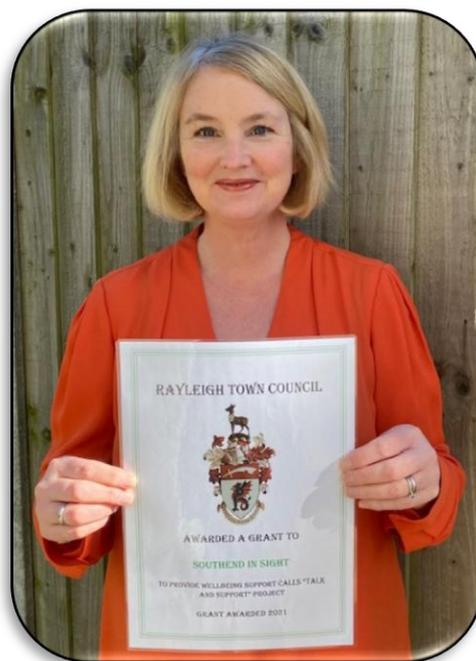


Fundraising News

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

As you will have read in our main newsletter, we are over the moon to have been awarded a three year National Lottery Community Fund grant. This grant will ensure that our essential sight loss advice service can continue to run for the foreseeable future. However, we still need to raise another £40,000 this year to break even!

We are pleased to have received 2 grants from local councils – Rayleigh and Leigh – to focus on visually impaired residents in these particular areas. This is an extension of our “Talk and Support” service that has been successfully running since the start of the first lockdown, offering peer to peer support. Our Community Fundraiser Catherine is pictured above right gratefully receiving one of these awards.



We have also been awarded a third grant from the Southend Emergency Fund to help us stay connected with local visually impaired people of all ages, and funding for our “safety in the home” project from the Essex Fire & Rescue Service.

Our fantastically successful charity shop has not let us down with its third reopening after a lockdown. This time we exceeded all expectations and smashed every sales record ever set in our 11 years at Hamlet Court Road, taking a

whopping £811 on our opening day! The picture below shows Shop Manager Lois' coastal themed window, which certainly helped increase our takings.



The fundraising page on our website has also received a makeover. We have made it as easy as possible for our supporters to donate online in a few simple steps. We even have separate pages set up for different types of fundraising – you may want to set up your own challenge, you may want to donate in memory of a loved one or you may want to join our regular lottery – the Diamond Club. Please visit our website and see how you can support our work: www.southendinsight.org.uk/fundraising

We have pencilled in the following events for the Autumn, providing we feel comfortable and dependent on government guidance:

Stride for Sight - Wednesday 8 September. Walk from Priory Park to Belfairs Park.

Southend Tangent Fashion Show – September 23 at St Peter's Church.

Autumn Quiz - Saturday 16 October at St Peter's Church.

Annual Exhibition and AGM – Friday 29 October at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

We will have more information on these events (and hopefully have others booked) in the next issue.

Please remember that we can offer online and in person (after 21 June) talks to any group or organisation that wishes to hear about our work. For more information on this and any other fundraising enquiries, please call **Catherine Hodgson** on **01702 34 21 31**.