

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

Firstly, a thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas campaign. We know that times are tough with the cost of living crisis, but through your generosity we have raised a fantastic £2,600.

Our grant funding continues with ongoing support from the National Lottery Community Fund. We are waiting to hear news on whether some of our projects will receive the green light from other grant and trust funds.

Community fundraising has received support from several Masonic Lodges in the area, who between them have raised close to £1,000 for visually impaired people in the area.

Local choir, the Westwood Singers, have also chosen Southend in Sight as their charity this year and have raised £350 for us.



Our Christmas pop-up shop was the best ever this year. I know we say this every time, but we really did beat our previous record with a whopping £882 and a further £275 through the charity shop on the same day.

As shown in the photo, Santa did manage to take time off from his busy schedule and make an appearance. He is pictured with volunteer Jean, outside our pop-up shop, rustling up some business on the day!

On the back of this success, we have put a date in the diary – Saturday 18 March - for our Spring pop-up shop. This will feature Mother’s Day gifts, Easter baskets and treats for all the family, as well as Spring fashion items – something for everyone!



We recently held a meeting with our charity shop volunteers, as they form the biggest army of support for our charity. In total we have over 35 lovely people helping us on a regular basis front of house and behind the scenes. The photo shows just two of our Friday gang – Anne and Liz - enjoying a well-earned rest with a cuppa!

Since our charity shop opened in April 2010, we have raised £740K to help run our services for local blind and partially sighted people. We are so lucky to have such a happy, smiley, hard-working, enthusiastic and dedicated bunch of volunteers – they really are the best. We have said it before, but it’s worth saying again, our volunteers make all the difference to the experience our customers receive when shopping with us.

Thank you shop volunteers – we all know we are the “best charity shop in the world!”

Don’t forget, if you can spare £5 a month, you could join our Diamond Club and help support our work. We can also 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** on **01702 34 21 31**.

Southend in Sight

Telephone: 01702 342131

Email: info@southendinsight.org.uk

Website: www.southendinsight.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1069765

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