



Marliston Morgan outside his home. Inset, right, this year's display.

Shining out to help boost charity funds

TWENTY-THREE Thomas Street probably wouldn't stand out to most people for 11 months of the year.

But throughout December this house is transformed into a Christmas wonderland illuminated with a number of festive lights.

For 12 years Marliston Morgan has been lighting up his corner home to raise thousands of pounds for charitable causes.

The 77-year-old initially set out to support the NSPCC after being approached by a member of the charity while he was decorating his home.

He said: "I was putting up the decorations and she asked if they could leave a collection box outside the house.

"I said yes, and it has gone from there."

That simple act has led to Mr Morgan decorating his home

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with a number of elaborate lights throughout the Christmas season for more than a decade.

The display takes him more than two days to put up himself, with the inside of his home also decorated with a number of dancing Santas, Christmas trees, and even a gorilla.

His home is easily spotted at the busy traffic lights opposite The Masons pub, with many people stopping to take photographs and to donate.

He said: "I love doing it. I really love it when people come past and start asking when the decorations are being put up.

"When I start there's no stopping me. I put them all up

myself and it takes quite a while."

Thanks to his efforts he has raised more than £5,000 for the NSPCC and later Llanelli's specialist Ty Bryngwyn Hospice.

He has also added to his fundraising efforts by leaving collection boxes in many pubs and even carrying out a collection in The Drovers, generating more than £1,000 in just one day.

He also picked up more than £260 from The Lemon Tree.

He said: "I raised around £1,000 last year and that is my target again this year.

"People have been very supportive, I'm always happy to help raise as much as I can."

Mr Morgan said people are welcome to go inside to have a photo with Father Christmas for a 50p donation to the charity.

Susan Thomas, Secretary of the Ty Bryngwyn Hospice Trust fundraising committee, said his support was hugely appreciated.

She said: "We are so grateful to Marliston. He works so hard and he is always full of enthusiasm."

However, the generous pensioner admits that this could be his last year putting up the beloved decorations.

He said: "I love doing it but it's getting quite difficult.

"I put them up myself and it takes quite a while.

"I say this most years, but it's starting to get more difficult."

You can support Mr Morgan's charitable campaign by donating to one of the collection boxes outside his home.

Find out more online at...
llanellistar.co.uk