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# the Beacon

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**The past months** have been a trying time for Beacon Lodge. We are still struggling to understand what the cuts in Local Authority expenditure will mean for us. More concerning, we have been through a challenging period, having experienced our very first cot death. Staff and other Mothers were totally devastated. We were commended for our exemplary handling of the situation, but nevertheless the thoughts of everyone at Beacon Lodge were with the Mother who suffered such a painful loss. Statistically it is extremely unusual that we have not encountered such a sad event before. We know that our high standards of training and practice do minimise the risks of such tragedies. But we also know that this is little consolation for our grieving Mother.

Easter has been and the Mothers and Babies have enjoyed the spell of beautiful sunshine that we had throughout April and early May. Now thoughts are turning from Easter Eggs and a visit from the Easter Bunny to the summer proper and our Garden Party on 16<sup>th</sup> July! And our garden is really beginning to awaken from its winter slumber!

### The Editor

## PROFILE

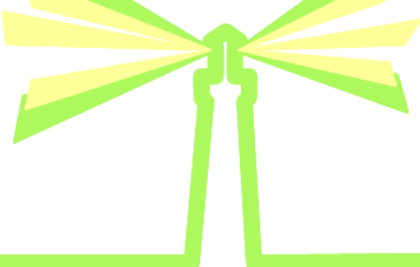
I was born and have lived in Finchley or close by for all of my life and still belong to St Mary at Finchley where I was baptized. At Christ's College, I was fortunate to belong to what must be one of the most successful classes possible as, out of ninety boys, it produced two Lords, one Knight, several captains of industry, two actors of note and a sports broadcaster. I was none of these.

After school and National Service, I joined the Customs and Excise having a very varied time in varied places, much of it involved with the law, and when I retired I was running the Local VAT Office in Finchley! In 1980 I was appointed as a J P and sat originally at Highgate and from '86 in Barnet and Hendon. A large part of my service was as Chairman of the Family Panel, dealing with care proceedings, protection orders and other family problems. When I retired from full time work, I first of all became involved in Beacon Lodge, at the suggestion of my wife who was already on the Committee, and then as a Lay Member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal. Age rules subsequently retired me both from the Bench and the Tribunal – but not yet from Beacon Lodge.

Just after starting work I met Jill, my wife to be, in a dramatic society, and we married in '56 in St Mary's where her late father had been organist for many years. Now we have two daughters, who both became nurses, and four grandchildren, one of whom is also a nurse. Both our daughters and their husbands are members of Beacon Lodge.

My interests include club cricket, which I played for 40 years, archaeology, that involved me in digs in the City, St Albans and locally, and now woodturning and gardening.

**Brian McCarthy is  
Chairman of the  
Beacon Lodge Trust**



# The Garden



**Summer in the garden is always a particularly busy time at Beacon Lodge and this year the changes from winter are very evident!**

Argon has been extremely active getting the lawn ready for mothers to enjoy with their babies. In addition, the new Fruit Orchard is coming along well and all of the new trees that were planted last autumn seem to have survived our harsh winter and are thriving.

A new feature in the garden is the Pergola Entrance to the Orchard, kindly funded from donations made last year. Argon has erected the structure and sown the new grass seed.

## Race for Life

One of our staff at Beacon Lodge is taking part in this year's Race for Life and is being sponsored by her colleagues and friends. Serena had this to say about her effort. *"Three years ago my Grandad passed away after suffering with Prostate Cancer. Then last year my Auntie was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and had to have both breasts removed. I felt that I needed to help and thought that by participating in Race for Life I could raise money to help with future research, and treatments for others that suffer different forms of Cancer."*

Serena will be running in Trent Park, Enfield at 11.00am on 19<sup>th</sup> June when she hopes to raise £500 and we all wish her well. You can sponsor her cause by contacting any of the staff at Beacon Lodge.

## AND FINALLY...

**...Our Annual Garden Party will be held this year on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July from noon to 3.00pm.**

Why not plan to join us in our lovely garden and enjoy a barbeque whilst meeting staff, committee members and other friends of Beacon Lodge. As usual there will be lots to do for children, with a Bouncy Castle and lots of games and music. We can assure you of some good food and a really warm welcome!

If you would like to receive email copies of The Beacon, or you have a friend who may be interested, please email Hazel at [beaconlodge@btconnect.com](mailto:beaconlodge@btconnect.com) to be added to our mailing list.