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**BBC Children in Need Appeal 2017 raises an incredible £50 million!**

People from across the UK have come together once again to raise a phenomenal **£50,168,562** for BBC Children in Need, its highest on the night total to date!

Live on BBC One and Two from 7.30pm on Friday until the early hours of Saturday morning, the 2017 Appeal show marked the crescendo of this year’s fundraising activities for BBC Children in Need with a special night of family entertainment to help raise money for disadvantaged children and young people here in the UK.

TV favourites **Ade Adepitan** and **Tess Daly** kicked off proceedings, before **Mel Giedroyc** and **Graham Norton** took over ahead of **Rochelle** and **Marvin Humes,** who were later joined by **Matt Edmondson**. All seven presenters saw the stage came to life with performances from **Jason Derulo, Katie Melua,** **Rita Ora, Sam Smith** and **The Vamps** – as well as from the cast of **EastEnders**, who revealed hidden talents as they sang their way round The Square in a show-stopping musical medley.

**Anne Robinson** returned for a special celebrity edition of the **Weakest Link for BBC Children in Need**. Seven brave celebrities including **Chizzy Akudolu**, **Kem Cetinay**, **Rylan Clark-Neal**, **Giles Coren**, **Maya Jama**, **Rosemary Shrager** and **John Thomson**, faced Anne’s wrath as they worked as a team and attempted to answer a series of general knowledge questions to win up to £15,000 for the charity, with Chizzy Akudolu being the last remaining contestant standing.

Presenter **Ore Oduba** took to the stage to perform live for BBC Children in Need in an exclusive performance which saw Ore sing and dance together for the first time.  Ore recreated a classic routine inspired by dance hero Gene Kelly, performing a stunning rendition of *Gotta Dance*.

Another highlight of the show saw **Niall Horan** provide a day of incredible treats to fifty children from a BBC Children in Need funded Young Carers project in Kingston. Radio 1 DJ **Scott Mills** put on a silent disco where former Pussycat Doll **Kimberly Wyatt** taught the children some dance moves. **Pixie Lott** hosted a fancy dress photo-booth, **Harry Judd** taught the children how to play the drums and tennis legend **Tim Henman** played table tennis. TV presenters **Sam and Mark** cooked up a storm and England goalkeeper **Joe Hart** took penalties with the children. To top off the day of fun Niall surprised the children with the most exclusive gig in town as he performed his new single *Too Much To Ask*.

The show also saw the finale of **The One Show’s Rickshaw Challenge.** The challenge saw **Matt Baker** and six inspirational young people who have benefited from BBC Children in Need funding cycle the rickshaw 500 miles, from London to Glasgow, raising an amazing **£5,063,230** along the way.

**Katie Melua** took to the stage to perform an emotional performance of the 2017 official single for BBC Children in Need, *Fields Of Gold*. Poignantly, *Fields of Gold* was one of Sir Terry Wogan’s favourite songs.

In another fitting tribute to the charity’s Life-President, the show also saw the presentation of the second **Sir Terry Wogan Fundraiser of the Year Award**, presented by Sir Terry Wogan’s long-term friend, **Joanna Lumley**. The accolade recognises the charity’s fundraisers, of whom Sir Terry was a huge champion, and went to Ellie and Abbie Holloway who have fundraised for BBC Children in Need for many years and in 2017 took on a 50 mile walking challenge to raise money for the charity.

The 2017 show also saw six well-loved **Blue Peter** presenters from the past 60 years bidding to win the Pudsey Glitter Ball trophy in the Strictly Come Dancing BBC Children in Need special. The special saw **Radzi Chinyanganya**, **Mark Curry**, **Konnie Huq**, **Diane-Louise Jordan**, **Anthea Turner** and **Tim Vincent** taking to the dancefloor with the Strictly pros, with Mark Curry being named the 2017 glitter ball champion.

The **Radio 2** team announced their fundraising total for 2017, a phenomenal **£7,697,361.** The staggering amount of money was raised after a series of fundraising activities including **Chris Evans’** extraordinary auction prizes, Carfest, and some of the station’s biggest names lending their support to raise money for the Charity. The totals for **DIY SOS: Million Pound Build for BBC Children in Need** and **Countryfile** were announced as **£370,669** and **£2,690,763** respectively.

Celebrities including **Mary Berry, Jim Broadbent, Olivia** **Colman**, **Marvin Humes**, **Suranne Jones**, **Liam Payne**, **Sunetra Sarker** and **Sam Smith** reminded the country about where their money goes with stories of the children and young people who have received support from BBC Children in Need funded projects, thanks to the generosity of people across the UK and their fundraising efforts.

A special thank you went out to school children across the UK who have pulled out all the stops in their ‘Spotactular’ fundraising and are currently on track to raise an incredible **£5.5million.**

**Other highlights of the extravaganza included:**

* Over 1,500 children across ten different UK locations coming together to sing in unison for Pudsey in the **Children’s Choir** performing *Over The Rainbow*
* Straight from London’s West End, the cast of **Annie** featuring Strictly’s very own Craig Revel Horwood  as Miss Hannigan took to take the stage
* Three of Theatre Land’s fabulous **Leading Ladies**, Amber Riley from Dreamgirls, Beverley Knight from The Bodyguard and Cassidy Janson from Beautiful: The Carole King Musical dazzled with a very special performance of Wind Beneath My Wings
* The cast of **Poldark** giving four BBC Children in Need project workers an incredible surprise, and the opportunity to appear in a scene of the show alongside Aidan Turner
* Hollywood stars **Will Ferrell** and **Mark Wahlberg** competing for laughs as they undertook fun and games for Pudsey
* **Peter Kay** and his Car Share co-star **Sian Gibson** surprising the audience and exclusively announcing new Car Share specials, coming in 2018
* Exclusive previews of the **Call The Midwife** and **Doctor Who** Christmas specials**.**
* **Countryfile** presenters swapping their welly boots for cowboy boots in an unmissable country performance
* **Peter Andre**, **Kate Garraway**, **Chris Hollins**, **Jay McGuiness**, **Denise Van Outen** and **Kimberley Walsh** joining Marvin, Rochelle and Matt for fun and games towards the end of the evening
* Thank you shout outs to those across the country who’ve worked hard to raise money for the charity, including corporate partners

**Simon Antrobus**, Chief Executive of BBC Children in Need, said: *“*People across the UK should feel really proud of what has been achieved this evening.  The remarkable generosity shown tonight really will go on make a lasting, positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people all across the UK. Thank you!”

Tonight’s total represents an exciting culmination of fundraising activity for BBC Children in Need – but this evening’s total will continue to rise as the money pours in from the thousands of events already held, or scheduled to happen, across the UK. And it's not too late to get involved! Organise a fundraising event or donate at bbc.co.uk/Pudsey or 0345 733 2233.

The BBC Children in Need Appeal Show is a BBC Studios production, executive produced by Clare Pizey and Leanne Witcoop.

**-Ends-**

**Further information:**

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**Notes to Editors**

The BBC Children in Need Appeal Night Show last year raised £46.6 million at the end of the night.

BBC Children in Need’s vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential.  The charity will realise this vision by supporting, promoting and publicising work that addresses the challenges that children and young people face and work that builds their skills and resilience.

BBC Children in Need is currently supporting over 2,600 projects in communities across the UK that are helping children and young people facing a range of disadvantages such as living in poverty, being disabled or ill, or experiencing distress, neglect or trauma.

Further information about BBC Children in Need can be found at bbc.co.uk/Pudsey