

Fundraising News

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

We have seen a flurry of support from local groups, families and individuals over the summer months, all adding to our fundraising total.

The Smack Pub in Old Leigh chose Southend in Sight as one of the 4 charities receiving funds from their popular weekly quiz. Our thanks to regular quizzers Helen and Emma for nominating our charity and for raising £600.

Another quiz, this time organised by sisters Leia and Lauren Kinch, also proved successful for our charity. The pair, with the help of family and friends, managed to raise £1056 for us in memory of their Aunt and our colleague Kath Kinch, who sadly passed away last year. They are pictured above right with their very proud Uncle

Graham on a visit to our office to present the funds to us.



Local choir, the Busketeers, also chose to collect for us at their latest concert, raising close to £300 in loose change! And Queen of Crochet Linda Catling has once again been busy promoting and fundraising for Southend in Sight, collecting another £350 in donations. Linda's aim is to raise £1000 for us by Christmas – we are sure she is going to make her target!

Our grant funding has also been successful with a donation of £8000 from the Essex Community

Foundation. As long term supporters of our charity, we are grateful to the trust for this funding to help pay for our ever increasing utility, insurance and maintenance bills.

Our charity shop continues to do well. After a shaky start in April and May, our figures are now at a more respectable level. For two consecutive weeks in July our weekly takings were above the holy grail of £2,000.

We are sure that Shop Manager Lois' windows are a huge draw. She seems to have the knack of putting together an eclectic mix of items with a tenuous link to create a wonderful window for passers by to marvel at and hopefully decide to buy from. One such window, entitled "tickled pink", is featured right with a resplendent display of all pink items ranging from ceramic pigs to leotards!

To reach these high figures, we rely on the dedication of our volunteer shop team. 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 to our local supporters for donating gems for us to sell in our charity shop.



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**.