



**Southampton Sight**  
supporting people living with sight loss

# Volunteer News

October 2020

Dear All

I hope you are all well.

We returned to the office at the beginning of August and started face to face appointments. Initially we were busy but have seen a significant slowdown since the new restrictions have been announced and are now looking to reorganise as government advice suggests. From Monday 5th October we will be closing the centre on Fridays and implementing a rota so some staff can work at home, but the office will remain open each day from 9am – 4pm.

Please find enclosed a collage we have developed for our funders with photographs and some key facts showcasing the work we have done during the lockdown and partial opening. We are very proud of the amount we have managed to achieve and that we have continued to support our members – we have made over 3,000 telephone calls and delivered over 1,000 meals. Again thank you for your support and help.

We are now delivering flowers and small hampers to members who may need a pick me up – if you are worried about anyone or would like us to send a pick me up please contact Mandy and we will arrange delivery.

We also have plans to deliver a Christmas dinner and hampers on 22nd December. If you would like to nominate someone please let us know.

Jackie

## **Staff**

Gail Loynes has decided to take early retirement and left the Society at the end of September. Gail has been making cards for us to sell and will continue to do this.

Lorna Whittingham has resigned and is moving to a position with Southampton University as part of the Faculty of Medicine. She will be leaving the Society at the end of October.

We will miss them both.

Fergus Lyons, who is currently training as a Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired (ROVI), will be working with us until May next year as part of his course.

At this time we will not be replacing Gail or Lorna (I will be covering Lorna's roles) as until we know and understand the parameters within which we can deliver services I feel it would be financially prudent to keep our expenses to the minimum.

## **Fundraising**

Our financial position remains stable. Since the last newsletter we have received the following funds

1. Summer Raffle – £2,381
2. Hampshire and IOW Community Foundation - £4,858
3. National Community Lottery - £9,360
4. Southampton Voluntary Services - £350
5. Associated British Ports - £1,000

## **Christmas Card Competition**

We have asked our children and young people to design a Christmas card to send to our members this year. We need judges – please give us a call if you would like to do this.

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