

NOVEMBER 2020

FUNDRAISING FEATURE

by Gareth Owens

A highlight of the incredible fundraising efforts by our community to support GTBAL.

WELCOME

It's fair to say it feels like a lifetime ago since we published a fundraising feature; In all total honesty, it feels like an absolutely lifetime ago because it literally has been such a long slog these last few months. With local and national lockdowns coming back into play and just generally not much going on to feature, it's been a pretty quiet few months for us to have any real news to share on the bloody good people who've helped build our project from the ground up.

It's been a strange year, that's for sure. Despite lots of us being confined to our homes, we've seen the best in people getting together, raising funds, lifting community spirits and backing the work we're trying to do and the change we're bringing from Dew Street.

Whilst the year has been an eye opener on many fronts for a lot of people, the biggest shock we've had from 2020 is seeing just how many people have requested to use our service. Sure, we always expected a rise in people using it when we announced we'd take it online; the accessibility of using online, the worry and anxieties about being at home and even the preference of using an online

tool as opposed to having to swing by the store was always going to play a part in people feeling more comfortable asking for help; what we didn't predict was just how much we'd be used.

We've seen people from all over the country drop in (via e-mail) and wish to access support, at which we've been overwhelmed by just how many people are using us as their first point of call to accessing help. Whether that be through personal preference, through waiting lists elsewhere, or simply not being able to access support due to a financial barrier, we've seen people from all walks of life reach out and ask for a hand.

Despite it being hard going and sometimes tough knowing that there's so many people needing support, it's been beyond comforting knowing that through bringing in extra counselling hours, providing more services and being on the brink of extending our service even more, we've been able to work and manage the ever growing demand with thanks to so many fantastic supports.

This month in particular, we'd like to raise and highlight the importance of two fantastic fundraising efforts in particular that have allowed us to increase the number of slots we've been able to open up and pay for people to access support.

RACHEL

Pembrokeshire Moments



We have been long-time friends, supporters and customers of Pembrokeshire Moments since we first met around Christmas of 2018.

We first got chatting to Rachel at a Christmas pop up event down in Tenby, where she kindly donated two pieces of work, which now sit proudly in our counsellor's office at our Dew Street store.

*This photo was taken in December 2019.

We've stayed in touch ever since, Rachel is responsible for the production of our fantastic water bottles, mugs, coasters and all things accessories here at GTBAL.

Last year, Rachel made us the Charitable Organisation of the Year for her 2020 Calendars, she has once again, done the same for us this year, already raising £500 to support our cause.

To Rachel, giving a percentage of her calendar sales may seem like a small gesture, however, for an organisation like ours and many others who have had to close their doors, whilst simultaneously managing a higher demand for their services, her fundraising efforts have made a huge difference to the support we've been able to offer.

You can find Rachel's stunning calendars in local stores and post offices in the lead up to the new year, or find out more information by visiting her website at www.pembrokeshiremoments.co.uk

EURFYL

Capeli Bro Hywel Dda's Sponsored Walk



Similar to Rachel, this is a repeat fundraising effort, as we've been supported by Eurfyl in previous years. His, as well as the Chapel communities efforts, are beyond appreciated.

Eurfyl and the group, consisting of 22 chapels, have been fundraising for the last 50 years to support local organisations, their annual sponsored walks are one of many fantastic events they do to support groups within the community.

Eurfyl mentioned how it was fantastic to see people of all ages ranging from 3 years old, right up to 83 years old relishing in the opportunity to socialise and get active, whilst simultaneously supporting each other. (With everyone adhering to social distancing guidelines.)

They raised a fantastic £3,000 which was split between ourselves and *Meddygfa Taf* in Whitland. Pictured above is Gareth [centre] with Rosemarie Davies (secretary) [left] and Eurfyl Lewis (Chairman) [right] of the *Cymdeithas Capeli Bro Hywel Dda* receiving a cheque for £1,500.

With these two donations alone, we've been in a position to increase both our paid professional's hours, meaning that we're able to offer more support than we ever have before!

COLLECTION POTS



As well as the fantastic work by Rachel, Eurfyl and all involved with the Chapel, we'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who's returned a collection pot over the last month.

We've been doing the rounds and collecting all the Green collection tins we've had scattered out and about the place and it's been truly overwhelming to see just how many of you who've not only returned but also accepted another pot to be put back in your workplace, school, front desk or for special fundraising events.

Feel free to get in touch if you have one you'd like to return by sending a message to Ryan on ryan@gtbal.co.uk

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