



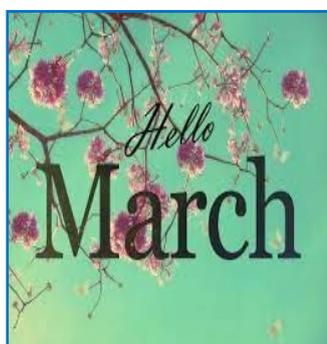
West Sussex Mediation Service Internal Newsletter

Family Mediation

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Internal Edition

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We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to our Family Mediators, Heather and Sarah, for all their volunteering efforts during the current financial year.

Despite all the challenges of the last twelve months, and the necessary adjustment to mediating online (via Zoom), their efforts have generated over £13,000 for the charity in 2020/21, with the chance of a few more pounds hitting our bank account before the 31st March. This is a very important source of income for our charity.

In addition to online meetings with clients, Heather and Sarah volunteer many more hours to prepare the associated (often complex) paperwork required in family mediation. This includes formulating financial schedules and the final agreements - known as Memorandum of Understanding.

Heather stepped into the breach last year and took over a number of cases when our longstanding family mediator, Robert, retired after many years of sterling work.

Sarah holds a record (for us at least)! She has carried out no less than ten joint meetings with one set of clients, in a sterling attempt to broker an agreement. That case has certainly been an 'earner' for us.

Again, a massive 'well done' to both and of course to Robert.



Books!

World Book Day was on the 4th March this year.

Cicero is quoted as saying, “A room without books is like a body without a soul” and JK Rowling wrote, “If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”

Are you an avid reader and have you accumulated a number of books, that you have read cover to cover and no longer need? Are they now making your bookshelf sag in the middle and you’re thinking it may be time to say goodbye to them?

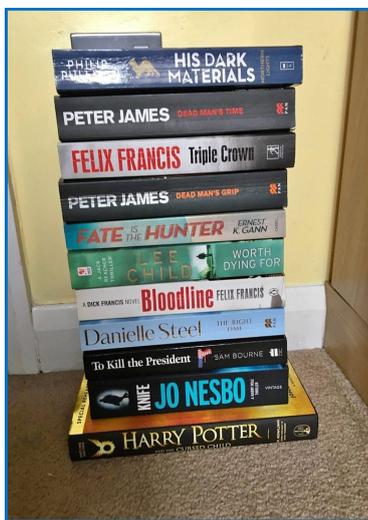
If the answer is yes, then why not have a clear out and donate them to WSMS. We will use them to raise funds for our charity. Any books, whether paperback or hard cover, in good condition can be taken. We’ll even take some golden oldies as long as the titles aren’t too obscure.

If you are local to Horsham, we might be able to collect or you can drop them off at our offices in Horsham, by arrangement. Do get in touch with Nick via his email – nick@wsms.org.uk

Whilst we can’t do any public selling during the pandemic, we can still hold books in stock for later. One of our former mediators, Michele, now fundraises for us (and other charities) and she has regular book stalls at markets, over in East Sussex. We can also sell books in bulk, via the likes of ‘Ziffit’. They have an app where you can quickly scan in a book ISBN number and determine whether it is one they will buy. There are other similar book buying companies out there. Some are a bit mean on how much they will offer.



Our Service Co-ordinator, Nick, has also been keeping an eye on Facebook recycling and selling pages and managed to gather in a good number of books, recently. It is surprising how many have been advertised in recent weeks. This is possibly because of some spring cleaning and decluttering taking place and because of the fact that charity shops have not been open, to offload onto, during the pandemic.



We would even take any rare 1st editions, if anyone has such gems getting dusty in their loft!

See page 4 for some books we are reselling.

News

Funding - remember that we are still fundraising through the Co-op Local Community Fund. We remain one of the three chosen local good causes in our area and that will continue right through until October this year. We have just received our first payment, which was a very worthwhile **£561.55**.

I am sure we can achieve a whole lot more, if we can motivate people to get involved. Remember to nominate us, if you are a Co-op member, as your chosen charity and remember to present your members card when you go shopping in Co-op stores. If you are not already a member, it is easy to join. Why not get your friends, family and work colleagues to 'muck in' also.



Allen Lane Foundation – we are pleased to report that we are soon to receive £4,000, as a one off payment, from this Trust which can be used towards our staff costs.



We achieved this sum despite the fact that they were 'heavily oversubscribed and a number of applications were turned down'.

Pulborough Parish Council – we are grateful to the Officers and Councillors of this local Parish Council who recently went outside their normal policy to consider a Discretionary Grant bid from WSMS and then duly awarded us £200. This is very much appreciated.

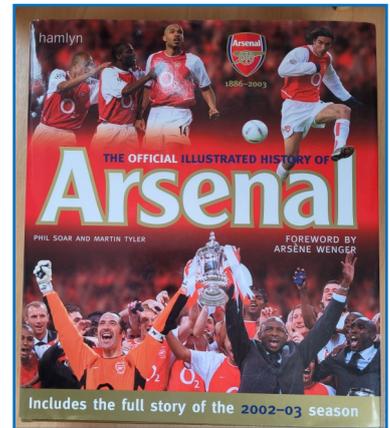
Fond Farewell – to our very long standing mediator, Peter Langcake, due to personal reasons. Peter joined WSMS in 2009 as a ready made mediator as he had worked with Mediation First (Waverley and East Hampshire) and had served as both a Trustee and the Treasurer for them. Before he retired Peter was a Microbiologist / Biochemist. He worked as a research scientist in the agrochemicals industry for 12 years and subsequently worked in central office for Shell variously in the oil, chemicals and renewable energy businesses. Was Environmental Adviser to the Royal Dutch Shell Group of companies, based in Netherlands.

Peter notched up around 123 mediation during his dispute resolution career with WSMS and Waverley. A pretty good tally. We **thank him** for all his dedication and help.

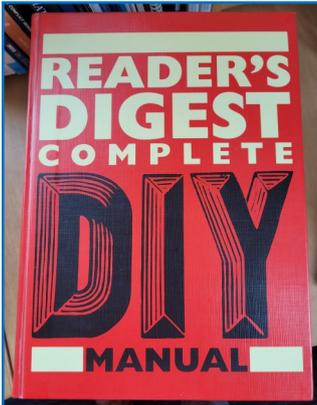
For Sale

Any 'Gooners' out there who might like this book? ----- >

Our Co-ordinator, Nick, is a Spurs fan, so he is keen to get shot of this one!!

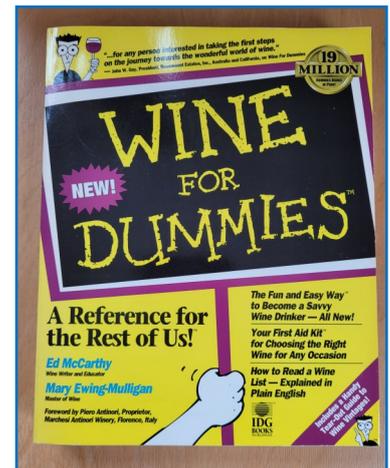
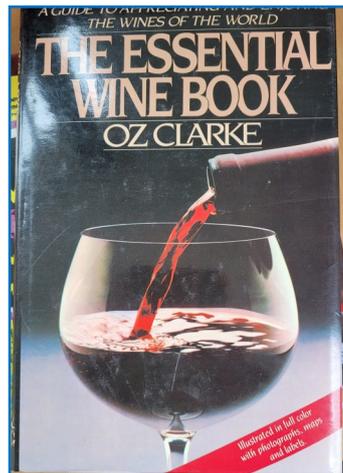


< ----- If you are in the mood for some home improvements we have this comprehensive DIY Manual by Reader's Digest.



If you want to learn more about wines, someone has donated a good selection of books on the subject.

Here are a couple of them ----- >



For anyone wanting some cooking inspiration we have this one from Prue Leith, who raised her profile significantly by joining the Great British Bake Off team ----- >

Finally, here are a just a few of the paperbacks we have.

