

Fundraising News

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

With some secure funding in place, you might think we are resting on our laurels here at Southend in Sight, but there is still a gap between these grants and what we require to run our Community Services.

We have slowly returned to more community based work, getting out and about and meeting people. We are very lucky to have ongoing support from local Rotary and Lions clubs, Tangent and W.I. groups, among others.

We also have our community ambassadors such as the now famous Banksy of Leigh-on-Sea, Linda Catling. Linda has taken part in the Leigh Horticultural Society Fayre and given several talks to local groups collecting donations as she goes. Being visually impaired herself, she is best

placed to let others know about the type of services we offer and the difference they can make. And of course she takes a selection of her fantastic post box toppers to show off everywhere she goes. Linda's wonderful tribute to Remembrance Day, showing a soldier's head covered in poppies, is pictured below.



As we go to print, our popular Christmas pop-up shop will be taking place again in our Centre. In recent years we have doubled our Saturday takings and even run a competition between the main shop and pop-up shop

to see who could take the most money. Our aim this year is to achieve the best takings in one day – the record is currently set at £820! We will let you know next issue whether we manage to beat it or not...

Charity Shop Manager Lois continues to make the most out of every item donated to us through her creative windows (her Halloween theme is pictured below) and quirky merchandising. With the help of our trusty band of volunteers, items are sorted, steamed, tested and sold online, all helping to raise vital funds for Southend in Sight.



With this issue, we are also asking our supporters to donate to us if they are able. There is no obligation to and we do realise that this is an expensive time of year, but if you are able to spare anything, it will be much appreciated. Last year over £3,500 was raised through our Christmas Appeal.

You can, of course, help in other ways if you shop online, with no cost to yourself. Please choose Southend Blind Welfare Organisation if you are using Amazon/Amazon Smile or making purchases through Easy Fundraising.

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**.