



The Friends Newsletter

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HOT NEWS

We have brand new monitoring and evaluation graphs which summarise the results of our new client evaluation forms. These evidence the real value of our work.

FANTASTIC NEWS! “Beacon 2” funding secured for 3 years!



Just as Beacon 2 was about to fold because of lack of funding the BBC Children in Need have come to our rescue and we are to receive £35,120 over 3 years to maintain and expand this service. James says “This is fantastic news for Beacon 2 which has been struggling financially for the last 5 months after the previous funder closed down. So even after a very successful year for Beacon 2 its future was looking very uncertain.

This gives us 3 years in which we can establish this service more firmly and improve what we do. This is really exciting news!”

Lead B2 counsellor, Yvonne Shelmerdine, says “I am delighted that B2 has been acknowledged by Children in Need as a worthy service for counselling young people. The wait for information leading to a new source of financial injection became almost unbearable knowing how much hard work that Olivia, James and Pat Lobley had invested. When I learned that our application had been successful I was overwhelmed. The way forward now is to kick-start the engine and raise awareness that B2 is back in business”.

Please note—this funding is specifically for Beacon 2 and cannot be used for any other of the Beacon services and therefore it is still vital for us to continue with our programme of fundraising for the next 12 months.

THE “RELUCTANT VOLUNTEER”— Alex Chattington



Thank you
receptionist
Alex
Chattington

Alex is one of our evening receptionists at the Bramhall office. Born in Blackpool, and a retired dentist, he was persuaded by his wife Vida about 4 years ago “to do something for the community” and so he came to help out. Alex’s passion is music and he plays the double bass in a small orchestra that specializes in 30’s, 40’s and 50’s jazz music. They perform at various types of private functions but Alex has also been known to busk in Bramhall Precinct to raise funds for Christie Hospital. He also spends a great deal of time and energy in his beautiful woodland garden in Bramhall.

Very much a “reluctant volunteer” (his own words) he always turns up each week to help counsellors Anna, Pat, Fiona and Yvonne who he says he gets on with famously. He says he doesn’t particularly enjoy turning out on a winter’s evening and also doesn’t need the “quiet time” that many receptionists yearn for when working us because he can get that in his own garden, but he does enjoy doing extra little jobs in the office that Margaret Smith sometimes gives him to fill his time.

Alex admits he’s not a volunteer by nature but helps out because of a sense of duty and enjoys giving something back to the local community. He likes to feel that he’s helping, in some small

way, those less fortunate than himself. What really ticks him off though is when the clients don’t turn up!

Manager James says, “despite his reluctance, Alex is an excellent volunteer. He has committed to over 4 years already so we must be doing something right. The counsellors really enjoy working with him and value the fact that he is prepared to give up his time to provide reception. This role is vital since without it we wouldn’t be able to open in the evenings, which is by far our busiest time of the day. Alex is also warm and friendly...the ideal qualities for reception at Beacon. So thank you Alex, even though you’re reluctant”!

NEW CHAIRMAN

Janice Cahill has agreed to take on the role of Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the next 6 months. Janice is Head Teacher of the Pendlebury School and is a fervent supporter and enthusiast of Beacon and its work in the community. Elaine Bates is now Vice Chairman.

OFFICE CLEANER

The search is on for an office cleaner for the Bramhall office. Do you know anyone who would be willing to work 2 hours a week? Speak to the office if you have any suggestions. ☎440 0055

A GREAT SPONSORED DRIVE

Chris Owen (partner of Beacon Counsellor Clodhna McPhillips) completed a fantastic drive in mid-July to all 20 premier football clubs in an incredible 16 hours.

The original aim was to complete it in 20 hours so this achievement was outstanding. Thanks to everyone in Beacon who sponsored Chris and we all send our congratulations and many thanks to Chris. We shall receive over £1,200! A million thanks.

OFF TO SEE THE QUEEN!



Sandra Bailey, Joan Tsalkis, Olivia Hunt and Sue Miller had a wonderful day out at Buckingham Palace in July. As a result of our Queen's Award we received 4 invitations to attend one of the Queen's Garden Parties and so 4 of the longest serving workers of Beacon were chosen to represent our organisation. Unfortunately, they didn't get to speak to the Queen but they did manage a few jokey words with Prince Phillip which really made their day! All 4 agreed it was a fantastic day out.

OUR FUNDING TEAM

What was once Olivia toiling away at her home computer is now a team of 3 with James and now Alan Smith. Alan joined us via the web-based Reach Changemaker Programme which introduces retired professional people to appropriate charities where their expertise and experience can be of benefit. Alan has enormous experience in industrial multi-million pound contract tendering, and when faced with Beacon's funding needs had to adjust his figures downwards a little of course but soon realised that the principles were more or less similar. The first few months has seen a busy appeals team getting the facts and figures in place, re-writing the finances, waiting for the completion of the Business Plan and formulating a plan of action for the appeals. But now the team is ready to start the first bidding phase and is currently identifying a range of potential funders that we can apply to before launching a campaign of relationship-building to get to know the funders and their needs. We will keep you up to date through this Newsletter. Alan is very enthusiastic about Beacon and we really appreciate his expert advice. Benjamin Franklin once said "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail" - a good motto for the Team!

Counsellor Supervision

It's innovative
It's interesting
It's exciting

Why not join
the Funding
Team—see
above

For 24 years Beacon has managed to pay the supervision fees for all our counsellors. This is a vital component of a professional counselling service and until now this payment has been a real incentive

for counsellors to join us and one that not many counselling services routinely offer. However, because of financial constraints we now find that part of this payment must come from the counsellors themselves. James

has talked individually to all counsellors and supervisors about this issue and they all now realise that regrettably this is something that must be done to ensure our future. Counsellors will continue to receive travel expenses and a range of free training.

BEACON
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ECOTHERAPY WALK

Counsellor Terry Moore invites everyone to an extra special walk on Sunday September 21st. He will lead a 3.5 mile walk around Alderley Edge explaining its historic, geographic and legendary landmarks as well as making sure everyone sees the breathtaking views from the Edge. One of the stops will include the reading of "The Legend of Alderley Edge" poem which brings the Alderley story to life.

Everyone welcome. No walking experience necessary. You need to be reasonably fit and wear outdoor clothes and walking boots or strong trainers. Bring packed lunch, kids and dogs.

Meet at the Alderley Edge National Car Park on B5087 Alderley Edge/Macclesfield Road at 10.00am. If you want more details phone Terry on 01625 858487 or there are information leaflets in the office.



Unsung heroes
Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2008

**The Mayor of
Stockport will
be attending
our
Presentation**

AND DON'T FORGET..... Our Queen's Award Presentation

- Tuesday 23rd Sept. at 6.45pm
- St. Michael's Church, Bramhall.
- Bubbly, nibbles and celebration cake!

Donations of savoury nibbles would be appreciated—please bring into the office before hand

*We are on the
internet!!!
[www.beacon-
counselling.org.uk](http://www.beacon-counselling.org.uk)*

DID YOU KNOW?

** 273 Stockport people have contacted us so far this year for counselling.

** A university Psychology Student has recently been helping us with the research and set-up of our new project of mental health promotion.

** Free Training has been offered to counsellors on "Safeguarding Level 1" and also a 3-day course on Mental Health Promotion which will be paid for by Stockport Primary Care Trust. We are also working on providing a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy course in the near future which will be part-funded by Beacon.

** We are to commence group counselling work in some of our schools this-month.