

Thomas Perry is hoping to organise a Junior darts competition soon, for ages between 10 and 16 years, so if you are a member or going to join and are interested, then you can telephone 01993 830177.

Finally I would like to personally thank and congratulate all the people

of the MSA past and present and the Parish Council for all their hard work over the years.

If you have any questions or would like to join the Social Club, then please contact me.

The Chairman
Robin Perry 01993 830177

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Problems In Your Neighbourhood?

Oxford Community Mediation is an independent charity. We help people throughout the county to sort out disputes. We have worked on issues ranging from parties to parking and dogs to drains. In addition to neighbour problems, we can also help people who are having difficulties with friends, workmates or other family members. We can even get involved with disputes involving community groups, schools, tenants and landlords.

Mediation is completely voluntary – we only become involved if and when people want us to. Mediators would see those involved separately at first and then, if they wanted us to, we would arrange a time and place to meet together to try and sort things out. Sometimes, people don't want us to contact their neighbour or they are fearful of meeting with them. In these cases, those involved in a dispute know the situation best and we would only help people to work out their options and the consequences. We would not pressurise anybody into something that they did not want to do.

It doesn't matter how large or small the problem is. Sometimes what seems to be a small problem can be the most difficult to live with and it is often a good idea to try and sort things out before the situation becomes too tense. Many disputes are based on misunderstandings, wrong assumptions or people thinking that they know the full story when, in fact, there are often important gaps. Sometimes, people are unhappy with the situation but feel that they cannot back down or simply do not know what to do.

Mediators help those involved to be clear about the problem and what is needed to make things better. One of the mediators' main roles is to help people to communicate effectively with each other. Mediators do not give advice nor do they take sides. We're flexible in terms of arranging times and places to meet and, at every step, the decisions are made by those involved in the dispute. We do not charge a set fee but we welcome and rely on donations, however large or small, from clients who are able to contribute. Those on low incomes would not be expected to contribute. Mediation often takes a lot of courage but it is about making things better in the long run, in a way that is satisfactory to everybody. If you would like us to visit you or you just want to find out more, you can call **Oxford Community Mediation on Oxford (01865) 742439** (includes a 24 hour answerphone).