



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Social Media

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External Edition

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We do not always have the time to share posts on our various social media channels but here are a few news items that we have featured recently, mainly on our Twitter account, which is @Mediation1. We are also on Insta, Facebook & LinkedIn. If you do happen to see any of our posts, please do share them to help increase our exposure and spread the word about mediation and the good work that we do.

Nick, our Co-ordinator has adapted the Specsavers phrase and uses the words, 'should have gone to mediation' on many of his Tweets.

> A recent study by Bath University found that 56% of young people think that humanity is doomed! (I wonder if that has gone up since, because of Putin).

> Couple's four-year hell over as neighbours ordered to remove fence and pay them £10k. <https://tinyurl.com/55u3u4yj>

> Conveyancers throughout the land were bracing themselves for the onslaught of queries with clients wanting to know which boundaries belong to them as fence panels needed to be replaced following Storm Eunice!

<https://tinyurl.com/543bdh7k>

> 'My neighbour keeps blocking up my driveway and I need ambulance access – what can I do to stop it? '

<https://tinyurl.com/55u3u4yj>



News

Funding — we are very pleased to announce that Horsham District Council have approved our 2022/23 grant bid in the sum of £4,500. This will hit our account soon after the start of the 2022/23 financial year in April. We are most grateful to HDC for their continued support. The grant shows a lift of £500 over the previous year.



Group Supervision — we've received good reports from the first new Group Supervision session for our volunteer mediators, which took place on 16th February. More are planned. The next scheduled date is 23rd March from 6-8pm, still on Zoom at this time.

"Thanks so much for arranging this. It was extremely helpful. Mary was great and it is so good to talk to and learn from other mediators."

Dreaming of a Summer Holiday — or an Easter Break maybe? In fact, if you are planning any holidays, flights, hotel stays or booking your travel insurance, or car hire, do think about **Giveasyoulive**, if doing so online. Big names like Tui, Expedia, Ebookers, Hotels.com and Travelodge are all involved.

Our leading Giveasyoulive fundraiser has raised £302 for us. Much needed funds can be achieved for WSMS, via this link:

www.giveasyoulive/join/wsms



Survey — a recent survey of 2,000 house buyers, by the company 'We Buy any Home' revealed a very sad statistic. **60%** of them were said to have sold their homes and moved because of a dispute with a neighbour.

The top five topic of disputes, which are all too familiar to us, were as follows:

1. Being too noisy at anti-social hours
2. Property boundary dispute
3. Parking dispute
4. Impolite behaviour
5. Argument over pets (theirs or yours)



Work experience (1)

Hello, my name is Elizabeth North and I am a second year Law student at the University of Chichester. I am a very outgoing and productive individual and I enjoy going out with my friends for meals and out in nature, like at the beach. I live down on the coast in Bognor Regis so I often find myself at the beach but I am also blessed with having the South Downs on my doorstep which means that I am able to enjoy long country walks with my dogs.



As a law student I am very interested in helping the community by ensuring that both individuals and groups of people are able to seek help if they are challenged with a problem or situation that they are unable to resolve themselves. This interest in wanting to ensure that the community functions well and in a positive way highlighted my interest towards the West Sussex Mediation Service. I applied for the work experience opportunity at the West Sussex Mediation Service as I think that mediation and law are interlinked and is key to helping the community to be a better place. Mediation allows for alternative dispute resolutions which in turn help the community to be a more positive space as it provides a safe and confidential space for people to be able to sort out their conflicts which decreases the chances of conflict being expressed in a more serious manner.

Furthermore, from studying law as a subject it has made me realise how important it is to have a system in place that is designed to help aid people in their disagreements. Even though I believe that mediation and law go hand in hand, I did not know too much about mediation so I decided to apply for the work experience and at West Sussex Mediation where it is clear there is a passion for mediation surrounding families, which I relate to strongly and believe is one of the key areas in which mediation is best used as these affairs can be very private and personal and handled carefully.

Quote of the Day

***"The way I see it,
if you want the
rainbow, you
gotta put up with
the rain."***

—DOLLY PARTON—

Work experience (2)

Hello! My name is Poppy Benham and I am a 2nd year law student at the University of Chichester.

I live on Hayling Island and spend most of my summer on the beach with my friends and family or reading in my garden, and spend my winters waiting for summer!

My journey to a legal career began in my first year of college. I enrolled on a b-tec course in forensic psychology and originally planned to become a criminologist or detective. However, once I began studying the Road Traffic module and writing a detailed essay on the Road Traffic Act 1988 I decided to drop out of my course and pursue a subject I truly enjoyed.



I then enrolled at Havant College studying Psychology, Law, and English Literature. During those two years I discovered my passion for Classic Literature and began spending most of my spare time reading. I studied religiously, but unfortunately could not have prepared for the events that ensued: COVID-19.

Due to the pandemic I was awarded my predicted grades which luckily secured me a place at the University of Chichester to study law. My course has also allowed me to continue my passion for reading and writing as I write for Law Newsletter which is released every semester.

I am on placement at West Sussex Mediation Service for a minimum of 25 Hours in order to complete a self-reflective essay on my personal development in a work place environment. I do not know what the future holds for me career wise, but I particularly enjoy Criminal law, Tort law, and have thoroughly enjoyed my work experience in Mediation!

Help in the Office – we have been making full use of Poppy and Elizabeth during their time with us but at the same time have tried to give them a positive and educational insight into mediation and the running of a small charity.

They have carried out various tasks including mailshots to all solicitor firms in West Sussex and testing the marketplace in terms of fees charged by other family mediation providers. We wanted to make sure that we were pitching our own fees at the right level. What was very noticeable was the significantly higher fees charged by organisation in London.

They have had a Zoom chat with our two Family Mediators, Heather and Sarah and have met local solicitor, James Billingham of **Horsham Family Lawyers** at his offices in East Street, Horsham. James is familiar with, and supportive of, WSMS.