with slick videos and images. Any help would be much appreciated. Here is the link:

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/combating-conflict-during-co>

Training – We last held an initial course for Community Mediators back in 2018, and that had a low number of attendees, due to late drop outs, etc. We feel that there is a need to bolster number and fill some geographical gaps (for post Covid-19 activities). We are currently struggling to resource cases in a timely fashion.

We are expecting to start the training in **early October**. The 40 hours of training will include a mixture of shorter evening sessions plus several Sunday sessions. The course will be conducted online for the first time, which will at least mean that new recruits will be accustomed to working on 'Zoom'. We will, of course, be hoping to get them experienced in face to face practise as soon as possible.

We are inviting some of our existing mediators to assist with role playing during the training.

We have a few people who have been waiting patiently in the wings for a course to come along, but if you know anyone who would make a good mediator and has time to devote to us, do pass on their details to us.

We have lost a few mediators recently due to ill health, house moves or heavy work commitments. We again thank them for their service.



West Sussex Mediation Service

TRAINING COURSE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MEDIATOR



- Live/work in West Sussex?
- Good Listener and people person?
- Good Communicator?
- Impartial & non-judgmental?
- Able to commit time to the role?
- Available – Oct/Nov 2020?

FREE ACCREDITED TRAINING
ONGOING SUPPORT & TRAINING
TRAVEL EXPENSES PAID
WORK IN PAIRS

CALL NOW FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO APPLY

Telephone: 0300 200 0025

email: info@wsms.org.uk
www.wsms.org.uk
West Sussex Mediation Service
Registered Charity No. 1064592

More News

Fundraiser— introducing Alex, who recently joined us to help with raising funds for our charity, as a volunteer. Alex lives in Horsham and is currently studying for a degree in order to qualify as a Counsellor.

She previously did a year of law studies and worked for nearly 9 years at Heathrow airport within security. This gave her a great knowledge of diversity and accustomed her in dealing with conflicts, often exacerbated by a language barrier.

She is also keen to train as a volunteer community mediator with us, on our next training course mentioned on page 2.

Alex will be helping to organise our new virtual balloon race, featured on the front page. She has undertaken to approach local companies to seek prizes for the winners. If you have any other fundraising ideas, do share them with us.



Annual Report — our Co-ordinator Nick, is busy finalising our 2019/20 Annual Report and hopes to publish it by early September. The Trustees have decided to save money by not printing hard copies this year. It will be downloadable from our website or sent out as an email attachment upon request. As we are likely to be holding a virtual AGM this year, there will be no opportunity to hand out printed copies at the event. **Remember our AGM is on 1st October 2020 on Zoom starting at 7pm.**

Horsham District Community Lottery — WSMS has been part of this fundraiser for good causes, since it started back in August 2019. We are currently being put to shame by many of the other organisations in the scheme. WSMS currently has only **six** subscribers to the lottery and three of those are staff members! Here is a list of the top five performers, who are streets ahead. We need to do better, so please do spread the word, far and wide to help us gain more supporters. There are some great prizes, including a potential jackpot of £25,000. (See Page 4).

Billingshurst Primary School Community Association - **83** tickets

Henfield Cricket Club - **76** tickets

Southwater Football Club - **73** tickets

Horsham AmDram Society (HAODS) - **68** tickets

Atlantis Swimming Club - **51** tickets

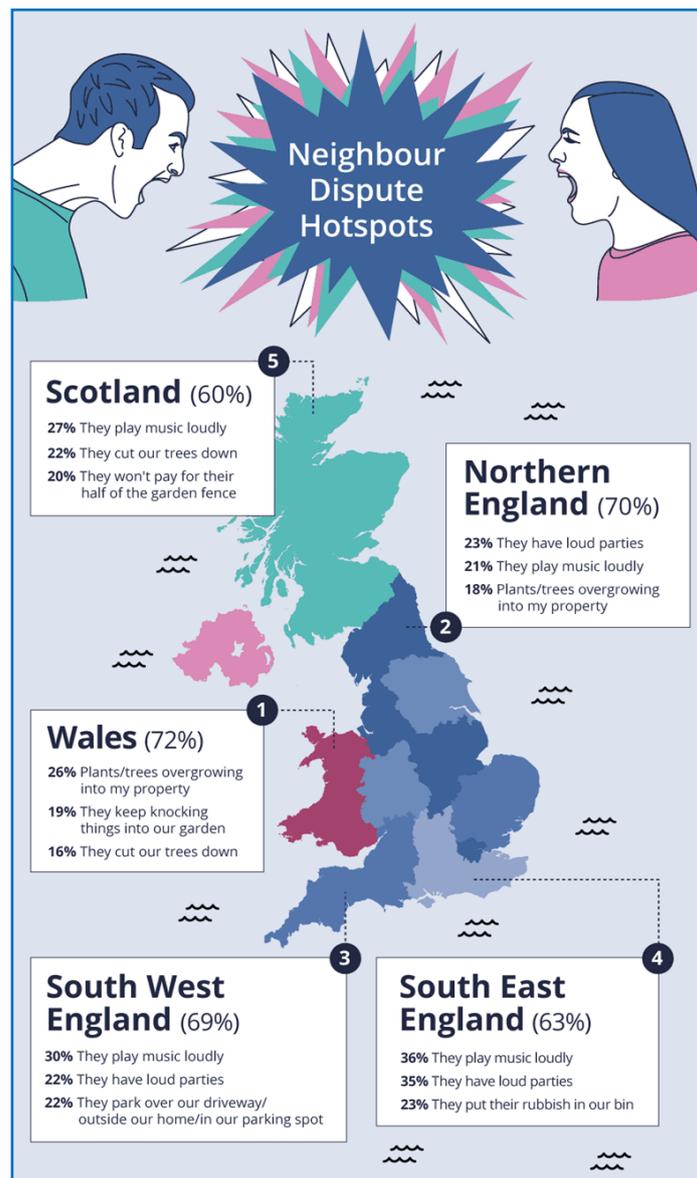


Stuff

A recent survey by GoodMove reveals the hotspots for neighbour disputes in the UK. Wales came out worst for the number of people who had experienced a dispute with a neighbour.

The top five topics of dispute are all too familiar to mediators:

1. Playing music loudly (28%)
2. Having loud parties (26%)
3. Plants/trees overgrowing into our property (19%)
4. They park over our driveway or in 'our spot' (17%)
5. They put their rubbish in our bin (16%)



Lottery



WIN
1 OF 5
£100
B&Q
Gift
Cards

SUPPORT
YOUR COMMUNITY
Through Thick & Thin

- £25,000 jackpot!
- Sign up from £1 per week
- Support our good cause today
- Your support makes a real difference to our local community

To start supporting, visit:

www.horshamdistrictcommunitylottery.co.uk

and search for: **Mediation Service**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Offer ends 29th August 2020. See website for terms and conditions.