



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

AGM

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External Edition

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Service.*

We have set the date for our 2022 Annual General Meeting. It will be held on **Thursday 29th September** with arrival at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start.

We are currently deciding where to hold this year's event, so if you have any bright ideas, do let Nick, our Service Co-ordinator, know. We would be looking for a nil or low cost venue and be able to do the catering ourselves, if necessary. We are probably due a revisit to Mid Sussex, but nothing is fixed.

If Covid-19 were to interfere, we do have the option of holding the event via Zoom.

Our attendance list is not normally huge, but we would hope to attract up to 30 guests. It will be the last AGM that our current Service Co-ordinator will be in post and the new incumbent may possibly have been identified by then. It would be good to make introductions at that event, if that was the case.

AGMs might not be the most exciting events, but all very necessary. If you have any suggestions on a possible guest speaker, again do let us know.

AGM 2022

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| AGM | 1 |
| Trustees | 1 |
| News | 2 |
| More News | 3 |
| Alliance | 4 |
| Training | 4 |

Trustees

Our board of trustees have recently instigated some advertising to attract new trustees to the charity. One place that it has been posted is here:

[Trustee with Fundraising experience, West Sussex Mediation Service | Reach Volunteering](#)

There is also an entry in our website News Page:

<http://www.wsms.org.uk/mediation-news/trustee-recruitment/>

If you know anyone who might be interested in the role, please do let them know. We are happy to provide further information and insight into becoming a charity trustee.

News

Community Awards – Horsham District Council is celebrating the work of local volunteers during the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Year and National Volunteers’ Week this year.

Recognising the amazing efforts of our hundreds of volunteers across the District in recent times, a new awards scheme has been launched for local people to nominate their favourite volunteer.

We have chosen to make a nomination under the category of ‘The Volunteer Dream Team Award’ as we wouldn’t like to single out any individuals. We think that all our volunteers, whether they be a mediator, trustee, or whoever, are great and a vital part of our charity.

The awards will be announced and handed out by very special guests, as part of the Street Party taking place in the Carfax, Horsham, on the afternoon of Friday 3rd June. Everyone is invited - so its a great opportunity to celebrate your volunteers during Volunteers' Week as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Nominations have to be in by Friday 6th May.

Away Day - Our trustees are keen to repeat a very successful event that we held a good number of years ago (2014). How time flies! We did try a rematch in 2019 but had to cancel due to poor numbers. We held the previous event at Mickelpage in Maplehurst, a beautiful historical farmhouse/barn set in its own grounds available to hire to groups for retreats, holidays, meetings and workshops. A previous mediator, Krysia was connected with the venue. Watch out for a Doodle Poll with possible dates. Ideas on a good sized (cheap) venue, in a fairly central location, are welcomed.



News

Following in the footsteps of Legends — Nick, our Service Co-ordinator, recently took the day off to attend the famous Abbey Road Studios in London at the kind invitation of one of the UK's leading violinists, Andrew Bernardi, who lives in West Sussex. Andrew, plus a number of highly talented musicians, were recording a new classical album. Their musical skills were extremely impressive as were the skills of the team in the recording booth.



Recording took place in Studio 2 — the actual studio where the Beatles did theirs, in their heyday. The famous Zebra Crossing, which features on the cover of their famous Abbey Road LP, is just outside the studios. The picture for the album cover was taken on 8th August 1969. The Crossing even has Grade 2 listing!

The Abbey Road album was the last to be recorded by The Beatles. The song 'Come Together' provided them with one of their final number one singles topping the Billboard Hot 100 and staying in the chart for 16 weeks

Here is a link to a very interesting video about the album and the cover.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0aH4u3_OGs



Mediation Alliance

We are a part of the Sussex Mediation Alliance (with partners based in Brighton, Hailsham and Hastings) which attracts a significant grant from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.

The Alliance has just produced a report on the outcomes from our Police referrals in 2021-22. There were 191 referrals made to the Alliance by Sussex Police staff.

- > 77% of respondents said that the Mediation service was helpful.
- > 33% said that they felt more capable of dealing with issues, without the involvement of the Police, following the help from the Mediation service.
- > 35% said there had been a reduction in tension following the work of the mediation service.

84 of the 191 referrals were dealt with by our service, equating to 44% of that total.

No-Fault Divorces

No-fault divorce came into force in England and Wales on 6th April 2022 and ended the so called 'blame game' that was built into the old divorce process. The new divorce law allows for a divorce without either party attributing fault or waiting for lengthy separation periods (2 years).

This is a positive move but, here at WSMS, we believe there is still a very important role for mediation in the divorce process, when couples are needing to settle financial matters and/or formalise child arrangements. The 'blame game' could still transfer to parenting issues and the fair distribution of wealth and assets.

Mediation can help remove the stress in such situations and help couples to communicate in a calm and constructive fashion.

More information is available on our web page dedicated to Family Mediation -

<https://wsms.org.uk/mediation/family-mediation/>



Do you shop at **Tesco** in Horsham? If so, please grab a blue token and drop it in our tank. If you don't see any tokens at the till, don't be afraid to ask for one.

We will feature until June, so plenty of time to help us out. We have the chance to achieve a much need boost to our coffers. Thanks.