

# Fundraising News

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

As we welcome in a new decade, there is much to be grateful for. Our fantastic charity shop manned by our wonderful volunteers continues to exceed expectations. We will be celebrating in style in April as we mark 10 years since the shop opened its doors to the customers of Hamlet Court Road.

Christmas is usually a time to reflect and spread a little cheer, and people often feel they want to give something back. This could certainly be said for our annual carol singing event at Leigh Station with West Leigh School. The generous commuters donated over £800 in just 90 minutes – a new record for us!

Our carols at Porters are a firm fixture in our calendar and this year seemed to be extra special. The girls from

Westcliff High School sang their hearts out and brought tears to our eyes in a packed room full of guests including the Mayor Councillor John Lamb and his wife Pat, pictured below with CEO Lucy Martin and volunteer John Simmonds.



With our continued presence in the local press, clubs and groups have started to contact us for talks and information about our services. One such presentation to a Travel and Tourism class at South Essex College led to a fundraising day. It was lovely to see young people talking passionately about our charity and thinking up novel ways to raise money!

We are very lucky to have been chosen by Garon Park Golf Club as their charity of the year. Our CEO Lucy Martin attended not one but two events to talk to the golfers about the work we do. She is pictured below with club captains Bryan, Stephanie and David. We wish them well in their endeavours to raise as much money as they can for us throughout the coming year.



We were visited by the Chairperson of Rayleigh Town Council June Lumley and her husband Councillor Chris Lumley in February. They were presenting us with a cheque for £850 towards transport costs for our more isolated members.



The couple very much enjoyed meeting our visually impaired volunteer Jan (pictured with June above) and hearing all about how she uses voice activation on her smartphone.

Once again the local Rotary clubs of Westcliff, Thorpe Bay, Rochford and Leigh have been very supportive of our work and have pledged money to buy equipment and sponsor events for our young people over the coming year. Our thanks to all their members who work tirelessly supporting local charities.

We really are grateful to all who continue to support us. Special thanks to our volunteers who turn up for our events and collections and bring along tables of family and friends.

## Events Diary

Wednesday 20  
May, 7pm  
**Chinese Night**  
at Zen City,  
Westcliff-on-Sea.  
£15 per person.

Saturday 11 July  
**Summer pop-up  
shop**, 9.30am-4pm  
At SiS Centre, free  
entry, all welcome.  
Plants, gifts and  
table top sale.

Saturday 17  
October, 7pm  
**Autumn Quiz**  
St Peter's Hall,  
Westcliff, £6 each  
Tables of 6-8

Saturday 28  
November  
**Christmas pop-up  
shop**, 9.30am-4pm  
At SiS Centre, free  
entry, all welcome.  
Christmas fun for  
all the family!

Wednesday 9  
December, 2-4pm  
**Carols at Porters**  
Tickets £10  
including a  
Christmas tea.

**For further details  
on events or to  
book your place,  
please call  
Catherine on  
(01702) 34 21 31.**

## **Diamond Club.**

Become a member of our Diamond Club and help Southend in Sight continue their community services.

You can join any time for just £5 a month or an annual subscription of £60.

Our monthly prize draws are 1<sup>st</sup> prize £75 and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £50, with more at Christmas!

To join or for more information, please call our office on **(01702) 34 21 31.**

## **Will Writing.**

Do you have a will? Have you thought about leaving some money to charity? Bequests to charities are tax free.

You can plan your will to ensure that it is tax

efficient, to avoid your beneficiaries having to pay more inheritance tax and help a local charity at the same time.

Southend in Sight would greatly benefit from a legacy. As a small local charity with no statutory funding we rely on the goodwill of the local community to help keep our services running.

For more information, talk to your solicitor or call our office on **01702 34 21 31** for an information pack.

## **Help Needed.**

If you are a member of a club or group, don't forget to nominate Southend in Sight as your chosen charity.

If you have any fundraising ideas or want to take part in a challenge for us, please call our office for guidance.