

Fundraising News

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

We are very pleased to have received a few smaller grants from local groups to start us off in our new financial year. And we recorded our quickest ever grant application of 20 minutes, which resulted in a £1000 donation from the Arnold Clark Community Fund!

We welcomed a donation of £2,500 from Southend Talking Newspapers back in March. They in turn had received the funds from a fellow Talking Newspaper Group that had recently closed. Their donation was in recognition of our partnership working over the years.

Rayleigh Town Council once again awarded us a grant of £850 to support Rayleigh residents. This year we are focussing on providing sight loss awareness training for

groups, schools and businesses in the Rayleigh area. We feel that as more people are getting out and about it is important to make them aware of the right way to offer help to someone with a visual impairment.

Our first fundraising event in almost 3 years took place at Zen City near our headquarters in Westcliff in April. We started off with a few tables, but ended up with 75 people attending the event on the night.

Special thanks to the crowd from our accountants Venthams who helped to swell the numbers and buy all the raffle tickets up. We raised a very impressive £1,136, but most importantly, it was so very nice to meet with people face to face again.

Our charity shop had a very successful year from April 2021 to March 2022, raising an amazing £80,000 in total. We could not have reached

these dizzy heights without the team of volunteers led by Charity Shop Manager Lois, some of whom are featured in the photo below.



A lot of work goes on behind the scenes sorting, steaming, selling online, cleaning and PAT testing everything to make sure we really do squeeze every penny from all donated items. We are very grateful to our shop team for all their hard work and dedication and to our local supporters for donating gems for us to sell in our charity shop. Keep up the good work everyone!

We are pleased to report that our Easter pop-up shop was also a great success, raising just over £340 on the day. Our volunteers worked hard

to help us get everything set up and to price all the Easter themed items in time to open on the Saturday morning. The photo below shows the “before” picture, complete with bunting, chicks and bunnies galore. We are so grateful to our wonderful volunteer Viv who spends hours creating beautiful baskets for us to sell in our shop. She really went above and beyond the call of duty this time!

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

We can offer 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**.

