

It's a record as Santa bus brings in £30k for charities

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Reporter

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SANTA bus volunteers are celebrating raising a record sum for The Argus Appeal and The Martlets hospice.

The Santa Bus 2016 collected £30,686.21 to be shared between the two charities.

The feat comes as The Argus Appeal celebrates 60 years of supporting people in the community and handing out thousands of pounds to good causes.

This year donations were through the roof thanks to £16,686.21 raised from door to door collections and match funding of £14,000 from Lloyds Banking Group City Park.

Elsa Gillio, The Argus Appeal co-ordinator, said: "It is fantastic this year. We have raised the biggest amount in the history of the Santa bus.

factfile

THE Santa Bus could not happen without the support of Brighton and Hove Buses.

Managing director Martin Harris said: "I want to say thank you to everyone at Brighton and Hove Buses who helped on the evening knocking on doors but also the people who kept the whole thing going throughout the event.

"We are in a unique position to make the Santa bus happen, brilliant people and buses.

"We are just delighted we can play a small part in what is a huge effort to make this all come together every year.

"So well done to everybody and thank you."

"It has come a such a long way since it began and long may it continue.

"The funds raised will help The Argus Appeal and The Martlets hospice make a difference in helping transform



Mayor Pete West, centre, joins volunteers at the Santa bus cheque celebrations

the lives of people in Sussex."

The Santa bus was created after The Argus Appeal decided its grotto should be mobile.

The idea took off after backing from the then Bright-

on and Hove Buses managing director Roger French.

Since its first run in 2004, the Santa bus has gone from strength to strength, reaching more people across the city. This year, for the first

time in its 13-year history, residents were able to see the bus's location in real time online.

For several nights during the festive period, volunteers dressed as elves join Santa on

a spectacularly lit bus playing Christmas tunes. The night could not happen without Brighton and Hove Buses providing the driver, fuel and volunteers, along with Lloyds Banking Group and Legal and General.

On Tuesday, volunteers gathered at Donatello restaurant in Brighton for some celebratory pizza, hosted by owner Sue Addis.

Santa bus volunteer Becky Gilruth said: "It was fun to get into the Christmas spirit and see people rushing out to see the Santa bus.

Tony Portelli, chairman of The Argus Appeal Trustees and managing director of The Argus said: "I am delighted the Santa bus 2016 has raised a record amount of £30,686.21. This is thanks to the invaluable support of Brighton and Hove Buses volunteers who take to the streets in all weathers and knock on doors. Also thanks to Lloyds, which has continued to generously match fund the amount raised."



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Tapeworm will make you squirm!

There are different kinds of tapeworms, but the most common one is caused by swallowing a tiny infected flea. Fleas carry the tapeworm larvae or babies and if your dog swallows it, maybe while grooming themselves, an adult tapeworm can grow inside your dog's intestines.

Tapeworms are flat, white worms that are made up of tiny segments. Each part is about the size of a grain of rice. Tapeworms attach themselves to the walls of your dog's stomach using hook-like suckers. Then they start to feed and grow. A tapeworm can grow from 4 to 28 inches long. You don't often

see an adult worm, however as it grows, some of its segments fall off and pass through your dog's stool. You may see these tiny segments near your dog's bottom or on his bedding. You may also see them moving around in his feces. Sometimes, these segments die and dry out, then they appear as hard, yellow

specks that can stick to the fur around your dog's bottom.

Because they're irritating, some dogs will scoot, dragging their bottoms across the floor, or lick their behinds a lot. If the tapeworm segments make their way inside your dog's stomach, they can make your

dog vomit. Then you may actually see a worm, around 5 to 8 inches long, in your dog's vomit. If your dog has a heavy tapeworm infection, he may lose weight, even though he is eating normally.

If you are at all worried about your pet, or you think your

they may have tapeworm please call us here at Cootes Veterinary Clinic Burgess Hill on 01444 242434. We will be happy to book your pet an appointment with a Nurse or Vet to discuss the appropriate course of treatment.