

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

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their cards, donations and messages of support at Christmas. It really does make volunteers feel appreciated and that they are making a real difference to the sight loss community.

As you know, we are one of the Mayor's chosen charities this year. The committee continue to work hard putting on events every week, helping to raise funds for both Southend in Sight and Southend Hospital. We are sure there will be a huge final figure in May at the end of the Mayoral year.



We took quite a crowd to the panto this year at the Cliffs Pavilion and were thrilled to receive a donation of £300 from Go Privilege to cover the cost of all the sensory goody bags for the children. The photo left shows Jude, Sidney and Bjorn (back row) with Hunter and River, holding their gifts.

One of our staff members (Anne) was lucky enough to meet the star of the panto – Rylan - back stage, as part of the Mayor's charity performance. Anne said he was very tall and charming - much like his character in the panto! The Cliffs Pavilion staff also collected for the Mayor's charities after every performance – thank you to them all for their support.



Members of the Shoebury Residents Events Team visited us to hand over a cheque for £2000 in February. Southend in Sight were chosen as their charity of the year, benefitting from the proceeds of their very successful Christmas Market held in December. The Events Team were busy from

August last year booking in 50 stalls, local choirs, organising a raffle and a tombola as well as seeking sponsorship for their Christmas grotto. The photo shows from left to right: Lucy Martin, members of the Shoebury Residents Events Team Lisa, Sharon and Rhona, with Georgie Haynes from Southend in Sight holding a large cheque.

While the property at 117 Hamlet Court Road is for sale, our charity shop is very much open for business. Sarah and Debbie are continuing to lure customers in with their themed windows featuring Christmas, coats, cosy jumpers or red for Valentine's Day. We always welcome good quality donations of clothes and shoes, so please do think of us if you are having a "Spring" clean. Don't forget our new number to call the charity shop directly with any queries: **07351 735213**.

If you can spare £5 a month, you could join our Diamond Club and help support our work. We 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

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