

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

We are very pleased to announce that we have received a 2 year grant worth £40K from Independent Age, a funder that supports people over 65 with a focus on the cost of living crisis. As part of this grant, we will be expanding our offer of form filling and I.T support, as well as introducing a monthly lunch club for local people living with sight loss. More details on this grant are covered in the main newsletter.



Our thanks once again to a local Masonic Lodge for their support of our charity. Ken Mitchell, Immediate Past Master of the

Universal Friendship Lodge, chose Southend in Sight as his daughter Georgie just happens to work for us! Father and daughter are pictured left with an oversized cheque for a fantastic £2000 at a recent

dinner for the Lodge, where Georgie talked about the importance of our work in the community, and very aptly about companionship. The blind and partially sighted people of Southend will very much benefit from the fundraising efforts of the Lodge's members.

We also have a new recruit to our fundraising team – Liz Payne. Liz has been volunteering with us for the last 3 years and was persuaded to join our staff ranks and help raise funds for her favourite local charity. She will be carrying



out talks with community groups, arranging bucket collections and organising some fundraising events for everyone to attend. We are sure that Liz, pictured left, seated in our Centre, will be an asset to our fabulous team.

Our charity shop was closed for half of June and July while some essential building repairs were carried out. This gave us the chance to tidy up our store, sort and take stock of all our donations. Now reopened, our shop is lighter and brighter thanks to a lick of paint

and some LED electrics. There are a few more alterations we need to make to our display areas, but we are confident we are hitting the mark with our customers. Charity Shop Manager Lois has breathed a sigh of relief and welcomed the chance to create a very topical “Barbie” window full of pink clothes for all and actual Barbie and Ken dolls, selling for a very reasonable £1 each!

We are now able to sign people up for gift aid when they make a donation to our shop. This means that when your donated item is sold, we are able to claim an extra 25% on top in retail gift aid. Please ask a member of our team for a form when you drop off any donations to our charity shop – every little helps!

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** or **Liz Payne** 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

Supported by

Green Light
Print Solutions

www.greenlightps.com