

East Suffolk Association for the Blind (Felixstowe Committee)

Funded: £2,000 June 2010, £2,000 June 2011, £2,000 May 2012 and £2,000 May 2013

For the last four years the PCF has provided East Suffolk Association for the Blind (Felixstowe branch) with funding for daily living aids. East Suffolk Association for the Blind offers daily living aids free of charge to blind and visually impaired members. Specifically designed for the visually impaired, these daily living aids can make a huge difference to help people adapt to their sight loss whilst maintaining their independence, self-confidence, and self-esteem. There are a vast range of daily living aids available to help the visually impaired, for example: talking watches and clocks, pill organisers, magnifiers, talking clock calendars, big print calendars, measuring jugs, liquid level indicators and large buttoned telephones.

Below is an extract the organisation has provided demonstrating the difference PCF funding has made.

“Port Community Fund has been very generous in enabling East Suffolk Association for the Blind (ESAB) to provide daily living aids to some of its visually impaired members who would not otherwise have been able to afford them.

One particular case relates to a totally blind lady living in Walton. She previously had a very basic device that enabled her to have some of her incoming post and other printed material read out to her but that equipment was elderly and primitive and had broken down leaving her with nothing. Such equipment that can take a printed page and read it out to a listener is somewhat expensive and although this lady had some funds, she was unable to afford the full cost involved. East Suffolk Blind was able to provide a grant from funds donated by Port Community Fund thus enabling the purchase of a very modern piece of equipment. This now allows her to have all her incoming post be it letters, medical appointments or bank statements read out to her immediately. Given that she has no family support at all and is completely blind it is essential that she has such a tool available to ensure that she can continue to stay in her own home and continue to live an independent life. We know that this lady is hugely grateful for the grant that was made possible by Port Community Fund.”