

# Beacon Friends' Newsletter

November 2007



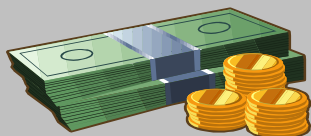
Regd. Charity No. 1109545  
Email: [office@beacon-counselling.org.uk](mailto:office@beacon-counselling.org.uk)

Tel: 0161 440 0055

## A new project for Beacon

The beginning of October saw Beacon piloting a new service in the Benchill and Woodhouse Park areas of Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester in partnership with SureStart (Government funded play groups). Our counsellors are working very hard and getting involved in some very complex work supporting both parents and young people as well as single parents with difficult children and youth offenders. This is a very exciting and innovative venture and one that we've never tried before. Our service lasts until the end of the year and then we'll evaluate the situation and seek funding to continue next year. Even before our pilot began the SureStart people had several clients waiting for us and we now have a small waiting list of new clients.

## Our Primary Care Trust Grant



James has been in successful negotiations with the Stockport PCT recently and has been assured that our annual small grant from them is secure for the next 2 years.



## Announcing our 2008 Gala Dinner

This will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Marple Golf Club in partnership with Mellor Church.

Dinner will be followed by speaker **GRAHAM SMITH - (MANCHESTER UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB'S TRAINING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER)**. We hear he is a very amusing and entertaining speaker.

Beacon will only be allocated 50 tickets for this event so it will be first come first served. Please have Sandra (0161 440 0055) put your name on the "ticket waiting list" as soon as possible. Either phone or email her and your tickets will be available in January. Tickets will cost £27.50 each. (Dress code smart casual).

This will be a very special night and jot it down in your new 2008 diary.

*My Nomadic Life with  
Beacon.....  
by Appointments  
Administrator Sandra Bailey*



I first heard about Beacon in 1984 when I was Chairman of Bramhall Ladies Circle. Eleanor Sykes (psychiatrist and very well known lady in Bramhall at that time) gave us a talk about the service and as a consequence I offered to do reception work - and 23 years later I'm still here!

When Beacon began, the medical receptionists working at Robins Lane Medical Centre answered our phone and made the appointments for us, but it all started to go pear shaped when things became busy and so I offered to have the Beacon phone at home – that lasted 3 years.

After a while it all became even busier, and it was soon obvious that we needed an office base. Fortunately, my son-in-law offered a temporary backroom in his Dental Surgery for 6 months but we ended up staying 3 more years! Our permanent next home turned out to be only next door at what is now the Village Surgery and while this building was being renovated we moved for a short while into a tiny room on the balcony of the Methodist Church. They didn't charge us any rent for those few months and that

was very much appreciated but there was one slight problem – on organ practice days, or funerals, we had to unplug the phones for obvious reasons! When the Village Surgery was completed we moved into a couple of rooms in the attic and I can remember how absolutely delighted we were to have our own space at last and we settled down very well there.

However, inevitably we outgrew these rooms too with the increasing demand for our service and we realised that we just had to have more space. It took several years of hard searching to find a property to rent that was big enough and that we could afford. Hilary Whalley eventually found derelict rooms above the empty Global Video shop and with vision and some funding we could see it could be a viable proposition. The landlord was very helpful changing room layouts, and letting us choose the colour schemes and carpets. Thanks to Olivia's fundraising we were able to furnish our present Moss Lane premises to a high standard and in November 2005 we moved into our smart welcoming new home.

Before I finish, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ann Sejrup, Mel Gardner, Olive MacCallum, Elizabeth Zonka, Jean Green, David Ackroyd and Hilary Whalley who have all joined me at various times on this nomadic – but always enjoyable – Beacon voyage.

***Is this a record?***

On one Monday in September the office staff took and received 98 telephone calls - phew!!

## *Training for Counsellors and Trustees*

\* We recently offered two one day training courses to counsellors on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Issues and Initial Consultations. Feedback from all participants was extremely positive.

\* We also had a training session for the members of the Board of Trustees recently on "Good Governance". This was organised by C & C Melrose Limited, a professional company in Manchester who run management and directorship courses but who offered this course free to Beacon.

## *Client donations take a dive:*

Average client donations have taken a dip recently from £16.50 per session last January to £12.53 in September. This drop of £4 per session might not appear to be very much but over 12 months it could amount to £8,000 - a drop we obviously can not afford. We are now endeavouring to deal with this situation by encouraging all counsellors to explain to clients Beacon's donation policy. Each session costs us about £30 to deliver.

## *Welcome John Bennett*

John has recently joined our admin team as press release volunteer (among other things). This is a new role in Beacon and as John has had some experience in the media he should be invaluable. The aim of this role is to raise the profile of Beacon throughout Stockport to help us gain more clients and ensure the public know the work that we do and the benefit to local people. We hope you really enjoy your time with Beacon John.



## *Come to our "Christmas Mulled Wine Evening"*

*This is an invitation to all:*

*Counsellors*

*Trustees*

*Supervisors*

*Friends*

*Receptionists*

*Volunteers and*

*Staff*

*As a BIG THANKYOU to everyone involved with Beacon you are welcome to call in to our **Open House** on Friday 7th December at our Bramhall premises - 203 Moss Lane - from 5.00-7.00pm.*

*Wine and mince pies will be served.*

*Come and start your Christmas with us. Beacon is your charity so do call in and meet everyone else involved. (Have you a raffle prize to donate?)*

## *Recent client comments:*

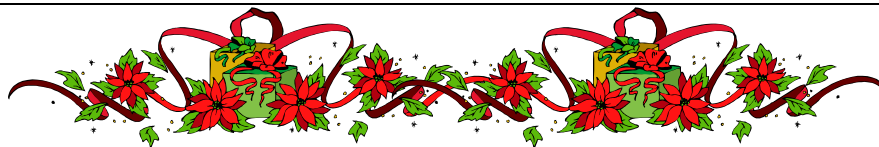
*"Counselling helped me to deal with my feelings and get over my fears and paranoias".*

*"Everyone was so easy, there were no awkward moments - I was never made to feel that I was different".*

*"Counsellor xxx is an excellent listener and had the knack of helping me clarify my thoughts and feelings so I could function properly again".*

## *Did you know?*

- ⇒ James and Olivia recently attended a presentation by the Corporate Policy Team of the Stockport Council to hear about the launch of the Council's new Main Grant Scheme (their new initiative for funding charities starting in 2008). They will both now be working on a complex application in the hope that we can replace the Tudor Trust funding when this finishes next year.
- ⇒ From 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 30<sup>th</sup> September this year 73% of our clients were female and 27% male.
- ⇒ Between a quarter to a third of a GP's workload will be concerned with patients with emotional or psychological difficulties\*  
(\*Source Stockport PCT website)
- ⇒ We are involved in the Primary Care Trust's bid to open a Community Hospital in the centre of Stockport that will offer many things, including counselling. It's called the St. Thomas' Community Venture.
- ⇒ Beacon is included on the Stockport Mental Health Guide website.
- ⇒ At present we have 60 people waiting for their first consultation/assessment session and another 15 people waiting for their first appointment.
- ⇒ Our clients come from every corner of the Borough but in particular from Cheadle Hulme, Bramhall, Davenport, Heaton Moor, Hazel Grove and Edgeley.



*This newsletter will be the last one for 2007*

*And so the staff at Beacon wish everyone  
Very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy & Healthy New Year*



## **BEACON COUNSELLING**

*203 Moss Lane, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 1BA*

*Adult Service Enquiries ☎ 0161 440 0055*

*B2 for Young People Enquiries ☎ 077730 32759*

*[www.beacon-counselling.org.uk](http://www.beacon-counselling.org.uk)*