



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

New Charity Director

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External Edition

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Hello, my name is Leighton Jones and I am the new Director of West Sussex Mediation Service.

I am currently undergoing a handover period with Nick Handley, which will continue up to the point where he retires towards the end of November.

I'm delighted to be joining an organisation that provides such an important service. I hope I can play my part in further developing the scope and reach of our services across West Sussex.

To date, I have predominantly worked within the voluntary and advice sector. Most of that time spent with Citizens Advice in frontline advice, social policy and management roles.

Back in the early 2000's I was involved in setting up a mediation service in Eastbourne. This was in response to the large number of neighbourhood disputes coming through our advice doors. It proved to be an important service that was utilised by many individuals and partner organisations. In addition to this I worked for WWF (the pandas and not wrestlers!) as part of their corporate partnerships team and more recently with people with learning disabilities in the social care sector.

I am really excited about working alongside the many dedicated volunteers, staff and partners of WSMS. Mediation is potentially such a powerful tool to resolve conflict whenever and wherever it arises. I am sure, this side of the disruption of Covid and all its impacts, the service will demonstrate its value and importance to the communities it serves and partners who can support, access and utilise it.

Regards,
Leighton



AGM

Our 21st Annual General Meeting went ahead on 29th September at the Park Barn in Horsham. 30 guests included trustees, staff and a number of volunteers, plus people associated with the charity over the years.

Our significant guests included the Duchess of Norfolk, the Chair of Horsham District Council, the Mayors of Crawley and Haywards Heath plus two County Councillors and one Parish Councillor.

Some long service certificates were awarded to volunteers who were present, namely Richard, Pam and Nigel. Other will be sent in the post.

The Chair of Horsham District Council, Kate Rowbottom presented a pin and certificate, which was accepted by Juliette. This was in relation to our nomination for the 'Volunteer Dream Team' as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Horsham District Volunteer Awards 2022.

The Duchess spoke at the conclusion of business.

Will Adler was re-elected as a trustee, having stood down for a year, in line with the allowed terms of office. Debbie Sanders stood down, due to personal reasons.

Our Annual report and accounts are now lodged with the Charity Commission.



Grand Raffle

Tickets remain on sale for our Grand Raffle right up to the draw date of **Friday 18th November**. This will take place at 9pm on the occasion of **Nick Handley's Retirement Do, at the Capital Theatre, Horsham**. They can be purchased right up until that time, for anyone actually attending the event – the social occasion of the year!

Nick would love to see as many of his friends and acquaintances, that he has made over the fifteen years with the charity, to join him.

The fantastic list of prizes for the raffle was published in last month's newsletter. An additional prize to add is a brewery tour and tasting for two at Hepworth's Brewery near Pulborough.

Tickets are also on sale in a number of outlets around Horsham including:

Il Figaro Barbers, East Street

Beeches Café, East Street

Town & Country Weigh, East Street

Brock Taylor, Estate Agents, East Street

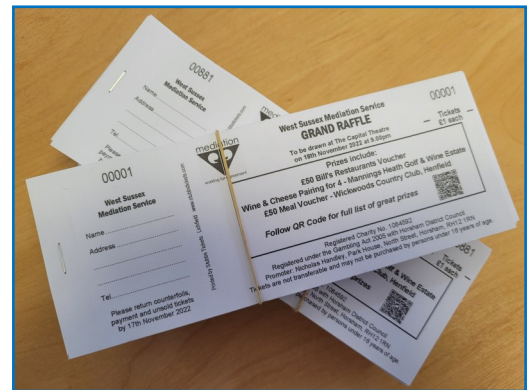
Cubitt & West, Carfax

At Home Estate Agents, Carfax

Leaders Letting Agents, Carfax

The Bear pub, Market Square

Richard Place Dobson Accountants, Station Road, Crawley.



If anyone wishes to attend on 18th November, please just let Nick know by **4th November**. Otherwise you are welcome to drop by the office, (Mon–Thurs) prior to his expected last day of 24th November.

Nick will be looking back on his time with the charity in the last edition he will be the author to, in November.

Nick does hope to continue as a volunteer mediator and occasional fundraiser for the charity.

One of the fundraisers that Nick wants to see through to fruition, also features The Capital Theatre. He hopes to organise a charity concert involving Tom Ball, who was a finalist in this year's Britain's Got Talent show. He lives in Mid Sussex

and his father is known to Nick. We are hoping to hold the event around February 2023. We just awaits confirmation from his management team.

Further details will be published as soon as they are known. If anyone has any celebrity contacts that could be of benefit to the charity, in any capacity, do let us know.



Almanac

The UK Civil Society Almanac for 2022 has just been published by the National Council for Voluntary Service (NCVO), of which we are a member. Here are some of the headline statistics. If you would like to read the full report, here is the link: <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/uk-civil-society-almanac-2022/#/>

16.3M PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED THROUGH A GROUP, CLUB OR ORGANISATION IN 2020/21

Over half of the population volunteered their time informally at least once during the pandemic, while formal volunteering rates have remained steady



The voluntary sector's workforce grew 3% over the last year, the fastest growth of any sector over the last decade

- Almost **one million people** worked in the voluntary sector in 2022, about 3% of the UK workforce
- The voluntary sector workforce has grown by more than a quarter (27%) since 2011
- Social work is the largest employing subsector (38%)
- Women make up two thirds of the voluntary sector workforce.
- The amount of disabled people is growing, with just over 1 in 5 (23%) people identifying as disabled in the voluntary sector.

90% OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WORKFORCE IS WHITE.

There is less ethnic diversity in the voluntary sector workforce than both the public and private sector.

The voluntary sector contributes about £20bn to the UK's GDP

- Two-fifths of voluntary organisations rely on the public for most of their income, while more than a quarter don't receive their income from a majority source
- The voluntary sector spent **£56.9bn in 2019/20**
- The voluntary sector contributed about **£20 bn to the UK's economy**, or 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- The social services subsector contributed the most, worth £3.8 bn, followed by the international subsector with £3.1bn and health with £2.5 bn
- The voluntary sector employed over 950,000 workers in 2022