

Fundraising News

Welcome to Southend in Sight's autumn edition of Fundraising News.

We are pleased to say that our success with grant funding has continued. We received a three-year grant totalling £30,000 from the Essex Freemasons in July. This grant is specifically for our "Talk and Support" project that was begun during lockdown. Staff and volunteers will continue to make hundreds of calls every month to help keep local visually impaired people connected.

Representatives from the Essex Freemasons, pictured below with staff, visited our Centre to see for themselves the difference our work is making.



Hot off the press! We have just recently been awarded a two-year grant from the Mid and South Essex Community Partnership programme. This project involves us working in conjunction with the three other sight loss charities across Essex to offer joined up support to visually impaired people throughout the county.



Our team, pictured above, are eager to start contacting those who may have slipped through the gaps and now more than ever need help getting out and about again.

The grants we have been awarded are helping us to keep our essential services running, as we are still unable to fundraise through

our usual channels of events, collections and talks.

Our ever-popular charity shop has also been contributing to the £200,000 we need every year to run the charity. Since reopening in April we have reached new heights with our monthly takings thanks to our regular customers and the fantastic donations we receive.

We must also pay tribute to all the wonderful volunteers who support us in our efforts in the charity shop. We have a happy band of like-minded people helping us front of house and behind the scenes with sorting, steaming, labelling, electrical testing and selling online.

We are always looking for new shop volunteers, so if you do have some time on your hands and would like to offer your services, please call our office.

We have a few events in the calendar for this Autumn, but please call ahead to check they are still taking place.

Southend Tangent Group Fashion Show – Thursday September 23 at St Peter's Church from 7.30pm. All proceeds to Southend in Sight.

Tickets now on sale at £10, to include a glass of wine. This promises to be a fun evening with the clothes, shoes and accessories all for sale and supplied by our charity shop!

Autumn Quiz - Saturday 16 October at St Peter's Church from 7pm. Tickets £6, teams of 6-8. Limited availability – book early to avoid disappointment.

Don't forget if you can spare £5 a month, you could join our Diamond Club and help support our work.

Please also remember that we can offer online and in person talks to any group or organisation that wishes to hear about our charity. For more information on this and any other fundraising enquiries, please call **Catherine Hodgson** on **01702 34 21 31**.