

Peaceworks Annual Report to Year Ending 28th February 2009

Charity Name and Number

Peaceworks - 1082497

Principle Address

14 Templesheen Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 6JB

Office Address

Town Hall Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1LD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

All the following trustees acted for the whole year:

David Barton (Chairman), David Chaffe (Treasurer), Christabel Tuke (Secretary), Gary Griffiths

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members

Chris Seaton

Description of the charity's trusts

The Charity is constituted as a Trust and its governing document is a trust deed dated 28th March 2000. Trustee selection is via appointment by existing trustees.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Trust are for the public benefit and:

- a) To develop life skills, resolve conflict and improve the quality of life;
- b) To equip individuals and groups in the skills of mediation, deliver peer mediation programmes, provide mediation services, facilitate community cohesion, address issues of historic injustice, influence the future of the church's role in peace-making and all these activities as an expression of the Christian gospel.
- c) To promote and fulfil such other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit;

The means of doing this is by building sustainable relationships through reconciliation and the training of individuals and groups to develop and practice better relational behaviours.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Charity provides positive resolutions to people and groups in conflict through the following activities:

1. Mediation interventions in disputes

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2. Educating and training people in mediation skills to a nationally-recognised standard through various courses
3. Delivering curriculum-based peer mediation programmes to schools in Southern England based on a whole school approach
4. Planning, organising and supporting peace projects that promote unity and reconciliation, particularly at an international and inter-ethnic level.

Headline Achievements for 2009

1. Increased the **number of schools** with which we are working in our peer mediation programme – we have now worked with 70 schools and we are currently actively partnering with 34 schools
2. Increased the aggregate **number of pupils** that we have reached with peer mediation skills to over 6,500
3. Increased the **number of peer mediation schemes** launched from 19 to 23
4. Began partnering with a whole family of schools to give a locality-wide approach
5. Successfully completed a high profile **community conference** in a London Borough, which brought long-term resolution to a tense dispute between a residents' association and a group of young people.
6. Successfully completed a "group mediation" as instructed by a Monitoring Officer of the **Standards Board for England**. This led to a series of training events being held with local authority members and officers to advise them of the benefits of mediation.
7. Trained a further 30 people in **mediation skills** in our week-long course approved by Mediation UK in January 2006 as a basic entry to community mediation.
8. Organised and led a third conference of the **Europe-Africa Reconciliation Process** to Africa, this time to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The conference was as successful as its predecessors with over 8,000 people in attendance and meetings being arranged with government ministers.
9. Began work on implementing a **peer mediation scheme** at a local University among students to resolve low level disputes
10. Negotiated with Arun's Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership to lay plans for a **street angels** project that we launched in Bognor Regis in December 2009.



Peer Mediators at Laburnum Grove Junior School – one of the 70 schools that peaceworks has partnered with to set up a peer mediation scheme.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This was another good year for Peaceworks when the variety and influence of the charity's work was increased. Some key objectives were achieved over this period and

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plans were made for growth. As our work has matured we have seen the output of the charity's work develop in 4 key area and these are the achievements in each:

1. Peer Mediation in Schools – and beyond!

From the headlines figures above it will be clear that this work is advancing well. New peer mediation schemes were launched, and we developed a new evaluation tool, *The Peer Mediation Awareness Day* which is already providing good evidence of the impact of the work. We also contracted with the Angmering Locality to work in all 9 schools from infants to 6th form: a real chance to show the longitudinal impact of peer mediation. This kind of arrangement is vital to the on-going work as the majority of statutory funding for the programme ceased from April 2008.



Chris Seaton models a mediation with students from the Sir Robert Woodward Academy (formerly Boundstone Community College)

But children and young people continue to tell us how much they enjoy being peer mediators and we have recorded some fascinating stories from children who have benefited from the work of peer mediators in their schools. We are satisfied to note that Head Teachers and staff are sustaining the programme well once the work of the Peaceworks' team is complete so it seems our exit strategy continues to work well.

In addition to work at primary and secondary schools, Peaceworks continued its pilot project with the University of

Chichester to develop a peer mediation scheme among students. The first training session for volunteer peer mediators and staff was held in February 2008 and this was repeated in Spring 2009. We are looking forward to evaluating this effectively with the University next year.

2. Mediation Training

Mediation skills are transferable life skills that find practical use in the workplace, at home and socially. Since acquiring Mediation UK approval for our course in January 2006, Peaceworks has found that interest in the courses we run has increased. Trainers Mike Morris and Chris Seaton continue to



Delegates on a Peaceworks Mediation Skills Training course

develop the course and as with last year, we ran two courses locally and offered tailor-made versions of the training to

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organisations and businesses. This year, those organisations included all staff in a local Health Centre and all the Community Support Officers who work with Sussex Police in schools.

3. Mediation Interventions

As well as training adult mediators to be skilled in the community and nurturing young mediators in schools, Peaceworks is slowly being seen as 'go-to' mediation agency in its own right. We have been instructed by clients to help with disputes that are too demanding for agencies that are purely volunteer-based – we are able to offer an improving infra-structure and supervision for our mediators. We have developed a good rapport with some local authorities where we are being offered niched cases. Confidentiality naturally prevents us from writing about specific cases but we are pleased to report that our success-rate continues to be over 90%. 'Success' for us means that after 6 months both parties feel that the agreement they reached is sustaining and has improved the situation.

Over this year, we signed service level agreements with local authorities particularly to work in families in crisis and conflict. Once again, because of the high levels of preparation and professionally our staff put into each case the results have been very positive.

4. Peace Projects

Peaceworks began life as a charity that worked closely with churches and other Christian organisations to pursue many different peace-making strategies. As we have matured, partnerships have developed with both Christian groups and those in the statutory and voluntary sectors with no faith background. We describe all those initiatives that are not directly related to the core strategy of mediation as 'peace projects.'

The two key projects that Peaceworks engaged with under this label were the Europe-Africa Reconciliation Process and Arun Angels. The EARP conference in Kinshasa in June 2008 brought the process to a measure of a conclusion as the whole project began with trying to undo the negative impacts of the 'Berlin Congo Conference 1884/5'. So to bring a message of apology and reconciliation to Congo itself after so many events elsewhere felt fitting. However, we intend not to stop here and are looking for the next steps in how we might work for long-term systemic benefit for Africa from the efforts of reconciliation work so far. We have built some bridges but acknowledging the wrongs of the past but next we must consider what lies beyond these bridges.

Arun Angels is a collaborative partnership between Arun District Council, West Sussex County Council and Sussex Police (working together under the local CDRP), Churches Together in Bognor Regis and Peaceworks. The idea is based on a number of 'street angel' or 'street pastor' projects in Britain to recruit, train and supervise a team of volunteers from the church community in Bognor Regis to be available as late-night 'good Samaritans' to those who might be vulnerable in the pub and club areas of town. The aim is to offer low-level interventions of help and support to those in need under the supervision of the police where necessary. Similar schemes elsewhere have shown significant crime reduction figures and we hope for the same with Arun Angels. The project is due to launch in December 2009 so more of this in next year's report.



The Arun Angels team at their commissioning service, with representatives from statutory partners including the police and council.

In the autumn of 2008, peaceworks teamed up with Arun District Council and the Arun Community Cohesion Group to run 'Arun Peace Week' – the first ever initiative of its kind in Bognor Regis and surrounding areas. Arun Peace Week ran from 15th to 23rd November 2008 and was set up to celebrate Arun's diversity, promote cultural understanding, and bring communities together. Twelve organisations ran eighteen events across the week ranging from sports and poetry to music and dance, and approximately 1,600 people were involved in the events – that is over 1% of Arun district's population!

Financial Review

Financial Summary for 2008-2009

<i>Income</i>	Voluntary Income	£68,282.00
	Investment Income	£1,778.00
	Charitable Activities	£30,062.00
	Total Income	£100,122.00
<i>Expenditure</i>	Charitable Activities	£87,151.00
	Governance Costs	£2,068.00
	Total Expenditure	£89,219.00
<i>Cash Flow</i>	Net movement in Funds	£10,903.00
	Total Funds brought forward	£58,229.00
	Total Current Assets	£69,132.00



Thanks for reading this. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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