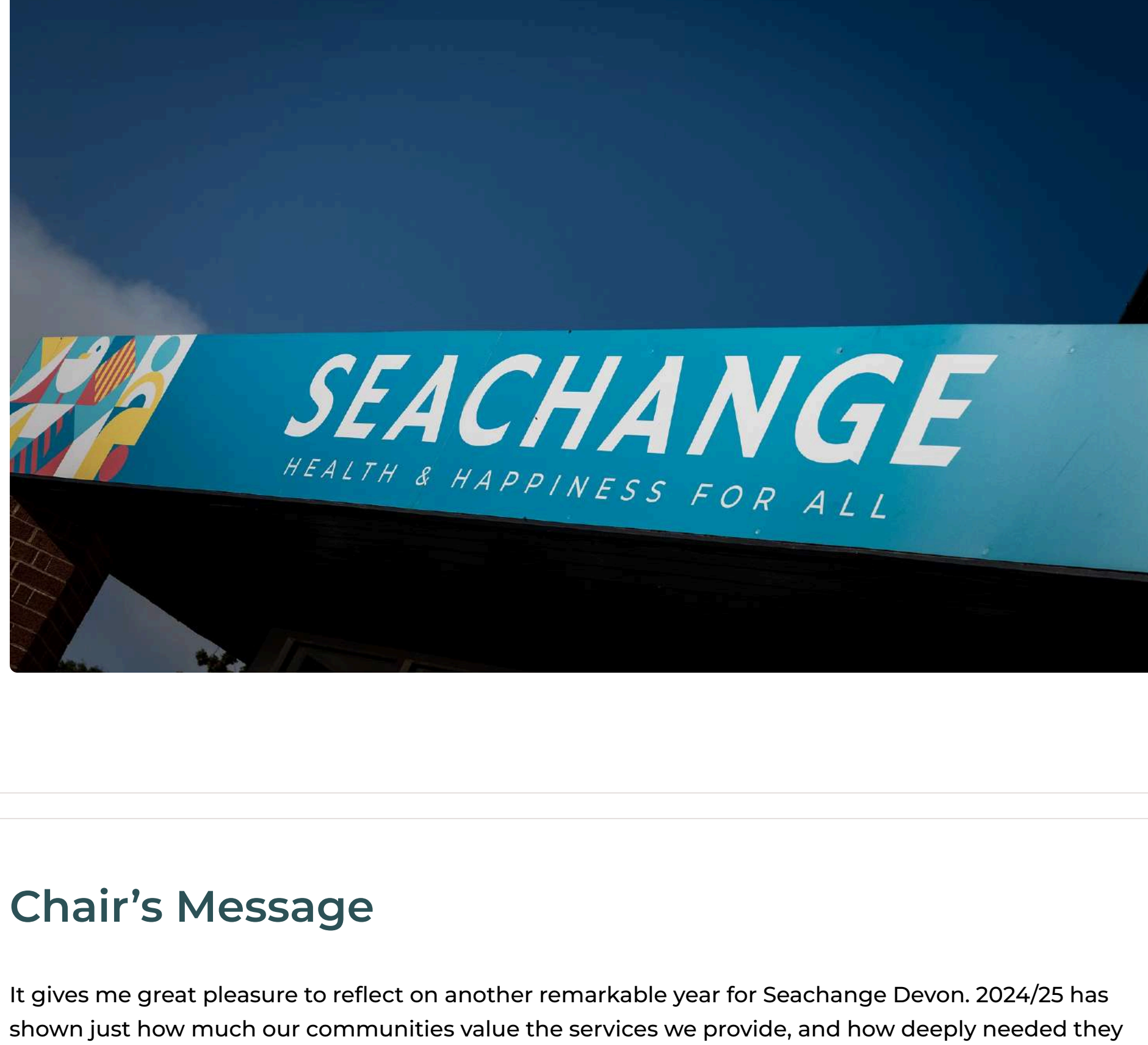


# Seachange Devon

## Annual Report 2024–2025



### Chair's Message

It gives me great pleasure to reflect on another remarkable year for Seachange Devon. 2024/25 has shown just how much our communities value the services we provide, and how deeply needed they are. From dementia support and chronic pain programmes, to warm spaces and community cafés, our work has reached more people than ever before.

This year has been about both growth and resilience. We have expanded our Memory Café to meet demand, grown our SeaSupport enabling service from one enabler to six, and given back more than 14,000 hours of carers' time to families who trust us to support their loved ones. At the same time, we have raised vital funds, secured Gift Aid, and benefited from the generosity of national funders, local partners, and the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and staff.

The figures speak for themselves: our combined work across loneliness, social isolation, falls prevention, Parkinson's, dementia, bereavement, chronic pain and wellness has saved the health and social care system over £1 million in the past year. These are numbers to be proud of – but behind each one is a person whose life is better because Seachange exists.

Of course, the challenges of loneliness, isolation, and poor health remain pressing, and the demand for our services continues to grow. But thanks to our supporters, partners and dedicated team, I am confident that we are in a strong position to meet those needs.

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank everyone who has played a part in Seachange's success this year – our funders, partners, volunteers, staff and, most of all, the people who trust us to walk alongside them. Together we are proving that community-based support is not just valuable, but essential.

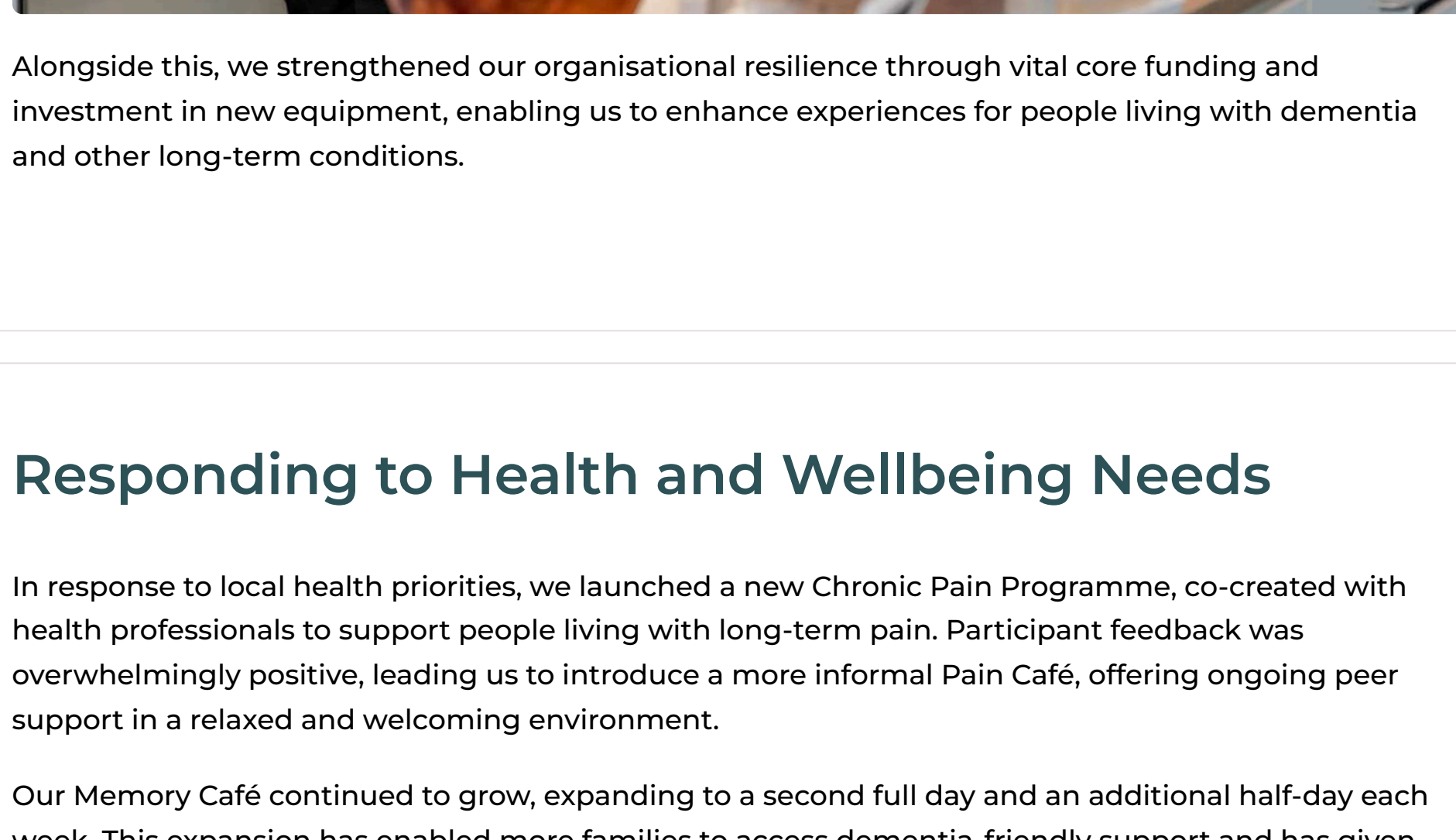
Sarah Hicks  
Chair of Trustees

## 2024/25: A Year of Growth, Connection and Community Impact

This year has been one of remarkable growth and achievement for Seachange Devon, as we continue to respond to the needs of our communities across Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth, Woodbury and beyond.

A highlight of the year was welcoming a high-profile visitor to our Memory Café in Budleigh, helping to shine a spotlight on the importance of dementia-friendly, community-based support. Moments like this reinforce the value of what we do every day and the pride felt by participants, volunteers and staff alike.

Thanks to the generous support of funders, our programmes have flourished. We launched and grew SeaConnections, designed to tackle loneliness and strengthen community ties. Its first-year outcomes exceeded expectations, reaching more participants than planned and demonstrating clear improvements in wellbeing, confidence and social connection. A particular success has been the SeaConnections Café in Exmouth – a warm, welcoming space where friendships form and confidence grows.



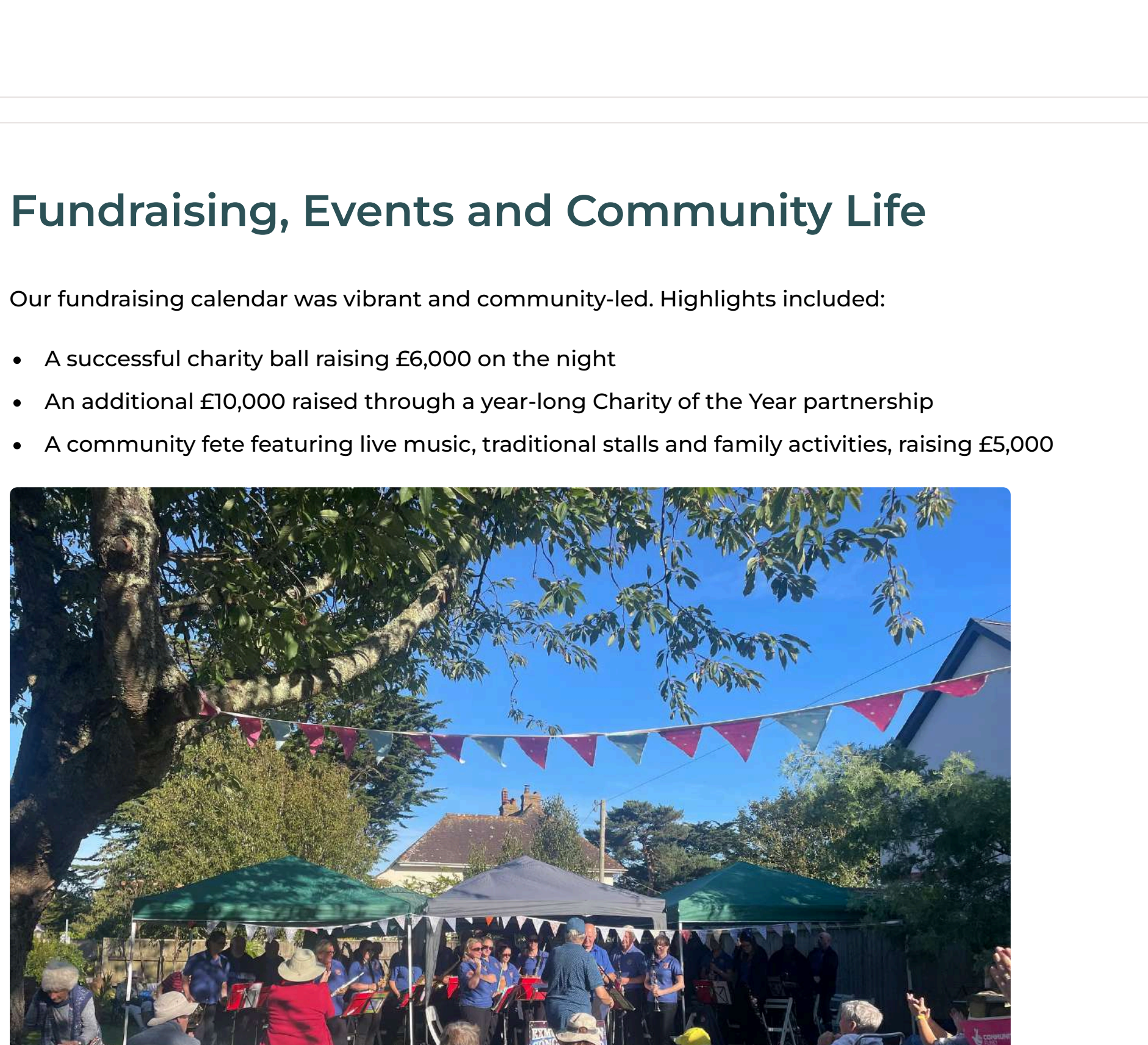
Alongside this, we strengthened our organisational resilience through vital core funding and investment in new equipment, enabling us to enhance experiences for people living with dementia and other long-term conditions.

### Responding to Health and Wellbeing Needs

In response to local health priorities, we launched a new Chronic Pain Programme, co-created with health professionals to support people living with long-term pain. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, leading us to introduce a more informal Pain Café, offering ongoing peer support in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Our Memory Café continued to grow, expanding to a second full day and an additional half-day each week. This expansion has enabled more families to access dementia-friendly support and has given back more than 14,000 hours of carers' time, offering vital respite and peace of mind.

Our Warm Space has also grown, now welcoming around 25 regular participants, including people who are lonely, isolated, neurodivergent or on low incomes. We are actively seeking further funding to ensure this vital service continues beyond April 2025.



### Fundraising, Events and Community Life

Our fundraising calendar was vibrant and community-led. Highlights included:

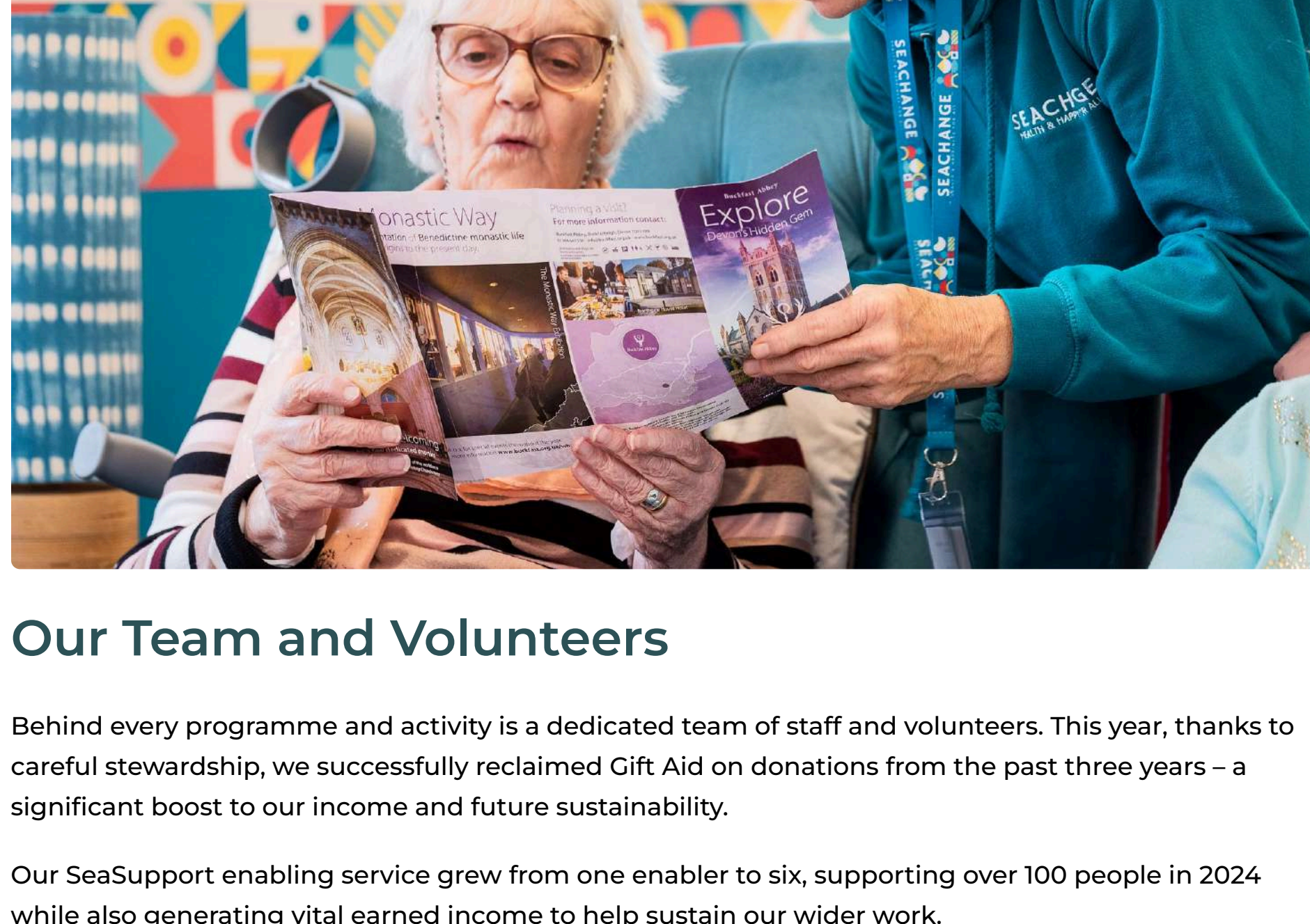
- A successful charity ball raising £6,000 on the night
- An additional £10,000 raised through a year-long Charity of the Year partnership
- A community fete featuring live music, traditional stalls and family activities, raising £5,000



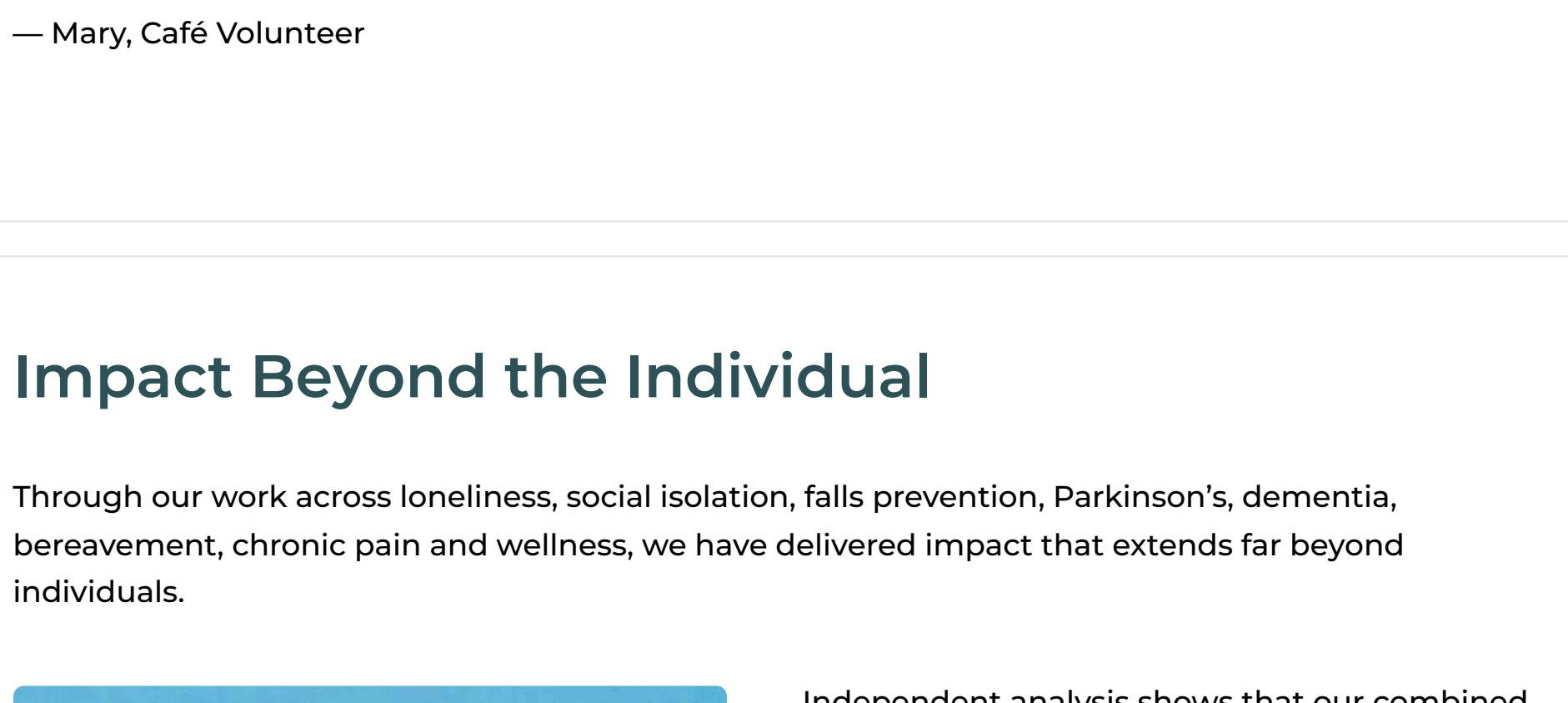
These events not only raised vital funds but also celebrated the power of community, partnership and shared purpose.

### Funding and Thanks

Our work this year has been made possible through the generosity of a wide range of national and local funders, trusts and partners. Their support has enabled us to grow, innovate and sustain essential services for our communities.



We also extend our heartfelt thanks to local funds and individual donors whose commitment allows us to respond quickly to emerging needs and strengthen services close to home.



### Our Team and Volunteers

Behind every programme and activity is a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. This year, thanks to careful stewardship, we successfully reclaimed Gift Aid on donations from the past three years – a significant boost to our income and future sustainability.

Our SeaSupport enabling service grew from one enabler to six, supporting over 100 people in 2024 while also generating vital earned income to help sustain our wider work.

Seachange could not achieve what it does without its 120 volunteers, who give their time, skills and compassion across every aspect of our work – from cafés and groups to transport, events and one-to-one support.

"Volunteering with Seachange gives me a sense of purpose and community. I've made new friends, learned new skills, and I know that the small things I do each week make a real difference to people's lives."

— Mary, Café Volunteer

### Impact Beyond the Individual

Through our work across loneliness, social isolation, falls prevention, Parkinson's, dementia, bereavement, chronic pain and wellness, we have delivered impact that extends far beyond individuals.



Independent analysis shows that our combined work has saved the health and social care system over £1 million in 2024/25 – powerful evidence of the role community-based prevention plays in long-term wellbeing.

### Stories That Matter

After losing her husband of nearly 60 years and experiencing a stroke, Margaret faced profound loneliness. Joining the Seachange community transformed her daily life.

Attending several days a week, she has rediscovered companionship, confidence and joy. Gentle exercise, crafts, singing and shared meals have become highlights of her week, while reliable transport has restored independence and reassurance for her family.



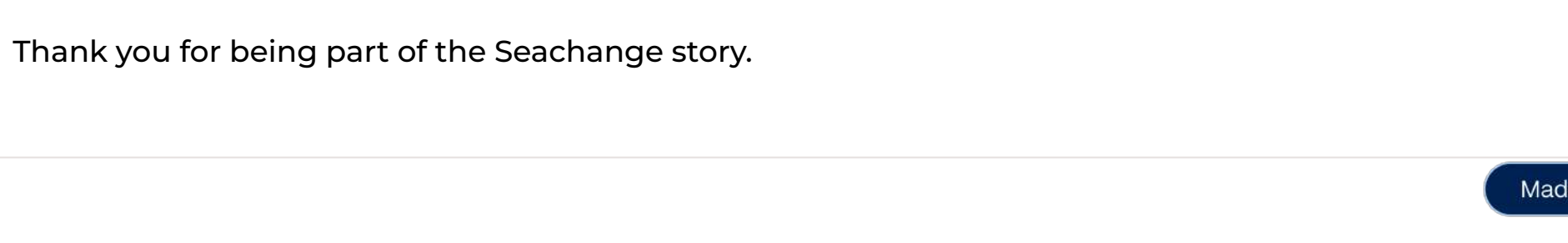
"She isn't just cared for — she is valued."

For Margaret and her family, Seachange has brought connection, dignity and peace of mind.

### Story Makers: Regular Giving for a Stronger Future

In 2024 we launched Story Makers, our regular giving campaign, inviting supporters to become part of the Seachange story through monthly donations.

Early response has been extremely encouraging, with supporters valuing the sense of personal, local impact their gift provides.



"It feels good knowing my small monthly gift is helping to change someone's daily life for the better."

Story Makers will be central to building long-term sustainability, enabling us to plan with confidence and ensure continuity for those who rely on our services.

### Looking Ahead

This has been a year of growth in every sense: in services, reach, resilience and community. From expanding teams and programmes to strengthening partnerships and funding, Seachange has continued to evolve while staying true to its core purpose.

Most importantly, we have grown as a community – of volunteers, supporters, partners and participants – united by a shared belief that no one should face loneliness, isolation or ill-health alone.

With continued support, Seachange will build on this momentum, leading the way in community-based wellbeing and connection across East Devon.

Thank you for being part of the Seachange story.