

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

Firstly, a thank you. We know that we have called and cornered a fair number of you over the summer to carry out a survey about the services we offer. The feedback we receive is important not only to us, so that we can shape the future of the charity, but also to our grant funders so that we can show the difference we are making to local blind and partially sighted people.

We are sure you are all wanting to hear the final amount raised by former Mayor, Nigel Folkard. We can confirm that we received a cheque for **£30,181** at our celebration for Volunteers' Week. With the support of his fundraising committee, Nigel was the driving force behind the incredible amount raised during his Mayoral year for his two chosen charities.



Chair of Trustees, Russell Cable said: "Our thanks to Nigel and all his committee for raising such a huge amount over the past year and for choosing to support Southend in Sight. We plan to use the donation to support local visually impaired children, young people and their families. We provide practical advice and guidance as well as social activities which offer young people an opportunity to come together and gain confidence".

The photo left shows a group of visually impaired children at one of our Animal Encounter activities, touching the prickles of a hedgehog.

Nigel Folkard said: "I was determined to raise a significant amount to make a real difference to both of my charities. I am grateful to the people of Southend who have supported me in my endeavours and am very proud to hand over this cheque to a charity that I have supported for many years".



The photo left shows past Mayor Nigel Folkard (centre) holding a giant cheque with Russell Cable, committee members and Southend in Sight staff and trustees.

A few dates for your diary this Autumn. Firstly, our quiz is making a return. This will be held on **Saturday 10**

October from 7pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Westcliff. Tickets are £10. To book your place/table (6-8) please call us on **01702 34 21 31**.

We also have a Chinese meal booked for **Thursday 19 November** at Zen City on Hamlet Court Road. Tickets for the two-course buffet are £23. Please call to book your place/table for this popular event.

Now the sale of the building at 117 Hamlet Court Road has gone through, Debbie and Sarah are working hard to reorganise the charity shop store. They are still accepting donations, but it might be best to call in advance (**07351 735213**) if you have a car load. Despite all the upheaval, we are still the most popular charity shop in the street, according to our customers!

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** on **01702 34 21 31**.

Southend in Sight

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