



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Sad News

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External Edition

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We have some very sad news to share. Our Caseworker, Christine de Cintra (Nee Willmington) passed away on 10th August following a long battle with cancer. She will be greatly missed.

Christine was a member of 'Class of 2012' for new Community Mediators, alongside the likes of Elspeth, Suzanne, Hazel and others who have since left the service.

In November 2016 Christine joined our paid staff to help out in the office with casework, on a part-time basis. She stepped aside whilst undergoing her initial treatment.

Colleagues were privileged to be asked by Christine to witness her marriage to her long term partner, David, in a ceremony at Park House, in August 2019. Afterwards we had a celebratory drink at the Black Jug pub, just down the road.

In November 2021, having been diagnosed with secondary cancer, Christine was informed that it was terminal. She had kept matters private since then, but with colleagues keeping in touch with her.

Christine ended her days in the comfort of Valerie Manor Nursing Home in Upper Beeding. Her husband David was by her side when she passed.

Prior to mediation, Christine's previous career included HR with Chevron International Oil Co Ltd and she was also a Personnel Officer before becoming a Freelance ESOL/Basic Skills Tutor and Career Consultant/Coach.

Christine's funeral will be held at 1 pm on Tuesday 30th August at Worthing Crematorium. Up to 10 representatives from WSMS are welcome to attend, so if you would like to join staff members, do let the office know and we will pass final numbers on to the family. We are happy to pass on any messages to Christine's family.

News

GDPR — we remind all referrers of the need to get permission from parties to disclose their personal information to us before passing a referral on. We had a recent case, regarding a referral from a Housing Association, which led to a ‘Subject Access Request’ (SAR) being sent to us as the client was not happy about the data breach. The originator of the referral believed that they hadn’t done anything wrong. An SAR gives individuals the right to obtain a copy of their personal data, as well as other supplementary information. It helps individuals to understand how and why you are using their data, and check that you are doing it lawfully.

WSMS were not liable in this situation as we received the information in good faith and had legitimate interest in contacting the client. The SAR was duly completed and returned to the originator and the client’s data deleted from our system.

Office Help — we are pleased to announce that we have recently attracted two new volunteers to help us out with Admin tasks in the office. Pamela & Sue will cover different days of the week and support Nick and the Caseworkers with various activities. Both live locally to our offices in Horsham.

Raffle — as mentioned in last month’s newsletter, our Service Co-ordinator is currently attempting to organise a Grand Raffle, prior to his retirement. His quest for prizes continues, so if you can help in any way, please do get in touch. Recent additions to the prize list include a £50 meal voucher for Bill’s Restaurants, a Golf Day at Slinfold Golf & Country Club and a case of beer thanks to the Firebird Brewery in Rudgwick.

Recruitment — our trustees continue in the recruitment process for Nick’s replacement, upon his retirement.

We managed to achieve a small article in the County Times recently, which did reach potential candidates. Second interviews are being staged at the present time.

One of our trustees, Monica, who is also a volunteer mediator, is standing down due to personal reasons. She hopes to continue as a mediator in the future.

Our Chair will always give consideration to potential new trustees who have the desired skills to help the charity.

New director is needed

Horsham charity West Sussex Mediation Service is looking for a new director to replace outgoing service coordinator Nick Handley.

Nick said: “It has been hugely rewarding performing my role and I am proud of our achievements over the years.”

The role involves every aspect of running a small charity including fundraising, recruitment and management of volunteers, governance, publicity, networking and more. For more information email chairman of trustees Nicky Neal-Smith at NickyNS.wsms@protonmail.com

AGM

We would like to give the necessary advanced notice of our Annual General Meeting to our members, plus all volunteers, funders and supporter. It will take place on **Thursday 29th September 2022 (6.00pm for 6.30pm start)**.

The venue this year is the Park Barn, just across from our Park House offices in Horsham. All are welcome.

There are various car parks in the area and pay & display immediately around the venue. It is an easy walk from Horsham Railway Station. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided.

This will be our 21st AGM and the last to be attended by our outgoing Service Co-ordinator, Nick Handley.

Fear not if you do receive a personal invitation. Just drop an email to admin@wsms.org to notify your intention to attend. We would love to see you there.

During the proceedings there will be a presentation of a commemorative 'Platinum Jubilee Volunteer Award Nominee' pin to our volunteer team, by Councillor Kate Rowbottom, Chair of Horsham District Council. We had previously nominated our whole team of volunteer mediators for an Award in the Horsham District Queen's Jubilee Community Volunteers Awards 2022 in the category of 'Dream Team', but weren't successful.

We will also be presenting some certificates of service to those volunteers who have reached significant milestones with the service.

We do still have some of our own Queen's Award badges titled 'Valued Volunteer' that any of our volunteers are welcome to have, if they wish.



More News

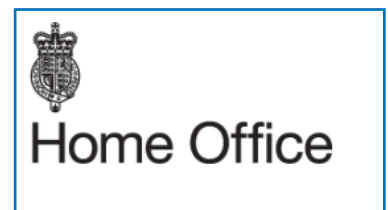
Conflict Coaching Training - the dates are now set for this. Kathy Whitestone from Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service (BHIMS) will be providing the training for us, via Video Conferencing, on Friday 2nd and 9th September. The timing has changed very slightly to 10.15am to 1.15pm each day. Luckily we have attracted good number who are able to attend on those dates.

A grant from the Gatwick Area Community Trust has helped us pay for this training. Next up will be Mental Health First Aid training.

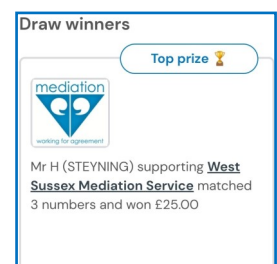
Ukrainian refugee project — thanks to some recent funding from West Sussex County Council, we have agreed to help out with conflicts between West Sussex based hosts and guests from Ukraine. Nick, our Co-ordinator hopes to arrange an information session on Zoom, one evening in the coming weeks. He and his partner, Elayne will be able share their experiences as hosts and through contact with a wider community of hosts and guests. Much has been learned from their experience. If there are any mediators who are also acting as hosts, please do get in touch with Nick. If we do take on referrals we will have access to interpreters. Hopefully a number of our mediators will be happy to take on this new challenge. As usual with mediation, it is all about aiding communication and understanding. Not all relationships are going to work, but if we can help keep placements going it will ease the pressure on rehousing families and the stress and upset which that creates.



Funding — we are in talks with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's Office, together with our Sussex Mediation Alliance partners, regarding a 'Safer Streets 4' project, which revolves around ASB and will provide us with additional funding. This is a Government funded project and in Sussex will involve a large number of interested parties. The project runs for 18 months and targets identified Antisocial Behaviour hotspots, which in our area includes, Chichester South, Northgate, and Central ward (Worthing)



Lottery — here's proof that you can be a winner by supporting us in the Horsham District Community Lottery. It's not the 'biggy' but you have to be in it to win it, as they say.



<https://tinyurl.com/yck995ya>